

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
TECHNICAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL  
CORRESPONDENTS  
GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2010

ROME, ITALY, 3-7 MARCH 2008



April, 2008





## The Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme

Sustainably managed forests have multiple environmental and socio-economic functions which are important at the global, national and local scales, and they play a vital part in sustainable development. Reliable and up-to-date information on the state of forest resources - not only on area and area change, but also on such variables as growing stock, wood and non-wood products, carbon, protected areas, use of forests for recreation and other services, biological diversity and forests' contribution to national economies - is crucial to support decision-making for policies and programmes in forestry and sustainable development at all levels.

FAO, at the request of its member countries, regularly monitors the world's forests and their management and uses through the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010) has been requested by the FAO Committee on Forestry in 2007 and will be based on a comprehensive country reporting process, complemented by a global remote sensing survey. The assessment will cover all seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, including variables related to the policy, legal and institutional framework. FRA 2010 is also aimed at providing information to facilitate the assessment of progress towards the Global Objectives on Forests of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the 2010 Biodiversity Target of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Results are expected to be published in 2010.

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More information on the Global Forest Resources Assessment programme can be found at:  
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**Forestry Department**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

**Forest Resources Assessment Working Paper**

Proceedings  
of the  
Technical Meeting of the National  
Correspondents  
Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010

April, 2008



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## Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
COFO	Committee on Forestry
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRF	Common Reporting Format
EFI	European Forest Institute
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGR	Forest Genetic Resources
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
FTE	Full time equivalent
GAFAG	German Air Force Assistance Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GOFC-GOLD	Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JRC	EU Joint Research Centre
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands
LFCC	Low Forest Cover Countries
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forest in Europe
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NC	National Correspondent
NIR	National Inventory Report
NFMA	National Forest Monitoring Assessment
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OWL	Other Wooded Land
PFE	Permanent Forest Estate
REDD	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RSS	Remote Sensing Survey
SDSU	South Dakota State University
SOFO	State of the World Forest
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
TBFRA	Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment
TOF	Trees Outside Forest
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
USGS	US Geological Survey
WB	World Bank
WFC	World Forestry Congress
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



## Introduction

The Technical Meeting of the National Correspondents to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010) took place at FAO HQ in Rome on 3-7 March 2008. It was organized by FAO and co-sponsored by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). All officially nominated National Correspondents to FRA 2010 and partner organizations were invited to the meeting, as were relevant FAO HQ and regional staff.

### ***Background to FRA 2010***

Global forest resources assessments have been carried out by FAO since 1946. The mandate to carry out these assessments stems both from the basic statutes of FAO and the Committee on Forestry (COFO). Global forest resources assessment reports have been published at periodic intervals of five to ten years. The latest of these reports, FRA 2005, was published in early 2006.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, or FRA 2010, was mandated by the eighteenth session of COFO (March 2007) and consists of two main components:

- A country reporting process, where countries are requested to submit country reports to FAO, following a standardized reporting format and methodology.
- A complementary remote sensing assessment, aiming at obtaining better information of forest change processes on global, regional and biome level.

Furthermore, there will be a number of special studies linked to FRA 2010, covering specific issues, and some data will be provided by partner organizations.

The key milestones of the country reporting process for FRA 2010 are outlined below to give an overview of the process and the deadlines.

Milestone / Activity	Tentative date	Comments
Global meeting of National Correspondents (Rome)	3-7 March 2008	Launch of the FRA 2010 country reporting process. Training of National Correspondents and work on national reporting tables.
Regional and sub-regional workshops	April 2008 – Early 2009	Further training of national correspondents, technical assistance and review of draft country reports.
Deadline for submission of country reports	March 2009	
Validation of final country reports	July-August 2009	Official request for validation of the final country reports will be sent to countries.
Launch of FRA 2010 Key Findings	April 2010	
Launch of FRA 2010 Main report	December 2010	
Final report of FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey	October 2011	

For more details regarding the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme, please visit the FRA Website at: [www.fao.org/forestry/fra](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra).

