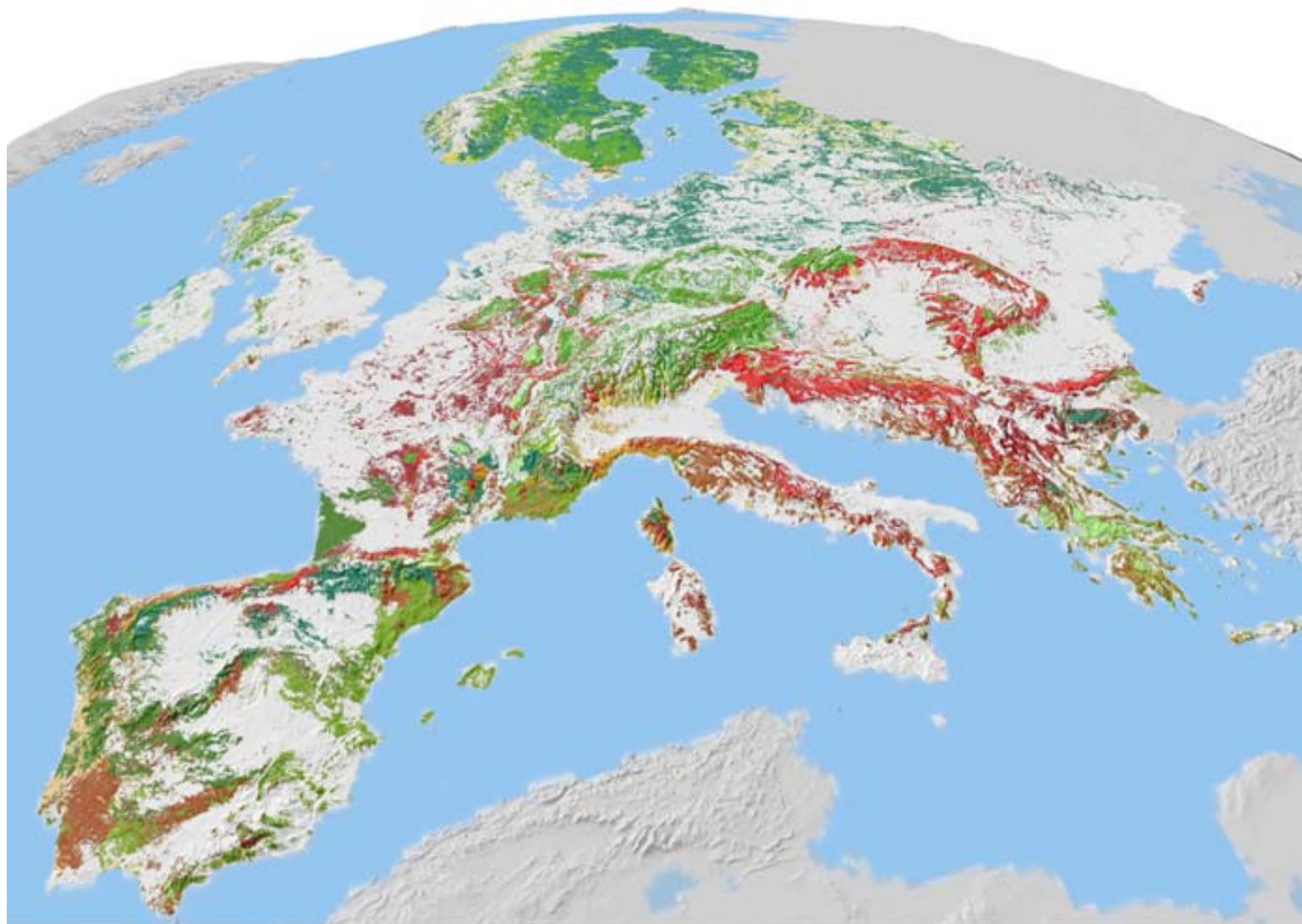


# Linking information needs and indicators

Bernhard Wolfslehner

