



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT UPDATE 2005

PROCEEDINGS

REGIONAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL REPORTS FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES

23-26 NOVEMBER 2004
BANGKOK, THAILAND



The Forest Resources Assessment Programme

Forests are crucial for the well being of humanity. They provide foundations for life on earth through ecological functions, by regulating the climate and water resources and by serving as habitats for plants and animals. Forests also furnish a wide range of essential goods such as wood, food, fodder and medicines, in addition to opportunities for recreation, spiritual renewal and other services.

Today, forests are under pressure from increasing demands for land-based products and services, which frequently leads to the conversion or degradation of forests into unsustainable forms of land use. When forests are lost or severely degraded, their capacity to function as regulators of the environment is also lost, increasing flood and erosion hazards, reducing soil fertility and contributing to the loss of plant and animal life. As a result, the sustainable provision of goods and services from forests is jeopardized.

FAO, at the request of the member nations and the world community, regularly monitors the world's forests through the Forest Resources Assessment Programme. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA 2000) reviewed the forest situation by the end of the millennium. FRA 2000 included country-level information based on existing forest inventory data, regional investigations of land-cover change processes and a number of global studies focusing on the interaction between people and forests. The FRA 2000 Main report is published in print and is available on the World Wide Web.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment update 2005 (FRA 2005) has been requested by the FAO Committee on Forestry in 2003. The FRA 2005 will use common thematic areas of the Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management as a reporting framework. FRA 2005 will also focus on the specific conditions and issues in each country.

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Views of participants reported in this proceeding may be considered as their personal views. These may be same or different than official view of their country

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Regional Review and Training Workshop for Asian and Pacific Region

Bangkok, Thailand, 23-26 November 2004

1 Introduction and Background

The global forest resources assessments conducted by FAO report on the worldwide status and trends of forest resources, their management and uses. They are based mainly on nationally validated data from national forest inventories and assessments. The reports also include analytical assessments (trends and valuations) of goods, services and stock of forests. At the request of its member countries, FAO has been carrying out such global assessments since 1947, in collaboration with countries and other partners, notably the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

1.1 FRA 2000

The latest assessment, the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA 2000) constitutes the most comprehensive and accessible global reporting on forest resources to date. The main report, country profiles, global maps and a series of Working Papers are all available on the Web (www.fao.org/forestry/fra).

The main report of FRA 2000 concluded that there are still major gaps in information on forests and forestry and that basic parameters such as forest area and forest biomass cannot be accurately and reliably estimated for most countries, despite the considerable attention, that forestry has received internationally over the past decade. Indeed, demand for forest information has never been greater or more complex than now, with international fora requesting countries to report regularly on multiple functions of forests across social, economic and ecological dimensions, and civil society becoming increasingly concerned about the state and trends of forests stocks, goods and services.

1.2 FRA 2005

The next global FRA is scheduled for 2005 and is an update of FRA 2000. It will utilise the framework of the six common thematic areas among the nine regional Criteria and Indicator (C&I) processes for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). It plans to contribute to the discussions at various international fora especially in 2005 like COFO 2005, Millennium Development Goals of UN, and the fifth meeting of the United Nations of Forests (UNFF) to review progress made by countries towards SFM. A more comprehensive global assessment report will be published around 2010.

1.2.1 Objectives

In addition to collating and analysing new information on forests, their use and management, the global FRA contributes to the improvement of concepts, definitions and methods related to forest resources assessments. Efforts are made to harmonize and streamline reporting with other international forest-related processes within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as with the process of “harmonization of forest-related definitions”. The FRA process is expected to help in reducing the reporting burden on countries by providing globally

harmonised information required by regional and international processes and agreements. The main objectives of the global FRA 2005 are:

- to provide consistent, precise, accurate and high-quality information on the status and trends of forest resources worldwide, to facilitate improved policies related to forests and forest management;
- to help countries view their forest sector within regional and global environmental and socio-economic contexts;
- to provide some of the validated and harmonized data required for monitoring and assessment by international processes;
- to provide data that can be used in technical studies and in support of investment decisions and private-sector development;
- to present relevant information on forests to wider communities, including other sectors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public in general.

Future global FRAs are expected to maintain and publish validated and harmonized national, regional and global data for key parameters (a core set global variables) as well as for complementary thematic variables required to explain country-specific conditions. Most of the primary data is expected to come from member countries through an established network of officially nominated national correspondents. Some of the data sets may originate from complementary sources, such as independent remote-sensing surveys. The incorporation of national information into the global database will be undertaken collaboratively between countries and FAO, and will be transparent and well documented to ensure credibility and consistency.

