

Working group on growing stock, biomass and carbon

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. Should FRA 2010 request reporting growing stock to a standardized diameter threshold? If so, what threshold is most appropriate?? What is needed to develop improved volume expansion factors and who should do it (FAO, research institutions, ...)?
2. Should reporting on growing stock, biomass and carbon be done for forest and other wooded land separately? Or only for forest and drop reporting for other wooded land? If we maintain reporting for other wooded land, how should we address the issue of weak information?
3. Should FRA apply a standard soil depth for country reporting, or do the adjustments as part of the analysis process?? What soil depth is best for making global estimates? 30 cm or 100 cm?
4. Should FRA collect any other complementary information on biomass and carbon, thereby making the information more useful for other processes?
5. How to separate stock changes due to land use changes (deforestation, afforestation, natural expansion) and due to changes within the forests (degradation, improvement), the latter having proved difficult to assess due to weak trend information on growing stock, biomass and carbon.
6. How can the reporting on growing stock, biomass and carbon stocks to FRA be further harmonized and coordinated with the reporting requirements to UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. How can we best avoid overlap in country reporting, reduce the reporting burden and ensure that reported figures are consistent between the two processes?
7. Should FRA continue to request countries to report on biomass and carbon? **If no** – should FRA get biomass and carbon figures from reports to UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, or should FRA do its own estimates based on reported figures on growing stock?
8. Should FRA have the ambition to estimate emissions from forests? Or only report on stocks and stock changes and let other estimate the emissions?? If estimating emissions, should also other greenhouse gases be included (N₂O, CH₄)?
9. What should be the role of FRA in the currently debated issue on “reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries”?
10. Is there any need to create a small task force to deal with specific technical issues related to the reporting on growing stock, biomass and carbon as part of the FRA 2010 preparations? If so, what specific issues need further work and how should such a task force be composed?
11. Any other matters of interest related to the theme.

Expected output

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