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## Summary and Closing Remarks

”Northern Forests Leading the Way to Sustainability”  
Northern ToSIA Final Conference  
19th September, 2011. Pohtimolampi/Rovaniemi, Finland

## Reflection on the conference

Participation included

- Northern ToSIA project team
- EFORWOOD collaborators
- New interested researchers and stakeholders



## Reflection on the conference

### Thursday morning

- Setting the context with very good examples of sustainability challenges close to the Arctic center of the Northern Hemisphere
- Stressing the importance of facilitating processes that support regional sustainable development

### Thursday afternoon

- Using wood for construction (visual example of climate change mitigation) and importance of educating about sustainable resource use
- Enterprise initiative in implementing bio-energy policy targets
- Feeling and understanding (and smelling) the world of reindeer herding



## Reflection on the conference

### Friday morning

- Diverse set of case study examples – finally some concrete results!
- Other regions face similar questions, but specific circumstances are always different

### Friday afternoon

- Getting a bit tired, but also processing new ideas

## Cases studied in Northern ToSIA



Source: Northern ToSIA, 2010



## How ToSIA connects with decision making

### Decision Support:

- The sustainability impact thinking and elements in the approach have proven helpful even without the tool, because the structure and the process helped to look at the question from different angles
- Transparent, objective and quantitative (or qualitative) information

### Decision Defense:

- Showing arguments why certain decisions have been taken

### Decision Impact Assessment:

- Provide facts to support or question newly made decisions



## Lessons learnt and new ideas

Many resource use questions could be addressed with ToSIA

- **Great prospects! But keep in mind that ToSIA is no magical fortune teller, analysis is needed to feed the tool.**

Understanding the process and the use of the tool

- **The work that is needed to feed ToSIA is at least as valuable as the tool itself.**

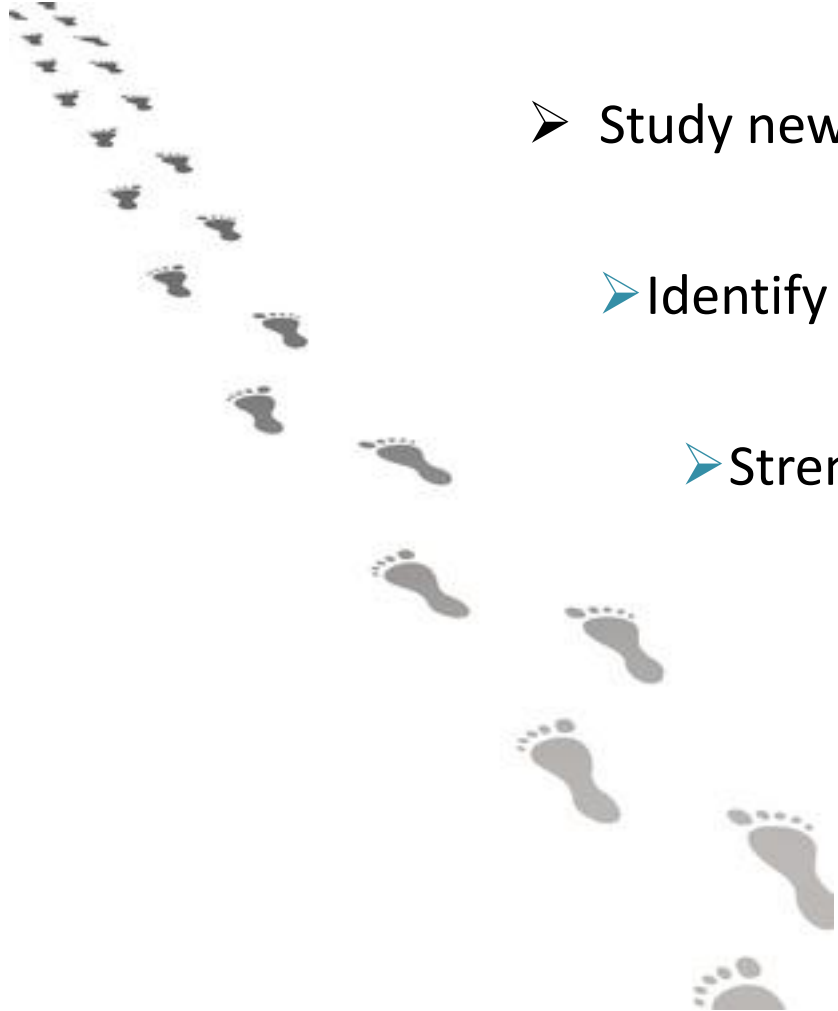
Complexity of land use decision making is increasing

- **Value for other forest services is increasingly important. Monetary evaluation should consider also e.g. value of nature conservation or supporting traditional livelihoods**



## Where are we heading?

- Study new questions and collect more experience with the tool applications
- Identify ongoing processes which would benefit from using the ToSIA approach
- Strengthen science/policy/practice interface







## Outcome of break-out group discussions

Overall challenge to balance different land use demands

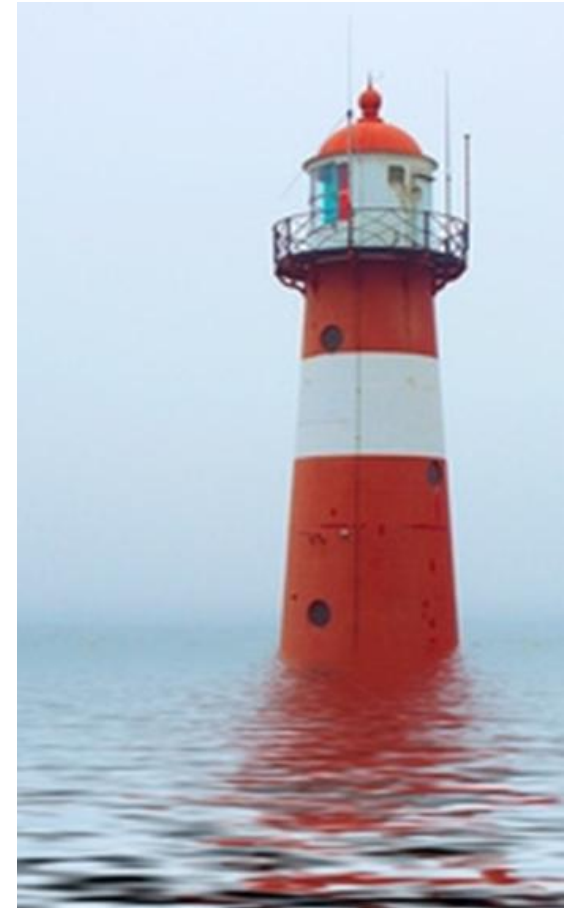
We need more relevant indicators ... but we cannot digest more than 6 indicators and transparency is needed throughout

ToSIA approach offers a process, but no quick-fix

Lack of understanding between stakeholders, better negotiation platform could create more understanding (But you often need to go to visit stakeholders to get their input)

## Future perspectives

- Concept has proven useful and could be applied to other resource use cases across the NPP (forestry – reindeers – wind-energy – mining)
- Collaborative learning using participatory methods
- Establish additional indicator calculation procedures to make ToSIA more useful: eg LCA results, cultural aspects, conservation value
- Technical improvements like better Data - GIS – Tool linkage will be crucial to bring the tool closer to end-users



**Thank you for your active participation  
in the conference!**

**See you again in some follow-up work?**

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