1.2.2 Mandate

The global forest resources assessments receive their mandate from COFO and the FAO Council, technical guidance from expert consultations at Kotka, Finland (see e.g. www.fao.org/forestry/fra-Kotka4) and detailed specifications and advice from its advisory group (www.fao.org/forestry/fra-ag). In line with recommendations from these entities, FRA 2005 will be a broad and holistic assessment of forest resources (stocks, functions and benefits) and its overall conceptual framework will be defined by the common “Thematic Areas” of the nine regional processes on “Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)”.

The last international expert consultation (“Kotka IV”) held in July 2002, recommended enhancing the role of countries and institutionalising the system of national correspondents (NC) including improvement of their capacities. It also recommended to harmonise the set of FRA information with the set of information that is common to all the nine regional/international C&I processes, This recommendation was reinforced at the “International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: The Way Forward -(CICI-2003)” held in February 2003 in Guatemala.

Committee on Forestry (COFO) further endorsed these recommendations from both Kotka IV and CICI-2003, in March 2003, where countries formally asked FAO to develop a broadened update of FRA for 2005 along these lines. This endorsement from COFO 2003 included the establishment of an Advisory Group to the global FRA process. Its advice has strongly influenced the assessment process as well as the contents of FRA 2005. FRA 2005 has also benefited from the outcomes of the two meeting on harmonizing forest-related definitions organized by FAO and partners (CIFOR, IPCC, IUFRO, UNEP, and WMO). The implementation of these recommendation by the FRA process has led to development of four basic draft documents

(Guide Lines for Country Reporting, National Reporting Tables, Terms and Definition, and Specifications of Global Tables) for consideration by countries and experts.

2 Organization of Training Meetings

FAO organized a training of National Correspondents (NCs) in November 2003 at Rome to implement the directives given by COFO 2003 to reinforce and formalize the NC's network that constitutes the backbone of the global assessment as it directly engages leading professionals that represent their countries in the assessment work. The special focus of this meeting was to explain the rationale, format, content and process of information generation to NCs for country reporting to FRA 2005. Although more than 100 countries were represented at this meeting, some of the NCs could not participate and therefore needed similar exposure to get acquainted with the format, content, process of information generation, and finally reporting to FRA 2005. It was also felt necessary to bring these NCs at par with "other" NCs to enhance effectiveness of common communication across all participating countries and also to ensure timely submission of country reports to FRA 2005. Therefore, the ITTO and FAO jointly organised this regional meeting for those Asian NCs who could not attend November 2003 meeting in Rome. This meeting was held at ITTO office complex in Yokohama, Japan from May 26th to 28th, 2004. Similar training meetings were organized for other regions of the world either independently or in collaboration with other programmes.

3 Organization of Review Workshop

Regional review workshops are planned, as part of the FRA 2005 process, to assist national correspondents (NC) in a region, to review and finalize their draft country reports to FRA 2005 before formally submitting to FAO. The effectiveness of these workshop, as well as fulfilment of FAO's commitment to provide new information in 2005, will depend on the completeness and contents of the draft country reports presented by NCs in these workshops.

To enhance the success of such workshops, attempt is made to give pre-workshop inputs to the country reports by requesting the NCs to provide first drafts of their reports to FAO prior to the workshop. FAO expects that such process of intensive exchange of information among NC and FAO staff will build country capacities and improve quality timely submission of country reports to FRA 2005.

This four day long regional workshop for the NCs of the Asia and Pacific region was organised from 23rd to 26th November in FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, with financial support from Green Fund Japan through Ramsar Center Japan, Australian Government, AusAID and INBAR.

3.1 Objective of the Review Workshop

The main objectives of this workshop were the following:

- To see that *the format* the country reports matches the specified format for FRA 2005

- To ensure proper documenting of sources of the national data contained in each of the fifteen national reporting tables.
- To make sure that all the steps suggested in the guidelines have been implemented in each of the fifteen tables to provide harmonized national data for FRA 2005.
- To study the appropriateness of the methods, if different than suggested in FRA 2005 guidelines, for processing the national data to serve as input to FRA 2005.
- To check the internal consistency of the contents in the draft country reports among the fifteen tables of FRA 2005
- To check the consistency with respect to the past country reports to FRA 2000 and other international programmes and processes.
- To identify, major changes in the past report or trends and to understand reasons for such major changes, if any.
- To further improve the understanding of the NCs about the reporting requirement and specifications of FRA 2005
- To help and guide NCs to modify their country report, where necessary, to match it with FRA specifications, process and reporting.
- To assist NCs in development of future plan of action for submission of the final country report to FRA 2005.
- To familiarize NCs with various support services linked to FRA 2005

FAO took the following preparatory steps before the meeting to ensure the productive participation of NCs.

