

***REPORT***

Kotka, Finland,  
12-16 June, 2006

# Expert Consultation on Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA): Towards FRA 2010





**Report of the**

**EXPERT CONSULTATION ON  
GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT  
TOWARDS FRA 2010**

**Kotka, Finland**

**12-16 June 2006**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Rome, 2006**

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## **ACRONYMS**

ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
COFO	Committee on Forestry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
INBAR	International Network on Bamboo and Rattan
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
JFSQ	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
NC	National Correspondent
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SOFO	State of the Worlds Forest
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
WB	World Bank

## Introduction

The Global Forest Resources Assessment programme (FRA) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has received technical guidance and support from international specialists through expert consultations organized by FAO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) at regular intervals over the last 20 years. The first consultation on global forest resources assessments was held in 1987 and the following consultations took place in 1993, 1996 and 2002. This consultation, the 5<sup>th</sup>, was held on 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 in Finland. This consultation is, therefore, referred to as Kotka V.

The purpose of Kotka V was to provide guidance for FRA 2010, based on an evaluation of FRA 2005. In addition, Kotka V aimed to enhance collaboration with other forest-related reporting processes and organizations and to assess the need for and potential scope of a remote sensing component to complement the information provided in national reports.

A total of 87 specialists participated in this Expert Consultation from 45 countries<sup>1</sup> and the following international and regional organizations, in addition to FAO, UNECE and Metla: the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank; the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); the International Network on Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Dry Forests Asia Process, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Tarapoto Process.

## Objectives and expected outcomes

Kotka V had two main objectives:

- to provide guidance for 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 on forests.

Four main outcomes were expected:

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<sup>1</sup> Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Buthan, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

1. identification of key information needs related to forests – at both the national and international level;
2. guidance on the contents and process for FRA 2010, including:
  - agreement on core tables for country reports;
  - identification of priority special studies;
  - agreement on the scope and approach of a proposed remote sensing component;
  - suggestions for further development of the ‘synthesis assessment’ on progress towards SFM;
  - identification of key partners and their roles;
3. recommendations on how to improve networking among national correspondents; and
4. recommendations on how to further harmonize and streamline reporting on forests – including suggestions on future reporting periodicity and modality.

Risto Seppälä was elected chair of the meeting and Paul Drichi (Uganda), Rodney Keenan (Australia), Ewald Rametsteiner (Austria) and Alberto Sandoval (Mexico) were elected co-chairs.

## **Key findings and recommendations**

### **A. Evaluation of FRA 2005**

- FRA 2005 was the most comprehensive assessment to date in terms of scope and the number of countries included. It involved the participation of more than 800 specialists over a period of 4 years.
- The 172 officially nominated national correspondents were crucial to the success of the FRA 2005 process and led to better use of existing data (better estimates, improved capacity) and an increased feeling of ownership of the process by countries. However, it was a time-consuming process, which required substantial extra-budgetary resources.
- The FRA advisory group provided support and advice throughout the process, but could have been more closely involved in the review of the key findings and the main report prior to publication.
- An evaluation survey was sent out to all national correspondents, the advisory group and involved FAO staff. In total, 130 responses were received, with many valuable comments and suggestions for improvement.
- The ten subregional workshops held as part of FRA 2005 facilitated compilation of the national reports and the exchange of experiences, and the close interaction with regional focal points at FAO headquarters and regional and subregional offices was found very useful.
- Several participants reported that FRA 2005 stimulated dialogue at the national level and provided an incentive to update national data and analyse existing information in different ways, as well as to improve national coordination.
- Others reported a lack of adequate support for the task at the national level.



- Some tables were problematic due to conceptual issues and lack of information, in particular those related to the characteristics and designation of forests, to forest health and vitality and to the amount and value of non-wood forest products.
- Issues related to the accuracy and reliability of information, timing of information requests and outputs and freshness of data were raised.
- Participants noted that improvement is possible in a number of areas (refer to the recommendations below).

***The Meeting*** acknowledged the very substantial work by national correspondents to prepare the country reports, congratulated FAO and key partners on completing FRA 2005 on time and ***recommended that a user assessment of the key outputs of FRA 2005 be conducted once the main report has been disseminated in all the UN languages.***

***It was also recommended that the dissemination and use of the country reports be further promoted.***

## **B. General aspects of the FRA process**

- ***It was recommended that 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. ***This strategy should be presented to COFO 2007 for endorsement.***
- ***It was recommended that FAO should continue to provide support to capacity-building related to FRA, national forest assessments, and other activities related to monitoring, assessment and reporting related to forest resources.***
- ***The next global forest resources assessment should employ 1990, 2000 and 2010 as the main reporting years and should produce its main outputs in 2010.***

## **Coverage**

- Use of the thematic elements of sustainable forest management as the reporting framework for FRA 2005 has increased the relevance of the FRA process. ***The meeting recommended that the thematic elements should be maintained as the reporting framework for FRA 2010, with the addition of the 7<sup>th</sup> thematic element on the legal, policy and institutional framework.*** It was stressed that FRA only constitutes a part of the reporting under the seven thematic elements and cannot in itself deliver a complete analysis of progress towards sustainable forest management.
- FRA reporting relates primarily to the status and trends of *forest resources*, their management and uses and the services they provide, which can also be expressed as including the primary production of all forest(ry) goods and services on all land. Forest resources addressed by FRA include forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests.
- 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.

