

National Forest Assessments

Progress report

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Generating National Knowledge

- National forest policy / decision making

Some issues:

- **Degradation** of forestry knowledge;
- **Trivialization** of the knowledge needs;
- Dependency on **biased** media or ngo's;
- Political influence on decisions;
- Overbelief in technology;
- Institutional capacities.

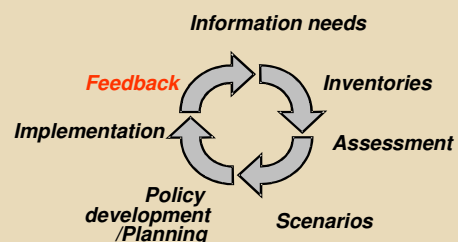


National Forest Assessments

Investing in knowledge for
sustainable forest management



Focus on policy process



What is the question?

- Earlier: Timber supply
- Recently: Biodiversity, carbon, ..
- Now: Sustainable forest management
 - Economic benefits
 - Environmental benefits
 - Socio-cultural benefits



World situation

- Countries reporting to global FRA:
 - 228
- Countries basing information on national forest inventories
 - ca 50
- Countries with subsequent national inventories, statistically comparable over time
 - ca 5...



NFA issues

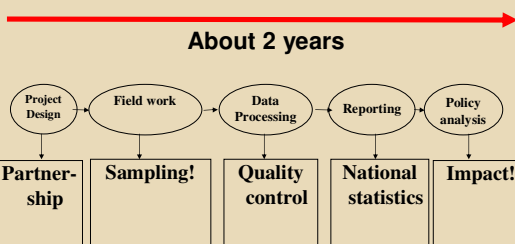
- **Traditional approach**
 - narrow, expensive, slow and slow to change
- **Remote sensing**
 - low precision, accuracy, depth and accessibility (and expensive)
- **Case studies**
 - not representative, misleading

FAO approach

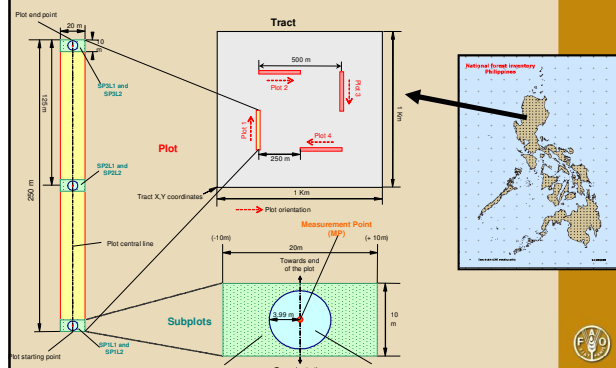
NFA 500's:

- 500 sample sites (accuracy/precision)
- 500 days (timeliness)
- 500 thousand \$ (moderate cost)
- 500 parameters (relevance)

NFA Process

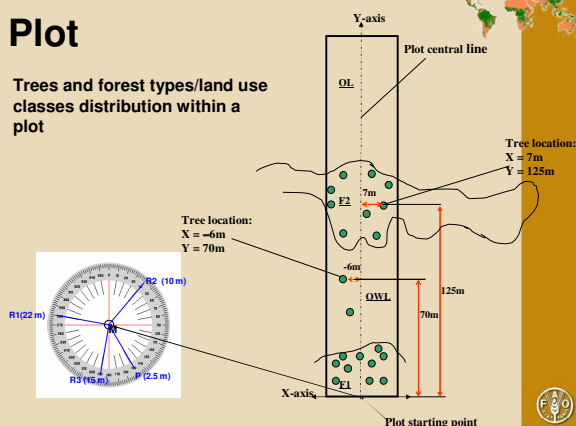


Tract and plot design



Plot

Trees and forest types/land use classes distribution within a plot



Variables

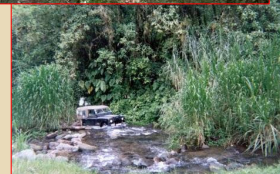
- Biophysical variables (all trees, ..)
- Management variables (ownership, ..)
- **Use variables (products, services)**
- **User variables (who?)**
- Other (conflicts, values, marketing, ..)

Variables..

