



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations

Contribution to the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme”- GCP /GLO/218/MUL

Management response to the final evaluation report

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Office of Evaluation (OED)

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Management response and follow-up report on evaluations
Final project evaluation of “Contribution to the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme”
GCP/GLO/218/MUL

Format of the Management Response

- a. **Overall response to the evaluation:** the evaluation was generally accurate, positive and useful. The FRA process has evolved since 1948 and is both complex and ever-changing. The evaluation captured some of the elements of the process, and how the funding from the European commission was essential to the implementation of FRA innovations and capacity building.
- b. **Response by recommendation:** the response to specific recommendations is provided in the response matrix below.

Management response matrix

Management response to the (Evaluation Title)					Date
Evaluation Recommendation	Management response Accepted, partially accepted or rejected and comment on the Recommendation	Management plan			
		Action to be taken	Responsible unit	Timeframe	Further funding required (Y or N)
<p>Recommendation 1: To FAO Forestry Department Management, on sustainability and funding of RSS for FRA</p> <p>FAO Forestry Department should ensure that the global remote sensing survey remains a source of information for future assessments of the world forests and should consider revamping its contribution to the RSS from the regular programme funds and from extra-budgetary resources</p>	Accepted	FAO Forestry has in response to progress with the remote sensing survey created a regular program position with the FRA team. The recruitment process is underway for the position.	FOMD	End of 2014	N
<p>Recommendation 2: To FAO Forestry Department Management on a strategy for remote sensing</p> <p>FAO Forestry Department should undertake a strategic review and stocktaking of spatial and temporal analytical requirements across FOM to determine what level of remote sensing capacity is optimal to support the business requirements and for better pooling of resources and expertise</p>	Accepted	An analysis of needs and current activities will be one of the first tasks of the new P4 position as well as the preparation of a strategic plan for remote sensing and FAO forestry.	FOMD	2015 – as soon as possible	N

<p>Recommendation 3: To FAO Forestry Department Management on support to national forest monitoring and assessment</p> <p>FAO Forestry Department should take concrete action to devise and implement long term strategy for FAO support to member countries for forest resources monitoring and assessment giving more recognition to multi-purpose national forest inventories, remote sensing and capacity building</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>While this recommendation is beyond the scope of the FRA, it is important to expand national forest inventory efforts together with monitoring, reporting and verification efforts under the climate change treaty. FAO forestry is committed to expanding the number of countries with active forest inventories.</p>	<p>FOMD</p>	<p>on a long-term</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: To the FRA programme on partnership</p> <p>FAO FRA should continue, in coordination with the CPF members, strengthening the foundations for the established partnership with other processes and organizations with a view to pooling resources and expertise for continued work on harmonisation of the reporting framework, improvement of the CFRQ and complementarity on forest resources monitoring at country level.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>FRA continues to work with partners to spend harmonization of reporting. This is primarily done with CFRQ partners as this collaboration results in, reporting for 88% of the world's forest. FAO is committed to expansion of the CFRQ partnership, including greater synchronization of reporting periods.</p>	<p>FRA</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: To the EC and to FRA on the funding of a second phase of the programme</p> <p>FAO FRA should act, as a matter of priority, to address the issue of resources mobilisation by concrete action including developing proposal to the EC and opening communication channels with other potential donors for timely replenishment of the FRA programme budget. EC should consider funding a second phase for the support of the global Forest Resources Assessment focusing on (i) the RSS to be jointly implemented by FRA and EC JRC, (ii) the harmonisation of the reporting framework including the CFRQ and, (iii) on capacity building in more developing countries.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>We agree that funding is an important priority. Fundraising has been successful with Japan, Canada, United States, the European Commission and Finland. Additional resources are being sought from 2020 from Finland and the European commission.</p>	<p>FRA/FOMD</p>	<p>Present and for all 2015</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 : To the FRA programme on Reporting - online country reporting technology; Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire; FRA main report and reporting timelines of the global conventions and processes</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>FAO conducted a very broad consultation for FRA 2015, including over 200 stakeholders through meetings and an additional 900 stakeholders</p>	<p>FRA</p>	<p>After FRA 2015 publication</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>FAO FRA should undertake a strategic review and stocktaking of all the introduced changes to the FRA process for lessons learnt and improvement of the introduced technology of online country reporting.</p> <p>FAO FRA should also continue working with its partner organizations and countries to reduce the reporting burden on countries with continued effort on: (i) harmonisation of the forest related terms and definitions (ii) improving the thematic coverage of the CFRQ that would broaden the range of its use by international and regional forest related organizations; (iii) synchronization with the reporting timelines of the global conventions and process that would increase relevance and use of FRA information and (iv) enhancement of reporting interaction among reviewers and process transparency</p> <p>Furthermore FAO FRA should continue working towards improving the visibility and relevance of the FRA Programme, enhancing its ownership by all users and contributing to the impact of SFM including producing FRA main report targeting, among users, the FAO's regional statutory bodies like the regional forestry commissions and the regional conferences where FRA information is needed on regular basis.</p>		<p>through online surveys. The long-term strategy approved by COFO in 2012 is in part results of this strategic review and stocktaking. We agree that as after every FRA, an assessment will be done including lessons learned for incorporation into subsequent assessments. The FRA is a very visible program and data source that is widely used and highly valued according to users who have responded to the evaluation survey questionnaire and the FRA user survey. It is widely distributed by FAO to each of the statutory bodies, including the regional commissions, COFO and the World Forestry Congress. Dissemination of FRA 2015 will be even broader than in the past, due to the involvement of five other important partners in the CFRQ.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 7: To the FRA programme on technological development</p> <p>FAO FRA should maintain the FRA programme in tune with the technological development based on expert consultations and advice from expert groups like the FRA AG and the international partners including the EC JRC</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This advice is consistent with the FRA long-term strategy and with efforts made for FRA 2015.</p>	<p>FRA</p>	<p>Present and for all 2015</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: To the FRA programme on sampling design of the RSS</p> <p>FAO FRA should engage in discussions with EC JRC, SDSU and other concerned parties including the private sector, where possible, to improve and adapt the design of the global remote sensing survey to meet the</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Changes in remote sensing technology and satellite data availability call for adaptation and methods used by FAO. Collaboration with GFW is already underway, and all</p>	<p>FRA</p>	<p>Present and on a long term</p>	<p>N</p>

information users' requirements		efforts are being made to ensure the use of pre-processed remote-sensing data wherever possible.			
<p>Recommendation 9: To the FRA programme on FRA variables and end products</p> <p>FAO FRA should undertake dialogue through expert consultations involving stakeholders (countries, international organisations, academia, private sector as well as the FRA Advisory Group) to redefine the variable list that meet the evolving information needs, define the FRA end products and the suitable packaging of the FRA produced information</p>	Accepted	This is a standard FRA approach to design and implementation of the assessment. All of the groups mentioned word extensively consulted during the FRA 2015 design process. This included the first ever FRA user survey which resulted in a redesign of publications for 2015. The point is agreed, but is already fully part of the present FRA process.	FRA	On a long term	N
<p>Recommendation 10: To the FRA programme on FRA national correspondents</p> <p>FAO FRA should continue strengthening the network of national correspondents for future assessments and between reporting periods as backbone for improving the quality of national forestry information and raising awareness on the utility of national forest monitoring system, and expanding the experience of national expert networks in other countries</p>	Accepted	Fully agreed as it is part of the long-term strategy.	FRA	Present and on a long term	N