## Inputs

- The backbone of FRA has been and should continue to be the information in country reports submitted by individual countries. Much of this information is obtained through national forest inventories and/or remote sensing. Other studies, such as special studies on selected topics and the proposed remote sensing component should be seen as supporting activities, complementary to country reporting.
- It was noted that the increased country involvement and the network of national correspondents have been key factors in the success of FRA 2005. ***It was recommended that the network of national correspondents should be maintained and if possible strengthened further for future assessments and between reporting periods, and that regional networks should receive support from countries and FAO.***
- The role of FRA in stimulating national and regional networking and dialogue was stressed as an important feature of the FRA process. Such networking is important both for improving FRA reporting and for creating synergies with other reporting processes.
- ***Collaboration with other processes and organizations should be improved further with a view to pooling resources and expertise and reducing the reporting burden on countries.***
- ***It was recommended that limited changes should be made to the existing variables. The inclusion of additional variables should be prioritized based on information needs at regional and global levels, feasibility and the comparative advantage of FRA in supplying information.***

## Outputs

- On one hand, it was noted that producing a FRA report in book form helps maintain the identity and high visibility of the FRA process and justifies timely reporting efforts by countries. On the other, it may create confusion with other reports (e.g. SOFO), the analytical value may be limited and a stand-alone report is expensive to produce.
- One option might be to produce a joint publication for the next assessment. The biennial SOFO publication could report updated information on core variables, and support was given to this approach provided that the above considerations are taken into account. It was noted that the value and relevance of SOFO would be improved and the status and visibility of FRA at higher levels may also increase.
- ***The meeting recommended that online reporting should be strengthened and that possibilities for continuous reporting and for streamlining data collection and reporting through Internet applications should be investigated.***
- ***FRA outputs of all kinds should be marketed better, stressing particularly the quality control dimension.***
- ***The possibility of regional reporting should be explored.***

## **C. Content and components of FRA 2010**

***Participants recommended that country reporting should form the basis for FRA 2010, supplemented by special studies on specific issues and a remote sensing component.***

### **Reporting variables by thematic element**

The proposed content of FRA 2010 was reviewed in detail and the following recommendations made:

#### ***Extent of forest resources***

- The current reporting table (T1) on the extent of forest resources should be maintained without change.
- The variables ‘other wooded land’ and ‘other land with tree cover’ should be clearly explained.
- FRA should cover assessment of the components of forest area change, i.e. deforestation, afforestation and natural expansion of forests at the regional and global level.
- FRA should provide information on the spatial distribution of ‘forest’ and ‘other wooded land’.
- A task force and working group should be established to define the scope of a thematic study on assessment and monitoring of trees outside forests.
- FRA should provide a breakdown of forest area according to ecological zones and broad forest types.
- It was recommended that further work should be undertaken in order to define how information on forest characteristics, including forest degradation, should be obtained.
- The variables needed to assess the area of forest under sustainable forest management should be examined.
- A revision of the table on designated functions is needed.
- FRA should continue to report on growing stock, biomass and carbon.

#### ***Biological diversity***

- FRA 2010 should provide the forest-related information for the assessment of the progress of the Convention on Biological Diversity towards the 2010 biodiversity target.
- The current variables related to biological diversity at ecosystem and species levels should be maintained.
- Methods for reporting on the following should be examined:
  - area of forest in protected areas and the management effectiveness of such areas; and
  - trends in the genetic diversity of forest tree species.

#### ***Forest health and vitality***

- The current categories should be kept, but other disturbances should be subdivided into abiotic (weather-related disturbances) and biotic disturbances to facilitate analysis.
- Information on the area affected by alien invasive species should be included.
- Complementary information on the extent of forest fires in forested ecosystems at the regional and global level could be obtained through remote sensing.

### ***Productive functions of forest resources***

- The current variables should be maintained with minor modifications and some additional clarifications and examples.
- Reporting on wood removals should be maintained for both FRA and the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire. National correspondents were asked to ensure coordination of reporting at the national level to these two processes.
- The ‘area available for wood supply’ is an important variable and should be captured.
- Thematic studies should be carried out to address specific issues on sustainable wood production, the magnitude of informal woodfuel removals and non-wood forest product removals.

### ***Protective functions of forest resources***

- Information might be obtained on areas designated to protect soil, water or infrastructure (riparian forests, forests on steep hills, sand dunes, coastal areas, mangroves) and where harvesting restrictions are in place, either legally, through contractual obligation, as management prescription or by any informal agreement.
- More work should be undertaken to identify additional, suitable variables for this theme.

### ***Socio-economic functions***

- The existing variables should be maintained with some minor modifications.
- A thematic study should be undertaken to develop a structured approach to more comprehensive estimates of environmental, social and economic values.
- A special study on employment should be undertaken.

### ***Legal, policy and institutional framework***

- Reporting on ownership should be continued, but with more detailed categories and the addition of a table on tenure or forest management rights for public forests.
- Variables related to the legal policy and institutional framework should be included in FRA 2010, as this element is essential in assessing progress towards sustainable forest management. The variables requested should have the same objective, quality-controlled standards as other FRA data and should make it possible to construct a regional and global synthesis. Given the challenge of identifying and defining variables to satisfy these requirements, a special study should be undertaken.
- A special study (task force) should also be undertaken to identify ownership and tenure categories more clearly, including those of indigenous and tribal peoples. The latter should be defined using the exact wording of the relevant ILO convention.
- Given that sustainable forest management should also be economically sustainable, the group felt that FRA 2010 should request information on more than payment from public funds or development assistance; it might request information on all sources of revenue.

### ***Remote sensing support***

The ‘Remote sensing support proposal’ outlines a methodology using remote sensing, in combination with other information and local expertise, to provide global and regional estimates of afforestation/expansion of forests and deforestation over time. Such estimates are requested by many of the international conventions and processes and are not currently available. The project would also offer an opportunity for technology transfer and capacity-building in countries with limited resources or experience of forest monitoring.

***The meeting recommended that a remote sensing component should be included as part of FRA 2010. It should provide complementary information on the spatial distribution of forests and on forest and land cover and land-use change dynamics at the biome, regional and global level.***

***It further recommended that implementation of the project should be integrated into or coordinated with existing national forest inventory and monitoring initiatives, with the intention of avoiding conflicting results, and that FRA national correspondents should review the results.***

***It was recommended that FAO request information on deforestation and afforestation/expansion of forests directly from those countries that already have this information, or where it is available in reports to other international organizations as an alternative to implementing the project in these areas.***

**It was requested that** the project clearly state the confidence limits and scale limitations of the results and strongly discourage presentation of maps or results outside these limits. Public access to statistics generated by the project should only be provided at regional or greater scales and not for individual countries.