## Objectives of the meeting

- Officially launch FRA 2010;
- Provide information and knowledge to National Correspondents on the FRA 2010 process including country reporting, special studies and the Remote Sensing Survey;
- Provide an opportunity for the National Correspondents to review in detail the FRA 2010 reporting tables, to clarify technical issues and give feedback to FRA Secretariat on the support needed to fulfil the national reporting requirements for FRA 2010;
- Plan regional meetings and other activities to support the implementation of FRA 2010;
- Reinforce the National Correspondents Network as a dynamic network of experts on assessment, monitoring and reporting.

## Key outcomes

- The Global Forest Resource Assessment 2010 was officially launched at a meeting in Rome from 3-7 March 2008, sixty years after the publication of the results of FAO's first Global Forest Resources Assessment.
- A total of 265 forest assessment specialists attended including representatives from 154 countries and 14 key forest related organizations: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the European Forest Institute (EFI), the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), German Air Force Assistance Group (GAFAG), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Jena University Germany, South Dakota State University USA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Bank (WB) and World Resources Institute (WRI).
- FRA 2010 will be the most comprehensive global forest resource assessment undertaken to date and will include a number of new initiatives including a remote sensing survey using satellite data to produce global and regional tree-cover maps and a more consistent and detailed assessment of changes in forest areas over time.
- To date, 175 countries have responded to FAO's request to officially nominate a National Correspondent to FRA 2010.
- The meeting provided countries with an opportunity to learn more about the FRA reporting tables and to ask questions about the tables and the reporting process.
- Follow-up meetings with countries on a regional basis will be done over the next 12 months to provide capacity building and further opportunities for clarifications and to conduct a review of countries' data.
- Ten proposed Special Studies were presented at the meeting as potential work to be done as part of the FRA process.
- The first meeting of a Remote Sensing Task Force, comprising around 20 large countries, was held.

## **Summary report**

### ***Organization of the technical meeting***

The technical meeting consisted of 5 plenary sessions and two working group sessions on the main FRA reporting tables and a special 2-day Task-Force meeting on the Remote Sensing Survey (RSS). The summary report follows the agenda items in chronological order.

#### ***Monday 3 March***

##### ***Opening session***

Mr Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, formally opened the Meeting (Annex 3.1). He welcomed participants and highlighted that forests are important for a variety of reasons and that their sustainable management require on-going monitoring and assessment of trends that can measure progress in protecting, conserving and using forest resources in a wise and sustainable manner. He expressed his gratitude to the large number of forest-related organizations that have helped shape FRA 2010 and who will either help FAO to implement FRA 2010, provide complementary data through their own efforts or help further disseminate the knowledge generated through this process. He noted that this year FAO celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the results of its first Global Forest Resources Assessment. He further noted that the support offered to FAO for FRA 2010 has been overwhelming. He informed the meeting that to date, 175 countries have responded to FAO's request to nominate a National Correspondent to FRA 2010. He also thanked organizations and countries for the in-kind contributions and extra-budgetary funding provided to help carry out FRA 2010, with special thanks to Australia, Finland, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Union (EU), Global Environment Facility (GEF), the German Aerospace Centre and ITTO.

#### ***Presentation of key partner organizations and objective and agenda of the meeting***

Mr Wulf Killmann, Director of the Forest Products and Industries Division, introduced representatives of the key partner organizations and outlined the agenda and objectives of the meeting (Annex 4.1) which included:

- The official launch of the FRA 2010 process;
- Provision of information and knowledge to National Correspondents on the FRA 2010 process including the country reporting, special studies and the Remote Sensing Survey;
- Provision of the opportunity for the National Correspondents to review in detail the FRA 2010 reporting tables and clarification on technical issues and provision of feed back to the FRA Secretariat on the support needed to fulfil the national reporting requirements for FRA 2010;

- Planning regional meetings and other activities to support the implementation of FRA 2010 and;
- Reinforcement of the National Correspondents Network as a dynamic network of experts on forest assessment, monitoring and reporting.

