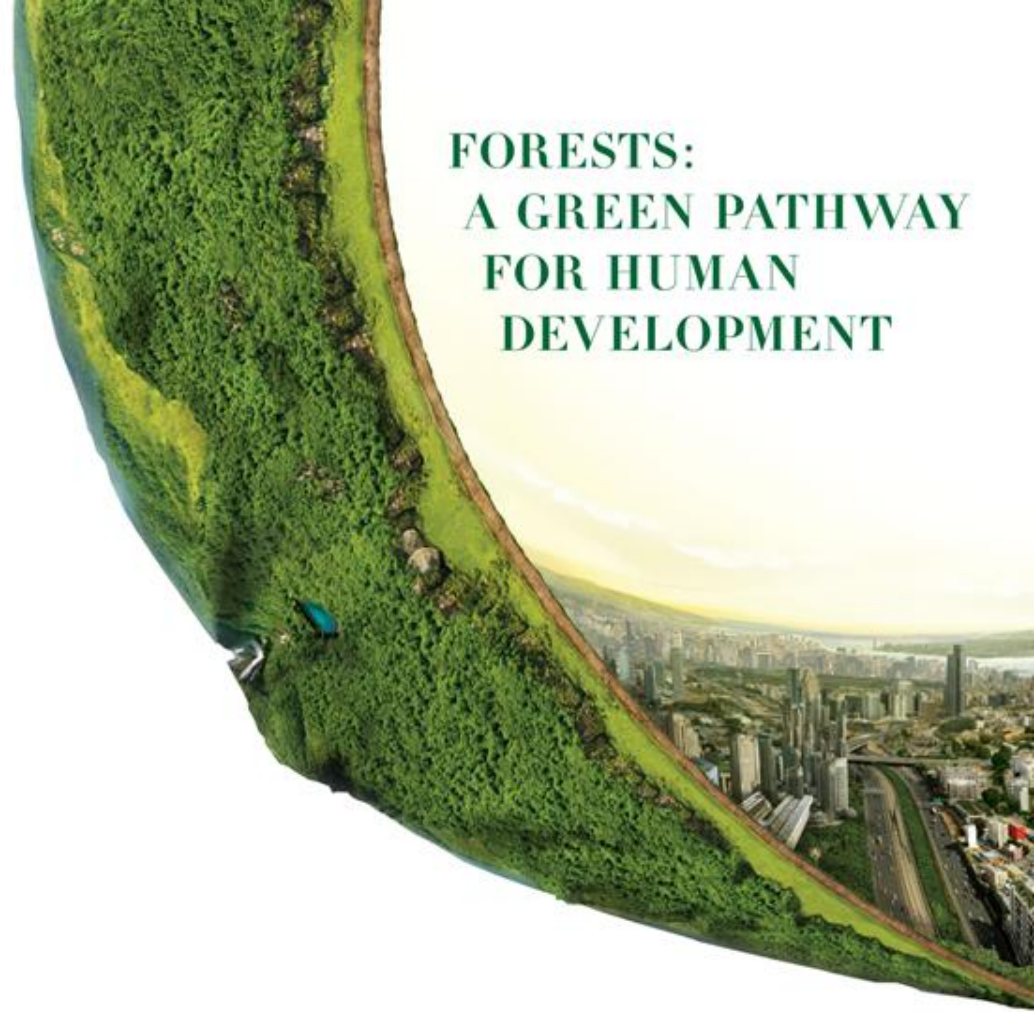


The Global Forest Resources Assessment: Toward FRA 2015

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



COFO 21
WORLD FOREST WEEK



Today's presentation

- Preparing for FRA 2015
- Reducing the reporting burden
- Harmonizing definitions through regional cooperation
- Partnerships and cross-cutting issues

Preparing for FRA 2015

Kenneth MacDicken
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Forestry



Key challenges

- Data quality/reliability
- Increasing reporting burden
- Need to understand and better address user needs
- Continuous improvement

Expert Consultation recommendations

- Increasing data quality is of high importance
- Indication of data quality should be included
- Find ways to help countries integrate remote sensing with country reporting
- Improve protective function reporting
- Proceed with collaboration among forest data providers

What did FRA users say?