- a. Seeking official nominations of NCs for countries who could not participate in the November 2003 global meeting of NC to FRA.
- b. Sending all relevant background material to participants well in advance and requesting them to go through it and bring it to the meeting.
- c. Providing inputs to the NCs on their pre-workshop drafts of the country report sent to FRA 2005.

3.2. Structure of the Workshop

The following presents the broad structure of this four-day workshop (details in Agenda at Annex 1) that focussed on explaining country reporting for FRA 2005 to NCs.

- First Day
 - Opening session
 - Brief Introduction to FRA 2005
 - Brief Introduction to the 15 National Reporting Tables.
- Second Day
 - Detailed explanation and discussion on each of the 15 National Reporting Tables
 - Introduction to Thematic Reporting
 - Introduction to development of National Work Plans for country reporting

- Third Day
 - Development of National Work Plans
 - Review and recapitulation of three days achievements
 - Concluding remarks

3.4 Participation in the Workshop

Following 27 countries actively participated in the workshop along with 3 participants sponsored by INBAR. The two (AUSAID and INBAR) of the three donors (AUSAID, INBAR and Green Fund through RCJ) participated in all the sessions of the workshop. The Chief of the Ramsar Convention Japan attend the inaugural session. Annex 1 provide names and addresses of the all the participants and the resource persons.

4 Workshop Sessions

The workshop had the following four main sessions. The second set of session formed the core of the workshop that spread over first three days (details in Agenda at Annex 2).

- Inaugural session
- Review Sessions
- Bamboo Session
- Concluding Session

4.1 Inaugural Session

The workshop was inaugurated by the ADG , Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Region. He welcomed the participants, gave the opening speech and declared the workshop open. Mr. Patric Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, RAPO and Mr. Mathias Aru, Forestry Office SAPA, presented the overview of the forestry activities in the Asia and the Pacific region with special reference to their linkages with FRA 2005. Ms. Mette Løyche Wilkie, Senior Forestry Officer, Global Forest Resources Assessment, FAO, Rome enlightened the participants on holistic vision, picture and activities of the global FRA. Mr. Kashio , Forestry Resource Officer, RAPO informed the participants on the logistical arrangement for the workshop. The inaugural session closed with the presentation by Mr. Kailash Govil, Focal Point for Asia, FRA, FAO on the technical work plan of the workshop.

4.2 Review Sessions

The review sessions started in the afternoon and spread over to next two days. The first day afternoon focused on informing participants about the seven thematic studies (Ms. M. L. Wilkie). She informed the participants that FAO is planning to publish seven thematic studies that will complement the FRA 2005 main report. The themes for these studies have been selected as being themes of emerging interest that might be included in the FRA 2010 or themes where FAO already possesses a substantial amount of complementary information. The were requested to liaise with national experts and to validate country information. The thematic studies cover the following themes:

Theme	Contact persons
Planted forests	1. Jim Carle Jim.Carle@fao.org 2. Alberto Del Lungo Alberto.DelLungo@fao.org
Forest fires and forest fire management	1. Mike Jurvelius Mike.Jurvelius@fao.org 2. Petteri Vuorinen Petteri.Vuorinen@fao.org
Extent of mangroves	1. Mette Løyche Wilkie Mette.LoycheWilkie@fao.org 2. Serena Fortuna Serena.Fortuna@fao.org
Ownership of forests and trees	1. Dominique Reeb Dominique.Reeb@fao.org 2. Francesca Romano Francesca.Romano@fao.org
Forests and water	1. Thomas Hofer Thomas.Hofer@fao.org 2. Douglas McGuire Douglas.McGuire@fao.org
Forest pests	Gillian Allard Gillian.Allard@fao.org
Bamboo Resources	Maxim Lobovikov, INBAR mlobovikov@inbar.int

This was followed by a brief presentation by Mr. K. Govil on support to national forest assessments (Mr. K. Govil). The first day closed with a session on self-review of the country reports by respective National Correspondents.

The technical review of the contents in the country reports to FRA 2005 tables was done on the second and third day organizing the participants in three groups. The 19 Asian countries were grouped in two groups along with one Pacific country (New Zealand) who voluntarily joined the Asian group. The 6 Pacific countries participating in the workshop were organized in a single group.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Bhutan	Bangladesh	Australia
China	Cambodia	Fiji
India	Laos	PNG
Indonesia	Malaysia	Samoa
Japan	Mongolia	Solomon Islands
Korea	Myanmar	Vanuatu
Nepal	Pakistan	
New Zealand	Philippines	
Sri Lanka	Thailand	
Timor-Leste	Vietnam	

The technical deliberations very intensive and participative, The following provides main or common /issues raised during these deliberations.

