Preface

France and Finland initiated together the process of Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Strasbourg in 1990. Following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the notion of sustainable forest management was promulgated as criteria and indicators. Sustainable forest management was defined for Europe in 1993 in Helsinki during the Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The sustainable forest management criteria and indicators were proposed in Geneva in 1994 and supplemented the following year in Antalya before being adopted in Lisbon in 1998 and improved in Vienna in 2003. These indicators have gradually become established as public policy tools intended to strengthen the sustainable and multi-functional management of forests in a context of climate change. The Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Madrid, 2015) suggested updating the set of indicators for 2020.

At the same time, connexions were built between this PanEuropean process (renamed Forest Europe in the meantime) and the FAO assessment of world forestry resources: the global and European exercises thus complement each other.

France has therefore committed with the other signatory European countries to providing regular information and improving the sustainable management indicators for its forests. It has been a pioneer in this area by publishing Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Metropolitan French Forests as early as 1995 and in repeating this exercise every five years.

These twenty years of French experience in sustainable forest management indicators have prompted the preparation of the *Programme national de la forêt et du bois* (PNFB - National Forestry and Timber Program) provided for under the *loi d'avenir pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et la forêt* (LAAF - Law for the Future of Agriculture, Food and the Forest) of 13 October 2014.

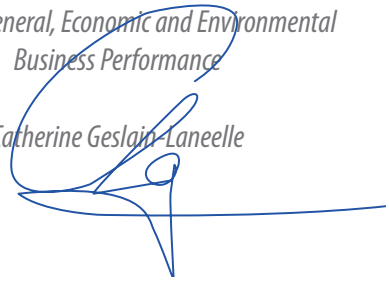
The fifth edition of Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Metropolitan French Forests is the fruit of on-going improvement sought by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forest and run by a committee made up of various forestry stakeholders from the socio-professional, scientific and association environments. It has been produced by the *Institut national de l'information géographique et forestière* (IGN - National Institute of Geographic and Forestry Information) in conjunction with the public sector group Ecofor, the Inra-AgroParis Tech forestry economy laboratory and Irstea.

This new edition contains an executive summary, a summary per policy issue and summaries for each sustainable management criterion, thus making it easier for policymakers to consider all the information in it.

I should like to thank the managers, professionals, ecologists, researchers, statisticians, associations, public establishments, administrations and all forestry stakeholders who have helped to supply, analyze and develop the collected data. This participation shows the importance attached by the forestry community to monitoring forest resources and ecosystems. It strengthens France's ability to be proactive in this PanEuropean process.

Director General, Economic and Environmental Business Performance

Catherine Geslain-Laneelle



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Introduction

The 2015 edition of *Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Metropolitan French Forests* provides a detailed overview of the state and evolution of the forests and their related economic and social activities.

This document is structured to provide several reading methods:

– a **quick run-through** with executive summary and a summary of trends per policy issue.
– **focusing on a theme**, with a summary for each sustainable management criterion.
– **detailed investigation** of each indicator.

Every indicator sheet shows, in succession, the **purpose** of the indicator, the **results** as data tables or graphics, the **analysis** of the results and lastly the **data sources and methodology.** The analyses always start with a heading in bold showing the main results, so that a quick run-through is also possible for a precise indicator.

In addition, Appendix 1 lists definitions for technical terms and breaks in series are shown in the graphics or tables by a vertical red line.

Lastly, all data presented in the 2015 edition of Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Metropolitan French Forests is made available for the first time on the website of the *Institut national de l'information géographique et forestière* (under forest inventory > Themed activities > Sustainable management indicators <http://inventaire-forestier.ign.fr/spip/spip.php?rubrique80>.

Enjoy the document!