



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

Report of the Sub-regional workshop of South and Central Asia

Dehradun, India, 24-27 July 2018

With the technical support of



With the financial support of





Background

FAO is conducting a series of regional and sub-regional workshops as part of the preparatory work for the country reporting process to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020). The workshops respond to requests made by National Correspondents to increase FAO's support for capacity building in forest resources assessment.

Objectives of the workshop

The objective of the workshop was to provide National Correspondents with technical support for the finalization of the FRA 2020 Country Reports, due in October 2018. The workshop aimed also to provide an opportunity to assess the status of the compilation of the Country Reports and review data and information already entered in the Platform. This will ensure that data and information provided is as complete, consistent and transparent as possible and it will improve the quality and reliability of the FRA 2020 estimates.

Summary

The workshop was jointly organized by FAO and Forest Survey of India (FSI). The workshop was held at the premises of the FSI, from 24 to 27 July 2018. In total 25 people participated to the workshop, among which six National Correspondents from the region together with representatives from the FSI and FAO staff (list of participants in Annex 2).

Outcomes of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop were fully achieved. Main outcomes of the workshop are listed below:

- Technical assistance for the use of the on-line reporting and review platform and the compilation of the FRA 2020 country reports and the CFRQ variables was provided;
- Outstanding issues that National Correspondents faced in the compilation of the country reports and the CFRQ questionnaires were identified and addressed;
- A learning platform for National Correspondents to interact and share experience on forest related reporting was provided;
- Countries were informed about the FRA Remote Sensing Survey and FRA Geospatial tools.



Structure of the workshop

Tuesday 24 July

Mr Subhash Ashutosh, Director General, Forest Survey India, officially welcomed the participants and acknowledged FAO for the choice of FSI as partner in the organization of this important event.

Mr Örjan Jonsson, FAO Forestry Officer in his opening address, acknowledged FSI for the excellent collaboration and for hosting the event and thanked the National Correspondents for attending the workshop.

Mr Suresh Chandra Gairola, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, provided participants with opening remarks, highlighting the importance of assessing forest resources to achieve sustainable forest management.

Mr Sushant Sharma, Joint Director, Training and Forest Inventory, Forest Survey India, acknowledged the speakers and concluded the opening ceremony.

Mr Örjan Jonsson presented an overview of the FRA 2020 country reporting process, reminding participants about milestones of the process.

Ms Monica Garzuglia, Forestry Officer FAO, presented the program and objectives of the workshop.

Countries were then invited to make a brief presentation on the status of their country report, highlighting any problems and issues to be addressed during the workshop.

The country presentations were followed by a technical session – Work on FRA reporting using the on-line platform. During the technical session, key tables and data already inserted in the platform were reviewed in detail. Time was allocated for clarifications and discussions related to preparing the FRA 2020 country reports and the use of the on-line platform.

In the evening, a course Dinner and Cultural Programme hosted by FSI and FAO took place at the Hotel Indralok.

Wednesday 25 July

Mr Siddhanta Das, Director General Forest and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change joined the workshop for a special session.

Mr Subhash Ashutosh briefed the Director General of the outcome of the first day of the workshop, highlighting the importance of the contribution of India to FRA, and of FSI activities both for national and international reporting needs. Mr Subhash Ashutosh also acknowledged the Director General for his support to FSI and welcomed him to attend the sub-regional workshop.

Mr Örjan Jonsson briefed the Director General on the work of FRA and on the objectives of the Sub-regional workshop.



Mr Siddhanta Das addressed the participants, focusing on the importance of knowing about the forest resources for a sustainable management of these resources. In his speech, Mr Siddhanta Das reviewed the history of forestry in India and highlighted the fact that, from the late nineteenth centuries to our days, the way forests are defined has changed depending on the needs of the times and the forest went from being considered only as a resource of commercial timber to a wide diversity of services such as carbon sequestration.

Mr Sushant Sharma, Joint Director (TFI), concluded the special session, acknowledging the Director General.

The rest of the day was dedicated to the technical work on key tables and also included a visit to the remote sensing laboratories of FSI and a special visit to the Forest Resources Institute (FRI) and its museums.

Thursday 26 July

Field trip to Eco-park Dhanolti and Mussoorie.

Friday 27 July

Time was allocated for clarifications and discussions related to all the remaining reporting tables.

In the closing session, Mr Örjan Jonsson invited the participants to share their feedbacks on the workshop.

While acknowledging FAO for the training opportunity and FSI for hosting the event, the participants expressed their satisfaction toward the workshop and agreed on the fact that the workshop's objectives were fully achieved. They reported no serious obstacles to meet the reporting requirements and agreed to submit the final version of their reports in line with the established deadlines. More detailed feedback from the participants are provided in Annex 3.

Ms Meenakashi Joshi, Joint Director (NFDMC), acknowledged FAO for trusting FSI for the organization of the workshop, and acknowledged the participants for their hard work that made the achievement of the workshop objectives possible and for the enriching experience and the friendly atmosphere that they were able to establish. She concluded by acknowledging her team for the smooth organization of the event.