Some participants requested extra time to consider the proposal more fully and consult with colleagues in their countries. **It was agreed that** further written inputs from national correspondents would be considered in the project design, and **it was requested that** if there were any further comments by national correspondents, they be provided to FAO by 31 July 2006.

### **Special studies**

A number of important topics were identified for which the availability of data is limited and a long list of potential special studies was identified.

***It was recommended that the list of proposed thematic studies should be reviewed with a view to identifying priorities and potential partners.***

### **Synthesis assessment**

The participants stressed the importance of being able to present a synthesis of the key results of FRA 2010 to policy-makers and the general public.

***It was recommended that the structure for a synthesis – with the same objectives as the ‘traffic lights’ included in FRA 2005 – should be integrated into FRA 2010 from the outset.***

### **D. Implementation aspects**

The current organizational set-up worked well, with FAO leading the process and supported by the UNECE, but partnership with other organizations could be strengthened further – including for the proposed remote sensing component.

***Participants made the following recommendations for implementation:***

**Network of national correspondents**

The Meeting stressed the crucial role of the network of national correspondents in the FRA process and the need for adequate political and financial support at the national level for data collection, analysis and reporting.

It was noted that the official nomination of national correspondents was considered an important feature of the network.

Some existing regional initiatives may contribute to the sharing of experiences and the collaboration between countries and regions.

***The Meeting strongly recommended that the network of national correspondents be maintained and strengthened, including support to regional networks.***

***One officially nominated national correspondent should be responsible for the entire country report to FRA. It was further suggested that an alternate national correspondent should be nominated, thereby ensuring continuity of the process. Collaboration among focal points for various forest-related reporting processes within countries should be encouraged.***

***FAO should provide national correspondents with clear terms of reference, including the role of dissemination of information, and should support national correspondents in their obtaining the necessary political and financial support to carry out their tasks.***

**The FRA Advisory Group**

***The FRA Advisory Group should continue to provide guidance to the FRA process and be involved in the finalization of reporting specifications and of the proposed remote sensing component, and in review of progress towards FRA 2010 and analysis of draft results prior to publication.***

**Collaboration with other forest-related organizations and reporting processes**

The organizations participating in Kotka V (CBD, UNFCCC, UNFF, ITTO, MCPFE, UNEP-WCMC, the World Bank, INBAR, ICRAF, UNEP, ACTO and IUFRO) stressed the benefits they had received from FRA 2005 and offered to contribute relevant information to future FRA work, indicate their specific reporting needs and promote the streamlining of reporting. Issues of reporting, definitions and timing should be examined among the organizations. They requested FRA to develop core indicators for the FRA global platform, in consultation with relevant organizations. They suggested that development of the remote sensing component of FRA and the submission of national reports to a process of stakeholder consultation would help improve the credibility of FRA data further.

***The meeting recommended that collaboration with forest-related organizations, e.g. CPF members, criteria and indicator processes and the remote sensing community should be maintained and enhanced.***

## **Resource needs**

Substantial extra-budgetary resources are needed for the implementation of FRA 2010. ***It was recommended that FAO prepare a budget and a funding proposal for FRA 2010 before the next meeting of the FAO Committee on Forestry (March 2007) and that it submit proposals to prospective donors and partners.***

## **Immediate actions**

The Meeting identified the following immediate actions to be taken:

- ***The long-term strategy should be developed in collaboration with the FRA advisory group.***
- ***FAO should finalize the reporting specifications for FRA 2010 in consultation with the FRA advisory group and the network of national correspondents.***
- ***Further consultations should be held on the technical specifications of the remote sensing component and on the role of potential partners, in consultation with the FRA advisory group and the network of national correspondents.***
- ***A proposal to support the implementation of FRA 2010 should be prepared and submitted to potential donors and partners.***
- ***The outcome of Kotka V, the strategy document and the proposals for FRA 2010 should be presented to COFO in March 2007 for endorsement.***
- ***FAO should send a letter to the heads of forestry in all countries acknowledging the substantial inputs of the national correspondents and requesting the nomination of a national correspondent, with an alternate, for FRA 2010 reporting. The terms of reference for the national correspondents should be included, noting that the major workload is likely to be in 2008.***





## **ANNEXES**

Annex 1	List of participants
Annex 2	Agenda
Annex 3	Daily summary reports
Annex 4	List of background papers



**Annex 1**

**EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (FRA):  
TOWARD FRA 2010  
Kotka, Finland 12-16 June 2006**

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## Annex 2

### EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (FRA): TOWARD FRA 2010 Kotka, Finland 12-16 June 2006

## AGENDA

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### Monday 12 June

- 09:00-10:15      Opening session  
Welcoming remarks were made by *Risto Seppälä*, President of IUFRO  
Professor at Metla; *Kauko Yläsaari*, Rector of Kotka Forestry College;  
*Peter Holmgren*, Chief Forest Resources Development Service, FAO;  
*Kit Prins*, Chief Timber Section, UNECE.
- Risto Seppälä was elected Chair of the meeting and Paul Drichi (Uganda), Rodney Keenan (Australia), Ewald Rametsteiner (Austria) and Alberto Sandoval (Mexico) were elected co-chairs.
- (*Risto Seppälä (Metla)*, *Peter Holmgren (FAO)*,  
*Kit Prins (UNECE)*)  
Election of chair & co-chair  
Review of the objectives of the Expert Consultation  
Adoption of the agenda  
Logistics  
Group photo
- 10:15-10:30      Coffee break
- 10:30-12:00      Setting the stage  
Guest speaker (*Jan Heino*)  
Welcome (*Henry Lindelöf, Mayor of Kotka*)
- Presentation of FRA 2005 (*Key results of FRA 2005 presented by Mette Wilkie, FAO*)  
FAO's support to National Forest Assessments (*Peter Holmgren, FAO*)
- 12:00-13:30      Lunch break
- 13:30-15:15      Evaluation of FRA 2005  
Key results from the evaluation of FRA 2005 (*Lars Gunnar Marlund, FAO*)  
Country views on the FRA process (*USA (Brad Smith)*; *Brazil (Joberto Veloso de Freitas)*;  
*Republic of Congo (Georges Claver Bouzanga)*; *Italy (Angelo Mariano)*;  
*Malaysia (Yee Hwai Yap)*; *PNG (Vitus Ambia)*)
- 15:15-15:30      Coffee break
- 15:30-17:30      Evaluation of FRA 2005  
User views/information requirements (*UNFF (Jorge Illueca)*; *CBD/WCMC (Robert Höft)*;  
*UNFCCC (Jenny Wong)*; *World Bank (Tapani Oksanen)*; *ITTO (Steve Johnson)*;  
*ICRAF (Christine Holding)*; *UNECE (Kit Prins)*; *MCPFE (Roman Michalak)*)  
Summing up/conclusion of FRA 2005 evaluation (*Mette Wilkie, FAO*)
- 18:30              Reception

