

The Third Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders, FAO, Rome, January 2005

The meeting made the following recommendations for conventions, bodies, processes and other stakeholders:

CPF

- CPF should continue to provide the framework for the process of harmonizing forest-related terms and definitions.

UNFCCC/KP

- For the KP, consider adopting a different terminology to reduce confusion (e.g. forest subject to forest management under the KP) for the second commitment period.
- For the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for the UNFCCC, consider including clearer descriptions of forest-related definitions, taking into account the general definition for forest management as agreed to by the meeting.

CBD

- Apply the current definition for “plantation forest” to “forest plantation” and use the latter term only.

FAO

- In FRA, for the term “planted forest” include provision for deliberate seeding.
- Together with IUFRO, carry out follow-up work to improve multilingual harmonization of definitions used at international, regional and national levels.

ITTO

- In the definition of “planted forest” consider removing reference to enrichment planting at this level of definition as it is too prescriptive.

IUFRO

- Consider bringing its definition of “forest management” in line with the one proposed by the meeting.

All Stakeholders

- Invite governing bodies to take note of outputs from relevant expert level meetings in their efforts towards harmonization and synergies.
- Use the term “forest plantation” instead of “plantation forest” as they are synonyms.
- Facilitate the use and interpretation of international definitions in various languages through the following actions.
 - use English in this process as the reference basis for international definitions

- avoid creating new terms and using unnecessary synonyms
- use the existing terms whenever possible
- use the existing terms whenever possible
- keep definitions simple and easily understandable
- provide explanations
- use “indigenous” as synonymous with “native” (reference to Spanish language working group)
- when interpreting definitions in local contexts (often involving reclassifying national data), avoid bias in the reported information
- involve national experts in validating translations and involve multidisciplinary teams in the work.