Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRA 2020 LAUNCH:
TECHNICAL MEETING OF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS AND CFRQ PARTNERS
TOLUCA, MEXICO, 5-9 MARCH 2018
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2018
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The FRA Working Paper Series provides an important forum for the rapid release of information related to the FRA programme. Should users find any errors in the documents or would like to provide comments for improving their quality they should contact fra@fao.org.
Global Forest Resources Assessment

FAO has been monitoring the world’s forests at 5 to 10 year intervals since 1946. The recent Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) have been produced every five years in an attempt to provide consistent approach to describing the world’s forests and how they are changing.

During this period, the scope of FRA has evolved from timber-focused inventories to more holistic assessments that seek to respond to increasing information needs related to all of the aspects of sustainable forest management. At the same time, countries role in the FRA data collection process has been strengthened and the country reports developed by the National Correspondents, their alternates and other national contributors have become the cornerstone of the process.

FRA 2020 reporting has been adapted both in terms of scope and reporting periodicity to better respond to recent development in the international forest policy arena, such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the Paris agreement. Furthermore, the reporting content has been streamlined and a new on-line reporting Platform developed, to make the reporting more efficient and to decrease countries’ reporting burden. All these changes have been made with the support of international experts consulted during the Seventh Expert Consultation on FRA, held in Joensuu, Finland in June 2017.

This document provides a description of the events as well as a summary of the discussions and technical presentations that took place at the meeting for the FRA 2020 Launch in Toluca Mexico, from 5-9 March 2018.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment process is coordinated by the Forestry Department at FAO headquarters in Rome. The contact person is:

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More information on the Global Forest Resources Assessment can be found at: http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The FRA 2020 Launch and technical meeting of FRA National Correspondents and CFRQ partners was organized in collaboration with the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR).

FAO would like to acknowledge CONAFOR for the excellent collaboration and invaluable contribution to the organization of this event.

FAO would also like to thank the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland for their financial support for this event.
Introduction

Since the formalization of the FRA network of National Correspondents in 2005, FAO has been organizing Global Meeting of National Correspondents with the objectives to officially launch the reporting process and strengthen the National Correspondents network.

The first two global meetings for FRA 2005 and FRA 2010 were held in 2003 and 2008 respectively, in Rome at FAO headquarters. The FRA 2015 global meeting of National Correspondents was held in 2013 in Chiang Mai, Thailand and organized in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Royal Forest Department of Thailand.

Building on this positive experience, the FRA 2020 technical meeting of National Correspondent was organized in collaboration with the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR) and with the involvement and support of the Regional Office for South America and the Caribbean and the FAO representation in Mexico.

Objectives of the meeting

The meeting was organized with the following objectives:

- Officially launch the FRA 2020 Reporting process;
- Provide information and knowledge to National Correspondents on the FRA 2020 process and country reporting, including the Remote Sensing component;
- Provide information and knowledge to National Correspondents on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators reporting and on how this work links to the FRA process;
- Provide opportunity for National Correspondents to familiarize with the new FRA online reporting, review and analysis platform;
- Provide a unique opportunity for National Correspondents for networking and for exchanging experiences in the field of forest monitoring, assessment and reporting and reinforce the National Correspondents network.

Participants

All officially nominated National Correspondents, as well as relevant FAO HQ and regional staff were invited. Representatives of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaires (CFRQ) and members of the FRA Advisory Group were also invited (Annex 2).

Key outcomes

Key outcomes of the meeting were the following:

- The Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2020 was launched;
- A total of 164 experts from 93 countries attended the event;
- Attending FRA National Correspondents were trained on country reporting requirements and on the use of the online platform;
- Attending FRA National Correspondents were informed about the FRA 2020 remote sensing component;
- Networking and exchange of experiences among national experts in forest resource assessment was fostered.
SUMMARY REPORT

One hundred and sixty four participants among country representatives and partner organizations and institutions attended the meeting. The meeting’s programme included plenary presentations and discussions and group works (Annex 1).

Plenary presentations introduced participants to all aspects of the global FRA 2020 process, and prepared the National Correspondents for actual implementation of the assessment. Plenary presentations were supported by a simultaneous translation service.

Group work sessions focused on the FRA 2020 content and reporting methodology, the online reporting platform and its functionalities as well as on the FRA 2020 Remote sensing component.