Reporting Table	Concerns and Explanations
<p>General concerns</p>	<p>Concern</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For some countries the total country area and, in particular, the total land area differs from the figures provided by FAOSTAT and the UN Statistics Division. A number of countries were hesitant to calibrate their official land area to match the one provided by the UN. 2. For some countries, specially the Pacific countries, very limited forest related information is available for reporting to FRA 2005. 3. There is external similarity but intrinsic difference between the national reporting on biomass and carbon to FRA and to IPCC. Many countries were concerned that this will lead to differences in country reporting to FRA, UNFCCC and IPCC which may create misunderstandings and problems for them. 4. Necessary biomass expansion factors and conversion factors to report on biomass and carbon stocks are not available in most of the countries. It will lead to wide spread use of very broad range default factors of Good Practice Guidance of IPCC that may not provide realistic estimates for all the countries. 5. Estimations of trends are constrained by the lack of sufficient time series data with compatible definitions, classifications and methodologies. Trend analysis based on such estimates for the three reporting years for FRA 2005 may in some cases may actually be manifestation of the difference in methodologies than actual changes over time. <p>Explanations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FRA 2005 desires countries to use the UN statistics to report the land area and total area of their country. If these figures are different than in the national statistics of a country and the concerned NC feels that UN data is not accurate and feels uncomfortable in calibrating the country area then he may like to add a comment in the last section of Table 1 stating that the calibrated area figures are only for reporting to the FRA 2005 report and they do not match with the national statistics. However, in all such cases, where the country feels that the UN data is inaccurate, the country should initiate official correspondence with the United Nations Statistical Division to get it reconciled or corrected. 2. There is no alternative than to collect necessary forest related information for development of better policy, planning, management and reporting on national forest resources. The countries may look to “Support to National Forest Assessments” a component of FRA programme either individually or collectively at the regional or sub-regional level. 3. (A) FRA 2005 recognizes and appreciates the problem of differences in reporting to FRA and UNFCCC. For this purpose, the main report of FRA 2005 plans to highlight the differences in reporting on biomass and carbon stocks to FRA and UNFCCC. The countries at their level, may like to mention the differences in their reporting to FRA and UNFCCC and the reasons for such differences in the last section (comments) of Table 7. 4. The countries are advised to use national “expansion” and “conversion factors”, wherever available in lieu of IPCC default factors. The countries are encouraged to share information among them to improve their reporting and also to consult with their national colleagues dealing with reporting to UNFCCC etc. Further the countries are encouraged to take the opportunity to conduct new studies on development of the nation and or sub-national “expansion factors” (volume and biomass), and “conversion factors”

	<p>(Above ground to below ground biomass, Above ground to Deadwood biomass, biomass to carbon etc.), to get more realistic and reliable figures compared with the “rough” estimates derived through global default GPG (IPCC, 2003) factors. This is important because, there is no simple methodology to convert reporting to FRA 2005 into (or vice versa) UNFCCC on Biomass and Carbon Stocks.</p> <p>5. Whenever it is possible, the countries should revise or update their forest related information with part or complete new information. If it is not possible to update the old data, and the countries feel that current data sets indicates unrealistic trend then they mention this in the last section of the table and try explain why the apparent rate of change is not realistic.</p>
<p>T1</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For some countries in the region, the national forest assessments only focus on the areas formally and or legally designated as forest land and/ or forests under public ownership/ management and may thus underestimate the total forest area. Further, in some countries, “Other wooded land” and “Other Land with trees” are not taken into account in forest inventories or considered in their statistics on Forest and tree areas. For many countries, the data are not available separately for Forest and Other wooded land, making it difficult to report on these two under two separate classes. 2. Some countries were feeling uncomfortable to handle situations where the national thresholds for defining “Forests” are different than that of FRA 2005. For example in case of Australia the national classification of Forest is using the thresholds of 20% crown coverage, trees able to reach higher than 2 meters and also no restriction on area. 3. The figures of “Extent of forests” in Table 1 of FRA 2005 in all the draft country reports provided by countries, attending the workshop are different then reported in FRA 2000. 4. Many countries are reporting trend in “Extent of Forest” different than in FRA 2000. Most countries in Asia have new data on forest cover, often leading to a decrease in the estimated deforestation rate or even increase in forest areas as compared to what was reported for FRA 2000. The difference in definitions, methodologies, resolutions, classifications, and objectives over time and space are making it difficult to develop and compare trends. Further, the quality of the time series data is not good because in most of the countries, the updating of information on forest cover is not taking place at some regular time interval. 5. Some countries, who do not consider rubber plantations as forests were concerned to include its area with the area of forests. Some of these countries, for which the area of “rubber” plantations was included in “Forest” in FRA 2000, are hesitant to include it now in FRA 2005. 6. Some countries were concerned about inclusion or exclusion of area under coconut and oil-palms under “Forests” and “OWL”. <p>Explanations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The countries should very clearly mention in their country report to FRA 2005, which areas are included and which areas are excluded for the purposes of reporting “Extent” of “Forests” or “Other Wooded lands (OWL)” in Table 1. 2. Normally, the country should, wherever possible, try to adjust or group national categories to match with global (FRA 2005) categories. If such adjustment or grouping is not possible then this fact should be very clearly documented in the comments to the table.

