IUCN Statement to launch of FRA 2010

IUCN welcomes this important and ambitious undertaking.

FRA 2010 will provide forest and other land-use practitioners and policy makers at the national and international levels with invaluable information on the distribution and extent of forests and on changes in forest area over time at regional, biome and global levels.

We particularly welcome the extent to which countries have been involved in the design and carrying out of the FRA programme.

The network of national correspondents, which is being brought together in support of this initiative, will if maintained and strengthened carry benefits beyond the FRA programme itself.

IUCN also appreciates the efforts of the FRA programme to take account of and contribute to the harmonization of reporting on forests with other organizations, work on which the FAO has demonstrated leadership within a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Also welcome is the attention being given to making the FRA as relevant and useful as possible to important forest policy arenas such as the CBD and the UNFF.

IUCN looks forward to ongoing collaboration with the FAO and wishes the FAO and its many partners great success with this endeavour.

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