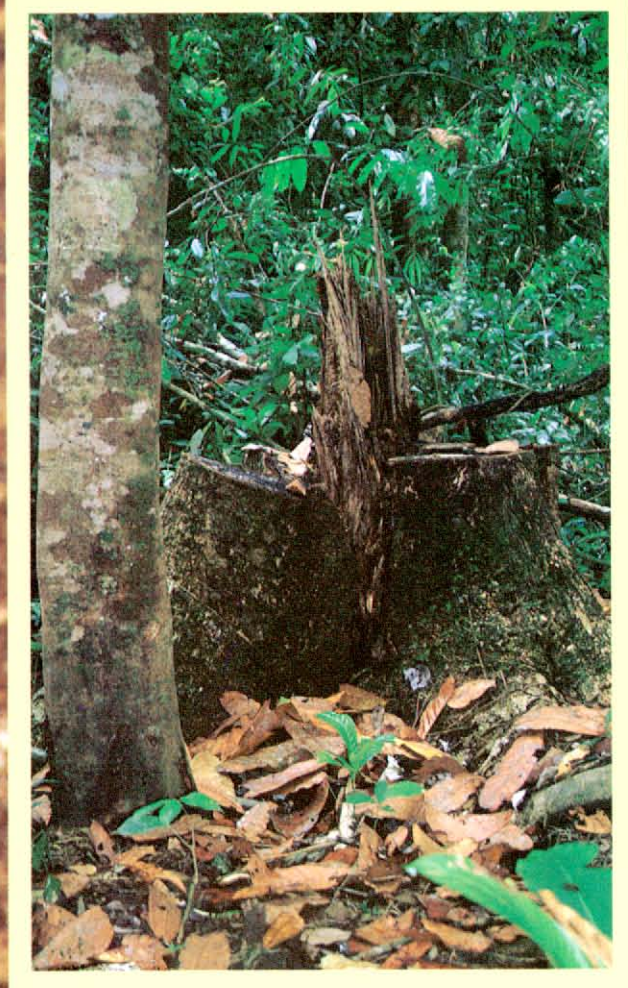


MMA

048



CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL FORESTS IN COLOMBIA

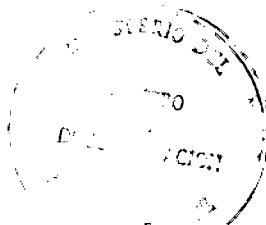


MMA
048
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REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

PROPOSAL OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL
FORESTS IN COLOMBIA.



SANTAFE DE BOGOTA, D. C., OCTOBER 1996.

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Santafé de Bogotá, D. C. October 1996.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents a summary of the final report of pre-project PPD 11/93 Rev.1 (F) "Evaluation of Current Forest Harvesting Licensing, Concession and Control Systems within a Framework of Sustainable Forest Resource Management" executed by the Ministry of the Environment of Colombia - General Division of Forestry and Wildlife with support from the International Tropical Timber Organization.

The pre-project complies with the process implemented by the General Division of Wildlife and Forestry leading to the issuance of a single forestry by-law, as part of the actions considered to reach the objectives set forth in National Forest Policy.

NEW CONTEXT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

At the national level, the new constitutional and legal framework for the environment and natural resources, the present institutional structure and the recent environmental and forestry policies set up a new scenario leading to an excellent opportunity to implement actions required for forest management under the guidance and application of criteria and sustainability practices.

At the international level, different initiatives are under discussion for the establishment of a global framework geared to the sustainable management of forests. It allows the consideration of new conceptual and operational elements for analysis and evaluation in order to make adjustments and developments based on the specific conditions of the country.

This approach has been developed for the pre-project. Thus, the following proposal is the result of a process of analysis and technical discussions based on specific areas of forest management and standards as well as the study of the domestic forestry situation.

PROPOSAL OF A SYSTEM FOR PROMOTING AND EVALUATING SUSTAINABILITY IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

BASIC PRINCIPLES

This proposal is conceived as an integral system based on the adoption of a set of criteria and indicators to promote and evaluate sustainability in forest management, along with the establishment and application of a series of previous and complementary measures aimed at the organization and consistent management of this productive activity in the country.

This integral nature implies that each and every element forming the system proposed, - criteria, indicators, previous and complementary measures- is considered relevant and necessary for the objectives stated. Thus, whole set shall be affected if one element is to be removed.