Mr Subhash Ashutosh acknowledged FAO for the choice of FSI as partner in the organization of the workshop. He also welcomed the event as an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences and as a starting point for the development of new ideas and collaborations with partner countries. Mr Subhash Ashutosh thanked his team for their excellent support in the organization of the workshop and formally closed the workshop.

Annex 1: Agenda

Monday 23 July 2018		<i>Arrival of participants</i>
Tuesday 24 July 2018		
09:00 – 09:30		<i>Registration of participants</i>
09:30 - 10:15	1. Opening of the workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome address - Mr Subhash Ashutosh, Director General, Forest Survey India ○ Opening speech - Mr Örjan Jonsson, Forestry Officer, FAO ○ Opening remarks - Mr Siddhanta Das, Director General, Forest and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ○ Vote of thanks - Mr Sushant Sharma, Joint Director, Training and Forest Inventory, Forest Survey India
10:15 - 10:30		<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>
10:30 - 10:40	2. FRA 2020: setting the scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The FRA 2020 country reporting process - Mr Örjan Jonsson, Forestry Officer, FAO
10:40 - 11:00	3. Organization of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshop objectives and logistical information - Ms Monica Garzuglia, Forestry Officer, FAO ○ Questions and clarifications
11:00 - 13:00	4. Country presentations:	National Correspondents will briefly present (max 10 min) the status of their country report, highlighting any problems encountered and issues to be addressed during the workshop
13:00 - 14:00		<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 - 15:30	5. Technical session - Work on FRA 2020 reporting using the on-line platform	
15:30 - 15:45		<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45 - 17:00	6. Work on FRA 2020 reporting using the on-line platform (continue)	
Wednesday 25 July 2018		
09:00 - 10:30	Work on FRA 2020 reporting using the on-line platform (continue)	
10:30 - 10:45		<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 - 13:00	Work on FRA 2020 reporting using the on-line platform (continue)	
13:00 - 14:00		<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 - 16:00	Work on FRA 2020 reporting using the on-line platform (continue)	
16:00 - 16:15		<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 - 16:30	7. FSI presentation and introduction to the field trip -	<i>Mr Prakash Lakhchaura, Deputy Director, Training and Forest Inventory, Forest Survey India</i>
19:00		<i>Dinner hosted by FAO</i>
Thursday 26 July 2018		
09:00 - 17:00		FIELD TRIP
Friday 27 July 2018		
09:00 - 10:45	8. Work on FRA 2020 reporting using the on-line platform (continue)	
10:45 - 11:00		<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 - 12:30	9. Summary of outcome and findings of the workshop and next steps	
	10. Closing of the workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshop evaluation
12:30 - 13:30		<i>Lunch and departure of participants</i>

Annex 2: List of participants

COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Mr MD Zaheer Iqbal

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Bangladesh Forest Department

BHUTAN

Mr Dorji Lobzang

Chief Forestry Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Forest
Forest Resources Development Division
Department of Forest and Park Services

INDIA

Mr Subhash Ashutosh

Director General
Ministry of Environment, Forests and
Climate Change
Forest Survey of India

INDIA

Mr Prakash Chandra Lakhchaura

Deputy Director
Ministry of Environment, Forests and
Climate Change
Forest Survey of India

NEPAL

Mr Deepak Kumar Kharal

Director General
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Department of Forest Research and Survey

SINGAPORE

Mr Hassan Ibrahim

Deputy Director
National Parks Board, National Biodiversity
Centre/Terrestrial

SRI LANKA

Mr K.T. Premakantha

Regional Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
Forest Management and Silviculture Division

FAO

Ms Monica Garzuglia

Forestry Officer
FAO, FRA
Rome, Italy

Mr Örjan Jonsson

Forestry Officer
FAO, FRA
Rome, Italy



CHIEF GUESTS

Shri Siddhanta Das	DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
Dr. S.C. Gairola	Director General, ICFRE
Dr. Subhash Ashutosh	Director General, FSI

Other Officers and Staff of FSI

Shri Rajesh Kumar	DDG (FI)
Shri Sushant Sharma	Joint Director (TFI)
Smt. Meenakshi Joshi	Joint Director (NFDMC)
Shri E. Vikram	Dy. Director (FCM-I)
Shri R. Arun Kumar	Dy. Director (FCM-II)
Dr. Sunil Chandra	Dy. Director (SM)
Shri A.K. Saxena	Asstt. Director (NFDMC)
Shri Sanjay Aggarwal	Asstt. Director (NFDMC)
Shri H.K. Tripathi	Consultant
Shri Sanjay Rawat	AD, I/c
Shri Devi Singh	AD, I/c
Smt. Neeta Goswami	STA
Dr. Madhu Bist	P.S
Shri Rajvanshi	Draughtsman

Annex 3: Workshop evaluation

According to the workshop evaluation all participants rated the workshop to be very good or good (figure 1)



All participants thought that the workshop objectives were achieved (figure 2)



Overall the organization and programme (figure 3) and Logistics (figure 4) were rated very good or good.