## **National views and expectations**

Ten countries (The USA, The Republic of Congo, Argentina, Japan, Costa Rica, Benin, Panama, Nicaragua, Angola and Honduras) made comments and statements. They appreciated the initiative and thanked FAO for the opportunity to participate in the meeting, expressed their national views and reported on the forest situation in their countries. A number of countries highlighted the importance of conducting periodical assessments and of supporting national capacity building and emphasized the importance of having a network of National Correspondents. A general remark was related to the importance of reinforcing synergies for data collection, both at global level between FRA and other international reporting processes and at regional, sub-regional and national level between the countries and between different institutions within the countries. The creation of a team of national experts within the country was a common recommendation and at the same times a concern for countries where there is a lack of communication between the different institutions working with forest-related issues.

## **The linkages with other international reporting processes**

The linkages between FRA and other international reporting processes were emphasized by statements and presentations made by six international organizations: ITTO, CBD, UNFCCC, UNFF, UNECE, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Jena University.

Mr Wulf Killmann read a statement from Mr Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director, ITTO who recognized the importance of FRA to the global forest community. He also drew attention to the fact that the assessment of forests and forest management is a key issue in the global arena and that FRA will help to meet some of the international forest information needs (Annex 4.2).

Mr Tim Christophersen, from the CBD Secretariat informed the participants about the 2010 Biodiversity Target of the CBD. He underscored that the FRA 2010, including the global remote sensing survey, will be the main data source for assessing progress towards the 2010 target with regard to forest ecosystems (Annex 4.3).

Ms Maria Sanz-Sánchez from the UNFCCC Secretariat informed participants about the reporting requirements of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Sector under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol (Annex 4.4).

Ms Ghazal Badiozamani, Secretariat of the UNFF, briefed the participants on the reporting requirements related to the Global Objectives on Forests and existing and potential linkages with the FRA process (Annex 4.5).

Mr Christopher Prins, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, gave a presentation on the UNECE and the regional cooperation with FAO and recent FRA relevant actions in Europe (Annex 4.6).

Ms Mette Wilkie, FAO, read a statement from IUCN, which stressed that the information collected for FRA 2010 and FAO's contribution to the harmonization of reporting on forests as well as the network of National Correspondents are very important achievements (Annex 4.7).

Mr Martin Herold, Jena University, informed the participants on the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and linkages with FRA 2010 (Annex 4.8).

## **Overview of the FRA 2010 process**

Ms Mette Wilkie, FAO, provided an overview of the FRA 2010 process and its components, including the country reporting process, the remote sensing survey and the proposed special studies (Annex 4.9). She highlighted the indicators in FRA 2010 that are relevant for UNFF and CBD, and she also briefed the participants on the timeline for the FRA 2010 process and the partner organizations involved.

## **Introduction to the country reporting process and the national reporting tables**

This plenary session started with two presentations. In the first presentation, Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO, informed the participants about the FRA 2010 country reporting process including an overview of the scope of the reporting tables, role of the National Correspondents and the process for elaborating and reviewing the country reports (Annex 4.11). In the second presentation, Mr Örjan Jonsson, FAO, introduced the methodology for country reporting to FRA 2010 including the necessary steps to compile the country reports for FRA 2010 (Annex 4.12). This was followed by more detailed technical presentations on the 17 reporting tables for FRA 2010 covering the rationale, contents, format, time series and any related issues (Annex 4.13). Each reporting table was introduced by an FAO member, responsible for the topic covered by the specific reporting table.

Ms Mette Wilkie, FAO, presented the national reporting table T1- Extent of forest and other wooded land. There were no interventions from the floor.

