

Working group on protective functions of forests

Terms of Reference

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| Working group session: | Wednesday, June 14 | 10:30-12:00 and 13:30-15:15 |
| Plenary session: | Wednesday, June 14 | 15:30-17:30 |

Questions to be discussed in the working group

The protective functions were covered by only two variables in FRA 2005. How could FRA 2010 be improved to better cover this theme?

1. Which are the most important variables as regards the protective functions of forests?
 - Some ideas on new variables to include are:
 - split protective functions into a) protection of soil, water and ecosystem functions and b) protection of infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards
 - extent of watershed areas under management plan
 - extent of forest presenting particular soil and water conditions (erosion, flooding, etc.)
 - total expenditure for protection against soil erosion, flooding etc.
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. Are there any suggestions for changes to the existing tables (T3 on designated functions and T4 on characteristics)?
5. Additional tables: Which of the proposed variables should be reported in tabular form? If any, are there any suggestions for classifications?
6. Thematic studies: Any specific proposals?
7. Remote sensing: Do any of the proposed variables lend themselves to remote sensing? If so, how should the information be obtained? (sampling? map overlays?)
8. 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?
9. 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.