However, account must be taken of the difficulties for complying with the present standards as well as the causes and characteristics of the present situation in forest logging, at the national level. The proposal is to consider the real institutional, technical, economic and social situation of the country having a direct influence on this activity and it has showed the need to introduce some analysis variables that have established the feasibility in its implementation and application.

CHARACTERIZATION ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

The different criteria and indicators have been characterized in terms of the following items:

DESCRIPTION

A basic definition of the nature and characteristics of the criterion or indicator within the context of the proposal. It is aimed at determining as accurately as possible: the what and for what and in some cases, even the why.

In order to maintain a standard structure, this aspect has been developed even for criteria and indicators which are well known.

METHOD

In the case of biophysical or socioeconomic studies, it indicates whether there is need for the generation of primary information based on specific field work or if it is appropriate to use secondary information such as a review of literature, extrapolation, etc.

In other cases, it indicates the general approach for its execution or implementation. No specific methods have been recommended provided that the method chosen supplies the information required. In some cases, recommendations or examples of application are indicated.

SCOPE

Refers to the range of application, mainly related to the planning tools used in each of the following two cases:

On a general level, refers to the General Management Plan (GMP) which is the basis for setting Management Units in Production Forest Areas.

On a detailed level, it refers to the Detailed Management Plan (DMP) which supplies the technical and legal support for granting forest harvesting permits (See definitions of GMP and DMP in corresponding items).

TIMING

Establishes the feasibility or need for implementation or application, based on the analysis of the country conditions, specially regarding institutional management capacity or user skills.

This variable is significant to make gradual progress in the promotion and evaluation of sustainability while at the same time facilitates goals setting and adjustment based on progress achieved.

Therefore, it is fundamental to realize that the system allows the adoption of criteria and indicators by stages; this approach does not imply that the integral nature of the proposal will be overlooked.

In order to define this variable, as of the moment of adoption, the following terms have been defined:

Short-Term: First and second years.

Mid-Term: From third to fifth year.

Long-Term: From year six onwards.

The terms considered refer to projections in implementation or application and should not be confounded with the temporary nature of forest activities, specially long-term variables in forest management.

RESPONSIBILITY

State entities in charge of implementation or execution: Ministry of the Environment, Research Institutes or Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) according to competence and function levels set forth by law. Likewise, it establishes when application or implementation corresponds to users or other bodies (e.g. universities, etc.).

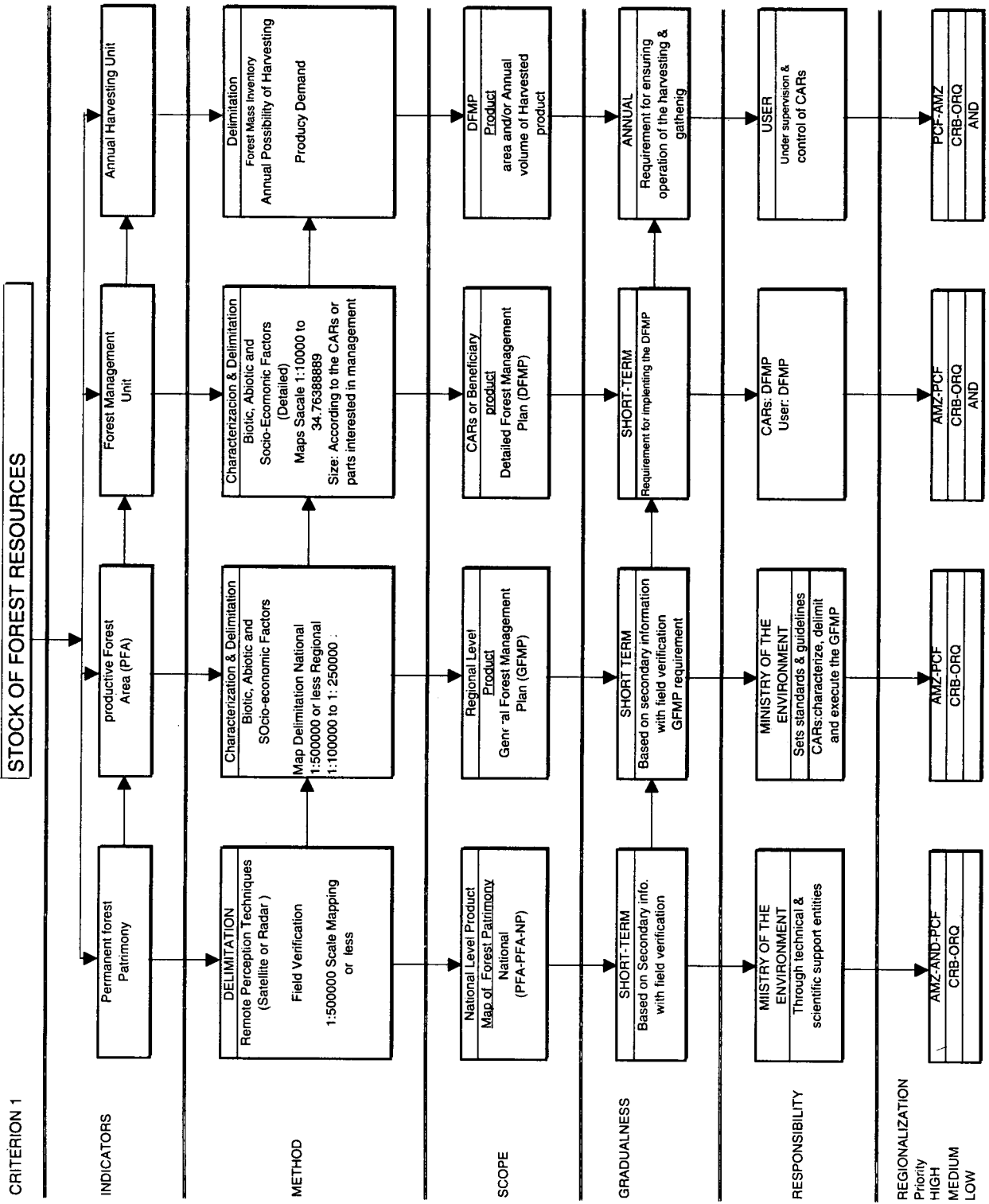
REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

