

Working group on forest area and forest area change

Terms of Reference

Working group session:	Tuesday, June 13	10:30-12:00 and 13:30-15:15
Plenary session:	Tuesday, June 13	15:30-17:00

Questions to be discussed in the working group

1. Which are the most important variables as regards forest area and forest area change?
2. Which of these should be included in FRA 2010? (Which of the above are feasible given current information availability, recent technologies and (limited) resources?)
3. For any new variables to be included in FRA 2010:
 - a. At which level should information be obtained (national/regional/global/other)?
 - b. How should the information be obtained? (country reports, remote sensing, thematic studies, other data providers)
4. Current table T1. Should we:
 - a. Exclude or keep the category “other land with tree cover”?
 - b. Include a note to allow coconut groves for forestry purposes to be included in the definition of forests?
 - c. Exclude or include rubber plantations in the definition of forest?
5. How do we best report on the spatial distribution of forests and other wooded land?
6. How do we best report on deforestation/afforestation/natural expansion of forests?
7. How do we best report on forest fragmentation?
8. Should we report on trees outside forests? If so, how do we best do that?
9. Thematic studies: Any specific proposals?
10. Remote sensing component:
 - a. Should we include a global remote sensing component as part of FRA 2010?
 - b. If so, what should it cover in terms of forest area and forest area change?
11. Is there a need to create a small task force to deal with any outstanding issues? If so, what are the main tasks and how should it be composed?
12. Other guidance as appropriate.

(The above should be based on an evaluation of the proposals received to date and any other suggestions from the group.)

Expected output

A written report, containing a summary of discussions and recommendations. The report should be presented by the group at the plenary session.