

A Monitoring Initiative on Forest Cover Change in Central and South American Forests

A Regional NC's initiative

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Presentation

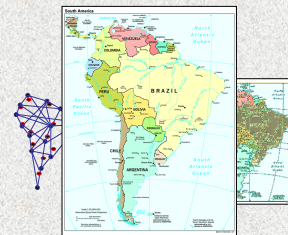
- Some important issues regarding FRA
 - The assessment and monitoring initiatives in Central-South America.
 - A proposal on monitoring forest cover changes at regional level

Kotka V's Objective 2.

To **assess** the **need** and **feasibility** for implementing an independent study **using remote sensing** to **validate** some of the **estimates** at regional and global levels (primarily forest area and changes over time) and to gather information on forest area change dynamics

Key Issues

The National Correspondents network should be strengthened and supported to facilitate their participation in the remote sensing survey, enhance networking and feedback at the national level



The assessment and monitoring initiatives in Central-South America

- In Central and South America there is no a continent-wide monitoring system regarding forests (not even in forest cover).
- ITTO established forest centers of information in 4 countries in latinoamerica (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Panama)
- Brazil through INPE produces for the Brazilian Amazonian under anual bases, a cover survey based on satellite imagery
- The OTCA and Brazil's SIPAM program just performed (*June 8th, 2006*) an agreement on monitoring the state of amazonian forest (Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guyana, Surinam, Bolivia), first stage will be focused on capacity building.

What is the Monitoring Initiative on Forest Cover Changes

Is a concerted action among FRA NC's proposed on the following objectives:

1. Assess the extent of forest cover in South and Central America and provide periodic continental estimates of forest land cover change and its impact at regional and global scale.
2. Provide and assess statistics on forest extent using a sliding scale of forest definitions (10% to 100% canopy cover) at continental scales and for pertinent ecological domains
3. Make results accessible and freely available in user-friendly interactive formats for a wide variety of audiences, including decision makers, the research community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector
4. Catalyze the use of this information wherever applicable to create better accountability, to identify priorities for action and improve forest management decisions at national and international levels.
5. Provide a continuous opportunity for countries in capacity building at national level organizations.

1. ASSESS imply critical analysis for performing the task

Which are the partners in the Monitoring Initiative on Forest Cover Change?

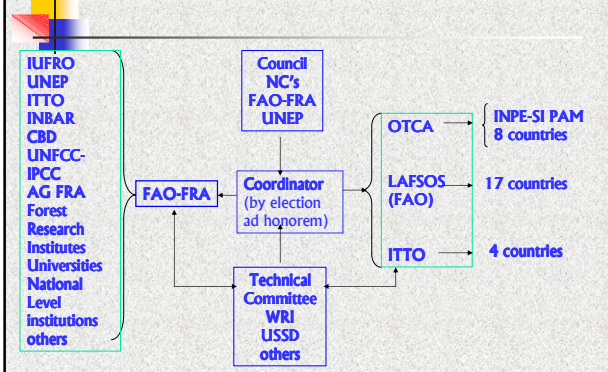


Tentative phases for implementation

Phase I: Implementation and funding

- In establishing the NC's Network some important issues should be considered about the network
 1. It is proposed it be an informal network in service to countries through persons related to forest resources assessment.
 2. The network may declare their principles and objectives by a *Memorandum of Understanding* or similar
 3. The network should avoid a heavy organisation.
 4. Efforts should be focused on continuous technical achievement (products) in services of countries policy development, reporting or, any other issue regarding sustainable development.
 5. The network should be related and associated with already established and experienced organisations.
 6. Organisation should be functional and simple
 7. A minimal funding support for next phase is crucial.

The Monitoring Initiative organisation and relationships



Outcomes after Phase I

- Organisation of network approved
- Relationship with other organisation established
- Development of strategic partnerships: identification of organizations interested in partnering to develop the data product and explore applications.
- Minimal Funding support for financing phase II solved

Phase II: Dataset production

Phase II: Preliminary Dataset Production, testing feasibility and usefulness

- Focus on the production of the initial 2000 to 2005 baseline forest cover change dataset.
- This dataset will analyze forest cover change during this time period and will provide a preview of likely results that will require validation prior to publication.
- The initial results, however, will indicate the levels of change that can be detected and will identify major change areas for validation.
- Overlaying the preliminary change dataset with identified high conservation priority areas will identify useful applications, help in the development of strategic partnerships, and gain funder/partner interest for further analysis.

Outcomes after Phase II

- Preliminary forest cover change data 2000 to 2005, in annual increments (2000-01, 2001-02, etc.)
- Poster maps of preliminary tree cover change data overlaid with:
 - GFW forest intactness mapping (intact areas 50,000 hectares or greater);
 - Conservation International hotspots;
 - World Wildlife Fund Global 200 Ecoregions
 - World Database on Protected Areas
- Hold *information sharing workshops* to identify possible national uses and share best practices utilizing forest cover and forest cover change data.
- Moving to sampling for validation?
 - Workshop on How to (FAO proposal? Different approach?)

Phase III: Validation

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- The forest cover change dataset will be validated, using medium and high resolution images (e.g., Landsat, SPOT) and field measurements, with the following objectives:
- Validation and accuracy assessment;
 - Adjustment of algorithms and fine-tuning to increase accuracy of results;
 - Production of the final 2000 to 2005 dataset and statistics;
 - Initiations of annual assessments of tree cover change.
 - Validation will take place in major forested regions within a variety of biogeographical domains. A country (or group) may be selected for pilot validation work, which will then be extended to other countries
 - This phase must be performed by the network's countries according to their sampling design definition (phase II), data, knowledge and criteria, with the purpose of make the material also available at national level if feasible.
 - Presentation and analysis of validation results to FRA and assessment on potential for global or regional assessment.

Outcomes after Phase III

- Validated 2000 to 2005 change product and data release;
- Publication of methods and results in peer-reviewed publication(s);
- Statistics: continental and national scales and for pertinent biogeographic domains.
- Dissemination of national level products
- First capacity building accomplished

Phase IV: Communication of Results

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We will communicate the results through user-friendly and interactive products to influence key decision makers and provide free data products for use by research institutions, governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Probably by a,

- **Book publication**
- **Interactive website implementation**
- **Atlas CD and data**

Muchas Gracias