

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

The meeting agreed on the following recommendations from conventions, bodies and processes to take into consideration for harmonization:

Comparative Matrix of Recommendations							
Recommendations from the Third Meeting are in bold fonts							
TERM	CBD¹	FRA/ FAO²	ITTO³	UNFCCC/ IPCC⁴	COUNTRIE	CPF⁵	ALL
Forest	include “temporarily unstocked” areas (13)	clarify term “predominantly forestry”(24)	include reference to an established definition of forest (24)		adopt same threshold parameters for UNFCCC/KP and FRA reporting (1)		explore need to add additional parameters, supporting terms
		report separately areas that are “temporally unstocked”(17)					replace in all contexts the terms "forest land" and "forested land"
Non-forest Land		discuss with other bodies possible introduction of subclasses					replace through the term "non-forest"
Other Land		clarify method of land classification with combined land uses					

		clarify possible subdivision of term in subclasses					
Afforestation		further harmonization between UNFCCC and FAO required		requirement for 50-year non-forest condition from second commitment period onwards (30)			
		include assisted generation not involving direct seeding or planting (16)		further harmonization between UNFCCC and FAO required			
Reforestation				discard the term reforestation (30)			
Deforestation		further harmonization between UNFCCC and FAO required		further harmonization between UNFCCC and FAO required			
Natural Expansion			add definition of natural expansion to set of definitions (25)				
Forest Improvement							Adopt definition: The process of increasing the capacity of forest to provide goods and

							services (opposite to forest degradation) (3)
Forest Degradation	<p>Adopt definition:</p> <p>Forest degradation is the reduction of the capacity of a forest to provide goods and services (6)</p> <p>clarify, if this and the related definitions need qualifiers: ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION</p>	<p>Adopt definition:</p> <p>Forest degradation is the reduction of the capacity of a forest to provide goods and services (6)</p>	<p>Adopt definition:</p> <p>Forest degradation is the reduction of the capacity of a forest to provide goods and services (6)</p>	<p>Exchange terms:</p> <p>distinguish "stock reduction" from "forest degradation". It is still possible to use the same generic definition for degradation and to add qualifiers for monitoring purposes (31)</p>			
Forest Fragmentation	<p>clarify if certain aspects like habitat fragmentation are adequately covered</p>						<p>Adopt CBD definition:</p> <p>Forest fragmentation refers to any process that results in the conversion of formerly continuous forest into patches of forest separated by non-forest (lands).</p>

Forest Management		Adopt definition: FM is the process of planning and implementing practices for stewardship and use of the forest aimed at fulfilling ecological, economic and social functions of forest (19) develop a typology for management objectives (18)					Adopt a working definition: Forest management is the formal or informal process of planning and implementing practices aimed at fulfilling relevant environmental, economic, social and/or cultural functions of the forest and meeting defined objectives
Managed Forest				For the KP consider adopting a different terminology to reduce confusion (e.g. forest subject to forest management under the Kyoto Protocol) for the second commitment period. For the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for			Adopt a working definition: Managed forest is a forest subject to forest management

				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			
Unmanaged Forest							clarify, if term unmanaged is not superfluous, since there are hardly any unmanaged forests
Natural Forest	Clarify whether the definition should rather refer to "forest stand" than to "forest"	Clarify whether the definition should rather refer to "forest stand" than to "forest" Refer to the natural regeneration of forests and discard the wording "not planted"(20)	Clarify whether the definition should rather refer to "forest stand" than to "forest"				Adopt a working definition: Forest stands composed predominantly of native tree species established naturally. This can include assisted natural regeneration, excluding stands that are visibly

							offspring/ descendants of planted trees.
	Clarify, whether attribute "indigenous" is necessary, whether "native" (CBD) is fully consistent with term "indigenous" (FRA)	clarify, whether "native" (CBD) is fully consistent with term "indigenous" (FRA)	clarify, whether "native" (CBD) is fully consistent with term "indigenous"(FRA)				Use "native" instead of "indigenous"
Primary Forest	Consider ITTO's definition of "primary forest" (12) clarify, whether the disturbance by non-native animals should be explicitly addressed		delete in definition of "degraded primary forest" references to primary, old-growth (28)				
Old-growth Forest	clarify if only limited to primary forest,	clarify if only limited to primary forest, or includes	clarify if only limited to primary forest, or includes		clarify if only limited to primary		

	or includes also secondary and semi-natural forest	also secondary and semi-natural forest	also secondary and semi-natural forest		forest, or includes also secondary and semi-natural forest		
Secondary Forest	clarify if definition should refer to species composition		develop ITTO definition further: "Woody vegetation regenerated naturally on land that was cleared of its previous forest vegetation" (26)				clarify if definition should include notion of forest condition resulting from suppression of natural fire regime
Planted Forest	include "planted forest" as a separate category (7) discard the attribute secondary in "plantation forest" (11)	include "planted forest" as a separate category (7) clarify if subclasses are needed to reflect the management objectives and/or whether the species planted occur naturally on the site	include "planted forest" as a separate category (7) adjust definition to "forest that has been established by planting or seeding" (27)				Adopt a working definition: Forest stand in which trees have predominantly been established by planting, deliberate seeding or coppicing, where the coppicing is of previously planted trees.
		The term "planted forest" to for deliberate seeding	In the definition of "planted forest" consider removing				

			reference to enrichment planting at this level of definition as it is too prescriptive				
Plantation Forest	Apply the current definition for "plantation forest" to "forest plantation" and use the latter term only						<p>Use the term "forest plantation" instead of "plantation forest" as they are synonyms</p> <p>Adopt a working definition: Forest stand in which trees have established by planting and/or deliberate seeding or coppicing (where the coppicing is of previously planted trees) with either native species or non-native species that meet all the following criteria: 1) one or two or a few species, 2) even-aged, and 3) regular spacing.</p>
General matters						Should consider to act as a custodian	Consider outputs from relevant expert level meetings in their

						<p>for the various forest-related terms and definitions used for reporting to international processes in order to facilitate their harmonization and consistent use</p>	<p>efforts towards harmonization and synergies</p>
<p>Multilingual aspects</p>		<p>Together with IUFRO, carry out follow-up work to improve multilingual harmonization of definitions used at international, regional and national levels</p>					<p>In this process use English as the reference basis for international definitions;</p> <p>Avoid creating new terms and using unnecessary synonyms;</p> <p>Keep definitions simple and easily understandable;</p> <p>Provide explanations;</p> <p>When interpreting definitions in local contexts, avoid bias</p>

							in the reported information; Involve national experts in validating translations and involve multidisciplinary teams in the work
Trees outside forest	UNFCCC and other processes have not always duly considered this category of trees						Further harmonization efforts are needed and should involve representatives of agriculture and other relevant sectors
	Note: CBD refers to “agro-forests” only.			Note: UNFCCC doesn’t duly consider this category of tree systems.			

¹ Convention on Biological Diversity

² Global Forest Resource Assessment/ Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

³ International Tropical Timber Organisation

⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

⁵ Collaborative Partnership on Forests