If the indicator proposed is applicable at a national level or whether its implementation in different natural regions is considered to be a matter of high, intermediate or low priority.

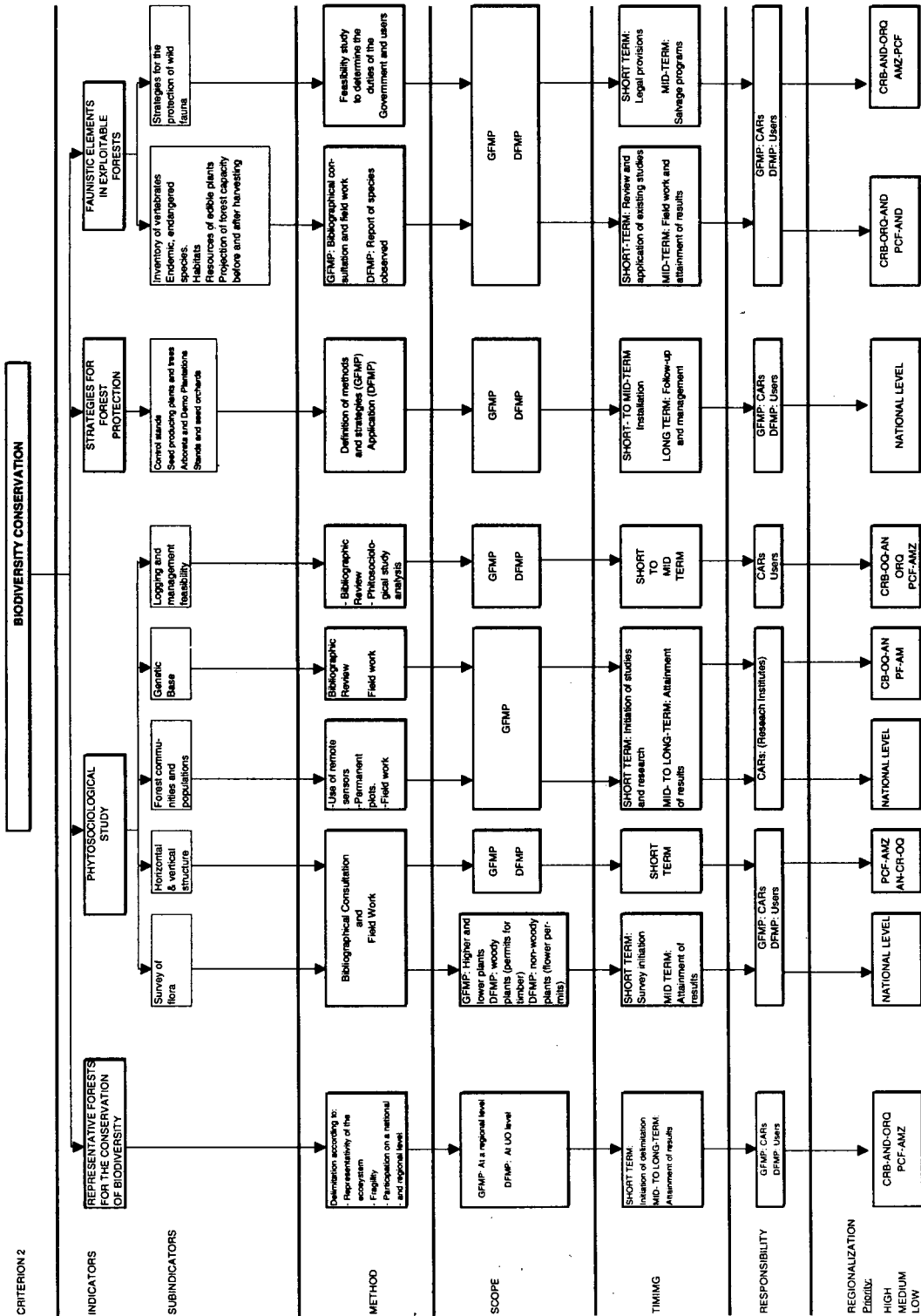
CONDITIONALITIES

Some conditions have to be met for the implementation of the proposed system such as the execution of forest policy strategies and lines of action (CONPES Document 2834/96) regarding forest