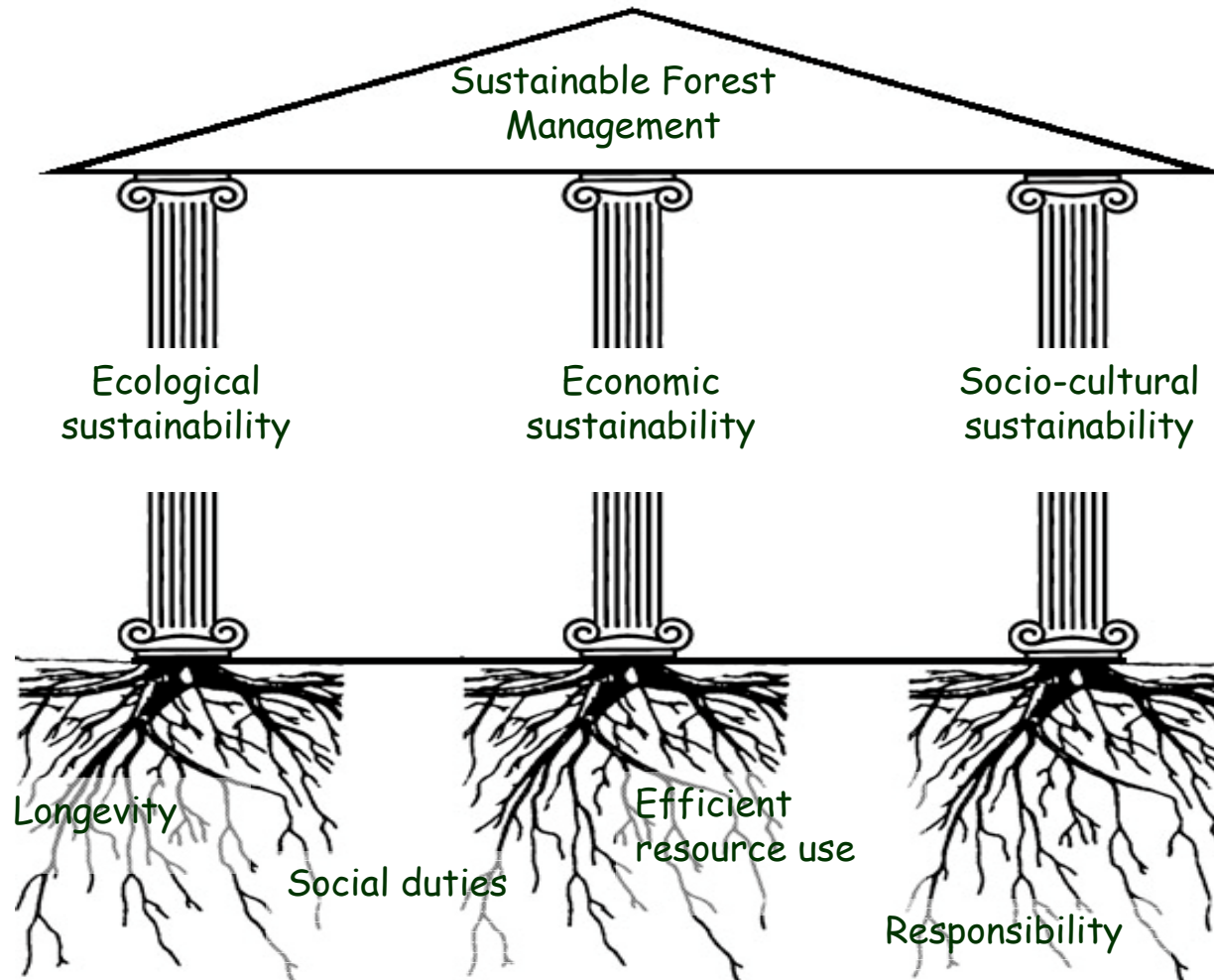


# European Forests- a story of diversity

