**Overview of Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) in AP Region**

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Outline

• Introduction to FAO’s Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)
• Overview of FRA 2015
• Key findings of FRA 2015
1945 REQUEST FOR FIRST GLOBAL ASSESSMENT
History of FRA

• 11 global assessments since 1948 (5-10 year intervals)
• Scope and content has evolved over time, methods regularly improved
• 1970s - 1990: focus on rate of deforestation
• FRA 2000 designed to cover a wider range of forest benefits and functions
• Country initiative coordinated by FAO
Why the FRA?

Transparent, reliable global forest information leads to:

Improved investment in forestry

Better inputs to forest-related policy
Long-Term FRA Goal

To provide world-class information in support of sustainable forest management*

* Defined as: The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.
In the beginning was consultation...., then more consultation....
So many variables. So little time.
Three key elements

1. Understanding and addressing user needs
2. Reducing the reporting burden
3. Improving data quality and reliability
FRA 2015

• Seven themes
  1) Forest area
  2) Production
  3) Protective functions and ecosystem services
  4) Biodiversity
  5) Disturbance and forest degradation
  6) Progress towards SFM
  7) Economics and livelihoods

• 66 variables on forest extent, condition, uses and values
• 157 countries reports, representing 99% of the world’s forest area
Users spoke

... and said they wanted:

More emphasis on data quality

Greater focus on the forest resource and sustainable forest management
Reducing reporting burden (1)

• Prioritizing variables to focus effort
• Streamlining country reporting
  - Pre-filling with global data sets
  - Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS)
  - Online reviews
• Initiating joint data collection and analysis with international partners
  - Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)
Reducing reporting burden (2)

Countries covered by the CFRQ

103 countries, 87.4% of global forest area
Reducing reporting burden (3)

• Benefits of joint data collection
  o Reduced country reporting burden
  o Greater sense of ownership amongst partners
  o Reduced analytical effort
  o Expected to lead to more reliable information
  o Improved harmonization of definitions and data over time

• A step in the process to increase collaboration in forest reporting
Improving data quality

..... building the best data set possible, documenting and classifying reliability...
Improving data quality (2)

• Global forest resources assessment has always been, and will always be difficult
  o Remote sensing is not enough...
  o Ground-based inventory is not enough...
  o Country reporting is clearly needed if more than just snapshots of land cover are desired
  o Bottom line: A combination of data sources that help improve forest management is essential

• Capacity building
  o Regional workshops to assist in report preparation
  o Integration of remote sensing into FRA 2015 country reports
  o Informal national networks to enhance awareness, data availability and dissemination of FRA country reports
Introducing a Tier system:

Tier 3: Most recent, most robust
Tier 2: Less recent, perhaps less robust
Tier 1: Old data or expert opinion
Summary

• The Global Forest Resources Assessment remains the only global assessment of world forest resources

• FRA 2015 is the first step in implementing the new FRA Long-Term Strategy

• Greater emphasis on capacity and data quality improvement and reduced reporting burden

• CFRQ is an important step forward in reducing reporting burden and improving data consistency
Challenges (1)

- Harmonization of definitions (national vs. FRA)
- Ground-truthing (linking field data to validate land cover maps) to improve accuracy of land cover maps
- Development of a comprehensive NFMS to address multiple needs and requirements
- High cost of some types of remote sensing data
- Technical capacity in remote sensing analysis
- Coordination among agencies and departments
Challenges (2)

• Relatively good data on forest cover, but information lacking for:
  o Other wooded lands
  o Forest expansion
  o Deforestation
  o Reforestation
  o Primary forest change to other categories
Three key findings of FRA 2015
Forest area loss has been cut in half and is now less than one-tenth the rate of human population growth.
Percentage of land area

- 31.6% of 4.128 million ha in 1990
- 30.6% of 3.999 million ha in 2015
... and in forest area per capita
Lost or burned: which is more important?

Nearly 7 million ha of natural forest lost per year from 2010-2015.

compared to

An average of over 50 million ha of forest land burned every year.
Forest area continues to expand in the temperate and boreal zones and contract in the tropics.
Forest area gains and losses

- **The biggest loss** has been in the tropics, particularly in Africa and South America.

- **Net forest area has increased** in over 60 countries and territories, most of which are in the temperate and boreal zones.
Tropical forest loss

6.6 million ha per year

Agricultural expansion in the tropics

7.2 million ha per year

Tropics: 2000-2010
The bulk of the world’s forest is natural forest.

But the share of planted forest is increasing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Natural forest (%)</th>
<th>Planted forest (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Our capacity to manage forests for the long-term has never been stronger.
More than half of all forest is permanent forest.
SFM supportive policies and legislation

Management Planning

Forest monitoring through inventories

Forest management certification
More measurements, monitoring, and reporting

World's forest area in 112 countries covered by national inventories completed or initiated since 2010

2014

77%
Forest area certified as sustainably managed increased everywhere.

More forest area is under management plans.

The majority of these plans require **social and community involvement**.
Thank you