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*Applying Experience from Research,  
Outreach and Instruction in Forestry to the  
Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators*

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## Interest in Sustainable Forest Management

- Research across the spectrum of forest values.
- Education of foresters and natural resource professionals.
- Direct contact with forest owners.
- Continuing education and applied research for professionals.



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## “Transition Towards Sustainability”

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**“What Can Be Done To Advance Sustainable Forest Management in the United States?”**

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## Recognize the Importance of Management as a Necessary Step Toward Sustainability.

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### Postulates

- Management and practices implemented relate to values.
  - Education is one tool that can be used to inform or affect values.
  - Knowledge is a forward looking indicator.
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## Development of C&I for Advancing Sustainable Management

- Theory of the how the indicator relates to the factor under consideration must be understood.
- Managers place some value in the goal expressed by the indicator.
- Managers are not constrained by finances, laws, rules, customs or traditions.

## Criteria 1: Biodiversity

- Limited understanding of concepts.
- Obscure cause and effect relationship.
- Landscape level issues are difficult to internalize in management.
- Need for data and understanding.



## Criteria 2: Production

- In the aggregate production is a response to markets.
- Changes in forest owners and ownerships have significant effect on harvests and in the long-term markets.
- Plantation culture serves broader purpose than commodity production.
- Better information on non-market or non-traditional products.



## Criteria 3: Health

- Importance well accepted due to direct experience with fire, disease, insects and invasive species.
- Need better understanding of “normal”, trends, and cycles.



## Criteria 4: Soil and Water



- Managers understand soil issues as a component of productivity and amenity values.
- Include concept and practices already understood by many – BMPs.
- Difficult for individuals to assess their ownership as component of larger system.

## Criteria 5: Carbon

- Affect of forest management, other than through afforestation or deforestation, is unclear.
- How will knowledge of the carbon cycle affect forest management?
  - Do the indicators address policy makers?

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## Criteria 6: Socioeconomic

- Acknowledgements of factors like tenure, land value, risk, regulations that affect investment decisions.
  - Acknowledgement of non-market benefits provided by private forests.
  - Need to contrast socioeconomic benefits of forest reservation versus forest use.
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## Criteria 7: Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework

- Cautious and/or skeptical view of the role of public policy and institutions.
  - Agree that public involvement is needed to:
    - Establish level playing field and
    - Investment in forest management infrastructure.
  - Concern about the capacity of industry to maintain technology and operations.
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## Final Thoughts

- Be most concerned with indicators that describe impacts on and result from management choices.
  - Incorporate indicators that reflect owners' and managers' knowledge of and concern for key aspects of sustainability.
  - Consider indicators that reflect the likelihood of planning and management with long-term objectives.
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