

# Forest Monitoring in Support of Climate Change Action

**FORESTS:  
A GREEN PATHWAY  
FOR HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT**



**COFO 21**  
WORLD FOREST WEEK



# Why is forest monitoring important for climate change?

- It provides tracking of carbon stock change which is useful for:
  - Informing government GHG emissions mitigation actions
  - Providing key data for National Communications, REDD+ and other schemes
  - Preparing for adaptation actions
  - Forest management planning – making best use of forest resources

# Existing knowledge on forests and their benefits is inadequate



***45 countries  
with NFI***

***84 countries  
only by RS***

***22 countries  
with repeated  
NFIs***

**Data status on forests (FRA 2010)**



# FAO's support to national forest monitoring & assessment since 2000



# Key issues

- Cost
- Changing reporting requirements
- Competing monitoring methods
- Opportunities to enhance existing forest inventories for carbon assessment
- Need for multipurpose inventories
- Limited national capacity for forest monitoring



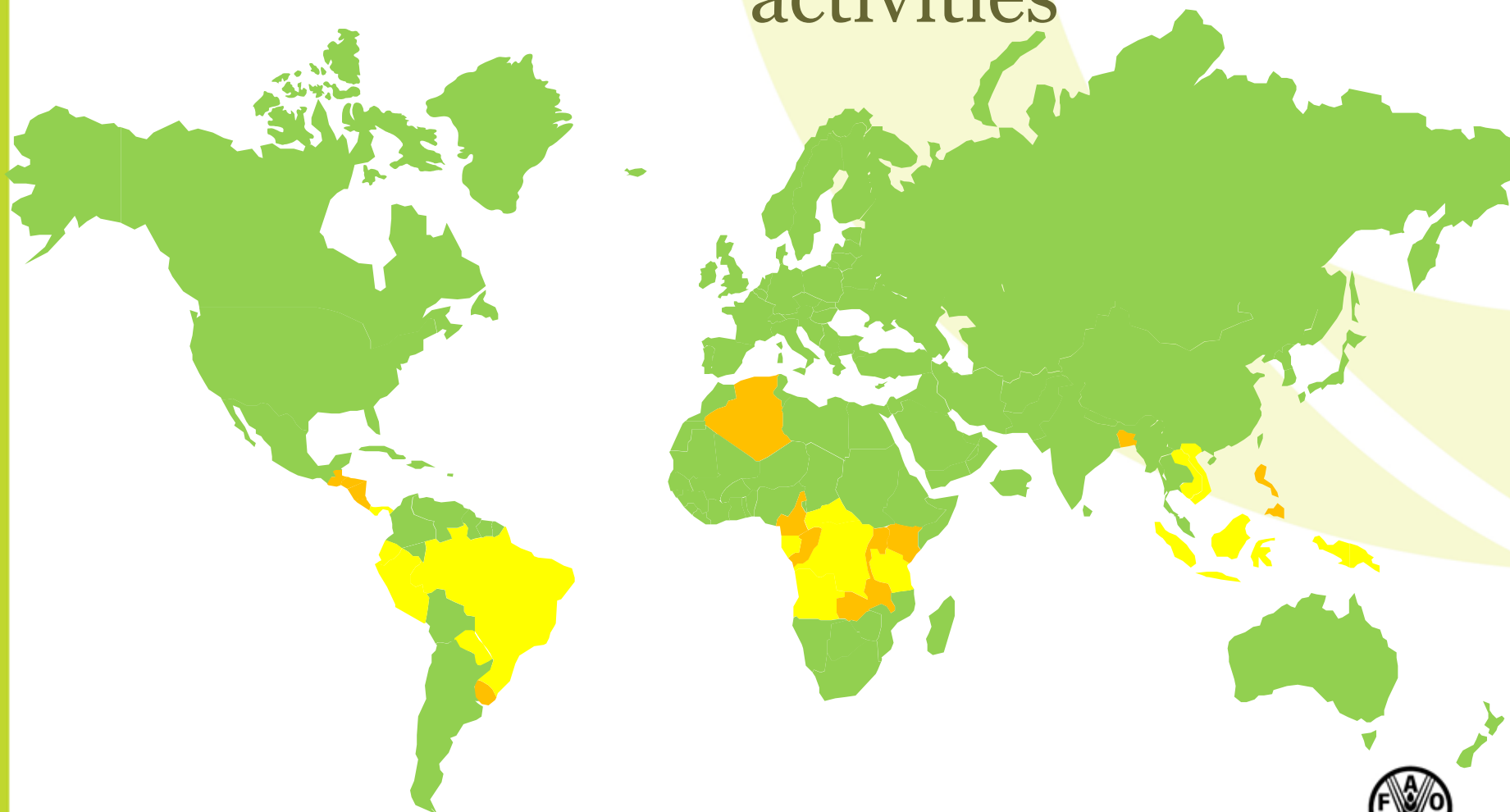
# What kind of climate change -related forest monitoring does FAO support?

Category	Main attributes
Forest inventory	Foundation for most other forms of GHG assessment
Forest assessment	Interpreting inventory and other data to inform decision making
Forest monitoring	Detecting forest change over time
National forest monitoring systems	A functioning system used to ensure effective, repeated monitoring

# Types of activities offered

- Manuals & Guidelines
- Consultation on inventory design
- Remote sensing support
- Databases / Web Dissemination
- Country capacity development
- Networking/information sharing

# FAO forest inventory, assessment and monitoring activities



Green = assessment

Orange = completed

Yellow = on-going





# Summary

- Forest monitoring is essential to climate change action
- Complexity in standards and methods can limit effective monitoring
- Cooperation on technical matters is crucial to widespread success

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*Thank you!*

