



EXPERT CONSULTATION

National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA): Meeting Evolving Needs

Rome November 26-28, 2008

Guidelines to Working Groups



Introduction of Sessions and Working Groups

During the three days of the Expert Consultation (EC) “National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA): Meeting Evolving Needs”, the work will be carried out in Plenary sessions with selected presentations and discussions, and in Working Groups (WGs). The Plenary sessions will provide an introduction of the main objectives of the expert consultation and presentations on the key themes to be discussed in the Working Groups. The program of the EC includes three Technical Sessions and three Working Groups.

Technical Sessions:

- Technical Session 1: **Information Needs**
- Technical Session 2: **Methodology**
- Technical Session 3: **Information packaging and partnerships**

Working Groups:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ WG 1: National level | Location: German Room C229 |
| ▪ WG 2: REDD Context | Location: TC meeting Room D642 |
| ▪ WG 3: International Level | Location: NR Meeting Room B503 |

This document provides an outline of the core topics that will be addressed during the Working Groups. As an invited expert, for each session, feel free to join the WG that best suits you: the one that is most interesting to you and, most importantly, the one in which you will be able to give the most contribution based on your knowledge and experience. However, in order to have a balance among Working Groups, FAO may propose that some experts move to a different WG if needed.

Please note that the WG’s Chairs and Rapporteurs indicated are provisional.

The NFMA team is available to clarify any aspect and assist you at anytime. We hope the EC will be an enjoyable and fruitful experience for all of you.

Session 1 – WG 1: Information Needs – National Level

Wednesday 26 November 15:00 – 16:45

Room: German Room C229

Chair: A. Masinja

Rapporteur: T. Tokola

NFMA team: B. Tavani, M.Otsuka

Topics

1. What are the uses and who are the users of information at national level?
2. What are the information requirements at the national level? Consider aspects such as:
 - Sectoral and cross-sectoral issues;
 - Scale (national, sub-national, etc..) ;
 - Periodicity (how often inventories should be carried out);
 - NEW requirements (emerging needs);
 - Prioritised needs.
3. Does NFMA meet emerging and priority needs?
4. What needs to be improved in the scope of NFMA to adequately respond to present and emerging national information needs?
 - What additional information should be considered?
 - Which are the priorities that NFMA should address?
 - Is there any information/data that is not needed or that is better captured through other national surveys?
 - How would these growing needs affect sampling intensity?
 - Are there existing national inventories that can dovetail with NFMAs or vice versa?
 - What are the limitations of NFMA that should be acknowledged?
5. How to deal with harmonization of information?
 - Within and among countries? At regional or sub-regional level?
 - In time-series?
 - Across organizations/sectors?
 - With existing national classification schemes and information systems?
 - In view of national reporting to international processes and forums
6. Any other relevant issue...

Session 1 – WG 2: Information Needs – REDD Context

Wednesday 26 November 15:00 – 16:45

Room: TC meeting Room D642

Chair: B.Smith

Rapporteur: D.Pandey

NFMA team: A. Branthomme, H.K. Kim

Topics

1. What are the (potential) uses and who are the users of information on REDD?
2. What are the current perspectives and needs for monitoring REDD?
3. Uses and users of information?
4. What are the information requirements for monitoring REDD? Consider issues such as:
 - Scope (biophysical, socio-economic, forest, TOF, deforestation, degradation)
 - Scale (National, sub-national, etc..)
 - Level of detail
 - Level of precision (sampling error and intensity)
 - Periodicity (how often should inventories be carried out)
 - Prioritised needs
 - Cost trade-offs of the above issues
5. Does the scope of NFMA data and information meet REDD requirements? What should be included / improved / modified?
6. What needs to be improved in the scope of NFMA to adequately collect data to respond to emerging information needs on REDD?
 - a. What additional information should be considered?
 - b. Which are the priorities that NFMA should address?
 - c. Is there any information/data that is not needed or that is better captured through other surveys?
 - d. How would new information needs on REDD affect sampling intensity?
 - e. What are the limitations of NFMA that should be acknowledged?
7. What are the tools/mechanisms that will be needed to monitor REDD?
8. How to deal with harmonization of information?
 - a. Within and among countries? At regional or sub-regional level?
 - b. In time-series?
 - c. Across organizations/sectors?
 - d. With existing national classification schemes and information systems?
 - e. In view of national reporting to international processes and forums
9. Any other relevant issue...

