

Side event on Thursday, 26 June 2014

8:45 – 9:45 a.m., India Room (A 327)

A new FAO Pilot Project

Global Forest Survey

*creating a global network of permanent sampling plots to
improve, share knowledge and data on forests*

Agenda

- *Introduction*
- *Brief presentation on the GFS pilot activities*
- *Consultation and discussion*

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Pilot Project on the Global Forest Survey (GFS)

Why this pilot project?

Collection of field data is the most important activity to undertake in order to understand the forest status and to assess forest resources. Although field data are widely collected (but with large gaps in developing countries), the data are generally not shared. As a result, today we know the extension of forests (thanks to the use of satellite data), but we have very limited knowledge of forest health and forest characteristics.

What is the focus of the GFS pilot project?

GFS will be coordinated by FAO's Forestry Department and will establish a larger cooperation amongst technical and research organisations to collect forest inventory data through a network of field plots all around the world.

The project has three outcomes:

Outcome 1: A pilot of a global network of permanent sample plots established

Outcome 2: Improved estimates of GHGs emissions and removals factors

Outcome 3: Promoted open data policies for all the forestry field data

How can the GFS make a difference?

GFS direct support for data collection will be provided to developing countries and in the pilot phase field measurements will be realized in 18 countries. All the data collected in the context of GFS will be freely available, accessible and downloadable through a web-based GIS-enabled portal that will also provide open source tools for data analysis. GFS will promote the worldwide use of open data policies as a factor to improve our current knowledge and understanding of forests and biodiversity resources and the effects of climate change.