	<p>If the differences in definitions are very significant and it is difficult for a country to adjust or group the national categories then the country should document this and provide the best possible information in Table 1, for example, like the expert estimates with necessary detailed comments and explanations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The FRA 2005 accepts information for 1990 and 2000 that is different than in FRA 2000 as long as the country report provides an explanation or reason for the difference. 4. A country report with a trend (FRA 2005) different than FRA 2000 is acceptable as long as the country report provides an explanation or reason for the difference. 5. FRA 2005 desires countries to provide information on rubber plantations even if these are not regarded as forests in the national classification. If any country does not wish to include the area of rubber wood plantations in the area of “forests” to maintain consistency in its national data then it should clearly mention this fact in the comments to the table. <p>FRA 2005 does not consider the “Coconut” and “Oil palms” trees as forest tree species. Therefore, the areas under these two species should not be included in area of “Forests” or “Other Wooded Land” in Table 1.</p>
T2	<p>Concern</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some countries were concerned about classifying ownership in cases where the ownership of forest or OWL lands or trees is under dispute. <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the lands in dispute clearly belong to the public ownership it should be added with the reported area under public ownership with a note. When it is not possible to distinguish lands in dispute as public or private then the ownership should be categorized as “other ownership” with an explanatory comment.
T3	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many countries were concerned about incompatibility and non availability of information for Table 3. Some of them found it difficult to estimate the area designated for social services (education, research, recreation & tourism and conservation of cultural sites). 2. Some countries were concerned about appropriate level at which designation is to be reported especially when there is a difference in designation at sub-national or national level and at the local level. For example, at the national level, a government may establish an overall policy that that all forest will be managed for multiple purposes, but at the local level the management plan designates specific functions to these forests such as production or conservation. 3. Many countries expressed their difficulties in understanding the distinction between “primary function” and “total area with function” as they were interpreting secondary functions in different ways. They also had problem in explaining differences in totals.

	<p>Explanations</p> <p>Functions can be designated at different levels (e.g. national level, management unit level, etc.) and as a general rule, the lowest level of designation should be used. In the example above, functions designated at management unit level overrides the national level designations. However, when functions have not been designated at lower levels, the nation-wide designations should be used.</p> <p>The total area under primary area function must tally with the total area in T1. For total area with function one area can be counted more that once.</p>
<p>T4</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some countries were concerned about classifying forest plantations of native species separately when it is part of their semi-natural forests, while other countries classified them as plantations without an obvious difference in their characteristics (one or two species at time of establishment, more or less even spacing and even-aged). 2. Some countries were concerned about assessing the area of primary forest particularly when they are using remote sensing to report extent of forests and do not have records on the origin of the forests. <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries are encouraged to go by their national definitions and practices. when applicable. If no other information is available regarding primary forests, then may look into their protected areas, which may give them an indication where to find areas of primary forest or unmanaged forest areas. 2. The proposed forest related “definition” meeting, organized by FAO in January 2005 in Rome will address this issue and the countries will be informed about its outcome.
<p>T5</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some countries had only the estimates of “total growing stock” and were concerned on reporting on Commercial Growing stock due to insufficient data collected. 2. Some countries had only the estimate of Commercial Growing Stock and wanted advice on how to estimate total growing stock using commercial growing stock figures? <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The countries are advised to use local technical and market knowledge on making assumptions to estimate the percentage of “commercial growing stock” in “Total growing stock”. 2. The countries are advised to use local technical and market knowledge on making assumptions to estimate “Total growing stock” using information on figures of “Commercial growing stock”.
<p>T6</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <p>Many countries were concerned about external similarity and intrinsic differences between reporting on biomass to FRA and IPCC. This feared that this will lead to differences in country reporting to FRA, UNFCCC and IPCC which may create misunderstandings.</p>

