

Working group on socio-economic functions

Terms of Reference

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

1. Which are the most important variables as regards the socio-economic functions of forests? Which of these should be included in FRA 2010? (Which of them are feasible given current information availability, recent technologies and (limited) resources?)
2. Proposals for changes to the existing tables
 - a. How can FRA “sharpen” the definition and/or the understanding of the concept “social services”?
 - b. Exchange rate fluctuations and high inflation rates affect trend estimates of removal values. How should this best be addressed (e.g. use local currency adjusted for inflation)? Is it necessary to modify the reporting table or guidelines related to the value of removals?
 - c. Any comments to the suggestion to use the ISIC Rev.4 categories (see background document) for employment in forestry? Do we need a breakdown in categories? Are data available?
 - d. Should information on employment be collected by FRA or by any other process?
 - e. Any other proposals for changes to the existing tables (T3, T12, T14 and T15)?
3. Proposals for additional variables:
 - a. Should FRA ask the countries for information on the contribution of the forest sector to GDP? Can we get this information from elsewhere?
 - b. MCPFE has an indicator on total expenditures for long-term sustainable services from forests, which includes total expenditures for:
 - Social and economic values (hunting and fishing, other leisure activities including recreation, sport and tourism)
 - Aesthetic cultural historical spiritual and scientific values (including landscape and amenity)Should FRA 2010 include something similar? Is information available?
4. Would the group recommend making any specific thematic study related to the socio-economic functions of forest as part of FRA 2010?
5. Time permitting: How should the table on ownership be improved for FRA 2010? How to handle the issue of ownership of land versus ownership of the forest (trees)? How to handle user rights? Comments to the proposal in the background paper based on the thematic study on ownership?
6. 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?
7. Other guidance as appropriate.

Expected output

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