logging and which are basic to reorient management in this area.

Even if all strategies are a must, it is important to underscore Zoning and Environmental Management of Forest Areas, a sine qua non measure for reaching sustainability in forest management.



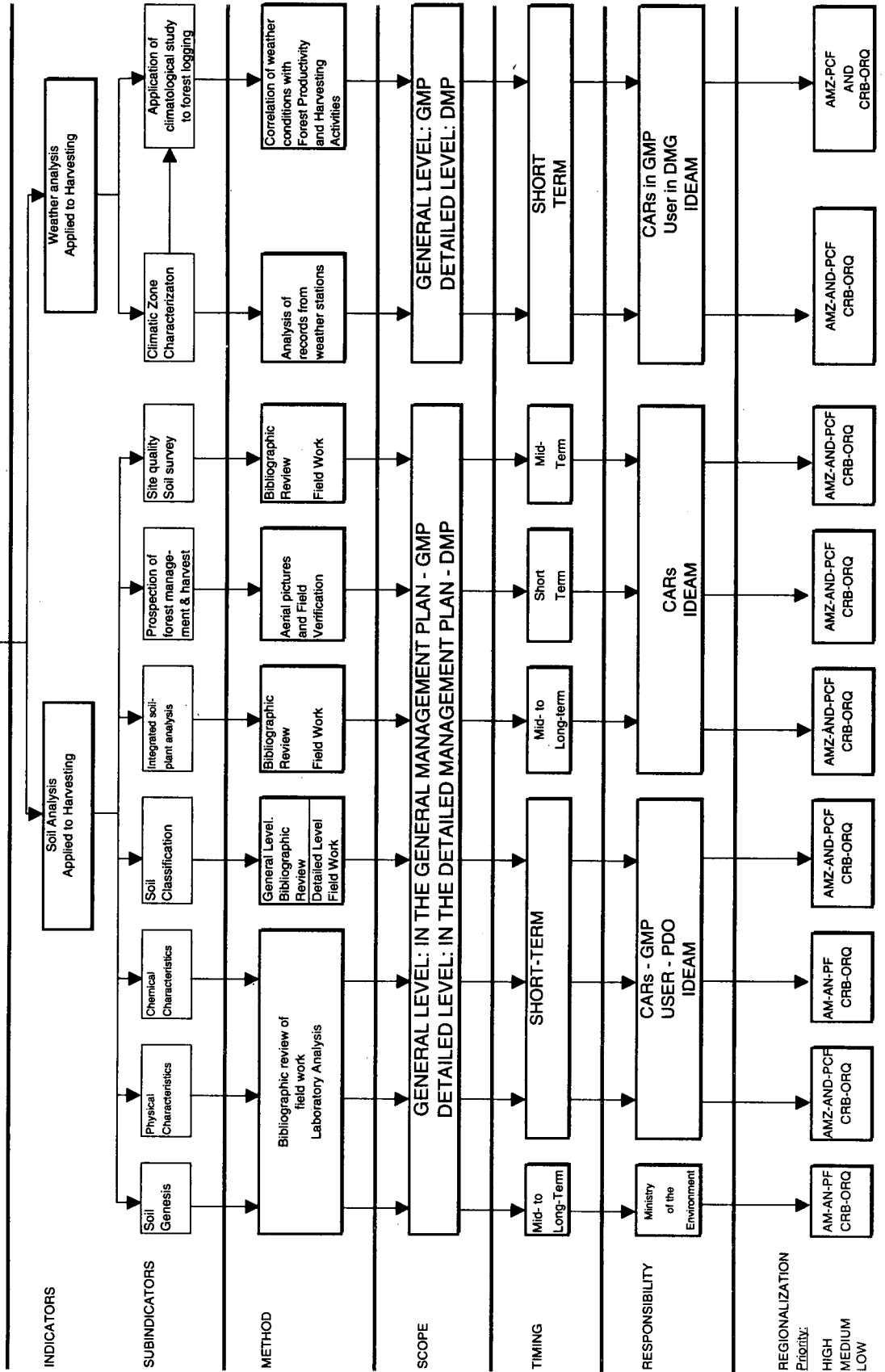
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 INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
 PPD PROJECT DRAFT 11/83