	<p>1. Many countries were concerned that they do not have national factors to convert growing stock into biomass and that the IPCC regional conversion factors are very “broad”.</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>1. FRA main report will highlight the difference in definitions between FRA and IPCC and the expected differences in reporting on biomass and carbon. The countries may like to highlight the difference and the reasons for the difference in comments to Table 6. FAO recognizes this issue and may be able to address this in FRA 2010. The countries are advised to use national factors, wherever available” in lieu of IPCC default factors.</p> <p>2. (A). The countries may like to highlight this fact that they do not have national factors and the IPCC factors are too broad to capture realistic position on the ground in comments to Table 6. FAO recognizes this issue and may be able to address this in FRA 2010.</p> <p>(B). Countries were encouraged to share information to improve the reporting for biomass and to consult with national colleagues who are focal points of UNFCCC and IPCC etc. Further the countries were encouraged to take the opportunity to conduct new studies on biomass expansion factors, to get more reliable biomass and carbon figures compared with the “rough” existing regional biomass expansion factors.</p>
<p>T7</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <p>1. Many countries were concerned that they do not have national factors to convert biomass stock into carbon stock and that the IPCC regional conversion factors are very “broad”. Many countries were also concerned about the possible difference in reporting on Carbon Stock to FAO, UNFCCC, and IPCC.</p> <p>2. Some countries were concerned about lack of adequate communication between countries and IPCC.</p> <p>3. Some countries were concerned to know a simple way to convert IPCC to FRA data and vice versa?</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>1. (A) FRA recognizes and appreciates the problem. For this purpose, its main report will highlight the difference in definitions between FRA and IPCC and the expected differences in reporting on biomass and carbon. The countries may also like to mention the differences in their reporting and the reasons for such differences in the last section (comments) of Table 7. The countries are advised to use national factors, wherever available” in lieu of IPCC default factors. Countries are advised to use national factors, wherever available in lieu of IPCC default factors.</p> <p>(B). Countries are encouraged to share information among them to improve the reporting on biomass and carbon and also to consult with their national colleagues who are focal points of UNFCCC and IPCC etc. Further the countries are encouraged to take the opportunity to conduct new studies on development of the nation and or sub-national “expansion factors” and “conversion factors” to get more reliable figures compared with the “rough” figures derived through default IPCC (2003) factors. Specially, when there is no simple methodology to convert reporting to FRA 2005 into (or vice versa) UNFCCC on Biomass and Soil Carbon.</p>

	<p>2. FRA secretariat, as far as possible, will provide necessary advice to the National Correspondents to FRA, including the selection of reasonable expansion and conversion factors.</p> <p>Currently, there is no simple methodology to convert reporting to FRA 2005 and to UNFCCC on Biomass and Soil Carbon.</p>
T8	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some countries were concerned that not all the areas affected by fires and insects can be classified as “disturbed”. 2. Some countries were concerned about which and the degree to which disturbances caused by human activities can be included in Tables 8. 3. Some countries were concerned that no threshold are provided to define what is significant impact of disturbance for inclusion in Table 8 <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FRA recognizes that both fire and insects in some ecosystems play an important role. However, FRA 2005 requests countries to report on areas disturbed by fire, insects, diseases and other factors. There are two thematic studies; one on insects and one on fires related to health and vitality of forests (Table 8). The countries can use these thematic studies to highlight both positive and negative impact of the fires and the insects on forest areas. The NCs are encouraged to contact the experts dealing with the thematic studies. 2. Any disturbance caused by human activities should not be reported except for Fire since FRA is trying to capture areas affected by natural phenomenon. 3. FRA 2005 does not provide threshold to define what is significant and what is not significant disturbance. The countries are requested to use their national threshold to categorize areas as disturbed.
T9	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many countries were concerned that their national list of threatened group of tree species does not match with IUCN list. <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries were advised to report the species found on the IUCN Red List in Table 9 and were encouraged to attach any other useful information on the subject like the national list of endangered species to the table along with necessary comments in the last section of the table (Table 8).
T10	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some countries were concerned that they did not have the breakdown of their growing stock by species wanted to know whether they can report the growing stock composition by groups of species or at genus level. <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries are encouraged to report on species level if possible, if not then they can use the second best option to report by genus or groups of species.