## **Tuesday 13 June**

09:00-10:15	FRA 2010 Overall scope and framework ( <i>Peter Holmgren, FAO</i> ) Theme 1. Extent of forest resources ( <i>Introduction to theme and the working groups by Mette Loyche Wilkie, FAO</i> )
10:15-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:00	Theme 1 (Working groups) 1. Forest area and forest area change 2. Forest characteristics 3. Designation, management and use of forests 4. Volume, biomass & carbon
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:15	Theme 1 (cont. Working groups)
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Theme 1 (cont) Plenary presentation and discussion
Evening	Presentations by countries

## **Wednesday 14 June**

09:00-10:15	Remote sensing assessment ( <i>Presentation by Ralph Ridder</i> ) Themes 2-7 ( <i>Introduction by Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO</i> )
10:15-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:00	Remote sensing (WG A) Themes 2-7 in WGs Biodiversity/ Forest health & vitality /Protective functions of forest resources Productive functions of forest resources Socio-economic functions Legal, policy and institutional framework Remote sensing
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:15	Remote sensing assessment + Themes 2-7 (cont) Working groups
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:30	Remote sensing assessment + Themes 2-7 (cont) Plenary presentation by WGs and discussion
Evening	Presentations by organisations and regional initiatives

## **Thursday 15 June**

09:00-11:00	Partnerships Networking of NCs – future options ( <i>Short presentation by Hivy Ortiz, FAO followed by discussion in regional groups</i> ) Inter-agency collaboration ( <i>WG of organisations</i> )
(10:15-10:30)	Coffee break)
11:00-12:30	Partnerships (plenary) Presentation and discussion
13:00-17:00	Field Trip (including lunch during excursion)
Evening	Free

## **Friday 16 June**

09:00-10:15	Presentations of results from Ad-hoc working groups Remote sensing support ( <i>Presentation by Adam Gerrand, Australia</i> ) Trees outside forest ( <i>Presentation by Abu Rushed Jamil Mahmood</i> ) Synthesis assessment ( <i>Presentation by Rodney Keenan</i> ) Next steps ( <i>Presentation by Lars Gunnar Marklund, FAO</i> ) Timeline for FRA 2010 Beyond FRA 2010
10:15-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:00	Presentation and adoption of the report ( <i>Mette Wilkie, FAO</i> )
12:00-12:30	Closing session Any other business Closing remarks
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
15:00	Departure of participants





## **Annex 3**

### **EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT TOWARD FRA 2010 Kotka, Finland 12-16 June 2006**

## **DAILY SUMMARY REPORTS**

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### **DAY 1 – MONDAY, JUNE 12**

#### **Opening session**

Welcoming remarks were made by Risto Seppälä, President of IUFRO and Professor at Metla; Kauko Yläsaari, Rector of Kotka Forestry College; Peter Holmgren, Chief Forest Resources Development Service, FAO; and Kit Prins, Chief Timber Section, UNECE.

Risto Seppälä was elected Chair of the meeting and Paul Drichi (Uganda), Rodney Keenan (Australia), Ewald Rametsteiner (Austria) and Alberto Sandoval (Mexico) were elected co-chairs.

The draft agenda was approved, as were the objectives and expected outcomes.

#### **Setting the stage**

This session was initiated by welcoming remarks from the Henry Lindelöf, Mayor of Kotka and a Key Note presentation by Jan Heino, Director General, Metshällitus, who stressed the importance of good quality information, noting that forests deserve more attention than they get today and emphasizing the importance of strengthening the regional, national and global databases on forest and tree resources. The close connection between resources assessment, institutional strengthening and national forest programmes was highlighted.

Mette Wilkie, FAO, then presented the key results of FRA 2005 noting that this was the most comprehensive global forest resources assessment to date, presenting information for more than 40 variables related to forests, the condition, uses and values for 229 countries and territories for three points in time: 1990, 2000 and 2005. More than 800 people had been involved in this process, including officially nominated national correspondents from 172 countries. The main report, released earlier this year, highlighted that deforestation continues at an alarming rate of 13 million hectares per year, but that extensive efforts of planting and the natural regeneration of forests on abandoned agricultural land has significantly reduced the net loss of forest area. The report also assesses progress towards sustainable forest management, showing that progress is mixed in all subregions.

Peter Holmgren, FAO, then presented FAO's work supporting national forest assessments (NFAs). He stressed the focus on providing information for the policy process, the need for a comprehensive approach and the possibility to address cross-sectoral issues while maintaining a low cost, systematic sampling approach. Five countries have recently completed an NFA

with support from FAO and projects are currently underway or in the pipeline for another 25 countries.

## **Evaluation of FRA 2005**

Lars Gunnar Marklund (FAO) presented the evaluation of FRA 2005 and the lessons learned. The network of NCs, country involvement, transparency of the reporting process and the comprehensive review process were identified as key factors for having improved the quality of information reported to FRA. However, the scope of the assessment and the reporting format constituted a significant reporting burden on the countries and required an intensive support from FAO in terms of workshops, capacity building and day to day contacts with the countries.

