



## FRA 2010 NEWS 07

### Welcome

We are pleased to present the seventh issue of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 E-Newsletter, the **FRA 2010 News**.

In this issue you will find information on the launch of the Key Findings of FRA 2010, on the remote sensing survey, on the release of the 2008 data on forest products statistics and on the auto-evaluation of the FRA progress. It also provides information on workshops, meetings and publications related to FRA.

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## 1. The FRA 2010 Country reporting process

The validation of the 233 Country reports for FRA 2010 was completed in early December 2009. The release of the Key Findings will be in March, so keep an eye out for news in your local papers and please send links or copies of any reference you come across to [fra@fao.org](mailto:fra@fao.org) marked "FRA in the news".

The FRA 2010 Main Report will be published in six languages and presented at the 20th meeting of the FAO Committee on Forestry in October 2010.

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## 2. The Remote Sensing Survey

A workshop on "Monitoring carbon stock and fluxes in the Congo Basin", was held in Brazzaville, 1-5 February. The workshop was jointly organised by FAO/UN-REDD/FRA and other co-hosting organizations were COMIFAC,



OFAC/FORAF, OSFAC, WRI, WWF, amongst others. Some 130 participants from Central African countries and experts from around the world attended. The results of the meeting are in the process of compilation and will be posted on the FRA website.

A side meeting was held in connection with the workshop on monitoring carbon stock and fluxes in the Congo Basin to train 16 participants from 7 Central African countries on the Land-use analysis methods for the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey. For further information please refer to the "Meetings" section.

The first regional training and validation workshop for SE Asia was organised jointly by JRC and FAO and was held in Bangkok from 1-12 February. Two participants came from each of the five countries involved (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam). Other countries will be invited for training later in 2010.

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## 3. Special Studies

### Special Study on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The most recent global assessment (FRA 2005) indicated that the reported data from many SIDS were insufficient to determine trends for the majority of the data variables collected. A lack of resources and very limited technical capacity for forest resource monitoring in many SIDS means that they have some of the poorest forest data in the world – both in terms of gaps in the data and data that is old or of inconsistent quality.

In addition there is a general concern among many SIDS that reported data for the Global Forest Resources Assessments will not be visible because of the size of the countries relative to the size of other reporting units. In several meetings recommendations have thus been made for a special study on SIDS.

The combined forest cover of SIDS represents less than 1 percent of the forest area of the world. However, forests and trees play a crucial role in the social and economical development of SIDS. In addition, they provide environmental services (carbon, soil and water protection, tourism, etc.) and many of the island habitats have a global significance in terms of conservation of biological diversity, in particular endemic species.

The objective of this special study is to draw attention to forests, forest management and specific forest-related issues in Small Island Developing States. There is potential for a strong link between this proposed special study and the overall benefits of improved forest resource information for broader social, economic and environmental forest-related policies and strategies in SIDS. For more information contact [Orjan.Jonsson@fao.org](mailto:Orjan.Jonsson@fao.org).

### Assessment and Monitoring of Forest Degradation

**Meeting of the CPF partners on Forest Degradation:** A meeting of the CPF partners involved in the Special Study on Forest Degradation was held on 17 February 2010 in Rome. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress and plan the next steps in the process.

Participants provided input to further refining criteria and indicators for the assessment of forest degradation and for deciding on pilot projects. For further information please refer to the Forest Degradation section of the CPF site at:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/degradation/en/>.

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## 4. Auto-evaluation of the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme



With a response rate of over 300 external respondents to the online external user survey, feedback from nearly 100 FAO staff at Headquarters and in the field, as well as from over 20 members of the FRA Advisory Group and selected external stakeholders, the auto-evaluation of the FRA programme has profited from a large number of participants who provided valuable feedback and insight. The FRA Team and the Auto-evaluation Consultant would like to express their gratitude to all the participants for taking the time to get involved in the evaluation.

While there was an overall recognition that FRA is a continuously evolving process with wide international appeal, evaluation of specific aspects of the country reporting process such as the National Correspondents network and the use and dissemination of FRA data and information, offered suggestions on possible ways to further improve the Programme and build capacity in forest assessment and reporting.

An Executive summary of the auto-evaluation report will shortly be available on-line.

*Again, many thanks for your participation!*

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## 5. Forest products statistics: 2008 data released



New data on the production, consumption and trade of forest products for 2008 were released on 13 January 2010 and are now available online.

**English** [faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=en#ancor](http://faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=en#ancor)

**French** [faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=fr#ancor](http://faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=fr#ancor)

**Spanish** [faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=es#ancor](http://faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=es#ancor)

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## 6. Meetings

### 17th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and 1st African Forestry and Wildlife Week

The seventeenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and the first African Forestry and Wildlife Week took place in Brazzaville, Congo from 22 to 26 February.

Preliminary results from FRA 2010 for the region were presented at the meeting.

### 19th Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

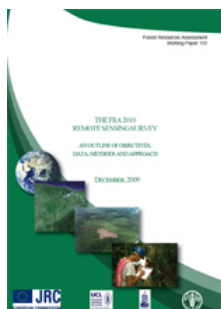
The nineteenth session of the Near East Forestry Commission will take place in Hammamet, Tunisia from 5 to 9 April.

### 35th Session of the European Forestry Commission

The thirty-fifth session of the European Forestry Commission will take place in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 to 30 April.

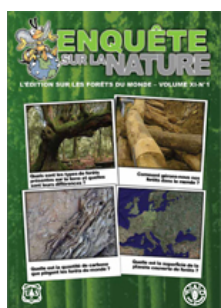
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## 7. Publications



A new Working Paper that provides an outline of the objectives, data methods and approach for the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey has been prepared.

The document is available on the FRA website as PDF at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/48035/en/> or in paper copy by special request.



The Natural Inquirer is an educational material elaborated in collaboration with the US Forest Service. Ten thousand copies of the English version were requested from an African organization located in Kenya: the Ocean in Arid Lands Organization. The copies were recently printed and shipped to Nairobi.



The Natural Inquirer is available for download in: *English, Czech, French, Chinese, Arabic.*

The document is currently being translated also in Spanish and it will shortly be available for download on-line.

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## 8. Staffing news

Rémi D'annunzio of France joined the remote sensing team as Associate Professional Officer in October 2009. He will initially focus on Francophone Africa taking advantage of his previous experience in the Congo Basin. Welcome Rémi!

Lars Gunnar Marklund who coordinated the FRA 2010 country reporting process, has left the FRA Programme to take up the position as Forestry Officer at our sub-regional office in Panama as of 1st December 2009. We wish him all the best in his new endeavour.

Jean Louis Blanchet, who spearheaded the development of data collection on forest laws, policies and institutions for FRA 2010, retired from FAO at the end of January 2010. We wish him all the best for this next

stage of his life. The process to fill the above positions is well under way. As part of the reform of FAO, a few changes have occurred:

- The Forest Assessment and reporting Service (FOIM) has been re-named the Global Forest Assessment and Reporting Team (FOMA) and is now located within the Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division.
- Mette Loyche Wilkie is now the team leader of FOMA and the position as coordinator of the FRA Programme is in the process of being filled.