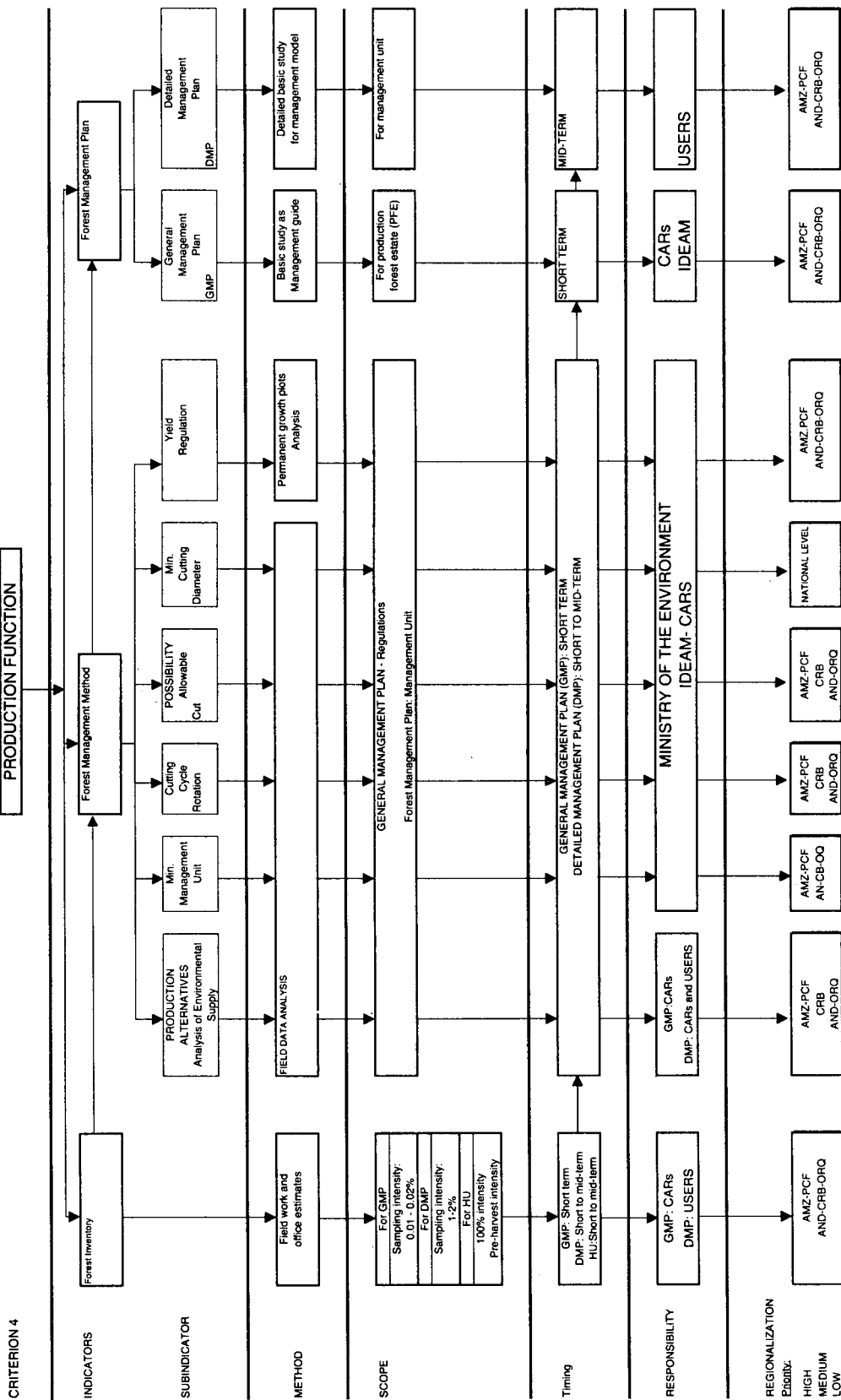
CONDITIONS AND FACTORS FOR ECOSYSTEM
 PRODUCTIVITY