Ms Francesca Romano, FAO, introduced national reporting table T2 - Forest ownership. Seven countries commented on this reporting table (Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, USA, Nigeria, France and South Africa). Most of the comments were related to the difficulties in gathering data to fill in this table, since many countries lack a cadastre or formal registration of ownership of forest resources and others may have complicated land tenure regimes which are difficult to categorize. Mr Christopher Prins representing the UNECE/FAO Timber Section acknowledged these difficulties but highlighted the importance of assessing the ownership and management of forest resources and urged countries to make a serious attempt to fill in at least the main categories of this table.

Mr Froylan Castañeda, FAO, presented the following tables: T3a - Primary designated functions and T3b - Special designation and management categories. The latter table include a number of new variables to meet the reporting requirements to CBD, UNFF and ITTO. Twelve countries made comments (France, Niger, Serbia, The Republic of Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Spain, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Lebanon, Zambia, and Swaziland). Most frequent issues were the difficulties in assessing the area under Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) and that the category “Other wooded land” was not covered in the table. Another general issue related to the possible overlap when defining different functions of forests.

The FRA secretariat stressed that very few countries were able to report on the designated functions of Other wooded land for FRA 2005 but that voluntary reporting on this would be most welcome. Further guidance on the reporting of PFE will be provided.

Mr Jim Carle, FAO, presented national reporting tables: T4a -Characteristics, T4b - Special categories and T5 - Forest establishment and reforestation. Nine countries commented on these tables (Spain, Senegal, Mongolia, France, Togo, Lebanon, Guinea, Uganda and Madagascar). The main issues related to guidance on the time scale to be applied for the interpretation of the definitions for: primary forest, afforestation and reforestation.

The FRA secretariat explained that with regard to the definition of reforestation, there is no fixed-time limit. However an indicator of the time scale is included in the definition of forest in table T1, where it is stated that forest also includes areas that are temporarily unstocked and which are expected to be regenerated within 5 years.

Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO, presented national reporting tables: T6a -Growing stock, T6b - Growing stock of the 10 most common species, T7 - Biomass stock and T8 - Carbon stock. Eight countries raised their concern (Ireland, India, The Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, France, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Guinea). Common issues were the lack of reliable data on growing stock, especially for the natural forests. Many countries also expressed the difficulties in estimating carbon in soil and litter and expressed their concern regarding the use of international default values, suggesting instead that FAO support national studies to derive national figures. Further, improved communication with the climate change focal points within the countries was also recommended.

## **Tuesday 4 March**

### **The national reporting tables (continued)**

Mr Petteri Vuorinen and Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO, presented the national reporting tables: T9a - Forest fires, T9b - Proportion of planned fires and wildfires in forest, T10a - Other disturbances affecting forest health and vitality, T10b - Major outbreaks of insects and diseases affecting forest health and vitality and T10c - Area of forest affected by woody invasive species. Ten countries made a comment on T9 and T10 (The Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Pakistan, Madagascar, Rwanda, Argentina, St. Lucia and Nepal). Data availability was a common concern especially for fires occurring outside forests and clarifications on the definitions of invasive species and of planned fire were also sought. Other questions were whether “slash and burn” should be considered as a planned fire and whether a minimum threshold for accounting an area affected by fire existed. Participants

also asked if human encroachment should be considered a disturbance since it affects the health and vitality of the forests. The UNECE raised the issue of how to include and interpret defoliation data collected in Europe.

The FRA secretariat replied that it is up to the countries to decide the minimum size of area burnt by fire to be taken into account. Further, “slash and burn” should be considered “planned fire” unless they escape, in which case they should be considered wildfires. Human disturbances should not be reported on in table T10.