<p>T11–T12</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many countries were concerned that the estimates of wood and wood fuel products are likely to be underestimated due to unrecorded or illegal removals of timber and fuel wood. 2. Some countries wanted to know alternative methods to estimate realistic production. 3. Most of the countries were concerned that figures on wood production in the FAO Yearbook of forest products do not match with their national statistics and that some new information may help update the current statistics with FAO. <p>Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries should report documented information and provide detailed notes and comments to supplement it so that realistic account is provided in each table. 2. When no data is available on the production then one of the alternatives to estimate production is to assess consumption (per capita/household etc.) and deduct imports, if any. If they prefer, they can make use of the information available in the FAO Forest Products Yearbook. 3. Countries are always welcome and should take action to correct and or update their forest related information in FAO statistics.
<p>T13 and T14</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most of the countries were concerned that the estimates of Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) are likely to be underestimated since many countries do not have necessary information, especially when they recognize that the total quantity and value of NWFP is quite significant. 2. Some of the countries were concerned on how to capture and report non-monetary value of some of the NWFPs like spiritual, cultural, etc. 3. Some countries were concerned that once the NWFP leaves forests, it is difficult to distinguish between NWFP coming from forest areas and that coming from outside forest areas. 4. Some countries needed explanation whether Latex from rubber wood plantations and Oil from oil plants can be classified as a NWFP. <p>Explanation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The countries should provide whatever information they have and should provide detail comment on what they think is missing. 2. FRA 2005 is dealing with market values of NWFPs. 3. Collection, use and sale of NWFP varies not only from country to country but from locality to locality and therefore, countries should follow their own guidelines and mention their salient features in the last section (comments) of the relevant table. The countries should also document how they have estimated the (quantity and value) of NWFPs.

	<p>4. In absence of any global definitions, countries should follow their national classifications and mention it in the last section of the table. For example, Oil from oil-palms is excluded in FRA explanations and therefore country should follow it. However, FRA 2005 does not categorise the latex from rubber plantations, therefore, the countries should follow their national classification.</p>
<p>T15</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some countries were concerned that the employment may be seriously underestimated since self-employment and the informal sectors are excluded. 2. Some countries wanted clarification on “full time employment”, inclusion of consultants and part-time employment. 3. Some countries wanted to know as to how to draw the line between the staff like drivers, secretaries etc, when the forestry department is under agriculture department. 4. Some countries were concerned that non-inclusion of processing sector will lead to underestimation of the employment opportunities provided by forest products. <p>Explanations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The issue of inclusion of self-employment is under consideration for future FRA’s. For FRA 2005, the self-employment and employment provided by informal sector remains excluded for Table 15. 2. There are lots of differences in the definition of period of employment among countries and also there is no single accepted global definition of “full time employment”. The countries should use their national standard of full time employment. The employment provided to consultants through any type of contract is acceptable for reporting to Table 15. Further, the employment provided through “part-time” staff and or workers is also included but it has been converted to “full time equivalent employment. The countries should provide all the above details in the last section (comments) of the Table 15 of FRA 2005. 3. Different countries use different methodologies to apportion their staff to different goals or set of activities. The countries should use their national standard and provide these details in Table 15 of FRA 2005. 4. The FRA 2005 confines itself to the boundary of “forests” and “OWL”. It limits to primary activities within forests and therefore excludes the processing sector.

4.3 Bamboo Session

The session was chaired by Ms. Mette Løyche Wilkie. Mr. Maxim Lobovikov (INBAR) presented an overview on bamboo resources and their use and the rationale to implement a global Bamboo resources Assessment as an complement to FRA. The pilot studies from China, India and Indonesia were presented by Mr. Chen Xuefeng Mr. Prabhaker Dubey and Mr. Prihatno

Kustanta. The session concluded with approval of a draft format for country reporting and request for a workshop sometime in Beijing next year.

4.3 Concluding Session

The participants actively discussed the above main issues and suggestions and modified them where necessary. They developed a work plan for next month to formally submit their country report to FRA 2005.

5 Conclusions and Suggestions

The participants were of the view that workshop was extremely useful and it allowed them to clarify a number of issues related to the FRA 2005 tables and for detailed technical discussions and sharing of experiences among countries on forest resources assessment methodologies and data analysis. The session ended with following conclusion and suggestions.

The workshop participants concluded that the National correspondents will revise their draft country reports and submit these as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2004.

Suggestions

1. The country reports and FRA documents should be translated into Asian languages including non-FAO language.
2. FAO should request national governments to maintain current national correspondent even after FRA 2005 to maintain consistency, build country capacities and improve quality in international and national reporting. For this purpose, FAO should remind head of departments in the countries that the initial request for nomination of NC perceived long term association of NCs with FRA process.
3. Some NCs were especially concerned about their future involvement in the FRA process specially when they have invested so much time and efforts for this purpose.
4. The NCs should be also involved in post-evaluation of FRA 2005 and to draw conclusion regarding lesson learnt and to improve FRA 2010.
5. The FRA 2005 should have a chapter on state of the forest related information in the Asia Pacific region and options to streamline and strengthen the national databases on forest resources.
6. The FRA 2005 is and successive assessment may be more comprehensive than the last assessments. Therefore, the design of national forest inventories (NFI) and national forest assessments (NFA) need to be reviewed and updated to satisfy such intensive demand of forest related information of FRA as well as of other international processes. Further that FAO should financially and technical support NFI/ NFAs.
7. Countries may consider possibility of developing a system of applying a surcharge sale amount on timber production to finance their NFI / NFAs.

