

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 8.3. Global Forest Resources Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey 2021-2022

As requested by the 165th Session of the FAO council, FAO will continue to produce the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) every five years and is developing a flexible FRA reporting process that allows more frequent voluntary updates of key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. The preparations of FRA 2025 are well underway. An Expert Consultation took place in September 2022 and will be followed by the official nomination of FRA National Correspondents. FRA 2025 data collection and related capacity development are planned for 2023.

FAO has continued to develop the on-line FRA data entry, reporting and analysis platform into a mobile-friendly version, conducted user consultations to collect feedback for its further improvement, continued capacity development on innovative field data collection and remote sensing tools and techniques, and completed the FRA 2020 Remote Sensing Survey.

The 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry requested FAO to analyse the uptake of the Global Core Set (GCS) of forest related Indicators and its impact on reporting burden. In response, FAO conducted a user survey among member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other forest reporting processes. According to the survey the GCS is a useful and flexible tool to help reduce the reporting burden, but more efforts are needed for it to achieve its full potential.

The Committee invites Members to:

- continue supporting the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting process by ensuring that national forest authorities nominate or confirm FRA National Correspondents and alternates who will be in charge for the compilation of the FRA 2025 Country reports; and
- support organization of and participation of FRA National Correspondents in the regional and subregional FRA capacity development workshops planned for the FRA 2025 country reporting cycle.

The Committee recommends FAO to:

- finalize the scope and other preparations for the FRA 2025 and initiate the country reporting process;
- continue strengthening the FRA National correspondents network, and provide technical support to countries in the compilation of their country reports, including through the organization of regional and subregional country reporting workshops;
- continue harmonization of methods and definitions for forest data collection, including for primary forests and other forest characteristics, and promote the establishment of regional networks on National Forest Inventory as a vehicle to strengthen south-south cooperation, data sharing and reinforcing FRA capacity development initiatives;
- continue complementing FRA country reporting process with remote sensing-based analysis of forest dynamics at regional, global and ecozone levels and support countries using remote sensing and latest technologies for forest monitoring;
- continue and strengthen collaboration with the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) partners, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other partners, including UN entities, to reduce the reporting burden, enhance synergies and increase transparency of reporting processes and resulting data; and

- continue, in coordination with CPF members, the promotion and dissemination of the Global Core Set of Forest related Indicators, and to improve their tier levels.

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