CRITERION 3

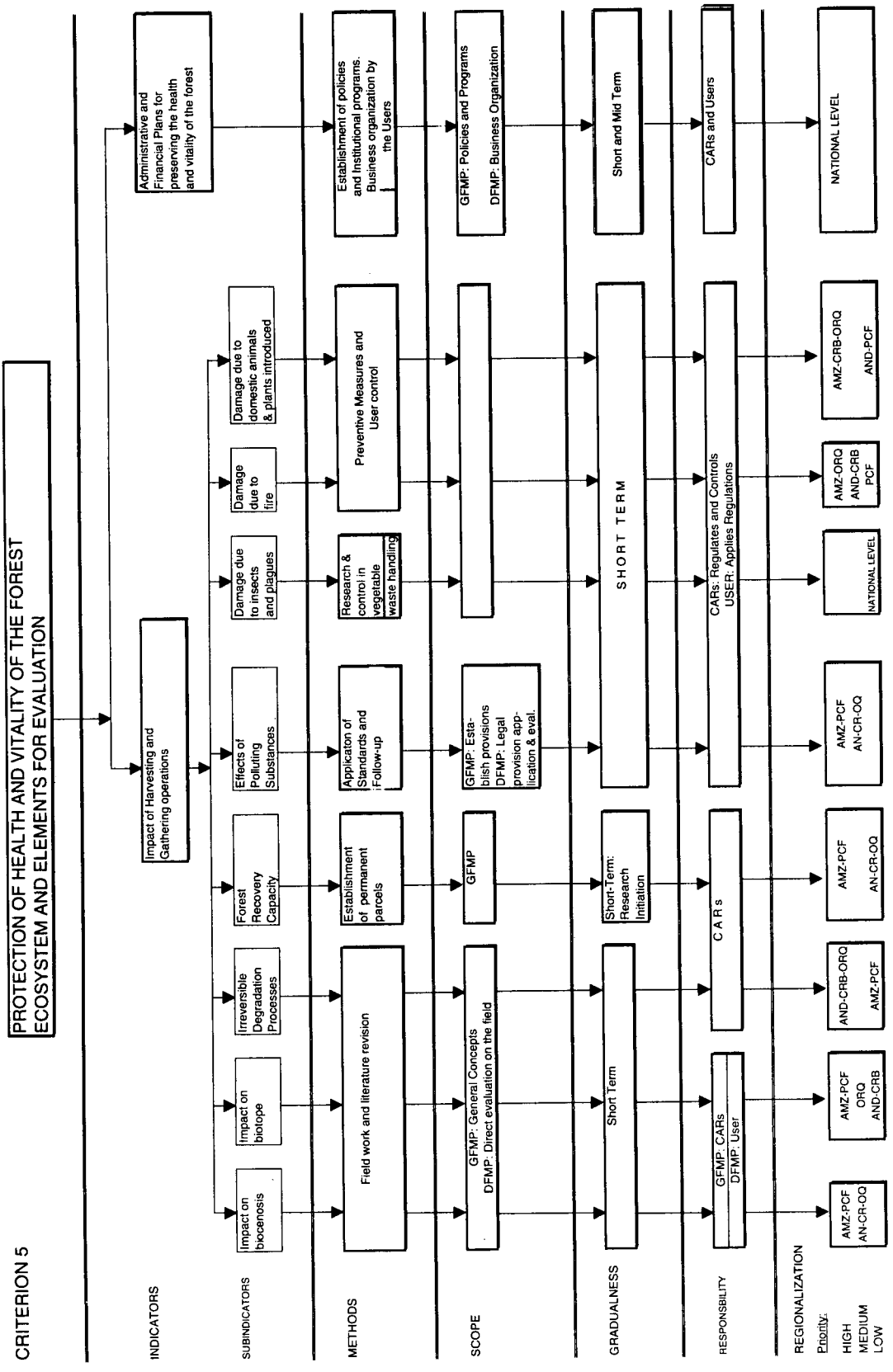


REGIONALIZATION
 Priority:
 HIGH
 MEDIUM
 LOW

PROYECTO PPD 11/83
MINISTERIO DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE MADERAS TROPICALES



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 INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
 PPD PROJECT DRAFT 1/193

