

Welcome

Welcome to the new issue of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment E-Newsletter, the FRA News.

In this issue, you will find important updates on the FRA process, on streamlining forest-related reporting, on the Natural Inquirer the World's Forest edition, on the forest products statistics and on forest-related meetings and publications.

Contents

1. The FRA Programme
2. An article from Ken MacDicken: Streamlining forest-related reporting through joint data collection
3. The *Natural Inquirer*: the *World's Forests* edition
4. Forest Products Statistics
5. Meetings
6. Publications

1. The FRA Programme

An important milestone in the work plan towards FRA 2015 has been the Technical Consultation on "Preparation for Global Forest Resources Assessments 2015" held in Ispra, (Italy) from 12-16 March 2012. The technical consultation has been co-organized with the EC Joint Research Centre in follow-up to recommendations by the Forest Resources Assessment Advisory Group and the Expert Consultation held in September 2011. The objective of the consultation was to provide guidance for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015) on scope and the content as well as the process for data collection and reporting. A total of some 60 specialists (representing close to 75 % of the global forest area) participated in the Technical Consultation, plus international and regional organizations, NGOs, private sector and academia. Working groups discussions focused on forest area, type and function, growing stock, protective functions, biodiversity, disturbance and degradation, measuring progress towards SFM, economics and livelihoods, projections, joint data collection and remote sensing.



Participants to the Preparation for Global Forest Resources Assessments 2015 technical consultation

FAO is currently working to complete the draft specifications for FRA 2015, incorporating inputs from the Ispra meeting, user-survey and expert inputs prior to the next FRA Advisory Group meeting which is tentatively scheduled for August 2012.

2. An article from Ken MacDicken: Streamlining forest-related reporting through joint data collection

The number of international and domestic reporting requirements related to forests has grown rapidly in the last twenty years. As a result, the resources required to adequately meet these needs is growing - during a period when government resources are often under increased pressure. The need to streamline reporting has long been recognized and some steps taken to increase cooperation between international bodies, countries and other stakeholders to reduce the reporting burden.

In an effort to take practical, achievable steps in streamlining forest-related reporting, FAO has worked closely with ITTO, Forest Europe, UN ECE and OFAC to form an informal consortium focused on joint data collection for 2015. The work will concentrate on the new Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire which will include variables that are common to two or more consortium partners. Variables collected through the CFRQ will be shared with partners and collected only once and used several times - including for FRA 2015. Timing of the CFRQ will follow FRA 2015 reporting and also allow partners to participate in joint analysis and reporting of results. The CFRQ process will reduce reporting burden for countries that report to two or more partner organizations, improve the efficiencies of the FRA and regional organizations and at the same time improve consistency in reported values.

More details on the CFRQ and how it relates to FRA2015 will come in the coming months. We are also working on other ways to reduce the work required by National Correspondents - including using a modified, pre-filled Country Report from FRA 2010 as the starting point for FRA2015 country reporting.

All the best,

Ken



3. The Natural Inquirer: the World's Forests edition



The Natural Inquirer editorial review board at work!

The second edition of *Natural Inquirer: the World's Forests* has now been published!

This publication is a middle school science education journal for students aged 11-14, developed by the United States Forest Service in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The first edition was based on results from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 and more than 55 000 copies of the last edition were printed and distributed. The publication was translated into French, Chinese, Arabic and Mongolian, and other translated versions were made available thanks to national initiatives. The Czech version was made available thanks to the Forest Management Institute (ÚHÚL) of the Czech Republic and the Spanish version was realized by the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR). The Ocean in Arid Land Organization an NGO based in Kenya, developed a 5 year project aimed at planting 2.5 million trees through distribution of seeds and distributed copies of the *Natural Inquirer* to increase awareness on the importance of the forest ecosystems.

This second edition contains 5 inquiries, based on the results from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. At the end of each inquiry, students will find a few questions in the form of *Reflection section*, *FACTivity*, *You do the Math* and *Did you know?* These questions are not a test, but they are intended to help students think more about the topic of each inquiry and they can be used for class discussions. The journal also contains a section dedicated to educators which provides guidance for planning lessons and activities on each inquiry. The second edition of the *Natural Inquirer, the World's forests* is only available in English. Please contact fra@fao.org in case you want to make a translation into a different language.

4. Forest Products Statistics

FAO Yearbook of Forest Products 2010 has been published, available at: www.fao.org/forestry/62283/en/.

The new FAOSTAT platform for dissemination has been launched recently. New features include a data browsing option, which allows users to query and view data by domain and country through interactive maps, tables, and charts. FAOSTAT-Forestry domain statistics on forest products are available at:

faostat3.fao.org/home/index.html#VISUALIZE_BY_DOMAIN - faostat3.fao.org/home/index.html#DOWNLOAD

5. Meetings

RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236), and will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. To know more about the conference: www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html

FAO, ICFPA, BRACELPA AND PARTNERS RIO+20 SIDE EVENT Forests: The Heart of a Green Economy

FAO and other international organizations have joined forces with the private sector to make the forest sector more visible in Rio+20 (20-22 June 2012 Brazil, Rio de Janeiro) by holding a forward-looking event. The side event will be held the 18 June with the purpose to highlight the role of forests and forest industries in building the green economy and fostering rural development at the resource base - the two key themes of Rio+20. FAO, ICFPA, BRACELPA. More information about the event: www.fao.org/forestry/events/en/

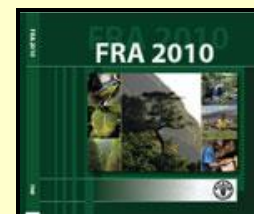
Streamlining forest-related reporting through joint data collection

The U.S. Forest Service and the State of Florida are hosting an international meeting on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting from 20-25 August 2012. This workshop is intended to build on those steps which have included developing and maintaining credible forest data and information that can be collected and processed once, and referenced often for multiple reporting needs. The conference will bring together participants, representing national and international collaborative reporting processes to share current and desired reporting processes for criteria and indicators of sustainable forests.

The 21st Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry
The 21st Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) will be held in Rome from 24 to 28 September 2012. More information about this event: www.fao.org/forestry/cofo/en/

6. Publications

The FRA 2010 CD-ROM has been released. The CD contains the key findings, main report of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. It also contains all country reports, result tables in excel format and terms and definitions. It is a multi-lingual CD (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). To receive a copy please send a request to: fra@fao.org



The second edition of "Natural Inquirer the World's Forests" has recently been published. To receive a copy please send a request to: fra@fao.org