

**Southern Roundtable on
Sustainable Forests:
The Development of Regional Indicators**

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Roundtable on Sustainable Forests
December 10, 2007

Sustainable Indicators Technical Working Group

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General Importance

- Provides information directly related to critical changes in forest condition and function
- Describes forest characteristics that affect value, utility, or ecological dynamics
- Based on well understood and generally accepted scientific principles
- Relevant to public concerns about forest sustainability
- Relevant to national and international programs and policies

Sensitivity to Change

- Sensitive enough to detect real change
- Perceived to be accurate
- Definitions and data collection procedures well established and accepted
- Data quality depends on highly technical skills or complicated instrumentation
- Insensitive to changing measurement technology, sampling strategies
- Historic continuity of the data trustworthy
- Data can be reprocessed when compilation procedures change

Scale Flexibility

- Useful at varying spatial and temporal scales
- Data can be aggregated or disaggregated
- Relevant to local, State, regional and national applications or comparisons
- Comparisons can be made across different time scales

Cost Effectiveness or Availability of Data

- Available data can be used to generate the indicator
- Data are available in a timely manner
- New data, if required, are commensurate with the benefits
- Data will have widespread application beyond initial data collection purpose

Southern Forest Sustainability Indicators

Indicator	Metric	Data Availability	Data Source	Data Frequency
Criterion 1: Biodiversity (examples)				
Area of unreserved forestland by forest type	Q1.1 Acres	Yes	FIA	Annual
Area of unreserved forestland by stand age	Q1.2 Acres	Yes	FIA	Annual
Fragmentation of forestland by ownership	R1.8 Size of contiguous area	??	Work underway by Riitters and Rudis	??
Ecological communities at risk	D1.13 (not yet determined)	??	NatureServe	??