Working groups also identified and discussed needs at regional, sub regional and national level for capacity development activities, including regional and sub-regional workshops during the implementation phase of FRA 2020. Possibility for active participation of the National Correspondents was guaranteed in the working groups by organizing them according to region/language.

Workshop documentation was translated into three languages (French, Spanish and Russian) and distributed to the National Correspondents well in advance.

MONDAY 5 MARCH

AGENDA ITEM 1: Launching ceremony for FRA 2020:
Mr Jorge Rescala Pérez, Secretary of the Minister of Environment of the Government of the State of Mexico, formally opened the meeting and on behalf of Alfredo del Mazo Maza, Governor of the State of Mexico, welcomed the participants.

Mr Rescala expressed his satisfaction for the choice of the State of Mexico as venue for such an important event. He reminded participants that the State of Mexico is the most populated state of the country and at the same time one with the richest and most diverse natural resources. To prove the fact that forests are an important resource for the State of Mexico, whose protection has been always high on the political agenda, Mr Rescala mentioned the success of the eleven years old program for payment for environmental services, financially supporting forest owners for the preservation and conservation of their forests.

Mr Rescala also mentioned the innovative system put in place for the prevention of forest fires that according to a study of the Autonomous University of Mexico, from 1993 to 2015 allowed the recuperation of 74 000 hectares of forests.

Mr Arturo Beltráán Retis, Director General of the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR) welcomed the participants and commented on the crucial role played by forests in helping humanity to solve some of the biggest challenges such as eradication of hunger and climate changes mitigation.

Mr Beltráán reminded participants that nowadays countries and civil society have finally recognized the importance of planning, monitoring and decision making in the process of achieving sustainable forest management in order to ensure forests will be able to solve all of their functions for future generation. He also highlighted the importance of producing reliable information on forest resources and in this context informed participants of the positive example of the establishment of a National Forest Monitoring system in Mexico.
He finally acknowledged FAO and its Global Forest Resources Assessment, and member countries for their joint effort in improving data availability and data quality.

Ms Imma Roca I Cortés, Deputy Head of EU Delegation in Mexico greeted the participants and express her appreciation for the opportunity to represent the EU in the opening ceremony for the FRA 2020 launch. While stressing the importance of forests for the SDG agenda and the Paris agreement, Ms Roca reminded participants that the EU has worked with FAO since FRA 1990 and that, in particular, the EU has also financially supported the last two global assessments. She also provided participants with an overview of the activities that the EU is carrying out to contribute to the conservation of tropical forest such as the FLEGT, BIOPAMA and ReCaREDD. Ms Roca concluded acknowledging FAO and its member countries and partner organizations for the important work to be undertaken to carry on the FRA 2020 reporting process.

Mr Crispim Moreira, FAO Representative in Mexico, on behalf of FAO acknowledged CONAFOR for the support in the organization of the Global meeting that officially launch the process of evaluation of the World’s forest resources, FRA 2020. He stressed the important role that FRA has played in the past 70 years to promote a sustainable use of forest, halt deforestation and land degradation. Mr Moreira highlighted the fact that nowadays the role of forests to fight hunger and poverty and to mitigate climate change has been also widely recognized and it is preponderant in the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. He also recognized the challenge that the development of adequate forest policies can pose on developing countries and reminded participants of the support offered by FAO through various programmes such as the South- South cooperation, MERCOSUR and Mesoamerica sin hambre.

Ms Eva Müller, Director of Forest Policy and Resources Division FAO, welcomed participants on behalf of Mr Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director General of the Forestry Department of FAO and formally launched the FRA 2020 process. Ms Müller reminded participants of the fact that Mexico was chosen as the venue of this event because of its vast experience in forest inventory and monitoring system. She also reminded participants that in 2018 FRA is celebrating its 70th anniversary and that a special publication has been published to celebrate this event. Ms Müller commented on the fact that FRA has evolved throughout these 70 years to adapt to changing needs of society, addressing not only forest production but also broader issues such as deforestation, ecosystem services, socioeconomic aspects, and climate change. In addition, it has increasingly moved from a top-down exercise to a country driven process. In this context, she added that FRA 2020 has been specifically designed to address important international developments during recent years, such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals and targets. She also referred to the effort of FRA to reduce the reporting burden on countries, by working closely in collaboration with CFRQ partners and developing new tools to facilitate reporting.