Mr Felice Padovani and Mr Paul Vantomme, FAO, presented national reporting tables: T11 - Wood removals and value of removals and T12 - Non-wood forest products removals and value of removals. Eighteen countries commented on T11 and T12 (Ireland, Malawi, Cap Verde, Australia, Nigeria, Mali, Niger, Tunisia, Philippines, Spain, Serbia, St. Lucia, Ivory Coast, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Swaziland, Bulgaria and Senegal). A main concern was the unrecorded removals of wood and non wood forest products. A question was raised on which point in the “value chain” the reported value should refer to as many countries do not have records on value at the border of the forest. Value expressed in national currency was also an issue for countries with uncertain and unstable economic and/or political situation. Countries also asked whether eco-tourism, non wood forest products coming from agroforestry systems and hunting occurring outside forest areas should be reported in T12.

The FRA secretariat replied that ecotourism should not be considered for the purposes of T12, but if a country considers it to be an important added value it can always be reported in the comments section.

Mr Arvydas Lebedys, Mr Jean-Louis Blanchez, Mr Pieter van Lierop and Mr Adrian Whiteman, FAO, introduced the national reporting tables T13 - Employment, T14 - Policy and legal framework, T15a - Institutions, T15b - Human resources, T16 - Education and research, T17a - Forest revenues and T17b - Public expenditure in forest sector by funding source. Time did not allow for questions from the floor but the participants were asked to take note of any questions or comments and bring these to the working group sessions.

## Country experiences

Mr Paul Lane, National Correspondent of New Zealand, and Mr Souylemane Gueye National Correspondent of Senegal, presented their experiences –both in terms of compiling the country reports and in terms of how they organized their work (Annex 5.1 and 5.2). They concluded that it is important to identify early in the process the areas which pose the greatest challenges and to build networks of experts and key data providers and involve them in the process from the start.

## **The first working group session**

Ms Laura Russo, FAO, introduced the first working group session on the national reporting tables. The objective of which was to ensure a proper understanding of how to compile the country reports. The tasks of the working groups were to identify and discuss issues/questions related to the general reporting methodology and the 17 national reporting tables. The composition of each group and main discussions and outcomes are summarized as group reports (Annex 8.2-8.10). These reports were then compiled by the FRA secretariat. The participants spent Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning in the working groups.

### ***Wednesday 5 March***

First working group session continued.

### ***Thursday 6 March***

## **Outcomes of the first working group session**

Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO, presented a summary of the first group work session focusing on common questions and issues raised (Annex 6.1). A list of frequently asked questions will be compiled and made available on the FRA Website, addressing all questions and comments raised in the ten working groups.

## **Harmonizing international forest related reporting: ITTO and the FRA**

Mr Steve Johnsson (ITTO) informed the participants on recent achievements regarding the harmonization of international forest related reporting (Annex 6.2). He mentioned the streamlining on forest reporting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the role of FRA as a harmonization framework. He further presented the status of tropical forest management recently prepared by ITTO and its information base. He explained the relevance of FRA data to ITTO's indicators and elaborated on the possibility of increased collaboration between ITTO and FRA.

## **Support to National Forest Assessments**

Mr Mohamed Saket, FAO, introduced the participants to how the Forestry Department of FAO assists member countries to set up national forest monitoring and assessment systems (Annex 6.3). He outlined the methodology applied and highlighted the advantages of carrying out this type of assessment.

## **The FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey**

There were several presentations to the plenary meeting summarising the Remote Sensing Survey component of FRA 2010. These included summaries of the discussions held in the 2-day meeting of the Task Force that was held as a side-meeting to the main FRA meeting. A summary of the presentations to plenary is provided below and more details can be found in the Task Force report in Annex 9.

Mr Adam Gerrard, FAO, briefed the participants on the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey, which is designed to complement the country reporting process to give a better picture of land use dynamics such as deforestation, afforestation and natural expansion of forests, together with useful information on the distribution of tree-cover and on changes in area over time at regional, biome and global levels (Annex 6.4).

Mr John Latham, FAO, made a presentation on the evaluation of methodologies for the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey (Annex 6.5). He briefly informed the participants on the general methodology that will be applied for the survey and the activities which are planned to gather relevant data. He also informed the participants on the Information Gateway, an integrated Web based system to manage data and information related to the survey.

