

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry – written correspondence procedure

Item 8.1 Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Governing Bodies of Interest to the Committee

Secretariat response to written questions from the Committee

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on item 8.1 of the Agenda - *Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Governing Bodies of Interest to the Committee*. All comments are well noted.

1. *Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)*

A response on a request for *additional clarifications on the specifics of the SDG-relevant data under consideration for more frequent updates*.

FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) is responsible for collecting analyzing and reporting data on two forest –related SDG indicators: *15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area* and *15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management*. These indicators are derived from the data reported by countries and territories through the on-line FRA reporting Platform. In addition, external data supplied by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are used for a sub-indicator of 15.2.1.

More specifically, the data for these two indicators are collected through the following FRA reporting tables:

15.1.1 Forest area as proportion of total land area 2015

Forest area as proportion of total land area 2015 (table 1a)

15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management

Sub-indicator 1: Forest area annual net change rate (table 1a)

Sub-indicator 2: Above-ground biomass stock in forest (table 2c)

Sub-indicator 3: Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas (table 3b)

Sub-indicator 4: Proportion of forest area under long-term forest management plan (table 1a & 3b)

Sub-indicator 5: Forest area under independently verified forest management certification schemes (external data: FSC & PEFC)

Assuming that a country is updating all tables directly linked to the two SDG indicators then at least the **following tables** need to be reviewed and/or updated in order to maintain the internal consistency of the FRA database.

Title	Table
1 Forest extent, characteristics and change	<u>1a Extent of forest and other wooded land</u>
	<u>1b Forest characteristics</u>
	<u>1c Primary forest and special forest categories</u>
	<u>1d Annual forest expansion, deforestation and net change</u>
	1e Annual reforestation
	1f Other land with tree cover
2 Forest growing stock, biomass and carbon	<u>2a Growing stock</u>
	<u>2b Growing stock composition</u>
	<u>2c Biomass stock</u>
	<u>2d Carbon stock</u>
3 Forest designation and management objective	<u>3a Designated management objective</u>
	<u>3b Forest area within legally established protected areas and forest area with long-term forest management plan</u>
4 Forest ownership and management rights	<u>4a Forest ownership</u>
	<u>4b Management rights of public forests</u>
5 Forest disturbances	5a Disturbances
	5b Area affected by fire
	5c Degraded forest
6 Forest policy and legislation	6a Policies, legislation and national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy
	6b Area of permanent forest estate
7 Employment, education and non-	7a Employment in forestry and logging
	7b Graduation of students in forest-related education
	7c Non wood forest products removals 2015

An update may also affect other sections in the report, depending on what new data are available.

Finally, the updated reports will also have to undergo a full review/quality control and validation before they can be made publicly available.