

## Welcome

Welcome to the July 2013 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 and on forest-related meetings and publications.

## Contents

1. Country reporting for FRA 2015
2. National Correspondents meet in Chiang Mai, Thailand
3. Building capacity for national forest reporting
4. Forest futures: Looking back in order to look forward
5. Forest products
6. Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring
7. Meetings
8. Publications

### 1. Country reporting for FRA 2015

The year 2013 is time for FRA National Correspondents to prepare and submit their FRA 2015 country report. Earlier this year pre-filled country reports were sent to all correspondents to help ease the work required in the review of data for previous years. This year, National Correspondents have the option to submit their updated report in word format via e-mail or by using the new Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS), which is the online means of completing the FRA 2015 data entry. By now, all Correspondents should have a pre-filled version of the 2015 template - including the CFRQ for those countries covered by the CFRQ partnership.

*The CFRQ contains a subset of the variables included in FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2015), ITTO's Status of Tropical Forest Management, Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OFAC) of COMIFAC, UN ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, FOREST EUROPE and the Montréal Process.*

The FRA team is currently working to upload these data into the FRIMS - updates will be sent to National Correspondents noting that their report is online and ready to edit for those countries that have indicated interest in doing so.

Submitted country reports will be reviewed by a team of reviewers using the FRIMS. Once the review is completed, countries will be asked to review the comments and revise the report before it is published. The finalized country reports will be sent to the Head of Forestry for confirmation. The intention is to have all country reports complete and in the FRIMS by the end of 2013 - which also will provide National Correspondents with complete access to their report online. The main activities and deadlines for FRA 2015 are:

Activity	Tentative date	Comment/output
Global meeting, Regional, sub-regional and national workshops	March 2013 - November 2013	Country reporting process, technical assistance including regional workshops and review of draft country reports.
Deadline for submission of draft country reports	15 July 2013	Countries are strongly encouraged to submit draft reports well in advance of the deadline.
Deadline for completion of final country reports	15 October 2013	Country reports reviewed and completed.
Confirmation of final country reports	15 December 2013	Official request for validation of the final country reports will be sent to countries.
Public release of FRA 2015 report(s), public access to FRIMS	September 2015	Several publications are planned for FRA 2015 release at the World Forestry Congress, Durban South Africa

### 2. National Correspondents meet in Chiang Mai, Thailand



The Global Meeting in Preparation for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand 6-10 May. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Royal Forest Department of Thailand. More than 120 participants, among which National Correspondents to FRA 2015 from 96 countries, and representatives of partner organizations, attended the event.

The programme included plenary presentations, rotation sessions and question and answer sessions to allow participants to clarify any issues related to FRA 2015.

The agenda, the list of participants and all the relevant documents from the meeting are available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/82659/en/>

The Royal Forest Department co-sponsored the meeting and organized an informative and enjoyable set of field trips that were much appreciated by participants.



### 3. Building capacity for national forest reporting

As part of the capacity building plan and with the aim of providing countries with technical assistance for the finalization of the country report, a series of regional and sub-regional workshops will be carried out in the coming months. More information about the dates and venues is available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/76871/en/>

We are happy to inform you that the capacity building plan of the FRA 2015 is being implemented. Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Paraguay, Gabon and Laos had the “Strengthening of National Network” capacity building, while Ecuador, Uganda, Laos and Mexico participated in the “Integration of Remote Sensing into FRA 2015 Country Report” capacity building. The National Correspondents from these countries had the opportunity to share the results of the trainings during the Global Meeting in Chiang Mai. The trainings have proved to be significant to raise awareness about the FRA process at country level and create a network of stakeholders that generate and/or use forest data at national level.

A number of countries have been able to generate up to date data for forest cover from remote sensing as a result of these workshops which will contribute substantially to Country Reports. The support to countries will continue during the second semester of 2013. The reports of the training workshops and the calendar will soon be available in the FRA webpage. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/82659/en/>

### 4. Forest futures: Looking back in order to look forward

The preliminary results of the forest futures study, displaying global forest area projections and locations of likely future forest loss and forest gain, were presented at the Global Meeting in Chiang Mai. The detailed feedback obtained from the participants is currently being used to update the models. A higher resolution analysis (for countries that expressed their interest) is being prepared together with Clark University. The analysis will provide a trend of historical forest loss compared to a set of (spatially explicit) socio-economic variables and will allow the creation of a map showing areas of increased risk of forest loss or degradation.

### 5. Forest products

The 65<sup>th</sup> Yearbook of Forest Products has been published. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80570/en/>

### 7. Meetings

#### Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) - 28th Session

Created in 1948, the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) is one of six Regional Forestry Commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis. It meets every two years. The 28<sup>th</sup> session will take place 9-13 September in Georgetown, Guyana. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/31106/en/>

#### African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) - 19th Session

Created in 1959, the African Forestry Wildlife Commission (AFWC) is one of six Regional Forestry Commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis. It meets every two years. The 19<sup>th</sup> session will take place 30 September- 4 October 2013 in Windhoek, Namibia. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/afwc/en/>

#### North American Forest Commission - 27th Session

Established in 1958, the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) is one of six Regional Forestry Commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis. It meets every two years. NAFC also supports research and sustainable natural resource management activities through working groups. The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the commission will take place 15 - 19 October 2013 in Madison, Wisconsin, United States of America. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/31117/en/>

#### Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission - 25th Session

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) is one of six FAO Regional Forestry Commissions that cover the world's major geographic regions. The APFC is a forum for advising and taking action on key forestry issues. It focuses on issues pertinent to Asia and the Pacific, a region characterized by its diversity and rapid changes. The 25<sup>th</sup> session of the commission will take place in New Zealand 4-8 November 2013. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/33587/en/>

### 6. Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring



The process for the definition of the **voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring** has just started. During the next months several technical workshops will be organized with a wide stakeholders involvement and contribution from forest inventory experts. The guidelines aim to present a general framework to compile good practice principles, methodologies and tools for planning and implementing a multi-purpose national forest inventory and to establish long-term forest monitoring systems grounded in sound practice. They are designed as a technical reference and present the rationale for action, identify roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and describe the engagement needed for implementing a national forest monitoring process.

Help us disseminate our work and contact us to see how you can contribute. Contacts: [FAO-NFMA@fao.org](mailto:FAO-NFMA@fao.org)

For more information:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fma/en/>

<http://foris.fao.org/static/pdf/nfma/VolGuidelinesNFM.pdf>

### 8. Publications



The full-length, final report of the Global Remote Sensing Survey, entitled Global Forest Land-Use Change 1990-2005, is now available also in Spanish and French at: [www.fao.org/docrep/017/i310e/i3110e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i310e/i3110e.pdf)