This summary was followed by presentations from selected countries on their experiences with FRA 2005 and by representatives of forest related organizations asked to present their information needs and to what extent these were met by FRA 2005 or could be met by FRA 2010.

## **Presentation by countries**

Brad Smith (USA) noted that fewer variables in the early global reporting processes made it easier to report (as these were mainly focusing on monitoring wood supply). Recently international efforts for monitoring sustainable use have been taking place. More than 150 countries are currently participating in nine eco-regional criteria and indicator processes. Monitoring is integrating more variables related to forest cover, health water and soil conservation carbon, biodiversity, social and legal aspects, and new variables are likely to be added in the future, in order to better evaluate sustainability. As part of the FRA 2005 process, existing data were evaluated taking into consideration data availability and quality, consistency, frequency of measurement, non existence, not updated information, and not consistent information. Information on traditional biophysical variables was rated as good, while information on NWFPs and their values was poor. For the US the key to success is a set of core data with common definitions to be reported to different processes and which can contribute to the evaluation of sustainability.

Joberto Veloso de Freitas (Brazil) presented the past experience with the FRA reporting process where information was gathering according to administrative regions. During FRA 2005 reporting was done according to the different biomes. The participation of different actors of the forestry sector was ensured through workshops and different modalities of consultations. One unique source of information was used for forest area estimates (IBGE 2004) and projections were done according to annual deforestation rates. Biomass stock and carbon estimates were based on specific studies. A key benefit of the process was the collation of information on forests by the government agencies which could be used to present a national vision.

Georges Claver Bouzanga (Republic of Congo), noted that FRA was a useful incentive to update national information and to redefine forest classes and characteristics in the country. Nevertheless the information base in the country is weak and more studies need to be made. There has been no inventory and remote sensing and other tools are expensive. Information related to socioeconomic functions is limited. He also stressed that it is important to reinforce the collaboration among the national correspondents (NCs) in the region and made a call for support to the elaboration of forest inventories.

Angelo Mariano (Italy) noted that, as for other countries, several different agencies had been involved in compiling the information needed for FRA 2005. Given that Italy was in the middle of implementing a new inventory, the existing data were relatively old and required a forecasting for 30 years based on auxiliary information. Specific problems were reported for the tables related to forest characteristics, growing stock, forest health and vitality, employment and the volume and value of non-wood forest products. He suggested that definitions should be further harmonized between international reporting processes and urged participants to refrain from making suggestions for major changes to the existing set of tables.

Yee Hwai Yap (Malaysia) noted that FRA 2005 was more comprehensive than FRA 2000 with new variables which required additional efforts and that the regional workshop held was very useful for discussing technical issues related to these and to foster a common understanding. Data problems were faced regarding primary forests and other wooded land. FRA 2005 provided an incentive for better coordination of data compilation and analysis at the national level.

### **Presentation by organizations**

Jorge Illueca (UNFF Secretariat) presented the UNFF process and the four global objectives on forests (reverse the loss of forest cover through SFM and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation; enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; increase the area of protected forests and other areas of sustainable managed forests and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainable managed forests; and reverse the decline official development assistance for sustainable forest management). He also stressed the importance of building on existing indicators and noted that 75 percent of all the IPF/IFF/UNFF Proposals for Action and operational resolutions fall under the themes of socio-economic functions and the legal, policy and institutional framework, where current indicators are rather weak. Speaking on behalf of UNEP, he suggested that FRA can play an important role as provider of information also for other global assessments.

Robert Höft (CBD Secretariat) presented the forest related information needs of the CBD and in particular the needs related to the 2010 biodiversity target. He presented the focal areas, targets and indicators (decisions VII/730 and VIII/15), and reported that FRA was used in the preparation of GRO-2, in particular the information on forest area. It was added that with minor changes to some tables, FRA could become even more relevant. Specifically it was requested that FRA includes measures quantifying the sustainability of the management of forest ecosystems, e.g. reporting on forest area under sustainable forest management (SFM) and on products derived from sustainable sources.

Jenny Wong (UNFCCC Secretariat) presented the reporting requirements of the LULUCF sector under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Despite some definition-related differences between reporting to the FRA process and to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes, FRA constitutes an important source of information on biomass and C stocks, particularly for the developing countries. FRA has the potential to be a major information provider to the issue on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries.

Tapani Oksanen (World Bank) presented some comments from World Bank staff on FRA 2005. These Bank staff has responded that their main use of the FRA report in general is for analytic and advisory work and noted that it was of less use for country specific work on project identification and preparation where more accurate and up to date information can be found from other sources. The following discussion revealed that the Bank staff may not be aware of the existence of the set of comprehensive country reports, which in turn opened the question as to whether the dissemination of these reports had been given enough attention.

Steve Johnson (ITTO) noted that there are shared variables reported to FRA that can be used in reporting on ITTO's criteria and indicators. ITTO includes 35 countries; all of them reported to FRA 2005 so there is a clear nexus between the two processes. Of the FRA 2005 variables, extent of forest, designated functions and characteristics are very relevant. Other relevant variables include ownership, growing stock disturbances, tree species, growing stock, composition and NWFP. Biomass and wood removals are less relevant.

Abu Rushed Jamil Mahmood stressed the importance of "other land with tree cover", and "trees outside forests". She emphasised the multiple functions of trees outside forests including production, protection, biodiversity conservation and bioenergy production. She reported that methodologies do exist to measure TOF but these are neither widely known, nor applied. She suggested assessing the contribution of this resource in future global forest assessments. She also proposed that a thematic report addressing the methodological considerations, indicators and variables of TOF assessment be prepared for FRA 2010. ICRAF could provide publications on landscape diversity assessment, carbon sequestration in agroforestry landscapes and related issues. Experiences gained in the development and implementation of ICRAF activities and particularly with TOF maybe of interest to countries and partner organisations.

Kit Prins (UNECE) presented some conclusions from the inter-C&I process collaboration workshop held in Poland 8-10 June 2006. That meeting expressed support to FRA as a global platform for monitoring and reporting on SFM and suggested a better structured collaboration between the C&I processes and FRA, particularly on the choice of core (global) parameters.

