

## 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 the remote sensing survey, on the Special study on Trees Outside Forest, on the forest product statistics and on forest- related meetings and publications.

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### 1. The FRA Programme

It is a pleasure to announce that the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) 2012 held in Rome last September (24-28), endorsed the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Long-Term Strategy (2012-2030). At the same time COFO requested FAO to proceed with FRA 2015 and encouraged countries to actively support the FRA and associated capacity building work. The approved Strategy is now on the FRA 2015 webpage ([http://foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/FRALongTermStrategy\\_En.pdf](http://foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/FRALongTermStrategy_En.pdf)) and the FRA 2015 Implementation Plan, which describes initial actions to implement the Strategy, is in preparation. It should also be available online by mid-December 2015.



Global Forest Resources Assessment side event organized during the 21st Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 3rd World Forest Week

Country comments during the Regional Forestry Commission meetings and COFO supported increased data collection, analysis and reporting cooperation through the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), which will be circulated together with the FRA 2015 country reports in January 2013. Since the last issue of FRA News, the Montreal Process has joined the CFRQ consortium which now covers 103 countries and over 87% of the world's forest area. More on the CFRQ in the next issue of FRA News.

As part of the FRA2015 preparation process, we have also conducted an online survey whose results helped to shape the contents of FRA2015. The results from the survey will be further used to define the kinds of outputs that will be produced from the country reporting process and the remote sensing analysis. The results of the survey are available online at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/80058/en/>

We are preparing pre-filled country reports for FRA 2015, which together with the CFRQ should reduce the reporting burden of many countries by more than 50%. We are also preparing an online data entry option that should be viewable as a demonstration version shortly after you get this newsletter. Use of the online version will be optional but we hope that National Correspondents will find it a helpful way to enter, submit and extract country data. More on this in January!

*A special thanks this month to the Governments of Japan and the United States for supporting workshops that have helped move joint data collection forward and to the FRA Advisory Group which has very ably helped work through the maze of questions and variables for FRA 2015. Thank you again to all who have so kindly contributed time, ideas and resources to the preparations for FRA 2015. We hope for more of the same in 2013!*

All the best.  
Sincerely,  
Ken

## 2. The FRA Capacity Building plan

As part of the long term strategy, FRA 2015 has developed a capacity building plan to support the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 to improve the quality and consistency of international, regional and national forest reporting. The plan considers two main activities:

- (a) capacity building at global and regional level for the completion of the FRA2015 country reports and
- (b) capacity building at national level promoting the incorporation of remote sensing into the FRA 2015 reporting process for the strengthening of FRA 2015 national networks in order to enhance awareness, improve data availability and improve dissemination of the results.

The capacity building at global and regional level activity will start in May 2013 with the FRA 2015 National Correspondents Meeting in Thailand and will continue throughout the regional workshops until September 2013.

The capacity building plan at national level is in the process of matching available funds with country needs and of looking for partners and other initiatives already in place in the countries in order to create synergies among remote sensing activities and stakeholders involvement at country level. The plan is expected to start soon and the activities would continue until September 2013.

## 5. Forest products statistics

The following FAO forest products statistics were updated in July 2012:

- *Bilateral trade flows of forest products by country in 2010:*  
<http://faostat.fao.org/site/628/default.aspx>
- *Preliminary 2011 data on production and trade of forest products:*  
<http://faostat.fao.org/site/626/default.aspx#anchor>
- *Pulp and Paper Capacities survey 2011-2016 publication:*  
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/industries/9531>

## 3. The FRA Remote Sensing Survey

The full-length, final report of the Global Remote Sensing Survey, entitled Global Forest Land-Use Change 1990-2005, will be published as FAO Forestry Paper 169 before the end of the year (English, Spanish and French). Satellite imagery has been acquired from the USGS globally for year 2010 and will be added to the time-series at each global survey sample site. The results from the global analysis of the 2010 time-step will be incorporated into the FRA 2015 report. Coarse resolution satellite imagery is being analysed for the purposes of generating a consistent baseline for national statistics on burned area, partial tree canopy cover removal, and forest access. These statistics will be used to pre-fill country data for FRA 2015. Finally, remote sensing training are being organized for some countries with the goal of producing updated national forest area and change figures from remotely sensed data.

## 6. Meetings

### Conference of the Parties (CoP18) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from Monday, 26 November to Friday 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar.  
[unfccc.int/meetings/doha\\_nov\\_2012/meeting/6815.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha_nov_2012/meeting/6815.php)

### Conference on Illegal logging and legality - the FLEGT / VPA as new modes of governance

The conference will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark 6- 7 December 2012.  
[http://sl.life.ku.dk/English/outreach\\_publications/Conferences/flegt.aspx](http://sl.life.ku.dk/English/outreach_publications/Conferences/flegt.aspx)

### The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) planning meeting

The partner of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire will meet in Tokio, Japan 2-8 December 2012 to finalize the working modalities of the CFRQ questionnaire.



## 8. Staffing news!



Sara Maulo joined the FRA team as a consultant to assist the team in the process of reducing reporting burden for the countries, by prefilling of the FRA 2015 Country Reports. Sara worked for two years as a communications consultant in the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FOMD on the European Territorial Cooperation project AlpCheck2, under a cooperative agreement with the Italian Ministry for the Environment. She contributed to communication and information activities, organized events and provided technical support for the implementation of the project activities.

Welcome Sara!

## 4. Special study on Trees Outside Forest

The Thematic Report “Towards the Assessment of Trees Outside Forest” has been carried in the framework of FRA 2010 in collaboration with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) to respond to the request made by FAO member countries to support identifying methods and techniques for TOF assessment on large areas. The brochure with the Main Highlights from the Thematic Report will soon be available for download at: [www.fao.org/forestry/fra/fra2010/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/fra2010/en/)

The comprehensive Thematic Report will be released by the end of November 2012.

## 7. Publications

The complete series of past FRA assessments, starting from 1948 has been digitalized and it is now available for download at: [www.fao.org/forestry/fra/24691/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/24691/en/)

