

Working group on growing stock, biomass and carbon

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?

Recommendation

- Should continue to request

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, ...)?

Recommendation on diameter threshold

- Standard minimum diameter (expert group to analyse), countries to move towards this direction (some flexibility necessary, some estimate what is outside the threshold)
- FAO to do further analysis, and focus on countries (large) where problems

Recommendation on volume expansion factors

- FAO coordinated mapping, collection and providing regional/country specific factors; national research organisations having responsibility to work on conversion factors, and supporting FAO in this

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?

Recommendation forest land & owl

- Reporting on owl to be continued separately (not to increase inaccuracy)

Recommendation on weak information on owl

- Up to countries to prioritise
- Thematic study on trees outside forests

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?

Recommendation on soil depth

- Consistency with other reporting frameworks should be target, depth depending of the use of estimates

4. Should FRA collect any other complementary information on biomass and carbon, thereby making the information more useful for other processes?

Recommendation

- Step by step included (increment and harvested wood), some regions could provide already in FRA 2010

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.

Recommendation

- Should be reported if information available
- UNFCCC considered this as important piece of information

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?

Recommendation on harmonization and coordination

- Strong collaboration within countries reporting to FRA and UNFCCC/KP (national correspondents to FRA and national focal points to UNFCCC/IPCC); nominations to be coordinated for IPCC "technical groups" related to forestry reporting
- Definitions for variables to be harmonised when possible

Recommendation on on overlap, reporting burden and consistency

- Liase with different reporting processes (FRA & UNFCCC/KP)
- Strengthen interagency cooperation (FAO & IPCC)

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)?

Recommendation

- FRA providing data on area changes, stock changes, not emissions or other GHGs

9. What should be the role of FRA in the currently debated issue on “reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries”?

Recommendation

- FRA role limited to provide information on area changes, additional information limited; publication of FRA results in a wider context (related to soil conservation, biodiversity etc.); this issue should be discussed in remote sensing task (FAO or countries to do rs)

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?

Recommendation on the need

- Continuation of regional workshops (as early as possible), capacity building, more resources for NFIs;
- Evaluation of FRA 2005 by end of 2006, identification of need for task forces (standard diameter, owl, expansion/conversion factors); communicated to national correspondents by end of 2006