Roman Michalak (MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw) presented the linkages between the MCPFE C&I reporting and FRA. He highlighted the mutual participation in the preparatory work, the convergence of terms and definitions and reporting years, the use of the FRA NC network and other technical cooperation on the pan-European reporting. He concluded that the experience of collaboration between MCPFE and FRA show the opportunities for enhanced cooperation between global and regional reporting processes.

In summing up the discussion on FRA 2005, Mette Wilkie noted that:

1. FRA 2005 was the most comprehensive assessment to date in terms of scope, number of countries included and participation.
2. Participants at Kotka IV recommended that a global assessment should be prepared for 2005. Participants further recommended that:
  1. The involvement of countries in the FRA process should be improved
  2. The thematic elements of SFM should be used as a reporting process
  3. A FRA Advisory Group should be established
3. All these recommendations were followed for FRA 2005:
  - The 172 officially nominated national correspondents - were crucial to the success of the FRA 2005 process and led to better use of existing data (better estimates, improved capacity) and an increased feeling of ownership of the process by countries. However, it was a time consuming and costly process.
  - The use of the thematic elements of SFM as the reporting framework raised the level of relevance of the results to international processes.
  - The FRA Advisory Group provided support and advice throughout the process, but could have been more closely involved in the review of the key findings and the main report prior to publication.

4. The ten subregional workshops held as part of FRA 2005 facilitated compilation of the reports and the exchange of experiences and the close interaction with regional focal points was found to be very useful.
5. Several countries reported that FRA 2005 stimulated the dialogue at the national level and provided an incentive to update national data and analyse existing information in different ways and to improve national coordination.
6. Some tables (in particular those related to the characteristics and designation of forests, to forest health and vitality and to the amount and value of non-wood forest products) were problematic due to lack of information and conceptual issues.
7. Issues related to the accuracy and reliability of information, timing of information requests and outputs and freshness of data were raised.
8. Participants noted that improvement is possible in terms of:
  - harmonization with other processes and organizations
  - support to countries with low capacity or resource constraints
  - effective linkages with other global assessments
9. Additional information needs identified included variables related to
  - socio-economic functions and the legal, policy & institutional framework
  - effectiveness of protected areas
  - area under sustainable use/management
  - forest products derived from sustainable sources
  - deforestation and forest degradation
  - trees outside forests and their benefits
  - public participation in forest management
  - financial resources for forest management

It was suggested that:

1. The close involvement of countries and the network of NCs should be maintained for future assessments and also between reporting periods
2. The collaboration with other processes and organizations should be improved even further
3. The SFM framework should be maintained as the reporting framework
4. Core variables should be maintained and limited changes should be made to existing variables
5. Additional information needs should be prioritised based on needs and feasibility and comparative advantage of FRA in supplying the information
6. Thematic studies for selected topics should also be included in future assessments
7. The timetable should allow for an external review of the key findings and the main report before publication.

## **DAY 2 – TUESDAY, JUNE 13**

### **On the scope of FRA 2010**

Peter Holmgren (FAO) introduced this item focusing on five main points characterising FRA: (1) The concept of sustainable forest management; (2) Information/process relevance (global and regional policy level); (3) Information coherence; (4) Information availability; (5) Interface with other reporting work.

He suggested that FRA 2005 primarily covers variables related to the first six of the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management (extent of forests, biodiversity, forest health and vitality, protective functions of forest resources, productive functions of forest resources, socioeconomic functions), but also covers the aspect of ownership which, in some processes falls under the seventh element: the legal, policy and institutional framework. There are other FAO initiatives that complement the FRA information and which deal with the productive function of forests and socioeconomic aspects (e.g. the yearbook on forest products) and on the legal, policy and institutional framework (e.g. work on national forest programmes). The recent merging of the above three units in FAO has created a new perspective and vision for the coordination and harmonization of forest-related information within FAO.

He also posed the following questions:

- At what level can FRA influence international decisions?
  - Is that an FRA role?
  - What analysis of variables is needed?
  - What is more important: trends within countries or compatibility of data between countries?
  - If FRA is to be seen as a global forest information platform, what is the border line of the process?
  - Do the results of FRA need to be reported in a FRA report or can the reporting be tied to other publications (e.g. the State of the World's Forests)?
  - Does FRA need to be expanded to include other critical new information (for example logging areas, landscape patterns, institutions, etc.)?

A voluntary session was convened in the evening to discuss these issues.

### **Theme 1: Extent of forest resources**

Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO) introduced the issues to be discussed in the working groups. Five working groups were created dealing with the following four topics: Forest area and forest area change (2 groups); Forest characteristics; Designation of forest area; Volume, biomass and carbon.

Background documents, and terms of reference were distributed to the working groups. Detailed reports of each of the working groups are presented in the annex.

**Forest area and forest area change:** Both working groups concluded that the variables included in FRA 2005 should also be reported in FRA 2010.

It was recommended to include information regarding forest types (mangroves, bamboo) and under some circumstances (where the main use of the resource was for forestry purposes) include rubber, palms and coconuts. OWL should be included due to the relevance of the information for rural and semi-arid areas and be separated from OLTC. Special studies should be done on deforestation, fragmentation and trees outside forest. In relation to the method for

data collection, field sampling and carefully design to implement remote sensing were recommended for the key parameters.

Both groups also noted problems with the crown cover threshold and the land use criterion especially when relying solely on remote sensing for reporting on forests, but changes to the existing definition of forests were not recommended by the participants.

**Forest characteristics:** Problems in applying the classification system of the current table related to forest characteristics were noted, but the working group participants agreed that the topic is important and suggested that there were three main purposes for reporting on forest characteristics:

1. To convey a picture to the public of the kinds of forests which exist
2. To provide inputs for biodiversity assessments
3. To provide information for analysis of potential wood/fibre supply

This requires information on the biophysical characteristics of the forests as well as the intensity of management and use. The WG suggested to exclude reporting on the characteristics of other wooded land, and to split up the current table into several separate tables, which would also allow for the assessment of the area of planted forests. The Group also suggested to add information on ecological zones and - within these - on forest types (broadleaved, coniferous and mixed) and to add classes on bamboo and mangroves. In relation to degradation, the Group recommended that FAO hold a workshop on how best to obtain information on this variable.

