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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Rome, Italy, 13-16 March 2007

OUTCOME OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT: TOWARDS FRA 2010 Kotka, Finland, 12-16 June 2006

1. FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) programme has received technical guidance from international specialists through expert consultations organized by FAO and UNECE at regular intervals over the last 20 years. The first consultation was held in 1987, and subsequent ones took place in 1993, 1996 and 2002. The most recent consultation, the fifth, was held 12–16 June 2006. All consultations have been hosted by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) and have been held in the city of Kotka, Finland. Thus the most recent consultation is referred to as Kotka V. A total of 87 specialists from 45 countries and 17 international organizations participated in this Expert Consultation.
2. Kotka V had two main objectives:
 - to provide guidance for the next Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010) based on an in-depth evaluation of FRA 2005; and
 - to enhance collaboration with other forest-related reporting processes and organizations, with a view to pooling resources and streamlining reporting.
3. The participants recognized that FRA 2005 is the most comprehensive assessment to date in terms of scope and the number of countries included. More than 800 specialists were involved over a period of four years – including 172 officially nominated national correspondents and their teams.
4. The experts noted that the increased country involvement and the network of national correspondents were key factors in the success of FRA 2005 and acknowledged the very substantial work by the national correspondents, who prepared the country reports.

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5. The national correspondents underscored that the FRA reporting process offered an incentive to gather and analyse information on the forestry sector. They highlighted the importance of the country reports in assessing and monitoring forests at the national level and as input to the policy-making process.
6. The experts made a series of recommendations for future Global Forest Resources Assessments:
- The next Global Forest Resources Assessment should be scheduled for 2010 (FRA 2010) and employ 1990, 2000 and 2010 as the main reporting years...
 - The thematic elements of sustainable forest management should be maintained as the reporting framework for FRA 2010, with the addition of the 7th thematic element on the legal, policy and institutional framework.
 - FRA 2010 should provide the forest-related information needed for the assessment of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
 - Country reports submitted by individual countries should form the basis for FRA 2010.
 - A remote sensing component should be included as a complementary part of FRA 2010. It should provide information on the spatial distribution of forests and on forest and land cover and land-use change dynamics, such as deforestation, afforestation and natural expansion of forests, at the biome, regional and global level
 - The network of national correspondents should be maintained and strengthened, including support to regional networks. Collaboration among focal points for various forest-related reporting processes within countries should be encouraged.
 - Collaboration with forest-related organizations, e.g. members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), criteria and indicator processes and the remote sensing community should be maintained and enhanced with a view to pooling resources and expertise and reducing the reporting burden on countries
 - An important role of FRA is to provide a global platform for reporting on core, quality-controlled information on forest resources, which can be used by a wide range of international and national processes and which can contribute to an assessment of progress towards sustainable forest management.
 - A longer term (> 15 years) strategy for FRA should be developed. This should include an analysis of the role and advantages of regional networks and regional reporting and the future reporting schedule and modality, as well as options to further streamline reporting on forests at the international level.
7. The organizations¹ participating in Kotka V stressed the benefits they had received from FRA 2005. They confirmed their willingness to contribute information to future FRA work and to indicate their specific needs in order to promote streamlining of reporting.
8. For more information, the full report from the Kotka V Expert Consultation is available at the publications stand and at the FAO website <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra-kotka5>

¹ The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Forum on Forests; the United Nations Environment Programme; the World Bank; the International Tropical Timber Organization; the World Conservation Monitoring Centre; the World Agroforestry Centre; the International Union of Forest Research Organizations; the International Network on Bamboo and Rattan; the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization; the Dry Forests Asia Process; the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Tarapoto Process.