- Prominent use is research and teaching
- Most important topics:
 1. Extent of forest resources
 2. Productive functions of forests
 3. Biological diversity
- Greater emphasis needed on:
 1. Progress toward SFM
 2. Planted and natural forest
 3. Assessing future forest change

Strategic elements included in FRA 2015 design

- Understanding and addressing user needs
- Data quality
- Reporting burden
- Anticipating future forest change
- Partnership building
- Incorporation of remote sensing as core activity

Examples of specific approaches to FRA 2015

- Help countries increase the use of remote sensing into country reporting
- Streamline reporting templates
- Enhance capacity building
- Work with regional data collection partners on the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)

Reducing the reporting burden

Paul Lane
Principle Advisor
Ministry for Primary Industries
New Zealand



Reducing reporting burden

Three strategies:

1. Prioritising variables to focus effort
2. Streamlining country reporting
3. Initiating joint data collection and analysis with international partners

1. Focussing effort

- Variables have been prioritised
- Effort will be directed on most important variables
- Variables must be practical to collect
- Alternative information sources investigated
- Assessment of progress towards SFM is a high priority for 2015 FRA

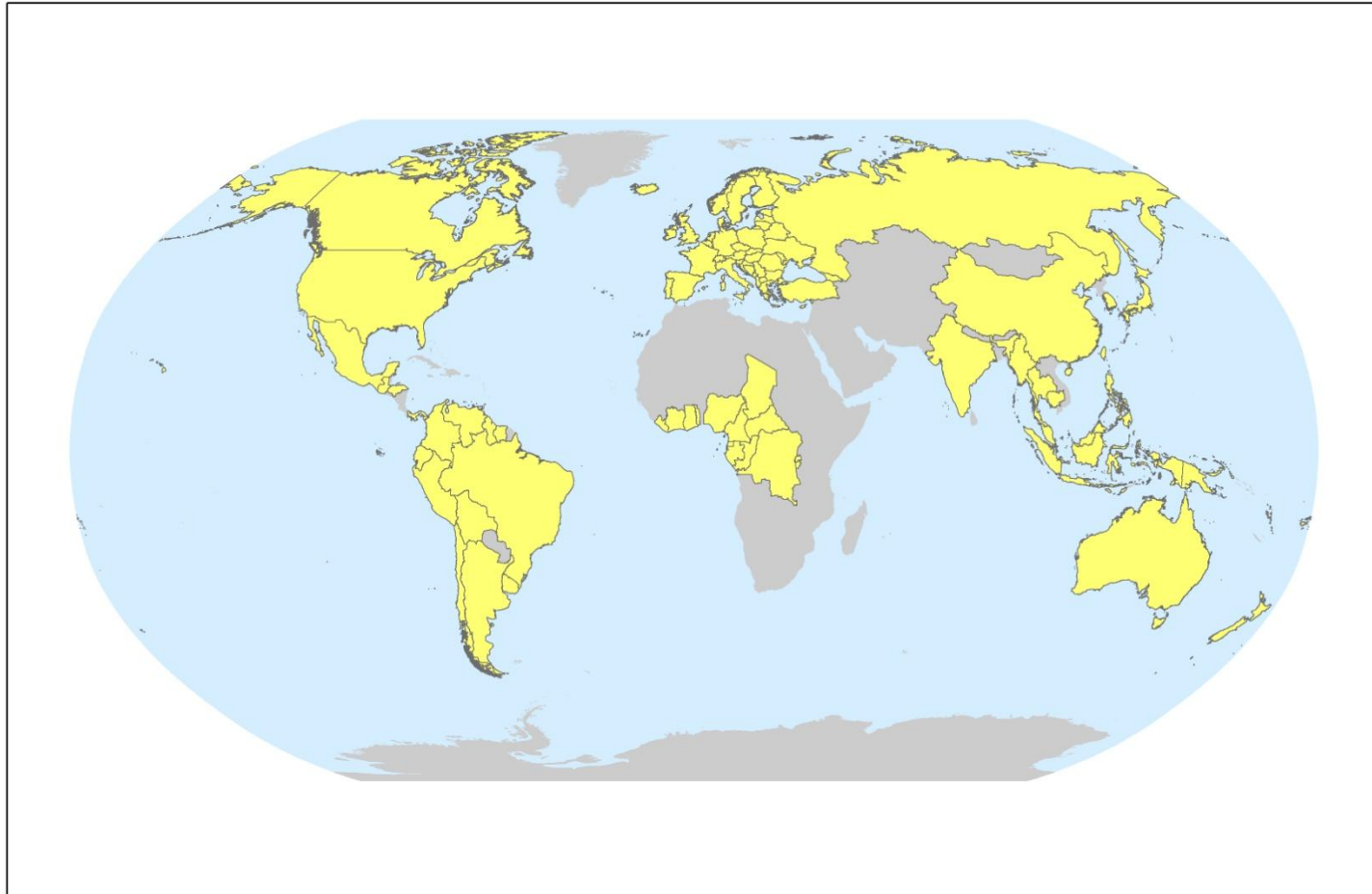
2. Streamlining country reporting

- Definitions reviewed
- Country reporting specifications simplified
- Questionnaire structure improved
- Using the 2010 country reports as a starting point
- Half the data required will be pre-filled from 2010 FRA
- Where available data will be drawn from existing global databases and remote sensing

3. Joint data collection

- A new ‘Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaire’ (CFQR) will be used:
 - for 36 of 66 main variables covered by the FRA
 - by 94 countries
- The CFRQ will contain a set of shared variables from the FRA – and will be augmented by additional variables from the FRA, FOREST EUROPE/UNECE, ITTO, OFAC and MP

Countries covered by the CFRQ



94 countries, 87% of global forest area

Joint data collection - Continued

- Benefits:
 - Reduced country reporting
 - Greater sense of ownership amongst partners
 - Reduced analytical effort
 - Expected to lead to more reliable information
 - Improved harmonisation of definitions and data over time
- Start of a process to increase collaboration in forest reporting

Harmonizing through regional cooperation