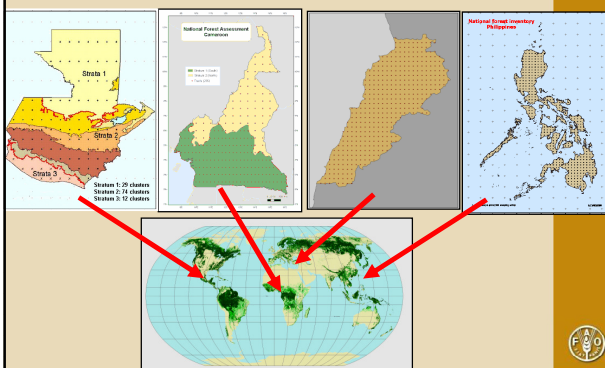
- Management of resources (e.g. traditional management, other forms of management systems excluding formal management)
- Techniques and means of exploitation/harvesting of products and services
- Local use of products and services (handcrafts for domestic use and selling, traditional medicines, ornaments, bush meat, seeds, food, incenses, building material, use of the land for cropping, browsing, etc.);
- User's degree of organisation when harvesting/using Products/Services
- Users right to harvest/use Products/Services
- Species/part of species use and for what;
- Season activity/extraction of Products/Services
- Extraction frequency
- Extraction trends
- Conflicts among users when harvesting/using Products/Services
- Local perception of biodiversity and other environmental services
- Access to resources
- Users of resources (men, women, children or others)
- Share of gender in resources management: what activities for women, what are those for men or children, etc.
- Local perception about abundance/scarcity of resources



Experiences

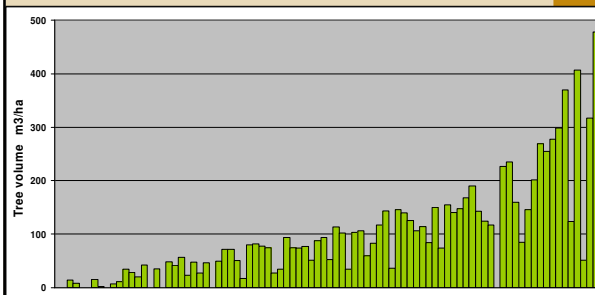


Completed

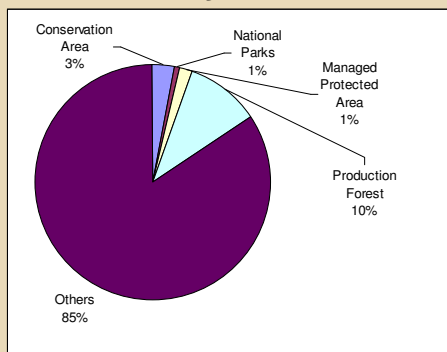


Guatemala – volume

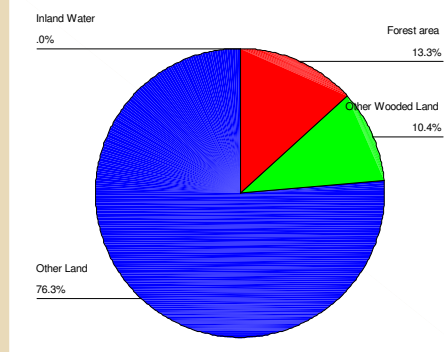
Forest Volume in inventory plots



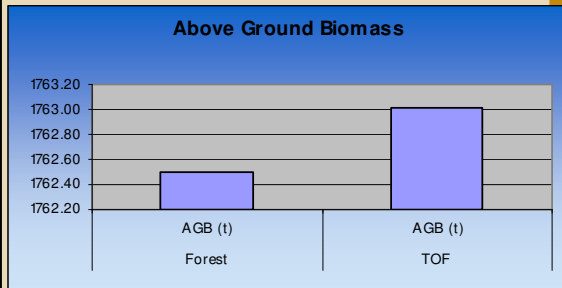
Cameroon – Management system



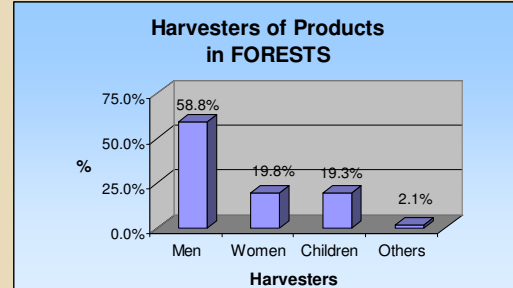
Lebanon – Forest area



Philippines - Biomass



Philippines – Users



Feedback from policy processes

NFA's provide:

- objective (emotion free) transparent and defensible data on forests;
- information on indigenous people and the various user groups;
- illustrate user issues;
- contributions to national policies;
- focus on cross-cutting issues (gender, poverty, environment degradation, etc.).

Progress

Status	Countries	Sources of funds
Project completed	Costa Rica,	TF
	Guatemala, Cameroon, Philippines	TF
	Lebanon	TCP
Projects underway	Honduras, Bangladesh, Rep of Congo, Zambia.	TCP
Projects formulated	Cuba, Nicaragua, Kenya, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan	TCP proposals
	Vietnam	n.i
	Regional project: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger & Senegal	(UNEP/GEF)
	Seven Near East countries (Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen)	n.i.
Concept	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe	n.i
Countries' requests pending	Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Rep. Central Africa, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay	tbd

Conclusions

- NFA's can fill some knowledge gaps facing national policy processes;
- The demand for such knowledge must be created and nurtured;
- Knowledge about local realities ("traditional knowledge"?) are crucial for national analysis;
- We need to get out of the forestry box.

Thank you