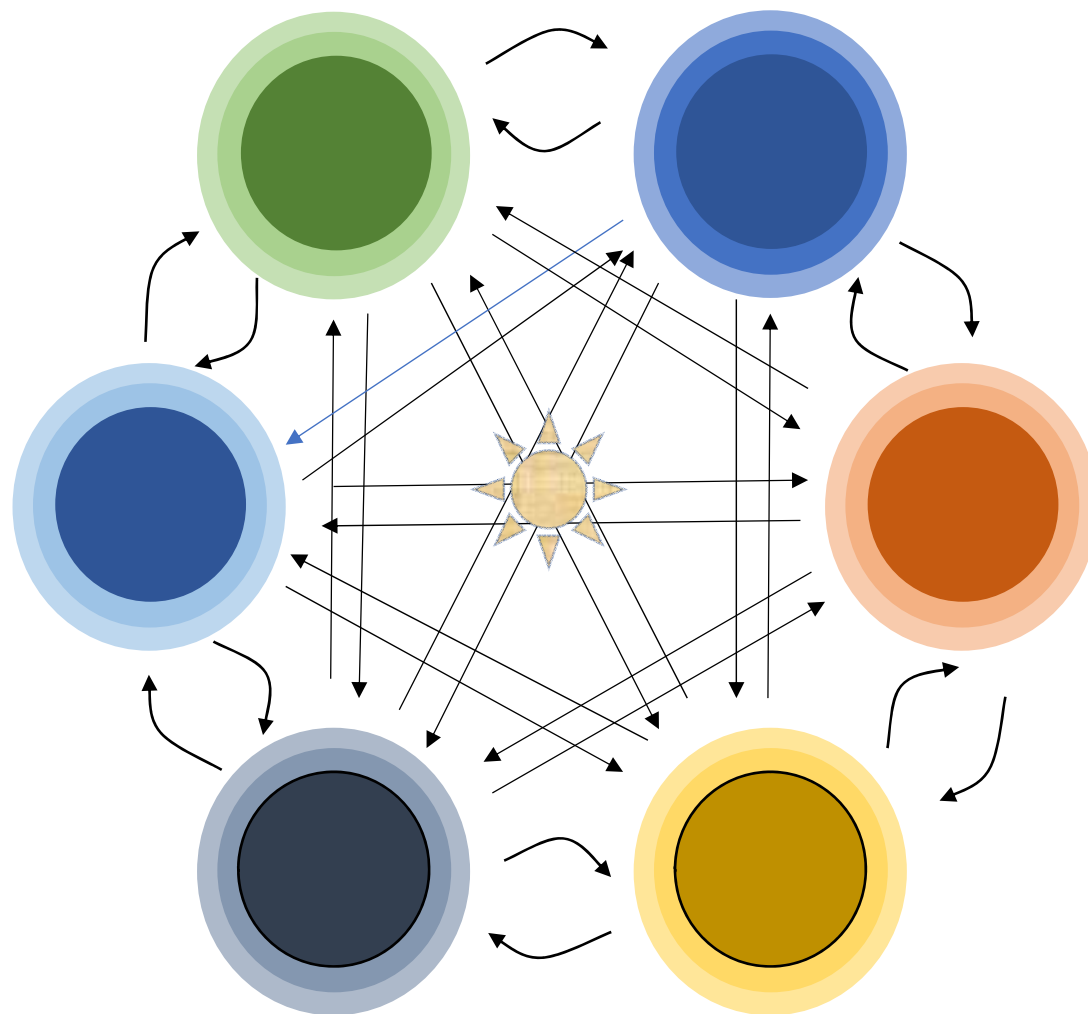


Brus et al., 2011

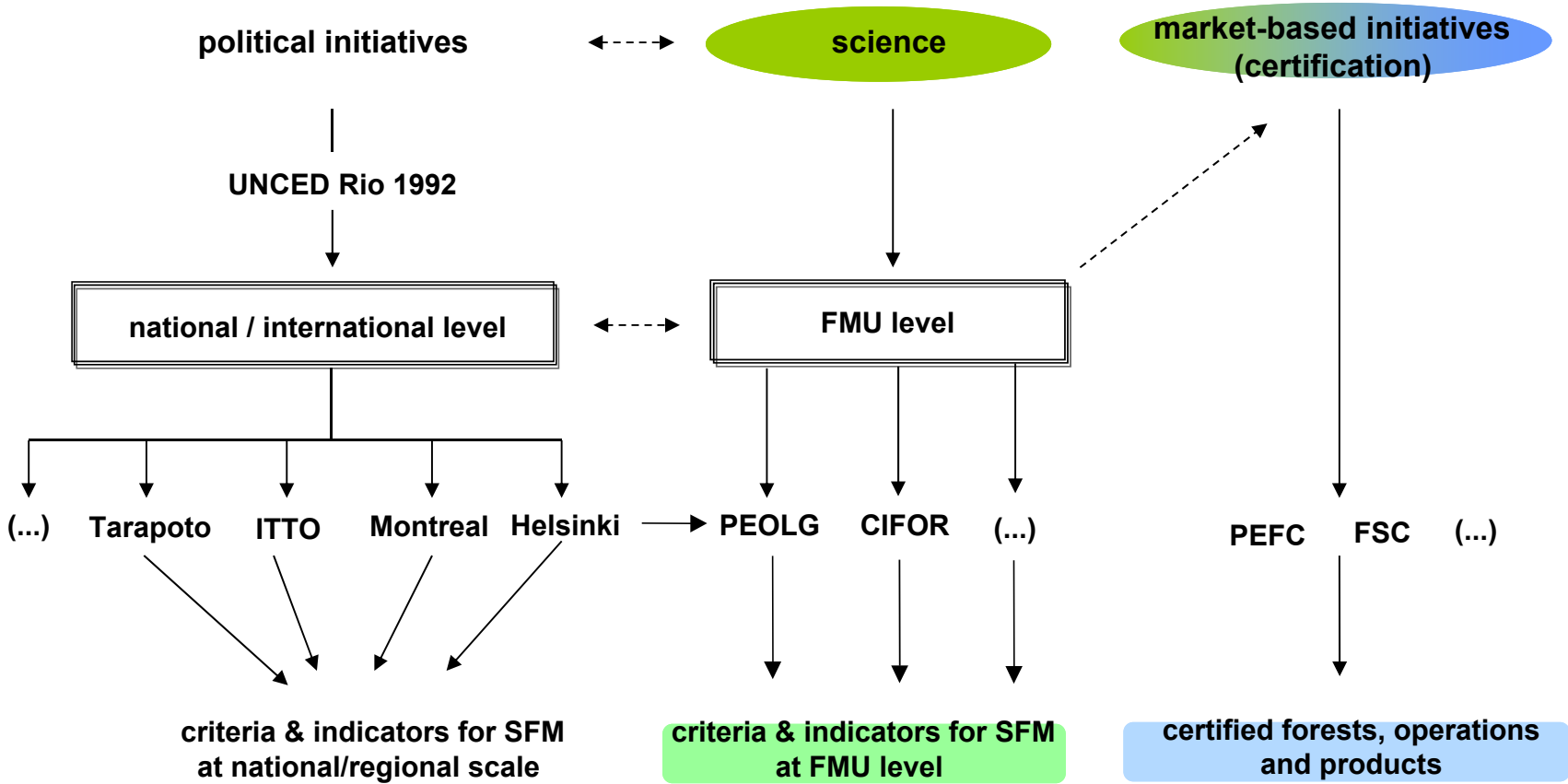
# Static dynamics...