Ms Müller also mentioned the importance of supporting countries in their process of reporting through capacity building activities to increase the availability of data through remote sensing tools such as those developed by Google. To support countries, FAO has been engaging in new partnerships with Google and she acknowledge the presence and participation of Mr Brian Sullivan from Google Earth Engine and Outreach.

Ms Müller finally acknowledged the participants and expressed her gratitude to donors, the European Union and Finland, who are supporting the development of FRA 2020 and who have made the workshop possible.

A short video on the new FRA 2020 was then displayed.

Ms Martha Garciarivas Palmeros, Vice Minister of Environmental Protection Management of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, on behalf of Mr Rafael Pachianno Alamán, Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, acknowledged FAO for carrying out the Global Forest Resources Assessment. Ms Garciarivas reminded participants of the importance of forest for Mexico.
and of the efforts that the country is putting in place to integrate the 2030 Agenda in the national policy. Mexico has also compromised to comply with the zero deforestation target and with the objective to reach one million hectares of reforestation within 2020. She also added that Mexico. She concluded acknowledging FAO for supporting the member countries in their effort to protect their forests and the participants for their contribution to the FRA 2020.

The opening session concluded and participants were invited to take position for the group photo, followed by media interviews and coffee break.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Key note speaker intervention
Mr Brian Sullivan Programme Manager, Google Earth Engine and Outreach gave a presentation on Google Earth Engine highlighting the fact that this tool allows processing satellite images to produce cloud free images in few seconds, an operation that only few years ago would have taken hours or days. He also provided participants with successful examples of collaboration and partnership such as the one with the University of Maryland, Matt Hansen and the Global Forest Watch, the collaboration with FAO for the Drylands Assessment, the Malaria map DISARM, the SDG 6 for sustainable management of water resources and the Global Surface Water monitoring and the Vanuatu coastal risk assessment. He concluded his intervention mentioning that the collaboration with FAO is still ongoing and that in the context of FRA 2020 Google will provide all FRA National Correspondents and their collaborators access to the Earth Engine, in particular through the geospatial tools that FAO is including in the FRA 2020 online platform.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. Some participants expressed their appreciation for the interesting intervention and inquired about the reliability of data that were produced through the Google Earth Engine tools. Mr Sullivan clarified that what Google Earth Engine is doing is to make the tools available. Users of the tools are responsible for the reliability of the results of analysis carried out through Google Earth Engine. Participants also inquired on the possibility of using Google Earth Engine to carry on new analysis such as an investigation on alien invasive species. Mr Sullivan clarified that if sufficient information about patterns of invasive species distribution is available, it could be feasible to conduct such analysis.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Organization of work
Mr Greg Reams, Chair of the FRA Advisory Group chaired the technical session of the meeting, outlining the agenda and objectives of the meeting and introducing the following interventions.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FRA 2020 setting the scene
Mr Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO Senior Forestry Officer of the Global Forest Resources Assessment outlined the main features of FRA 2020. Mr Pekkarinen informed participants that the 2020 assessment aims at focusing on important variables, avoiding duplication, strengthening linkages with other processes such as the 2030 Agenda, the UNFF Strategic Plan for Forests and the UNFCCC, as well as increasing collaboration with CFRQ partners. He mentioned also the work done on the CPF Global Core Set of for4est related indicators and presented the FRA 2020 Timeline, with the reporting phase starting with the launch and continuing until October and supported by nine regional and sub regional training workshops. The analysis of the results will be carried out throughout 2019 and the release and dissemination of the results is scheduled for 2020.

Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO Forestry Officer, introduced participants on the SDG reporting and linkages with FRA 2020. Mr Marklund reminded participants that forests are particularly relevant for SDG 15 (Life on Land) and that data for two indicators under SDG15, will be provided by FRA. For this reason, he also stressed the importance for countries to establish early contact with the National Statistic Offices and SDG focal points in order to keep them informed of data reported to FRA and
ensure consistency of reported data. He concluded by adding that in order to enable SDG reporting, FRA will allow annual update of SDG related information, through the online Platform, whenever new data are available.

Mr Örjan Jonsson, FAO Forestry Officer, introduced participants to the new online reporting Platform, for which specific training was also provided in the working group sessions. Mr Jonsson informed participants that the new Platform, building on the experience from the Forest Resources Information Systems (FRIMS), used for FRA 2015, aims at facilitating the reporting. He added that a number of automated functions will simplify the estimates and the access to multiple users will improve transparency and communication between reviewers and National Correspondents and their team of experts. He concluded informing participants that the Platform will also allow for reporting for previously mentioned SDG indicators, and provides access to external data as well as geospatial data and tools.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: CFRQ Partners**

Mr Greg Reams presented the CFRQ partners and invited them to give a short presentation.

