

China TAC

INDICATOR 6.3.c (38) Resilience of forest-dependent communities

Rationale

Communities whose social and economic structure and well-being are tightly tied to forest-based or forest-related industries may be particularly vulnerable if confronted with either short or long term economic changes from the rise and fall of business cycles or the emergence of alternative products or technologies that increase competition. This indicator is intended to measure the ability of these communities to successfully adapt to changing circumstances. Resilient communities are successful in adapting to changing circumstances.

Approaches to Measurement

The measure desired for this new indicator is information pertinent to national circumstances about the relative extent to which local communities rely on forest-based or forest-related industries for their economic and social well-being. There has been considerable research over the past decade on the concept of community resiliency. Analysts should review that literature and select an approach that makes the most sense for their country. Concepts such as “forest-dependence” or “forest-based” will need to be defined to make this indicator operational, although the definition does not need to be consistent across all countries reporting data for this indicator.

Displaying results spatially may be a particularly useful approach to identify regions or localities that are relatively more dependent on forest-based and forest-related enterprises than others.

INDICATOR 6.5.b (44) The importance of forests to people

Rationale

Forests are important to people for a wide variety of reasons. This indicator describes and measures the breadth and intensity of the emotions through which individuals and communities connect with forests. These feelings are important motivators of human behaviour and are often the reasons why individuals—alone or as members of groups—support or oppose specific forest management activities related to sustainability.

Approaches to Measurement

The measure desired is a narrative description of the breadth of the reasons and the depth of feeling why forests are important to people in the country. Different people groups in a country may have different reasons why forests are important to them. It is the rich diversity of viewpoints that this indicator is attempting to capture, such as spiritual or intrinsic values, or those related to health, quality of life, aesthetics, tranquility, connection to the land and nature, and privacy. The goals are to illustrate that forests are valued by people for a great many different reasons, not just for a few products or services and to describe some of the passion and depth of feeling for forests held by different groups of people. This may also be a place to assess the impact of Montreal Process country reports on the public dialog about the future of forests in a country.

Methods to assess the breadth of reasons and depth of feeling may be drawn from the social science literature. Typical tools include surveys, interviews, and content review of published materials. In conducting surveys, it may be important to design the survey instrument and sample populations to include people living far from forests as well as people close to them, because people in cities who rarely visit a forest may still deeply value their existence. Content analysis of media sources might also provide information on the values which people attribute to forests and that information can be used to help design a survey sampling frame and specific wording of questions. Recent experiences in some Montreal Process countries found that leaving some survey questions open-ended to encourage respondents to describe their own feelings generated particularly useful information.