

Working group on forest designation, management and use

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 designation, management and use?
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. The FRA 2005 table on designated functions (T3) was new and several countries reported difficulties in allocating the forest area to the five classes. Yet, 172 countries did fill it in and, together, they account for 95 percent of the total forest area.
 - a. Given the experience of FRA 2005, should T3 be kept as it is? (Can we live with it?)
 - b. If not, what changes are necessary?
 - c. Should we keep the section related to other wooded land?
 - d. Which of the categories under "Total area with function" should be kept?
 - e. Could any of the explanatory notes be improved to help countries interpret the classification used? (e.g. social services and multiple purpose)
5. Additional tables: Which of the proposed variables should be reported in tabular form? If any, are there any suggestions for classifications?
6. Forest area managed/under management plan/sustainable use: Suggestions on how to define and measure (if included).
7. Thematic studies: Any specific proposals?
8. Remote sensing: Do any of the proposed variables lend themselves to remote sensing? If so, how should the information be obtained? (sampling? map overlays?)
9. 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?
10. 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.