Mr Steve Johnson, from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), introduced participants to the work of ITTO. Particularly, he specified that ITTO develops internationally agreed policy documents to promote sustainable forest management and forest conservation and assists tropical member countries to adapt such policies to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects. In addition, ITTO collects, analyses and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber and funds a range of projects and other action aimed at developing industries at both community and industrial scales. Mr Johnson highlighted the effort of ITTO in the harmonization of criteria and indicators and the joint effort with FRA with the CFRQ. Mr Johnson finally shared with the participants some recommendations for further strengthening synergies between FRA and ITTO, highlighting the importance for the SDG reporting to take into account the substantial work already done on forest indicators.

Mr Rastislav Raši from FOREST EUROPE – Liaison Unit Bratislava, introduced participants to the work of FOREST EUROPE, which is the brand name of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe. He specified that FOREST EUROPE is the pan-European voluntary high-level political process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies for SFM in Europe and in cooperation with FAO, UNECE and other international partners periodically produces reports on the State of Europe’s Forests (SoEF), using SFM Criteria and Indicators to describe state and trends in forests and their management and providing evidence-based information for policymakers.

Mr Raši informed participant of the joint data collection FRA 2020 and FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO pan-European reporting 2020. The joint data collection will reduce the reporting burden and will allow National Correspondents from FOREST EUROPE countries to access the pan-European reporting forms on both – quantitative and qualitative indicators through the FRA Platform.

Mr Roman Michalak from United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), introduced participants to the work of the United Nations Economic commission for Europe. In reminding participants of the importance of forests in the ECE region which represent 43% of the world’s forests, Mr Michalak highlighted the main activities carried out by UNECE in support to the 2030 Agenda, among which the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work on Forests, the creation of the most complete and comprehensive database and repository about status and trends in forest, the Forest Products Annual Market Review and the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry. He also informed participants that UNECE is also working on Forest Outlook Studies and on Guidelines on Green Economy, as well as outreach and communication to raise awareness on the importance of forests and capacity building activities n
Caucasus and Central Asia to develop and implement a national criteria and indicator set for sustainable forest monitoring.

Mr Simon Bridge from the Montreal Process reminded participants that the CFRQ was conceived at a Joint Workshop in 2011 to align data collection methodologies and schedules among C&I processes and FRA. Mr Bridge further informed participants that the CFRQ has helped Montreal Process countries to respond to a growing number of request for forest information and enabled them to use their national efforts in reporting on SFM more efficiently. He added that the CFRQ allowed to improve data consistency, reduced reader confusion, increased credibility of national data and enabled data to be combined in novel ways. Mr Bridge concluded by saying that the CFRQ fostered further collaboration on voluntary, rapid, tangible results.

Ms Florence Palla, from the Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OFAC-COMIFAC) introduced participants to the OFAC which is a reporting process ensuring permanent availability of information on forest in the Central Africa region (for 10 countries) to decision makers and broader public. Ms Palla informed participants about the newly established monitoring system which includes the Observatory of Protected areas, the Inventoring and monitoring of environmental initiatives in Central Africa as well as new emerging themes such as Non timber forest products, spatial indicators, marine protected areas and landscape restoration.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Introduction to Working groups
Ms Monica Garzuglia, FAO Forestry Officer introduced participants to the first session of the working groups, which objective was to go through the entire set of reporting tables and related terms and definitions to ensure a proper understanding of the FRA 2020 reporting content (Annex 3). She also provided participants with logistical arrangements about the working group sessions.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Working groups on FRA 2020 Reporting content
Participants were divided in five groups. The composition of the working groups was organized according to language/regional groups. Each participant was assigned to a group and to a specific meeting room in accordance to the schedule provided (Annex 3). Each group had two resource persons to facilitate the sessions and collect feedback.

TUESDAY 6 MARCH

AGENDA ITEM 8: Working groups: Reporting methodology and FRA 2020 Platform
Participants started working at the second session of working groups with the objective of acquiring knowledge on the FRA 2020 reporting methodology and familiarize with the Platform. The working group session continue throughout the second day of the meeting (Annex 3).

WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH

AGENDA ITEM 9: Working groups: FRA 2020 platform and SDGs Reporting
Participants continue working at the FRA 2020 Platform with a special focus on reporting on key tables and linkages with the SGDs reporting (Annex 3).
AGENDA ITEM 10: The Mexican National Forests Monitoring system
Mr Raúl Rodríguez Franco, CONAFOR provided a presentation on the Mexican National Forest Monitoring system, highlighting the fact that the system generates timely, consistent, and coherent information on the state of forests, their biodiversity, deforestation and degradation, as well as the quantification of GHG emissions in the forestry sector through the monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem services. The information provided by the system aims at the sustainable management of forest resources. He explained that the main component of the monitoring system are the National monitoring, reporting and verification system, the National Forest and Soil inventory and the National Forestry Satellite Monitoring system, providing a brief description of each of this component.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Introduction to the field trip
Mr Julio César Bueno Talamantes, introduced participants to the field trip schedule for the following day. He informed participants that the focus of the field trip was the sustainable forest management in the municipality of Amanalco. He provided some information about the location of the area and about how the community forest is being managed. He concluded his presentation by informing participants about the Economic, social and environmental benefits deriving from the sustainable forest management of this community forest.

THURSDAY 8 MARCH
Participants gathered in the hotel hall to get ready to leave for the field trip that focused on the visit to the Community forests of Agua Bendita and Rincón de Guadalupe where it was possible to learn about the Mexican Method of management for uneven-aged forests. The field trip included a visit to a local forest industry with two sawmills, a drying kiln and machinery for wood flooring fabrication. The visit ended with a lunch in the area of Valle del Bravo and a visit to the touristic town.

FRIDAY 9 MARCH
AGENDA ITEM 12: Plenary feedback session
Mr Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO), opened the floor to receive feedback from participants. In general participants expressed their appreciation, congratulating FAO and CONAFOR for the organization of the event. Some participants expressed concerns about the Platform login, inviting FAO to investigate alternative solutions to the use of the Gmail as the only access to the platform. The need of the development of a Platform user manual in support to the tutorial videos was also expressed. It was also suggested to continue the development of the Platform in order to have some new functionalities such as the printing of entire Country report or parts of it. With regards to the SDGs reporting, countries requested the documentation of the forest certification data as well as FAO’s support in facilitating the communication between the FRA National correspondents and the National Statistical Officers and SDGs focal points. Some countries suggested FAO to send a letter to decision makers highlighting the importance of the reporting to FRA to facilitate the work of the National Correspondents.

Mr Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO) and Mr Adolfo Kindgard (FAO) presented the plan for a new global remote sensing survey to complement the information collected through the country reporting process. They informed participants that the new survey is being designed to provide better estimates of forest area changes by applying a stratified sampling approach. Although aimed to produce estimates at global and regional level, the methodology will allow for an easy upscaling to generate national level statistics.
They further explained that the survey will build on a strong collaboration with countries for interpretation of the sample points. This will ensure country ownership of the process, improved quality in the interpretation by involving local expertise and it will also provide opportunity to build national capacity in remote sensing assessment.

The plan for the next FRA Remote sensing survey 2020 was well received by the participants. The discussion focused on the establishment of possible partnerships or collaboration. Specifically a number of participants expressed their willingness to collaborate to the implementation of the survey.

AGENDA ITEM 14: FRA 2020 next steps
Mr Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO) provided participants with a brief summary of the work undertaken during the week of the meeting and he reminded participants about the nine regional and sub regional workshops scheduled to take place between April and October. He also reminded participants that the final deadline for the submission of country reports is October 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Closing of the meeting
Mr Arturo Beltrán (CONAFOR) congratulated FAO for the successful meeting and acknowledged the country representatives for their presence in Mexico and for their active participation in the event.