Session 1 – WG 3: Information Needs – International Level
Wednesday 26 November 15:00 – 16:45
Room: NR Meeting Room B503
Chair: M.Herold
Rapporteur: D. Mollicone
NFMA team: M. Piazza, D. Altrell

Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the uses and who are the users of information at international level? 2. What are the information requirements at the international level? Consider issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sectoral (and cross-sectoral issues) ○ Scale (national, sub-national, provincial, etc..) ○ Periodicity (how often inventories should be carried out) ○ NEW requirements (emerging needs) ○ Prioritised needs 3. Does NFMA meet emerging and priority needs of international processes and forums? 4. What needs to be improved in the scope of NFMA to adequately collect data to respond to present and emerging international information needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What additional information should be considered? ○ Which are the priorities that NFMA should address? ○ Is there any information/data that is not needed or that is better captured through other surveys? ○ How would growing needs affect sampling intensity? ○ What are the limitations that should be acknowledged? 5. How to deal with harmonization of information? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Across countries & regions? At regional or sub-regional level? ○ In time-series? ○ Across organizations and sectors? 6. Any other relevant issue...

Session 2 – WG 1: Methodology – National Level

Thursday 27 November 10:20 – 12:30

Room: German Room C229

Chair: G. Reams

Rapporteur: M. Nilsson

NFMA team: D.Altrell, C.Ramirez

Topics

Considering NFMA's objectives of long term monitoring of key indicators such as land uses area, land use area change, total wood and timber volume, biomass and carbon stock, socio economic variables, etc:

1. Is the current methodology appropriate for responding to national information needs identified in the Session 1 (WG1)? What are the strengths, and what are the weaknesses?
2. What are methodological concerns at the national level?
3. How to improve NFMA field methodology to better meet national information requirements?
 - Sampling design/intensity
 - Sampling periodicity
 - Variables collected
 - Socio-economic (household) survey and data collection tools and methods
 - Biophysical data collection tools and methods
4. How to improve NFMA remote sensing methodology and use to better meet national information requirements?
 - Sampling and/or wall-to-wall
 - State/change analysis
 - Data source (images type, resolution...)
 - Interpretation methods and tools (software)
5. How can Remote Sensing and field sampling best complement each other for long term monitoring?
6. How to ensure capacity building at the national level for long term planning and implementation of NFMAs?
7. What is the optimal cost of NFMAs that contribute to sustainability of NFMA process in countries? How to determine optimal balance between cost and information scope and quality
8. Considering the present funding opportunities for NFMAs, what periodicity of data collection is suitable in forestry monitoring? What are the methodological implications in scope and quality of information collected?
9. How to improve the efficiency of field data collection and ensure quality control (incentives for field crews, increased field crew size)?
10. Any other relevant issue...

Session 2 – WG 2: Methodology – REDD Context

Thursday 27 November 10:20 – 12:30

Room: TC meeting Room D642

Chair: N. Srivastava

Rapporteur: A.Baccini

NFMA team: M.Leppanen, B.Tavani

Topics

1. Is the current methodology appropriate for responding to REDD information needs identified in the Session 1 (WG2)?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses/limitations of the NFMA methodology in relation to monitoring REDD?
3. What are the methodological concerns for REDD monitoring?
4. How to improve NFMA field methods to better meet international and national information requirements on REDD?
 - Sampling design/intensity
 - Sampling periodicity
 - Variables collected
 - Socio-economic information
 - Tools and field methods
5. How to improve NFMA remote sensing methods to better meet international and national information requirements?
 - sampling vs. wall-to-wall
 - images type, sources
 - interpretation methods
 - software
6. What are the optimal levels of accuracy, precision, sampling intensity for data collection?
7. How can Remote Sensing and field sampling best complement each other for REDD monitoring?
8. How to ensure capacity building at national level for long term planning and implementation of NFMAs for REDD monitoring?
9. What is the optimal cost of NFMAs that contribute to sustainability of NFMA process in countries? How to determine optimal balance between cost and information scope and quality?
10. Considering the present funding opportunities for NFMAs, what periodicity of data collection is suitable in forestry monitoring? What are methodological implications in scope and quality of information collected?
11. Any other relevant issue...

