

Welcome

Welcome to FRA News, the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment E-Newsletter

In this issue, you will find information about FRA 2015 launching at the XIV World Forestry Congress to be held from 7th to 11th September in Durban. Other FRA 2015 related events are summarized and also the different FRA 2015 formats. Progress of the project “Improved information to promote forest management for protection of soil and water” and changes in the FRA Team staff are also described.

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1. Launching of FRA 2015 in Durban during the XIV WFC

The [XIV World Forestry Congress \(WFC\)](#) will be hosted for the first time ever in Africa. The aim of the WFC is to build a new vision - a new way of thinking and acting - for the future of forests and forestry in sustainable development. We encourage you to attend the most important forest and forestry event of this year. Among the several key issues to be discussed during the Congress, forest monitoring plays a key role and will be addressed at several occasions as described below.



How are the world’s forests changing? The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA): Monday 7 September, 13.00 - 13.30
The results of FRA 2015 will be presented in a plenary session and the publications will be released online at the same time. FRA is the world’s foremost global forest data assessment; data is presented by country, worldwide, by region, sub-region, income category and climatic domain. The survey, updated every five years, shows the state of sustainable forest management, what percentage of forests has been lost or gained and at what rate and other trends. The document looks toward the future, examines national targets and explores production and conservation forest changes to come.

Sub-theme 5 (sub-sessions 1-4) : Monitoring forests for better decision-making

The world’s forest area is about 4 billion hectares - roughly 30 percent of the global land area, an important fact that has come from over 60 years of global forest monitoring and assessment. With human population growing exponentially, the demand for forest products, such as wood, is rapidly rising, making monitoring an essential tool for planning for future sustainable supply. Forest monitoring provides a foundation for better planning, investment, management and evaluation of forest quality and extent.

Monitoring forests for better decision-making
Monday 7 Session 1: Forest monitoring: Who benefits and what are returns on investment?

Tuesday 8 Session 2: Lessons learned from forest monitoring
Wednesday 9 Session 3: Experiences from around the world
Wednesday 9 Session 4: What is the future of forest monitoring?

Big data, deep insights: Global Forest Watch presents five stories to watch: Tuesday 18:15-19:30

Global Forest Watch (GFW) brings together cutting edge technology, science, and open data to monitor forests everywhere in near-real-time. At this event, GFW will introduce new data and research to reveal five critical trends shaping the future of forest landscapes.

Forest resources and how they are changing: A session by CFRQ partners: Tuesday 12:45-14:15

The session will include presentations from the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire Partnership made up of six organizations (FAO, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE, COMIFAC/OFAC, UN ECE and the Montreal Process) and covers some 88 percent of the world's forests. Brief (10-15 minute) presentations are anticipated from at least FAO, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE and the Montreal Process describing analyses of the FRA/CFRQ results at sub-global scales. The presentations ensure that the FRA data are seen not only from global analyses but also from important geographic or ecozone perspectives.

C&I processes panel: Wednesday 9 September, 19:45-21:00

Senior representatives from the Montreal Process, Forest Europe, ITTO, and the FAO will participate in this panel. This side event will be an opportunity for the wider SFM C&I community to begin to explore how to ensure that experience and insights from the C&I processes are brought to emerging C&I communities as well as to other sectors that affect or are affected by sustainable forest management. Through this session possible relationships and bridges among the C&I processes and beyond that could help advance C&I and benefit from a collaborative approach will be identified.

Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI): Friday 10, 12:45 -14:15

The Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), through its partners, is a network that fosters the supply and use of space data in national forest monitoring systems. Through collaborative action it seeks to enable forest monitoring and assessment that is robust, reliable, and achievable at reasonable cost and supports planning for national development priorities including forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation. This session will present activities conducted by the GFOI partners and invite inputs from participants as well as participation in GFOI programmes.

2. FRA 2015 Publications

The new FRA 2015 format will include the following:

- ❖ **“How are the World's Forest Changing?”**, this synthesis of the main FRA variables presents why each indicator is important, what has changed and what might be expected in the future.
- ❖ **Desk References:** This publication contains summary tables for most of the quantitative and Boolean variables collected through FRA 2015.
- ❖ **Special Issue of Forest Ecology and Management:** A Special Issue of the Journal “Forest Ecology and Management” contains thirteen peer-reviewed papers containing analyses based on FRA 2015 data and other data sources. This involved more than 50 international authors.
- ❖ **The Forest Land Use Data Explorer (FLUDE)**, an online database that integrates FRA data with other FAO data sources. Read more: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/fra2015/en/>

In addition, all Country Reports and Desk Studies will be available online. All FRA 2015 publications and data will be available in a new FRA 2015 website as of 7 September 2015 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/en/>).

3. Japan Project: New methods for rapid assessment of forest protective functions

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, Nepal), the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR, Mexico) and the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST, Viet Nam) are partners in the project “Improved information to promote forest management for protection of soil and water” supported by the Government of Japan. Each organization publicized the findings of the study during national workshops in 2015. The workshops were conducted on the 27th of March 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal, on the 20th and 21st of April 2015 in Guadalajara, Mexico and on the 28th of May 2015 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The discussions engaged participants from national ministries, international organizations and research institutes, who agreed on the opportunity to apply the selected assessment method, adapting it to ensure that it meets national requirements.

4. Staffing news

Flavia Rosati left the FRA team to continue with a Master degree in interpreting and translation. The FRA team is very grateful for her work over the last 6 months as volunteer.

Valeria Contessa We would like to welcome Valeria Contessa, who has joined the FRA team as an intern for 6 months. She is from Salerno (Italy) and has a Msc in Forestry and Environmental Sciences from the University of Padua. She will be working on the FRA 2015 maps and graphics, the FLUDE and the new FRA website.