

# SFM in Europe – where are we, where to go



**Bernhard Wolfslehner (EFI FE Team)**

# European Forests- a story of diversity





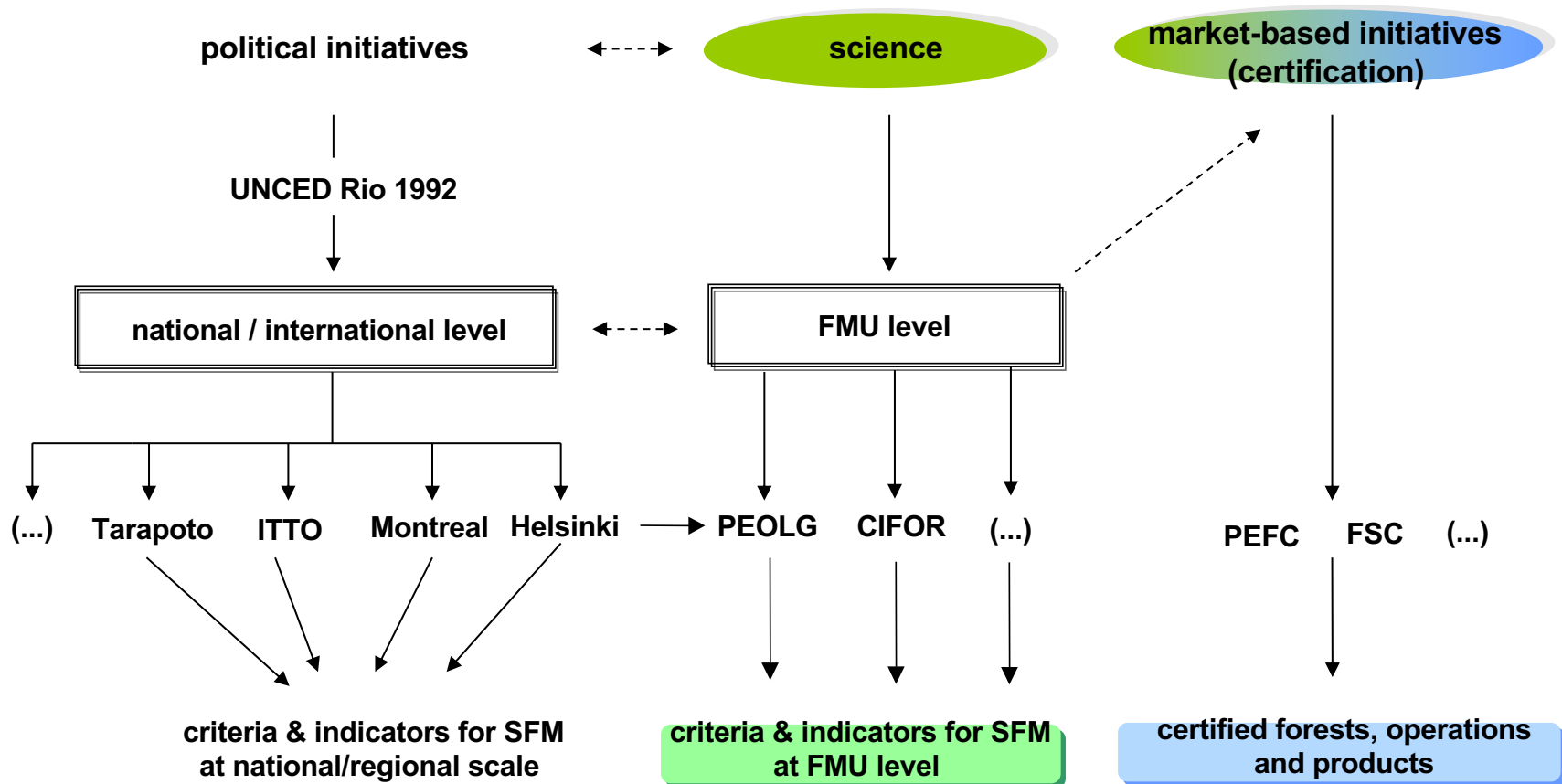
... and the concept of SFM has evolved



# 30 years of SFM

- Ministerial Process on Sustainable Forest Management (FOREST EUROPE)
- Main reference for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Europe
- 46 countries and EU among signatories
- 8 conferences, next in Bonn 2024
- Significant outcomes: e.g. C&I, NFP, science-policy documents incl. guidelines
- A balancing approach for social, ecological and economic demands