Elena Estrada Wilke

Policy Adviser

FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit
Madrid



Harmonizing definitions

1. Harmonizing definitions and collaboration between FRA and FOREST EUROPE – results:
 - a. A shared network of national correspondents in some 46 Countries
 - b. Commonly shared definitions for many variables
 - c. Shared burden in data collection and analysis

Harmonizing definitions

1. Harmonizing definitions (cont.):
 - d. Strong technical exchange
 - e. A good basis for expansion of joint data collection through the CFRQ
2. Regional complementary data collection adds detail to CFRQ partners and FRA

Harmonizing definitions

3. *FE Ministers decided to Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting*

Stressing the importance of adequate, accessible and evidence-based forest information at all levels of policy making, and for informing the broader public, FOREST EUROPE will further improve the basis for forest monitoring and harmonised reporting systems to serve emerging needs, including for verification of legality and sustainability

Harmonizing definitions

4. Technical exchange and collaboration improve both FOREST EUROPE and FRA data analysis and reporting

Partnerships and cross-cutting issues

Ichiro Nagame
Senior Advisor
Forestry Agency
Japan



Partnership and Cross-cutting Issues

Partnership:

a. Existing partnership

FAO, UNECE, ITTO, FE and

OFAC (Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale)

b. New partnership

MP (Montréal Process) since October 2011

Partnership and Cross-cutting Issues

Synergy between FAO and the CFRQ partners:

a. Introduction of the CFRQ

- CFRQ implication beyond FRA process
Success of CFRQ approach should be shared with Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting

Partnership and Cross-cutting Issues

Excellent synergies created between FRA and CFRQ partners:

a. Extensive consultation since June 2011

High level of positive spirit and momentum maintained among FRA and CFRQ partners

b. Active involvement of FRA AG membership

- Capable technical resource
- Positive interaction between FRA Secretariat, Advisory Group and CFRQ partners

Summary

- FRA 2015 will be the first step in implementing the new FRA Long-Term Strategy
- Past experience built into new efforts to enhance capacity, improve data quality and reduce reporting burden for 2015
- CFRQ is an important step forward in reducing reporting burden and improving data consistency

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