# ...towards a future nexus approach



# Use of indicators



# Pan European reporting

- State of Europe's Forest report as flagship product
- Quantitative and qualitative reporting as backbone together with FRA (every 5 years)
  - Using synergies and decrease reporting burdens
- National Forest Inventories are the backbone of forest information in Europe
  - New demands will require new applications
- Strong demand for up-to-date comparable data
- Science-policy support more important than ever
  - Transfer data into narratives and summaries for policy makers



# Achievements

- SFM Definition & implementation in legislation
- C&I (SoEF reports + national reporting)
- 22 x ministerial resolutions & policy instruments (1990-2021)
- formal & less formal partnership agreements
- from 1993 increased NGO participation

# SFM - a successful process

- European forest area has largely increased
- Carbon stock keeps growing with sustainable harvesting rates
- Protected forest area increased in the last 30 years
- Economic role of the forest-based sector is big, especially for rural areas
- A balancing approach for social, ecological and economic demands



# But...

- Forest ecosystems increasingly under pressure by climate change and natural disasters
- Heating debate on biodiversity protection
- Controversies on the 'best' future use of forests in a changing environment and a changing economic paradigm (carbon-neutral society)

# Strength and weaknesses of C&I

- find common language, common terminology
- support communication among stakeholders
- serve as a reference for regional and local application
- streamlining and structuring of forest monitoring & reporting
- Depict information on timelines and trends
- Level of implementation (and reporting thereof) varies
- Harmonisation of monitoring still challenging
- Assessment of progress is difficult
- Forest sector often in silos

# Forest biodiversity indicators in the lens...

- ... "children" of the time in view of their development and data availability
- Pan-European forest biodiversity indicators helped to:
  - Find common definitions
  - improve monitoring instruments
  - allow for time series reporting
- But also:
  - Contains proxy indicators (e.g. protected areas)
  - Limited means for comprehensive assessment on the progress of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

# The challenges ahead

- How to best connect aerial data and ground truthing?
  - Avoid double efforts, an issue of data access
- What about Pan-Europe?
  - We need continuity in reporting for time trends
- Forest Europe created a new SFM Think Tank
  - work on biodiversity indicators taken up
- How to better respond to emerging issues, also with C&I?
  - How could a climate change/resilience indicator look like
- How to depict forest risks with our data?
  - Example: improvement of forest damage indicator (UNECE)
- Development of key indicators
  - and improve data quality and completeness

# What's next...

- Preparation for data collection starts this year together with FAO and UNECE
- Investments into the FAO database interface
  - Requires resources
  - Makes life easier for national correspondents
- Close follow of EU activities on forest monitoring and the creation of synergies
- Further work on key indicators for SFM in 2023
- New concept for SoEF 2025



# **Forest Europe** growing life

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

**foresteurope.org**

Head of Governance Programme, Team  
leader EFI FE Team:  
Dr. Bernhard Wolfslehner  
[bernhard.wolfslehner@efi.int](mailto:bernhard.wolfslehner@efi.int)



[linktr.ee/foresteurope](https://linktr.ee/foresteurope)