**Forest designation, management and use:** Country representatives reported difficulties in providing reliable information for the current table on designated functions of forests due to no information being available for privately owned forests and the fact that forests are often designated for multiple purpose functions. Discrepancies on the interpretation of the category social services were also noted. Legal designation is relevant to this issue, but may cover only some forests within a given country. A number of suggestions for additional variables were put forward, but, in general, the working group suggested that more work is needed on this important topic and suggested that a Task Force be set up to provide a proposal for how to capture aspects related to the designation, management and use of forests.

**Volume, biomass and carbon:** The working group recommended that the current variables should remain the same for future reports. Some work needs to be done on specifications, such as minimum diameter and conversion factors and on how to obtain reliable information from other wooded land. Close collaboration with UNFCCC/IPCC should continue.

## **DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14**

### **On scope of FRA 2010**

Peter Holmgren (FAO) presented a summary of the discussions from the voluntary working group that discussed this issue on the evening June 13. The discussion was focused around the following themes:

- FRA scope
- The FRA process
- FRA linkages and role
- FRA outputs

A full summary of the discussions is available in a separate paper. Some of the main recommendations were:

- The 7 thematic elements of SFM should continue to be a reporting framework for FRA. It makes FRA relevant to policy processes, especially C&I and UNFF. However, FRA reporting only constitute part of the reporting needs for these themes
- A longer term (> 15 years) strategy for FRA should be developed in which the role and advantages of regional networks and regional reporting should be investigated.
- The possibility for asynchronous country reporting to FRA was supported
- An important role of FRA is to serve as a global platform reporting on core, quality-controlled forest resources related information, that can be used by a wide range of international and national processes.

## **Introduction to group work**

Ralph Ridder presented a proposal for a global remote sensing assessment as a complement to the country reporting to address the need for better information on land use change dynamics and gross changes (deforestation) at regional and global level and to produce global forest cover maps.

The main objectives of the remote sensing assessment are:

- Regional, biome and global monitoring of forests 1975-1990-2000-2005
  - area change statistics,
  - information on land use dynamics
  - forest maps
- Establish an information framework in support of monitoring of forests, land use and the environment. The information framework will also facilitate further monitoring applications and assist national monitoring efforts

The proposal is presented in detail in a working paper and an executive summary is available among the background document.

Lars Gunnar Marklund introduced the remaining issues to be discussed in the working groups. In addition to the working group on the remote sensing assessment, four working groups were created dealing with the following topics:

- Working group 1: Biological diversity, forest health and vitality and Protective functions of forest resources:
- Working group 2: Productive functions of forest resources
- Working group 3: Socioeconomic functions
- Working group 4: Legal, policy and institutional framework

Background documents, and terms of reference were distributed to the working groups. Detailed reports of each of the working groups are presented in the annex.

## **Working Group Sessions:**

Below is a short summary of the presentation of each of the working groups.

**Remote sensing assessment:** It was conclude that a remote sensing component will be of significant importance as a supporting tool for better reporting on forest area and forest area change, with the clarification that it will not substitute the country reports. Some further



work on the proposal was suggested in order to address several important issues. Recommendations will be presented later in the week.

**Conservation of biodiversity:** A number of the FRA 2005 variables relate to forest biological diversity and many of the indicators of the 2010 Biodiversity Target can be included in FRA 2010. Collaboration with CBD, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and other institutions has already been initiated, and it is foreseen that FRA 2010 might provide the forest-related information for the CBD assessment of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

**Forest health and vitality:** Currently, the information focuses on disturbances rather than on forest health, vitality and condition. Possible variables related to health and vitality include: defoliation, soil compaction, pollution deposition level, degradation, fragmentation, invasive species, level and composition of natural regeneration and recruitment. Issues: some of the “disturbances” are natural and some of the disturbances do not necessarily result in adverse effects. Some are secondary and it may be difficult to determine the primary agent. Remote sensing was suggested as a tool for monitoring forest fires. It was further recommended to

- Keep the current categories.
- Sub-divide “other disturbances” into abiotic (under which weather-related disturbances) and biotic disturbances to facilitate analysis. For these, provide information on national subcategories.
- Include information on invasive species: Area affected and list the most important species.
- Include number of events (for weather and fire) and the extent affected.
- List the top five or ten insects and diseases and the species they affect.

**Protective functions of forests:** Most, if not all, forests have some protective functions. It may be possible to include information on areas of forests where soil and water conservation is a key objective (riparian forests, forests on steep hills, plantations established on sand dunes, to protect infrastructure, mangroves) and where restrictions on the use of forests have been put in place in order to protect water supply, soil or infrastructure.

**Productive functions of forest:** Variables used in FRA 2005 related to the productive functions were considered appropriate and some minor modifications were suggested and clarifications to be added in the specifications. It was suggested to carry out thematic studies to address specific issues on:

- Sustainable wood production (growth-drain balance)
- Woodfuel removals – to assess the magnitude of informal woodfuel removals
- Non-Wood Forest Products Removals (analysis on the basis of existing publications and studies)

**Socio-economic functions:** Related variables were evaluated, and were considered relevant but only partially cover the theme. Several other variables related to the theme were identified; however these cannot be part of country reporting but need instead to be addressed in thematic studies. No additional variables were proposed to be included in country reporting, probably some minor modifications. It was recommended to use official statistics related to market value. A possible thematic study on employment was also proposed.

**Policy, legal and institutional framework:** The participants suggested that reporting on ownership be continued but with some more detailed categories and the addition of a related table on the tenure of public forests. Information on the date and level of endorsement of national forest policy is a potential variable for FRA 2005. Evaluation of policy, legislation and institutions using some criteria like stakeholders analysis, cross-sectoral linkage, implementation of laws and empowerment were discussed, as these are key issues for SFM. However, it may not be possible to include specific variables related to this in FRA 2010.

