

## Welcome

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

In this issue, you will find updates on the FRA process, remote sensing survey and special studies. There are also important updates on the forest product statistics, on forest- related meetings and publications.

## Contents

1. The FRA Programme
2. The FRA 2010 interactive database
3. The remote sensing survey
4. Special studies
5. Forest products statistics
6. The 9th International Junior Forest contest
7. Staffing news!
8. Meetings
9. Publications

### 1. The FRA Programme

The preparation for the next Global Forest Resources Assessment, FRA 2015, is proceeding at full speed! The draft document of the FRA Long-term strategy has been going through a consultation process throughout 2011, first within the organization at team and departmental level, then in international technical consultation processes. The document is currently being discussed at the various regional forestry commission sessions in order to be ready to be presented to COFO in September 2012.

The National Correspondents network is being strengthened and updated. We have received 128 new nominations/confirmations of National Correspondents to FRA 2015 and more are expected to come in the following months.

Next important milestone in the work plan toward FRA 2015 is the Technical Consultation on "Preparation for Global Forest Resources Assessments 2015" which is being co-organized with the EC Joint Research Centre, and that will be held in Ispra, (Italy) from 12-16 March 2012. The objective of the consultation will be to provide guidance for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. Around 60 international experts will discuss in working groups the scope and the content of the next assessment, as well as the process for data collection, analysis and reporting. In order to enhance data quality and accessibility for the many different users of the FRA, discussions will also be held on how to improve the sharing of information and experiences between countries and with partner organizations.

### 2. The FRA 2010 interactive database

In order to facilitate access and improve usability of FRA 2010 data, a new interactive on-line database has been developed.

The database provides access to most of the information collected by FRA 2010.



The main module has options to change between stub and heading (pivot function), export/save output data in several different formats and generate simple diagrams, providing easier and more flexible access to FRA data. To access the database:

<http://countrystat.org/index.asp?ctry=for&HomeFor=for>

### 3. The Remote Sensing Survey

The initial results of the Global Forest Remote Sensing Survey were released on 30th November 2011 in a side-event to the 17th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, being held in Durban, South Africa. New estimates of the area in forest land-use and change rates (deforestation and afforestation) have been calculated at global, region (continent) and ecological zone scales for 1990, 2000 and to 2005.

The comprehensive report on land use change will soon be available, followed later in the year by results on the land cover component, in a joint publication with Joint Research Centre of the European Commission JRC. The world's forests map has also been updated to reflect forest area in year 2010 at a spatial resolution of 250 meters.

A media release and more information including a short presentation is available at: [www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/95180/icode/](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/95180/icode/).

To download the brochure on the initial results: [foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/RSS\\_Summary\\_Report\\_lowres.pdf](http://foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/RSS_Summary_Report_lowres.pdf)

### 4. Special studies

The report "Assessing forest degradation: towards the development of globally applicable guidelines" has been finalized. The report represented a joint effort of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), undertaken under the umbrella of FRA 2010. The final report can be downloaded at: [www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2479e/i2479e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2479e/i2479e00.pdf)

## 5. Forest products statistics

The FAO forest products statistics have been recently updated and are available online at: [fao.org/site/626/default.aspx#ancor](http://fao.org/site/626/default.aspx#ancor)

## 7. Staffing news!



*Congratulations to Leticia Piña a national from Chile, who has been appointed as Forestry Officer for the Global Forest Resources Assessment, welcome Leticia!*



*Congratulations also to Tomasz Sylwester Juszczak forestry officer for Forest Policy and Institutional Information which moved to a new position with UNFF in New York, arrivederci Tomasz!*



*Adam Gerrand, who has been working for 4 years as coordinator of the FRA 2010 Global Remote Sensing Survey, moved to a new challenging position within FAO with the UN-REDD team in the Natural Resources Department, congratulations Adam!*

## 6. The 9th International Junior Forest contest

In 2004 the Russian Federal Forestry Agency, with support of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Russian Society of Foresters, FAO and a whole number of the biggest international and non-governmental organizations, founded International Junior Forest Contest. The goals of International Junior Forest Contest are to promote cooperation of youth from different countries of the world, to encourage the development of an ecologically focused consciousness, to exchange forest-ecological knowledge and practical experience, as well as to increase awareness on environmental issues.

This youth forest forum has been held annually and representatives from some 40 countries of the world have been taking part in it. The 9-th International Junior Forest Contest is taking place in 2012. Participants of the Contest can be young people of age up to 20 years. Participants can choose one of these three main topics: silviculture and forest science, ecology of forest animals and ecology of forest plants and can submit their works to the International Nomination Committee. The working languages are English and Russian.

The Federal Forestry Agency, as Contest organizer, covers all expenses, connected with accommodation, food, and cultural program for participants and accompanying persons. Three main prizes are established for the winners as well as encouraging prizes, memorable gifts, as well as honorary diplomas and medals are foreseen for all participants.

For more information about the contest visit the website <http://rosleshoz.gov.ru>. Or write an e-mail to the organizing committee: [forestcontest9@gmail.com](mailto:forestcontest9@gmail.com)



## 8. Meetings

### The 27th session of the Latin America and the Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC)

At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, the 27th session of the Latin America and the Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) will be held in Asuncion, from 5 to 9 March, 2012. More information on the LACFC session at: <http://www.rlc.fao.org/en/agenda/27-reunion-de-la-coflac>

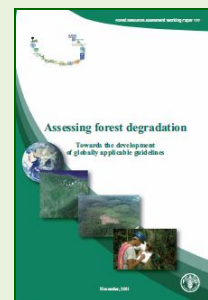
### The 34<sup>th</sup> session Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday 27 March 2012. The session will be preceded by the one day meeting "Stakeholder Meeting on the Green Economy Action Plan". It will be followed by a one day meeting "Forest Sector Outlook Day: Results, Methods and the Way Forward". More information about the meeting: <http://www.unece.org/wpfsem2012.html>

### The 7th FLEGT annual coordination meeting

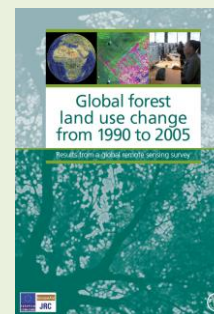
The 7th FLEGT annual coordination meeting will take place 23-27 April 2012 in Brussels. More information about the meeting at: <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/portal/>

## 9. Publications



### Assessing forest degradation

The report "Assessing forest degradation: towards the development of globally applicable guidelines" has been published. The final report can be downloaded at: [www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2479e/i2479e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2479e/i2479e00.pdf)



### Global forest land use change from 1990 to 2005

The brochure containing the initial results from the FRA 2010 Remote sensing survey has been published. The brochure can be downloaded at: [foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/RSS\\_Summary\\_Report\\_lowres.pdf](http://foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/RSS_Summary_Report_lowres.pdf)