# Different forms of uptake...



# Strength and weaknesses

- 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
- Little conceptual backing on how SFM elements work together
- Level of implementation (and reporting thereof) varies
- Harmonisation of monitoring still challenging
- Assessment of progress is difficult
- Forest sector often in silos

# 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)



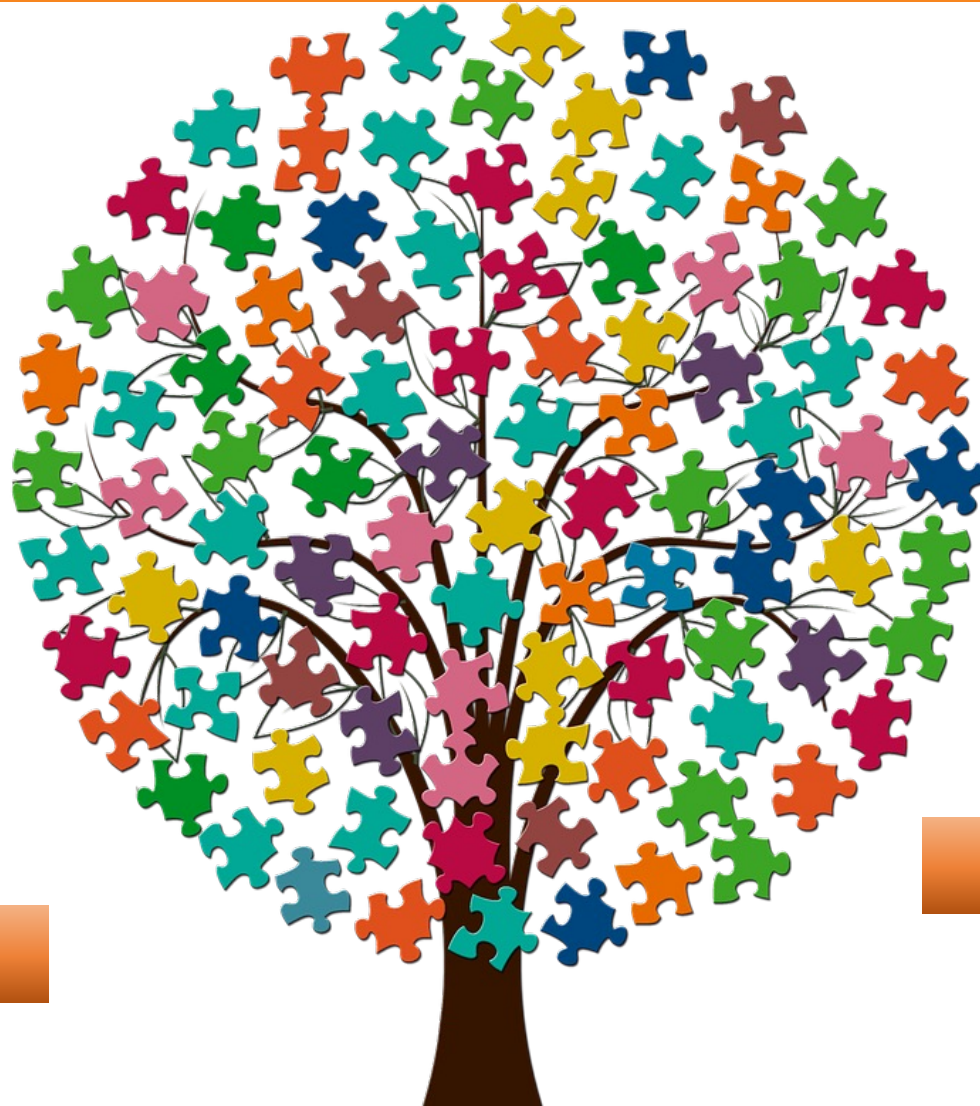
# Complex new challenges...

Adapt

Use

Restore

Protect





# We have more ahead...

- The need for operational tools is ever emerging
  - Link from policy to local level
- New technologies in monitoring, communication and knowledge handling
- Synergies among political and technical processes
- Assessment of progress and moderation of goal conflicts
- Prognosis and prevention in the focus
- Dealing with risks and adaptation



# **Forest Europe** growing life

**Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe**

**foresteurope.org**

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