Mr Federic Achard from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, presented the activities that his organization is carrying out in support of the FRA 2010 Global Remote Sensing Survey (Annex 6.6).

Mr Matthew Hansen from the South Dakota State University, which is another partner supporting the Remote Sensing Survey for FRA 2010, informed the participants on the new technology for forest cover mapping developed by remote sensing scientists based on MODIS imagery at a resolution of 500 and 250 m (Annex 6.7).

Mr Ernesto Diaz, from Mexico, presented a summary report of the Remote Sensing Survey Task Force (Annex 6.8) which had taken place over the previous two days. He informed the participants that the Task Force consists of 20 countries with a wide range of geographical coverage (together accounting for 80 percent of the world's forests) and that the Task Force was established to provide country knowledge and expert information to guide the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey and also to discuss related technical and implementation issues. He then briefed the participants on the main points raised and technical issues discussed in the 2-day Task Force side meeting.

## **World Forestry Congress**

Mr Olman Serrano, FAO, presented the XIIIth World Forestry Congress (WFC), which will be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 18 to 25 October 2009. The congress is being organized by the Government of Argentina in collaboration with the FAO Forestry Department and its main objective is to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and for discussions on topics related to forestry activities, involving forestry professionals and other interested people from all over the world.

## **The second working group session**

Ms Mette Wilkie, FAO, introduced the second working group the tasks of which were to: prepare a draft work plan for the elaboration and submission of country reports, suggest possible date(s) and place(s) for regional and sub-regional workshops aimed at reviewing draft country reports and to discuss the remote sensing survey.

### **Second working group session**

The participants spent Thursday afternoon in the ten working groups.

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### **Outcomes of the second working group session**

Mr Lars Gunnar Marklund and Adam Gerrand, FAO, informed the participants about the outcomes from the second working group session. They presented suggested dates and places of regional/sub-regional workshops to be organized in 2008 (Annex 7.1). They further presented a range of general and technical issues raised related to the implementation of the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey and provided clarifications (Annex 7.2).

### **Potential special studies related to FRA 2010**

In this session a number of potential special studies were presented to the participants. The studies will be led by specialists within FAO or by other organizations and will need separate funding. The FRA National Correspondents are not expected to be the key focal point for these studies but rather to help identify national experts in the different fields covered by the special studies. Participants were asked to fill in a short questionnaire to help prioritize these and to indicate the availability of information relevant to these studies.

Mr Oudara Souvannavong, FAO, introduced the rationale, the content and the objectives of the FRA 2010 special study on Forest Genetic Resources (Annex 7.3).

Ms Michelle Gauthier, FAO, presented a proposed outline of the FRA 2010 Special Study on Trees Outside Forests (ToF) which will be carried out with the objective of assessing and monitoring of trees outside forests (Annex 7.4).

Mr Miguel Trossero, FAO, presented the FRA 2010 Special Study on Wood Energy, whose main objective is to carry out special wood energy surveys in selected countries to improve the reliability of wood energy statistics, which currently are often affected by discrepancies in reported values, inconsistencies in terminology and definitions and differences in measurement units (Annex 7.5).

Mr Jean-Louis Blanchez, FAO, presented the FRA 2010 Special Study on Forest Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework, which is aiming at improving the understanding of the relationship between the national and sub national level in terms of forest policy formulation and implementation, legal and institutional frameworks (Annex 7.6).