## **DAY 4 – THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

The morning session was dedicated to working group discussions on networking and partnerships. Hivy Ortiz Chour (FAO) introduced the issues to be discussed in the working groups. Four regional working groups were established, and one working group with participants from various international organizations.

### **Summary of the working group reports**

**Africa:** The participants confirmed that FAO should request the official nomination of a National Correspondent responsible for drafting the report. The NC will coordinate the data collection and oversight the drafting of the report. FRA should provide the NC with clear terms of reference as was done for FRA 2005. In addition to the NC, the participants suggested that FAO request the nomination of an assistant to the NC who e.g. can attend meetings when the NC cannot go. It was recommended to institutionalize the FRA reporting process in countries, and to present a general calendar of FRA related requests to facilitate planning of the work involved.

**Latin America:** There should be one official national correspondent with clear terms of reference. However, a technical focal point that should be involved during the process could also be identified. If, for instance, the NCs is a director, it would be essential to also have a technical focal point e.g. to guarantee continuity. If the technical person prepares the report it should be cleared by the national authority as the results are national statistics. Benefits of being members of the NCs network were pointed out: capacity building, sharing information and incentive to organize and systematize national information. Regional initiatives are in place including a recently established initiative to monitor the forest and forest cover change in Central and South America through remote sensing.

**Europe and North America:** One officially nominated person should be responsible for the entire report (convene the national team, e.g. invite representatives for FRA-related events in the region), with clear terms of reference, including the role of dissemination of information of FRA report. Benefits of being member of the network is exchange of experience, capacity building and strengthening professional views as part of the continuity. It was pointed out that there is no network in the region of Near East, though some countries from this region were participating in the meeting in Budapest. The working group was in general open for including NCs from other countries that might be considered as European.

**Asia and Asia Pacific national country correspondence:** It was recommended that national country correspondence should have continuity over the time. Terms of reference should be specified, with clear objectives. Network of country correspondence are already working with other regional initiatives in both regions, meetings and working sessions facilitated by FAO were identified mechanism to empower the network.

**International organisations:** This group stressed the point that FRA report is based on “hard” information and not anecdotal. FRA has and provided the opportunity to work with the forestry community, and working together a platform can be built. More systematically develop core indicators for global platform, in consultation with organisations needs to be workout. Streamlining (reporting, definitions and timing) is important.

## **Field Trip**

In the afternoon, the Finnish hosts organized a study tour to visit the forest enterprise UPM and their operations. The visit was focused on new techniques for recovering harvesting residues (stumps, tops and branches) for energy production purposes.

## **DAY 5 – FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

### **Report from the Ad-hoc working group on Remote Sensing**

Adam Gerrand, Australia, presented the report from the Ad-hoc working group on a Remote Sensing Support Project as part of FRA 2010. In summary, the project proposal outlines a methodology using remote sensing, in combination with other information and local expertise, to provide estimates of afforestation/ expansion of forests and deforestation over time that are globally important and requested by many of the international conventions and processes. Such information is currently not available at a global and regional level. The project is also an opportunity for technology transfer and capacity building in countries with limited resources or experience of forest monitoring.

The report was discussed in plenary and the meeting recommended that a remote sensing component aimed at providing complementary information on the spatial distribution of forests and on forest and land cover and land use change dynamics at the biome, regional and global level should be included as part of FRA 2010. It further recommended that the project implementation should be integrated into or coordinated with existing national forest inventory and monitoring initiatives with the intention to avoid conflicting results, and that FRA National Correspondents review results. FAO should request information on deforestation and afforestation/expansion of forests directly from those countries that already have this information or where it is available in reports to other international organizations and where this may be preferred as an alternative to implementing the project over these territories.

### **Report from the Ad-hoc working group on Trees Outside Forest**

Christine Holding, ICRAF, presented the findings from the Ad-hoc working group on Trees Outside Forest (TOF). The working group proposed that a thematic report on TOF should be part of FRA 2010. Such a report should have a tropical focus, and could be facilitated by forming a task force with regional representation, FAO and ICRAF. The working group also provided a proposal on the process of making the thematic report and some of the variables that should be included.

### **Synthesis assessment**

Rodney Keenan, Australia, presented some concepts and general considerations for a synthesis assessment on progress towards sustainable forest management. He also presented the specific “traffic-light” approach used in the FRA 2005 report which is the first attempt to synthesize global and regional trend data into a visual description of progress towards SFM, an initiative that has been well received by the user community. He concluded with some recommendations and issues that need to be addressed in future assessments

## **Next steps – a roadmap to FRA 2010**

Lars Gunnar Marklund (FAO) presented a tentative time schedule for the FRA 2010 reporting process, bearing in mind that the results of FRA 2010 should be available during 2010 as input to several important international events, such as the CBD review of the 2010 biodiversity target. He also presented some ideas on FRA reporting / updating that could be considered after FRA 2010.

## **Presentation and adoption of draft final report**

Mette Loyche Wilkie (FAO) presented the draft final report for consideration and adoption by the meeting. The meeting found the report comprehensive and well written and suggested only some minor editorial changes. In order to assure that no important aspects were missing, the meeting requested that comments on the final report could be submitted to FAO until June 30.

## **Closing session**

Closing remarks were given by Risto Seppälä (Metla), Peter Holmgren (FAO) and Kit Prins (UNECE). They thanked all the participants and collaborators for their active participation and valuable contributions to this important meeting.

The chairman closed the meeting at 13:35.

**Annex 4**

**EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT  
TOWARD FRA 2010  
Kotka, Finland 12-16 June 2006**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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The following background documents were prepared as input to the Expert Consultation:

- Forest area and forest area change
- Forest characteristics
- Forest designation, management and use
- Growing stock, biomass and carbon
- Remote sensing assessment
- Remote sensing assessment (executive summary)
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Forest health and vitality
- Productive functions
- Protective functions
- Socio-economic functions
- Legal, policy and institutional framework
- Ownership