Session 2 – WG 3: Methodology – International Level

Thursday 27 November 10:20 – 12:30

Room: NR Meeting Room B503

Chair: C. Kleinn

Rapporteur: S. Johnson

NFMA team: A. Branthomme, M.Otsuka

Topics

1. Is the current methodology appropriate for responding to international information needs identified in the Session 1 (WG3)?
2. What are the strengths, and what are the weaknesses/limitations of the NFMA methodology? Is the current methodology competitive at the global level?
3. What are the methodological concerns at the international level?
4. How to improve NFMA field methods to better meet international information requirements?
 - Sampling design/intensity
 - Sampling periodicity
 - Variables collected
 - Socio-economic information
 - Tools and field methods
5. How to improve NFMA remote sensing methods to better meet international information requirements?
 - sampling vs. wall-to-wall
 - images type, source
 - interpretation methods
 - software
6. How can Remote Sensing and field sampling best complement each other for long term monitoring?
7. How to ensure capacity building at national level for long term planning and implementation of NFMAs for international reporting?
8. What is the optimal cost of NFMAs that contribute to sustainability of NFMA process in countries? How to determine optimal balance between cost and information scope and quality
9. Considering the present funding opportunities for NFMAs, what periodicity of data collection is suitable in forestry monitoring? What are methodological implications in scope and quality of information collected?
10. What methodological synergies can be made with other international mandates/reporting requirements?
11. Any other relevant issue...

Session 3 – WG 1: Information packaging and partnerships – National Level
Thursday 27 November 14:00 – 15:40
Room: German Room C229
Chair: A.Tveteraas
Rapporteur: C. Kleinn
NFMA team: A.Branthomme, C.Ramirez

Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should data be packaged and disseminated to be most effective, reach those who want to use it in the country and provide statistical basis for national policy making? Also consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Format for different users/sectors ○ Dissemination means ○ Data ownership and sharing ○ Data storage 2. How can the NFMA approach (from data collection to analysis and utilisation) be developed to be more user-friendly and applicable for various users at national level? 3. How can NFMA data and knowledge reference (KR) material be developed and disseminated effectively to different audiences at National Level? 4. What are examples of Success Stories of data packaging and dissemination at national level? 5. FAO can collaborate with other partners and donors to improve national information of forestry resources and their change. What recommendation on partnerships building and how to improve networking with organisations, donors and others? 6. Any other relevant issue...

Session 3 – WG 2: Information packaging and partnerships – REDD Context
Thursday 27 November 14:00 – 15:40
Room: TC meeting Room D642
Chair: M. Sandewall
Rapporteur: C. Sanquetta
NFMA team: M.Leppanen, M.Piazza

Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to successfully establish linkages and partnerships with other initiatives for joint efforts on monitoring REDD? What are the existing opportunities? 2. How should data be packaged and disseminated, to be most effective, and play a role in REDD monitoring? Also consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Format for different users/sectors ○ Dissemination means ○ Data ownership ○ Data storage 3. How can the NFMA approach (from data collection to analysis and utilisation) be developed to be more user-friendly and play a role within the efforts of REDD monitoring? 4. How can NFMA data and knowledge reference (KR) material be developed and disseminated effectively to different audiences for REDD monitoring? 5. FAO can collaborate with other partners and donors to improve national information of forestry resources and their change. How the WG recommend building partnerships and improve networking with organisations, donors and others? 6. Any other relevant issue...

Session 3 – WG 3: Information packaging and partnerships – International Level	
Thursday 27 November 14:00 – 15:40	
Room: NR Meeting Room B503	
Chair: N. Laporte	
Rapporteur: G. Reams	
NFMA team: B.Tavani, D.Altrell	

Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should data be packaged and disseminated, to be most effective, reach those who want use at International levels (processes conventions)? Also consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Format for different users ○ Dissemination means ○ Data ownership ○ Data storage 2. How can the NFMA approach (from data collection to analysis and utilisation) be developed to be more user-friendly and applicable for various users at international level? 3. How can NFMA data and knowledge reference (KR) material be developed and disseminated effectively to different audiences at international Level? 4. What are examples of Success Stories of data packaging and dissemination at international level? 5. FAO can collaborate with other partners and donors to improve national information of forestry resources and their change. How the WG recommend building partnerships and improve networking with organisations, donors and others? 6. Any other relevant issue...