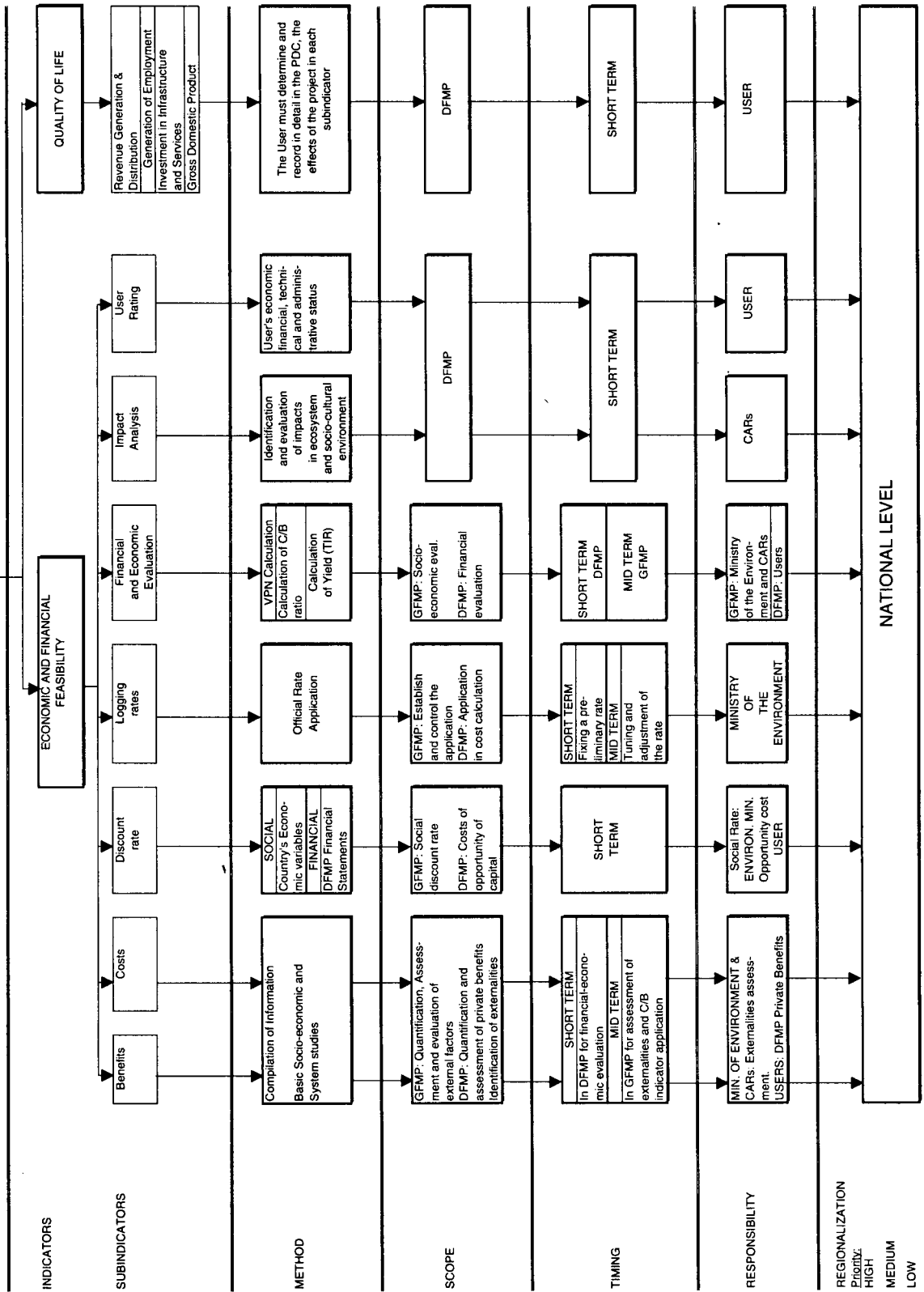


REGIONALIZATION
 Priority:
 HIGH
 MEDIUM
 LOW

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INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
PPD PROJECT DRAFT 1/83

