



PROJECT SUMMARY

Developing and implementing Sustainable Forest Management Plans for both the Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Areas is the central objective of the Morice and Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement. The adaptive management cycle and public involvement are both important components of this planning process.

Ecosystem
Management

Forest Productivity

Public Involvement

Adaptive
Management

Sustainable Forest Management Indicator Reporting



Fraser Lake Sawmills

Introduction

The monitoring and reporting of performance indicators is a predominant method to evaluate the effectiveness of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) plans. In the development of SFM plans, performance indicators are selected with respect to their usefulness and ability to evaluate the management intent and objectives of the SFM Plan.

SFM plans have been developed for both the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas (TSAs). As such, they both include SFM indicators and associated targets based upon initial analysis of status quo management practices (i.e. "base case") in the Timber Supply Areas. In the SFM plans, the current status of the indicators as well as indicator targets were documented in detailed indicator sheets describing the frequency and type of information to be reported for performance monitoring. To support future indicator reporting,

initial Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed to enable information to be reported consistently by all reporting participants in the TSAs.

Subsequently, an internal management review of indicator performance was undertaken by Canfor (a partner licensee in the M&L IFPA). As a result, it was found that a number of the detailed SOPs used for summarizing analysis outputs were relatively complex and expensive to use for annual or periodic operational reporting. In addition, the indicator monitoring results provided a test of practicality and utility for indicator reporting formats and in some cases for indicators themselves. Based upon this experience a number of changes to both indicators and indicator



reporting procedures were recommended by the IFPA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and endorsed by the Public Advisory Group (PAG).

The purpose of this project was to revise indicators and indicator reporting SOPs based upon these recommendations and to incorporate these changes into the IFPA management systems for producing technical indicator reports and public SFM reports for the Morice and Lakes TSAs (for the 2003-2004 IFPA reporting period).

Objectives

The specific objectives of this project were as follows:

- Document indicator revisions (for incorporation into version 3 of the SFM Plan);
- Update the SFM indicator reporting SOPs to reflect revised indicator data descriptions and reporting efficiencies; and,
- Produce TSA-wide SFM indicator reports as described in the SFM Plan (based on a consistent IFPA annual period). This would apply only to those indicators that have not changed (new/changed indicators will be incorporated into the next version of the SFM plans and will be reported in the next reporting period)

Methods and Results

The first step in this project involved documenting the changes that had occurred with respect to the indicators. Since the last version of the SFM plan, there has been an opportunity to review the effectiveness of the indicators towards meeting the objectives as outlined in the SFM plans. In some cases indicators performed as expected and required no changes; however, there were also instances where indicators required changes in order to meet the original intent. Some indicators were also dropped since they might have been duplicating other indicators, or were ineffective in meeting the intent of achieving the objectives of the SFM plan. Based on interim assessment, a few indicators have also been added in order to offer a better means to evaluate the progress towards meeting objectives. A document was prepared which outlined all the changes to the indicators. This document was circulated to the technical committee for review and feedback. It is anticipated that this will be a “living document” that offers transparency in the IFPA with regards to continual improvement of the SFM indicators.

The next step in this project was to review and revise the indicator SOPs (based on the revised set of indicators). The intention of this component of the project was to move forth with an improved set of SOPs to facilitate indicator reporting for this reporting period (April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004) as well as the

subsequent reporting period that will be based on version 3 of the SFM plans (April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005). Under the guidance of the TAC, the SOPs for the operational indicators were revised to incorporate more of the internal procedures of the licensees. The SOPs for the analytical indicators were revised to be less specific to the initial reporting procedures used to generate the original current status for the SFM plans and adopted a more simplified and generic approach. All the revised operational and analytical SOPs were developed in conjunction with, and reviewed by, the TAC.

One of the key decisions prior to proceeding with the IFPA indicator reporting for the current reporting period was to come to agreement on a consistent reporting schedule for the IFPA. The TAC agreed that the annual IFPA reporting period would be April 1 to March 31, with the Technical Indicator reports being completed for June 30 and the Public SFM reports being completed for September 15 of each year.

The decision regarding the reporting period had implications on the indicator reporting that was conducted for this project. Since many of the analytical indicators have changed (or are in the process of being changed through the learning and decision scenarios), it was decided by the TAC that it would be counterproductive to report on the existing analysis indicators (i.e. from March 2004). The reporting on the “decision scenario” analytical indicators will commence in the next IFPA reporting period starting April 1, 2005 (based on a reporting schedule that was developed by the TAC – as above). It was decided that the operational indicators will still be reported retroactively (i.e. reporting period of April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004 for the June 30, 2004 report). As noted above, this only includes operational indicators that haven’t changed since the last version of the SFM plan.

The next component of the project was to compile the Technical Indicator reports. In this regard, each of the licensees utilized the revised set of SOPs for the applicable indicators. The monitoring results from each licensee were compiled, as well as any licensee recommendations for continual improvement. For occurrences where targets were not met, licensees provided background details and offered recommendations and/or actions.

Also as part of the technical indicator reporting procedure, the TAC reviewed the compiled results for indicator monitoring (and licensee recommendations) and developed IFPA level recommendations for continual improvement.

As a result of the changes and improvements that are occurring with the indicators, as well as being in the midst of generating the decision scenario to guide management and practices, the public SFM report that is being prepared as part of this project will be based upon a subset of the operational indicators (i.e. operational indicators that have not changed). Nonetheless, this is an important document that demonstrates the continual improve-

ment process “in action” and offers the public an opportunity to observe the progress that is being made to meet the SFM targets and objectives.

Discussion

This project represents an important and vital step in the progress towards SFM. The initial monitoring and reporting of indicators is the first opportunity to discover if the SFM system is functioning as expected. As such, this project has highlighted the important aspects of continual improvement. The results of indicator reporting provide the ability to understand if the indicator results (and the indicators) are meeting the intent of the objectives, values, and framework for SFM.

It is also important to highlight that the original versions of the SFM plans were developed on “base case” management. From the outset, the IFPA has adopted a scenario planning approach that has enabled it to test and review different alternative management scenarios (i.e. learning scenarios) and come up with a “decision” management scenario that best meets the multiple objectives of the interests and stakeholders involved in the IFPA. As the IFPA is nearing the completion of the decision scenario, the scenario planning process has also provided critical information for continual improvement, which the IFPA is incorporating into the next version of the SFM plan (including the indicators and targets).

Contact

Kevin Pettersen M.Sc., MFC
Scenario Planning Specialist
Tesera Systems Inc.
Email: kevin.pettersen@tesera.com
Tel: (403) 282-0338

Acknowledgements

The ongoing input of the TAC must be recognized as well as the IFPA partner licensees in providing important information related to their internal review and evaluation of the indicators and SOPs.

For More Information...



For more information on the Morice & Lakes IFPA,
please contact:

*Jim Burbee, RPF, IFPA Manager
c/o Tweedsmuir Forest Ltd.
3003 Riverview Road
Prince George, B.C. V2K 4Y5
Tel: 250-564-1518
e-mail: venturefc@telus.net*

www.moricelakes-ifpa.com