

## 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, and on forest- related meetings and publications.

## Contents

1. The FRA 2015 Country Reporting process
2. The Global Meeting in Preparation for FRA 2015 and the CFRQ
3. The FRA Capacity Building plan
4. FRA Remote Sensing
5. Forest futures: Looking back in order to look forward
6. Meetings
7. Publications

### 1. The FRA 2015 Country Reporting process

The process of pre-filling the FRA 2015 reports and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaires (CFRQ) with data already submitted to FRA 2010 has been completed.

All the FRA 2015 reports and the Forest Data Reporting Package (for CFRQ countries) have been sent to the National Correspondents for update and revision, together with the Terms and Definitions document. Another important document, the "Guide to FRA 2015 Country Reporting" will soon be provided to National Correspondents and Alternates.

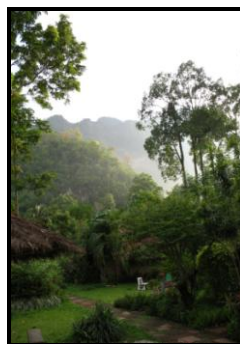
In order to improve the reporting process, simplify the data entry and the review process as well as to promote the interactive use of FRA 2015 data, an online reporting system, the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS) has been developed.

The system currently supports the data entry and the review functions, while the analysis and reporting functions are planned to be working by September 2015. National Correspondents will have the option to choose to report to FRA 2015 either using the Word templates or the FRIMS. More information on how to access and use the FRIMS will be soon sent to all FRA 2015 National Correspondents.

Another important document, the FRA 2015 Implementation Plan, which describes initial actions to implement the FRA Long-Term Strategy, has been finalized and it is now available for download at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap863e/ap863e00.pdf>

### 2. The Global Meeting in Preparation for FRA 2015 and the CFRQ

The *Global Meeting in Preparation for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)* is being organized in collaboration with the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand 6-10 May. Main objectives of the meeting are to:



More than 100 National Correspondents from all over the world have already registered. More information about the meeting will soon be available on the FRA 2015 website. [www.fao.org/forestry/fra/76871/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/76871/en/)

- Provide information and knowledge to National Correspondents on the FRA 2015 country reporting process as well as the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ);
- Provide an opportunity for the National Correspondents to review in detail the FRA 2015 reporting tables and to clarify any technical issues/questions;
- Introduce and provide hands on experience with the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS);
- Inform the National Correspondents about the FRA 2015 Remote Sensing activities and the country specific data derived from remote sensing for FRA 2015 reporting;
- Introduce the Forest Futures study and get input on scenario formulation;
- Present the main components of capacity building plans, including national network workshops, FRA regional workshops and the use of remote sensing for improving national forest area estimates;
- Inform and discuss options for the analysis and publications of FRA 2015 results;
- Discuss and plan regional workshops and other activities to support the implementation of FRA 2015;
- Reinforce the National Correspondents network as a dynamic network of experts in monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources.

### 3. The FRA Capacity Building plan

The capacity building plan, as delineated in the FRA long term strategy, aims at supporting the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 in order to improve the quality and consistency of international, regional and national forest reporting.

The capacity building includes activities at regional and national level. Regarding the national level, two kind of activities have been planned. Countries like Uganda and Laos will participate in “Integration of remote sensing into FRA 2015 national report” and “Strengthening of FRA 2015 national networks”. Guyana has also confirmed the interest in the national network activity, while in some OFAC/COMIFAC countries the training will take the form of a data collection and national network workshop. The workshops objectives are to generate up to date forest area and change data to be included into the FRA 2015 country report, to improve awareness of the FRA reporting process at national level, review and understand the contribution of remote sensing to FRA 2015, create a national network of key stakeholders and facilitate their involvement in the compilation of the FRA country report. Main expected outputs from the workshop are to increase the data quality of the FRA country report, boost dissemination and use of the FRA country report at national level and reduce reporting burden for international reporting requirements.