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

CRITERION 6



INDICATORS

SUBINDICATORS

METHOD

SCOPE

TIMING

RESPONSIBILITY

REGIONALIZATION

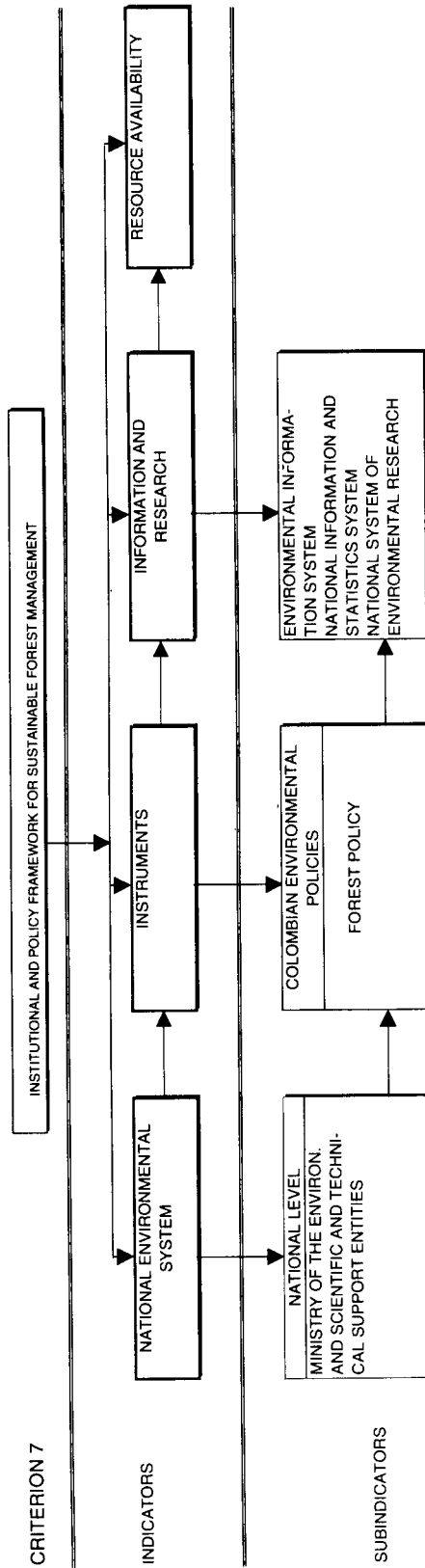
Priority:

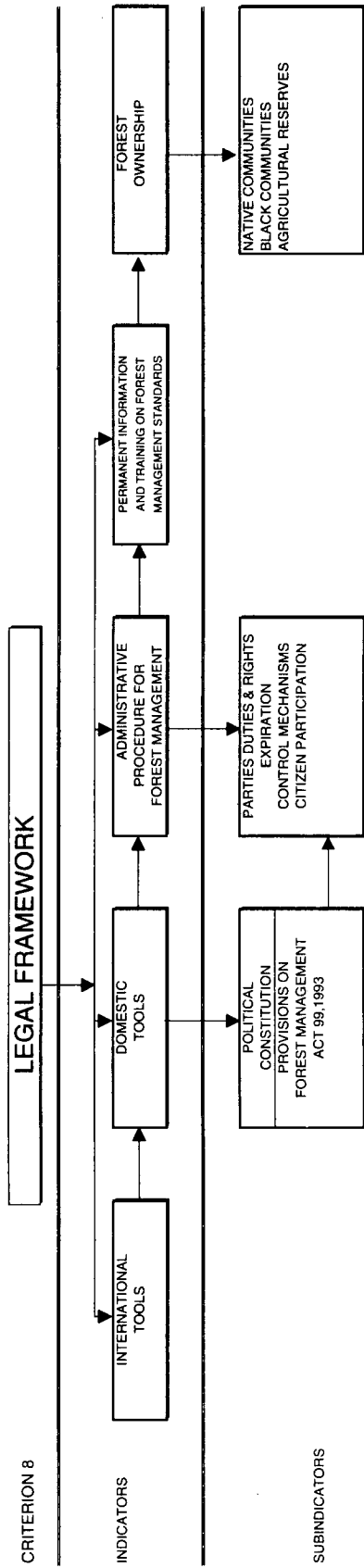
HIGH

MEDIUM

LOW

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 PRE PROJECT
 PPD 11/93





CRITERION 8

INDICATORS

SUBINDICATORS