

## Welcome

Welcome to the twelfth issue of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment E-Newsletter, the **FRA News**.

In this issue, you will find updates on the FRA process, remote sensing survey and special studies. There are also important updates on the forest product statistics, on forest-related meetings and publications.

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### 1. The FRA Programme: The Expert Consultation on “Long-term strategy for Global Forest Resources Assessment”



The expert consultation on “Long-term strategy for Global Forest Resources Assessment” was held at the Pajulahti Sport Institute, Nastola, Finland from 13 to 15 September 2011. More than 39 experts from international organizations, research institutes, NGOs and member countries participated to the consultation. The objectives of the consultation were to review and discuss the long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment and to discuss key issues for FRA 2015 planning and global forest data collection and exchange issues. Ispra I will be comparable to the Kotka meeting series which have steadfastly been supported by the Government of Finland for many years.

The consultation provided an opportunity for the participants to share their experience on global and regional forest-related reporting mechanisms and technologies currently in use and to formulate specific recommendations on priority topics for additional analytical work in advance of the Ispra I meeting planned for 12-16 March 2012 in northern Italy. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Finnish Government for this support and for supporting the development of the long-term FRA strategy. The report from the meeting can be downloaded at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/72856/en/>

### 2. The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FRA Advisory Group

The eleventh meeting of the FRA Advisory Group on Global Forest Resources Assessments took place from June 20-22 in Rome. The meeting provided inputs on key elements of the long-term strategy, the Remote Sensing Survey and preparations for FRA 2015. We would like to thank all the members for their valuable inputs to the discussions and for their active involvement. One of the changes to the Advisory Group Terms of Reference was the appointment of the Advisory Group Chair and Co-Chair for the entire period of the next FRA. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Greg Reams (U.S. Forest Service) and Dr. Joberto de Freitas (Brazilian Forest Service) were subsequently selected as Chair and Co-Chair respectively. Thanks to Greg and Joberto for agreeing to serve in this important capacity.



**Dr. Greg Reams**



**Dr. Joberto de Freitas**

More information about the FRA Advisory Group can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/ag/en/>

### 3. The Remote Sensing Survey

The Remote Sensing Survey is now in the process of completing a land use report that documents forest land use change from 1990-2005. This process involved over 200 experts coming from 106 countries, through 19 regional and national workshops, held between September 2009 and July 2011. The last workshop for the review and revision of the Remote Sensing Survey samples was held in Rome in 26-28 July. Five participants attended from Afghanistan, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Uzbekistan. The data is currently being analyzed with a report on forest Land-use changes due to be released at the UNFCCC COP in Durban in late November 2011 and on the dynamics of Land cover change in early 2012. Both reports are being produced jointly with the European Commission Joint Research Centre, with financial support from the EC.



Participants from eastern and southern Africa to the land cover validation workshop in Nairobi (2009)

### 4. Special studies

#### Forest Degradation

Draft guidelines on measuring forest degradation have been developed. The draft documents can be found on the forest degradation webpage: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/forestdegradation/en/>. A presentation on the forest degradation special study was given by Ian Thompson, at the Expert Consultation on the FRA long-term strategy in Finland. The presentation focused on the need to come up with criteria and indicators to define and measure forest degradation. These indicators would be used as verifiers for condition or as correction factors for remotely sensed data. Dr. Thompson suggested future actions to be considered may include the development of guidelines and tools to work towards the CBD to reduce forest degradation, the country capacity building and the improvement of the FRA process in assessing forest degradation. The final report will be produced as a FRA Working Paper in November 2011.

#### Forestry, poverty and livelihoods

The thematic study on forestry, poverty and livelihoods, drawing on a few intensive developing country case studies, aims at measuring the extent to which rural people derive income from forests. A presentation on the thematic study has been given by Dr. Gill Shepherd at the Expert Consultation, in Finland.

Gill presented the case study of Uganda, where forests provide a wide range of services such as fuel, health, food and essential building materials. The study demonstrated that forests are essential - on a daily basis - for everyone. A forest-poverty toolkit was developed to estimate wealth ranking, assess the cash and the consumption contribution to forest to the livelihood income. A major challenge was the lack of data and weaknesses in the variables to calculate and illustrate how forests contribute to the livelihoods of poor people. The key recommendation related to the FRA process was that given the importance of forest resources for many rural peoples, there should be reporting on this important forest use in FRA. However, it was also noted that there is no easy way to do this through country reporting - and that the only reasonable way to capture these results are through national census questions that seek to understand specific values of local forest resources to local populations.

#### Trees outside forests

The main recommendation from the "Inception Workshop of the Special Study on Trees Outside Forests (TOF)" held in FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from 9 to 10 June 2010, was to focus the special study on a review of all the past and current large-area TOF assessments in order to develop guidelines and methodology that countries can adopt to undertake their TOF assessments.

A draft report of the TOF special study has been sent on last July for comments and reaction to a task force composed of a number of national and international experts, within and outside FAO. Compiled responses are currently being analysed and will serve to improve and finalize the report. A Special summary from the 38 case studies has been prepared by Dr. Hubert de Foresta for discussion at the FRA long-term strategy Expert Consultation in Finland. Proposals and recommendations from the special study will be further analysed for better assessing TOF in FRA 2015.

#### Forest growing stock

A special study on forest growing stock is being carried out as part of the ongoing work of improving the data quality and reliability for FRA 2015. The objective of the study is to present a proposal on how to improve the transparency and comparability of growing stock data. A presentation on the special study was given by Dr. Jonas Cedergren at the Expert Consultation, in Finland. Dr. Cedergren presented an analysis of the data reported to FRA 2010 on growing stock and stressed the importance of improving consistency of data by defining specific thresholds and linking the reporting on forest area and growing stock. More detailed proposals on how to improve growing stock reporting will be presented at Ispra 1 for discussion and possible adoption.

### 5. Forest products statistics

FAO forest products statistics

have been recently published and are available online at:

- FAOSTAT-ForesSTAT [faostat.fao.org/site/626/default.aspx#ancor](http://faostat.fao.org/site/626/default.aspx#ancor)
- FAOSTAT Forestry Trade flows [faostat.fao.org/site/628/default.aspx](http://faostat.fao.org/site/628/default.aspx)
- Pulp and Paper Capacities 2010-2015

[www.fao.org/forestry/industries/9531/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/industries/9531/en/)

All 63 editions of the FAO Yearbook of Forest Products (1947-2009) are available online at: [www.fao.org/forestry/62283/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/62283/en/)

### 6. Upcoming meetings

The United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 17 The 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](http://www.unfccc.int/) (UNFCCC) will be held in [Durban, South Africa](http://www.unfccc.int/), from 28 November to 9 December 2011. For more information: [unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc\\_calendar/items/2655.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php)

### 7. Publications

The second edition of the Natural Inquirer, the World's Forest has been published!



The World's forests edition of the Natural Inquirer comes from a collaboration with the US forest service. More than 55,000 copies of the last edition were printed and distributed. The publication has been translated into 7 different languages. This latest edition is based on FRA 2010 findings and has a new comprehensive content, new graphs and pictures as well as lessons plan for educators and proposed exercises for students. The publication is available online at: [www.fao.org/forestry/iyf2011/69909/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/iyf2011/69909/en/)

The Natural Inquirer is currently only available in English. If you are interested in developing a new version of the Natural Inquirer in your own language please contact: [fra@fao.org](mailto:fra@fao.org).