Mr Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO) acknowledged the participants for their contribution to the FRA 2020 reporting process and the CFRQ partners for their collaboration. He finally expressed on behalf of FAO his gratitude to CONAFOR for the excellent support in the organization of the FRA 2020 Launch, remarking the outstanding attention to details, professionalism and courtesy and hospitality of the CONAFOR staff.
Mr Pekkarinen wished a safe trip back home to all participants and closed the meeting.
# ANNEX 1: AGENDA

**MONDAY 5 March 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>08:30</th>
<th>Registration of participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30-10:30</td>
<td>1. Launching ceremony for FRA 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenary-Galerias</td>
<td>o Welcome remarks - Mr Jorge Rescala Pérez, Minister of Environment of the Government of the State of Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Opening address - Mr Arturo Beltrán Retis, Director-General, CONAFOR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Opening address - Ms Imma Roca I Cortés, Deputy Head of EU Delegation in Mexico</td>
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<td>o Opening address - Mr Crispim Moreira, FAO Representative in Mexico</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Launch of the FRA 2020 process - Ms Eva Müller, Director of Forest Policy and Resources Division FAO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Official opening - Ms Martha Garciarivas Palmeros, Vice Minister of Environmental Protection Management of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources</td>
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| 10:30-11:10 | Group photo, media interviews and coffee break |
| 11:00-11:30 | 2. Key note speaker intervention - Mr Brian J. Sullivan, Sr. Programme Manager, Google Earth Engine and Outreach |
| Plenary-Galerias | 3. Organization of work - Mr Greg Reams, Chair of the FRA Advisory Group |
| 11:30-11:40 | 4. FRA 2020: setting the scene |
| Plenary-Galerias | o Introduction to FRA 2020 - Mr Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO |
| | o Introduction to the forest related SDG indicators - Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO |
| | o Introduction to the FRA 2020 Platform - Mr Örjan Jonsson, FAO |
| | Questions and answers |
| 11:40-12:20 | 5. CFRQ partners - Mr Greg Reams, Chair of the FRA Advisory Group |
| Plenary-Galerias | o International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) - Mr Steve Johnson |
| | o FOREST EUROPE - Mr Rastislav Raši |
| | o United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - Mr Roman Michalak |
| | o Montreal Process - Mr Simon Bridge |
| | o Observatory for Central African Forests (OFAC-COMIFAC) - Ms Florence Palla |
| | Questions and answers |
| 12:20-13:00 | 6. Introduction to Working groups - Ms Monica Garzuglia, FAO |
| Plenary-Galerias | 7. Working groups: FRA 2020 reporting content |
| 13:00-13:10 | 8. Welcome cocktail hosted by the Government of the Mexico State |
| 13:10-14:10 | Lunch break |
| 14:10-15:30 | 7. Working groups continue |
| Meeting rooms | Coffee break |
| 15:30-15:45 | 8. Working groups: FRA 2020 reporting content |
| Meeting rooms | 9. Welcome cocktail hosted by the Government of the Mexico State |
**TUESDAY 6 March 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-10:30</td>
<td>8. Working groups: Reporting methodology and FRA 2020 Platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-10:45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45-13:00</td>
<td>8. Working groups continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30-15:30</td>
<td>8. Working groups continue</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-15:45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45-17:00</td>
<td>8. Working groups continue</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00-22:00</td>
<td>Dinner hosted by FAO</td>
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**WEDNESDAY 7 March 2018**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-10:45</td>
<td>9. Working groups: FRA 2020 platform and SDGs Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45-11:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-13:00</td>
<td>9. Working groups continue</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-15:30</td>
<td>9. Working groups continue</td>
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<td>15:30-15:45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>15:45-16:15</td>
<td>10. The Mexican National Forests Monitoring system - Mr Raul Rodríguez Francisco, CONAFOR</td>
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<td>17:00-18:00</td>
<td>11. Introduction to the field trip - Mr Julio César Bueno Talamantes, CONAFOR</td>
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**THURSDAY 8 March 2018**

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**FRIDAY 9 March 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-09:30</td>
<td>12. Plenary feedback session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-10:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td>14. FRA 2020 next steps - Mr Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-13:00</td>
<td>15. Closing of the meeting - Mr Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO and Mr Arturo Beltrán Retis, CONAFOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch and departure of participants</td>
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WORKING GROUP ON FRA 2020 REPORTING CONTENT

Day 1 (14:00 – 17:00, Monday 5 March)

Terms of Reference

Working group composition and organization
Participants are divided in 5 groups. The composition of the working groups is organized according to language/regional groups. Each participant is assigned to a group and to a specific meeting room in accordance to the schedule provided in annex.
Each group will have two resource persons that will facilitate the sessions and collect feedback.

Objective
The objective of this exercise is to go through the entire set of reporting tables and related terms and definitions to ensure a proper understanding of the FRA 2020 reporting content.

Tasks
Identified issues related to the FRA 2020 reporting content will be addressed during the working groups.