The capacity building plan will be further discussed during the Global meeting in Chiang Mai and an updated list of ongoing activities will available on the FRA 2015 website. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/76871/en/>

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

The FRA team is currently analyzing historical trends in forest land-use change, combining data from the global remote sensing survey with data from the Global Agro-Ecological Zoning (GAEZ) agricultural assessment with the objective of characterizing global deforestation processes.

Projections of forest land-use areas are being prepared for the Global Meeting in Chiang Mai in collaboration with FAO-ES' Global Perspective Studies Unit and faculty and staff from Clark University.

The Forest Futures methodology paper is now online: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/aq073e/aq073e00.pdf>

### 4. FRA Remote Sensing



The full-length, final report of the Global Remote Sensing Survey, entitled Global Forest Land-Use Change 1990-2005, was published as FAO Forestry Paper 169. The report is currently available in English ([www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3110e/i3110e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3110e/i3110e.pdf)) but it will be released in Spanish and French versions in the coming weeks. Print copies are available and will be sent to all Remote Sensing Focal Points who assisted with the review and revision of the land cover and land use classification.

Processing continues on Global Survey's 2010 time-step. Preliminary results from this processing are expected by mid-2013.

Satellite imagery was analysed to produce consistent 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 and presented at the Global Meeting in Preparation for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ).

Finally, technical workshops focusing on integrating national level, remote sensing-based estimates of forest area are being organized for Uganda (February 2013), Ecuador (March, 2013) and Laos (April, 2013). Other national workshops are also in the planning stages.

### 6. Meetings

#### The third Mediterranean Forest Week

Silva Mediterranea, along with its regional partners, is committed to organising a Mediterranean Forest Week every year in a member country. The Mediterranean Forest Week has been conceived as a common regional platform for cooperation on Mediterranean forests, aiming at improving the dialogue between the Mediterranean forest research community, policy-makers and the relevant stakeholders as well as at communicating to the international community and the society at large the relevance and challenges affecting Mediterranean forests. The third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) will take place in Tlemcen, Algeria, 17-21 March. [www.iii-med.forestweek.org/](http://www.iii-med.forestweek.org/)

#### World Teak Conference 2013

The World Teak Conference “Sharing Our Planet: Teak Model Development towards the Improvement of Mankind” will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-27 March. The conference is organized in collaboration with teak specialist organizations such as The Plant Genetic Conservation Project under the Royal Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (RSPG), TEAKNET and FAO. [www.worldteak2013.org/](http://www.worldteak2013.org/)

#### The tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10) will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, 8-19 April 2013. [www.un.org/esa/forests/](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/)

#### The 35th Session Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

The 35th Session Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will take place in Geneva, Switzerland 23 - 25 April. The Working Party is to provide guidance and exchange views on issues of forest statistics and other elements of the ECE/FAO Joint Work Programme. Delegates represent ECE/FAO member states as well as NGOs. [www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2013.html](http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2013.html)

#### The International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition

The International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition will take place in Rome, Italy, 13-15 May. The conference will increase understanding of the crucial role that forests, trees on farms and agroforestry systems can play in improving the food security and nutrition of rural people, especially in developing countries. It will propose ways to integrate this knowledge in policy decisions at the national and international levels. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/food-security/en/>

### 7. Publications

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

Due to the developments in remote sensing and the compiling of many spatial products relating to climate and land cover between 2000 and 2010, an update to the Global Ecological Zones 2000 map has been carried out with the kind support of FAO Finnish Forestry Programme. The report “Global ecological zones for FAO forest reporting 2010 Update” is available for download at: [www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap861e/ap861e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap861e/ap861e00.pdf)

The FRA 2015 working paper, *Terms and Definitions*, containing comprehensive descriptions of the variables included in the next FRA 2015, is now available for download at: [www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf)

The FRA 2015 Implementation plan, which describes current and future activities undertaken by the FRA process to implement the FRA long Term strategy is available for download at: [www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap863e/ap863e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap863e/ap863e00.pdf)

The Forest Futures methodology paper is now online: [www.fao.org/docrep/017/aq073e/aq073e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/aq073e/aq073e00.pdf)