Ms Rosalie Mc Connell, FAO, presented two FRA 2010 Special Studies: one on Forests and Poverty and the other on Forestry and Livelihoods (Annex 7.7). The first aims to link information on population and household expenses with data on ecosystems and their services to show how land, people and prosperity are connected. This knowledge can be used to make better use of natural resources when developing programmes to reduce poverty and designing policies to improve water resource management, agriculture production, conservation of biological diversity, and charcoal production, for example. The second study is based on findings from the FAO study on linkages between forestry and poverty reduction in Africa which confirmed that gaps in information on the importance of forestry to national development and rural livelihoods place the sector at a serious disadvantage when negotiating budget levels (Annex 7.8). It therefore aims to strengthen collaboration with national statistics offices to collect and analyze better data to build a case for more financial and technical support.

Ms Mette Wilkie, FAO, presented the rationale of the proposed FRA 2010 Special Study on Forest degradation, which is designed to identify different parameters of forest degradation and best practices for assessing these (Annex 7.9).

Mr Matt Walpole, UNEP-WCMC, informed the participants about three special studies being undertaken by UNEP-WCMC (Annex 7.10). These include studies to develop indicators of forest fragmentation and sustainable use, the latter focusing on the extent of forest certification. A third study, in collaboration with WWF and WRI, is exploring the extent of protection of different forest types and gaps in global forest protected area coverage. All three studies are helping to track progress towards the CBD target of achieving a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

Mr Simon Gillam, National Correspondent for United Kingdom, proposed a special study on Forests and climate change (Annex 7.11). It would include a review of the interactions identified in literature and other studies, establishment of an analytical framework including economic valuation of costs and benefits, assessing the feasibility of compiling country data and demonstrating the analysis through country case studies.

UNECE, welcomed and supported the proposed FRA special studies on: policies and institutions, wood energy statistics and forests and climate change and noted that the proposed special study on forest policies and institutions builds on the work initiated in the framework of the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Policies and Institutions where global and regional information is being exchanged. Further, the UNECE encouraged other organizations and networks involved in the monitoring of forest policies and institutions to join this initiative.

Senegal commented that the forest sector contribution to GDP is an important issue in Africa and that its contribution is often underestimated.

## **Closing of the meeting**

Mr Wulf Killmann, Director of the Forest Products and Industries Division, FAO, concluded the meeting with words of support and appreciation. He recognized that the technical meeting had been very productive and thanked all participants for their hard work and dedication. He informed the participants that a total of 265 participants from 154 countries and 14 forest related organizations had participated in this meeting and noted that this provides the FRA process with very strong links to countries and forest related organizations. He further explained that FAO stands ready to provide any technical assistance needed to fulfil the important tasks ahead. He thanked ITTO for co-sponsoring the meeting and the presenters, chairs of the plenary sessions and the working groups, facilitators, note takers and rapporteurs for their work during the week.

## **Questionnaires and evaluation of the meeting**

The participants were asked to complete four questionnaires with information on:

1. Data availability for for FRA 2010 reporting and status of national data.
2. Draft national work plan for the elaboration and submission of the country reports to FRA 2010.
3. Evaluation questionnaire of the meeting.
4. Priority ranking for the potential FRA 2010 special studies.

The evaluation questionnaire showed that in general the meeting was rated to be “good” or “very good” by 99% of the respondents (50% and 49% of the responses respectively), and 88% of the respondents found that, on balance, the meeting objectives were fully achieved and 11% that they were partially achieved.

The questionnaire on the priority rating for the potential FRA 2010 special studies showed that the five highest ranked special studies were: Forest and Climate Change, Forest degradation, Wood energy, Forests and poverty, Forests and livelihoods. These results however, need to be balanced with considerations related to data availability in the countries. The overall results of this questionnaire are as follows (102 replies in all):

<b>Name of Study</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>
Forest and Climate Change	68	67%
Forest degradation	58	57%
Wood energy	42	41%
Forests and poverty	41	40%
Forests and livelihoods	40	39%
Trees outside forests	38	37%
Forest fragmentation	33	32%
Forest policy, legal and institutional framework	32	31%
Forest in protected area (maps)	29	28%
Forest and medicinal plants	27	26%
Forest certification	25	25%
Forest genetic resources	24	24%