Background documents
FRA 2020 Terms and definitions and FRA 2020 Guidelines and specifications.
WORKING GROUP ON REPORTING METHODOLOGY AND FRA 2020 PLATFORM

Day 2 (09:10 – 17:00, Tuesday 6 March)

Terms of Reference

Working group composition and organization
The same groups and meeting rooms of the previous day will be maintained. Each group will have two resource persons that will facilitate the sessions and collect feedback.

Objectives
The objectives of this exercise are:
- to ensure a proper understanding of the FRA 2020 reporting methodology as well as its linkages to the SDGs reporting;
- to familiarize with the online reporting Platform;
- to initiate reporting on key tables.

Identified issues related to the FRA 2020 reporting methodology and to the Platform functionalities will be addressed during the working groups.

Tasks
After an introduction to the FRA 2020 reporting methodology and to the Platform functionalities, participants are invited to start using the Platform and to initiate the data entry for the following key tables:
- 1a Extent of forest and other wooded land
- 1b Forest characteristics
- 2a Growing stock
- 2c Biomass stock
- 2d Carbon stock

Background material
Background documents: FRA 2020 Guidelines and specifications, tutorial videos, supporting national documents/data and FRA 2015 data entered in FRIMS.

Suggested schedule
Morning 09:10-13:00:
- Introduction to the general reporting methodology
- Introduction to the Platform:
  1) How to access the Platform;
  2) Home page content;
  3) Main structure of the platform;
  4) Examples of data entry in the Platform for key tables;
  5) Review functionalities.

Afternoon 14:00-17:00:
- Hands on the Platform
- Reporting on key tables
WORKING GROUP ON FRA 2020 PLATFORM AND GEOSPATIAL TOOLS

Day 3 (09:20 – 15:30, Wednesday 7 March)

Terms of Reference

Working group composition and organization
The same groups and meeting rooms of the previous days will be maintained. Each group will have two resource persons that will facilitate the sessions and collect feedback. The remote sensing tools will be presented and discussed for about 1 hour in each group, following the rotation scheme specified below.

Objectives
The objective of this exercise is to continue the work of data entry in the Platform for the key tables and to introduce participants to the remote sensing tools accessible through the Platform. The introduction of the remote sensing tools will be focused on how to generate statistics on tree cover from existing global data sets, and how to estimate burned forest area as well as forest area within protected areas.

Tasks
Participants are invited to continuing testing the Platform using their national data and initiating report for key tables.

Background material

Suggested schedule for the introduction to the geospatial tools

Group 3 (Room Teotihuacan III): 09:20-10:30
Group 2 (Room Teotihuacan II): 10:45-11:45
Group 1 (Room Teotihuacan I): 11:45-13:00
Group 5 (Room Valle de Bravo): 14:00-14:45
Group 4 (Room Teotihuacan IV): 14:45-15:30
SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- Log in problems: for countries that cannot use Gmail an alternative log in solutions is needed;
- Data from FRA 2015: provide FRA 2015 Country reports in Word format for easier copy and paste of data;
- Table 1c Annual forest expansion, deforestation and net change: It should be able to have the forest expansion automatically calculated;
- Table 1b Forest characteristics is not logic, when you select to use national data point it is not clear what to do. The platform should have an indication about what is then the next step (how to get to the reclassification matrix in table 1a Extent of forest and other wooded land);
- It would be desirable to be able to enter the area of plantation forest directly, not only as a percentage. Many countries have this information by year;
- When copying and pasting data into the platform, it doesn’t work if the original number has more than 2 decimals. It would be good to be able to paste with more decimals, even if it is only displayed with two decimals;
- When countries make complex calculations outside the platform, it would be good to have the possibility to upload excel files with all the calculations, instead of having to paste into the comment field. It would help the reviewer to understand how the values were derived (e.g. case of Brazil that have data per biome, with different change rates, stocks per hectare, etc.);
- Decimal separator issue in biomass calculator: countries that have their system setup with a comma as decimal separator, when pasting from the platform to the biomass calculator all data are stored as text;
- Biomass calculator copy and paste doesn’t keep the formatting, and further seems to lock cells for further entry;
- Written manual to platform is needed to describe the steps, how to delete a data point, etc.:
- A photo archive with photos of forests and other wooded land from different ecological zones would be desirable;
- There is a need to export/print data from the platform by table so you get an overview of what data you have entered;
- Warning should be shown when national data point is empty, so either fill in with national data or delete.