8. FAO should organize regional meeting of NCs in the region at least once a year to update and train them in new demands of international reporting and methods to satisfy such demands. There was a general agreement that there is a “need for consistency and to keep the fire burning”.
9. The NCs should bring the issue of organizing annual meeting with their representative in COFO and request them to raise this issue forthcoming meeting of COFO in March 2005.
10. FAO should consider strengthening its efforts to support capacity building and help secure financial support to improve the national information base on forest resources in selected countries in the region
11. FAO should including a variable that better catches the contribution of forests to livelihoods and informal employment
12. Some NCs were concerned that without bringing the outcome of the workshop to the knowledge of their respective ministries and heads of forestry departments it may difficult for NCs to ensure their continued support to facilitate their FRA related work. It was suggested that the FRA Secretariat will send a workshop proceedings to NCs and a copy of the same to their Head of forestry to facilitate their work. FRA will also send the letter of validation some time in early 2005 and will request for continued institutional support to the national correspondents.
13. Australia volunteered to draft a proposal (Annex 1) that could be used as a recommendation from this group to organize meetings in connection with other meetings like with the APFC etc. Similar groups in Europe e.g., ToS meet every year and it has been very fruit full and learning experience for participating countries and we should explore the options if something possible can be arranged in Asia.
14. Opportunities should be explored for a joint Pacific countries/US/Australia/New Zealand/FAO partnership to support Pacific region countries in accessing remote sensing imagery and conduct their forest inventories.

Annexes

Annex 1 : List of Participants

Annex 2: Revised Agenda of the Workshop

Annex 1 – List of Participants

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Annex 2 – Revised Agenda of the workshop



Regional Review and Training Workshop for Asia-Pacific Countries

Forest Resource Assessment 2005, FAO

23rd to 26th November , 2004

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Tuesday 23 rd November 2004		
Time	Agenda Item	Agenda Notes
08:00-08:30		Registration of Participants
08:30-10:00	Item 1	Opening Session
08:30-08:40		Dr. He Changchui will deliver welcome address and open the “Regional Review Meeting” of FRA National Correspondents from Asian Countries.
08:40-08:50		Introduction – Participants and Resource Persons Participants and Resource persons Introduce themselves
08:50-9:00		FAO Forestry Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, will inform the participants about the linkages between FRA activities and other forestry activities in the Asia Pacific region and the APFC.
09:00-09:10		FRA 2005 and Regional Review of FRA 2005 Country Reports Mette Løyche Wilkie, Senior Forestry Officer, will address the participants and inform them about the country reporting to FRA 2005 in general and about the “Review of Country Reports” in particular. The workshop aims at the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring correct application of methods • Improving consistency among different tables • Identifying problems and data gaps and suggesting ways to address them • Assessing country capacity building needs implementing “National Forest Assessments” to fill their data gaps and to improve the quality • Seeking clarifications and additional information from countries • Introducing the “Thematic studies” component of FRA to the NCs
09:10-09:20		Agenda of the Meeting Mr. M. Kashio, will inform the participants about the agenda, plan of action and about the local logistics including organization of working groups etc.
09:20-09:30		Check list and Self Review Kailash Govil will explain to NCs, the check list and self review of National Reporting Tables.
9:30-10:00	Tea- Coffee Break	

Tuesday 23rd November 2004 (contd.)		
Time	Agenda Item	Agenda Notes
10:15-11:30	Item 2	Thematic Studies in FRA 2005 Mette informs the participants about the thematic studies in FRA 2005 and their information needs.
11:30-12:00	Item 3	Support to National Forest Resource Assessment Kailash Govil will inform the participants about the "Support to National Forest Assessment" a critical component of FRA programme.
12:00 -13:15	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	Item 4	Review of Completeness (Format, Definitions, Process, and Consistency) Each NC will do the self review (explained in the morning session) and develop the check list on format, definitions, process and consistency of information content including steps used in his/her country report in each of the 15 tables.
15:00 -15:15	Tea Coffee Break	
15:30-17:30	Item 5	Identification of common problems in country reporting This session will identify the problems (table by table) that are common in developing country reports to FRA 2005
Wednesday 24th November 2004		
Time	Agenda Item	Agenda Notes
09:00-10:30	Item 6	Review of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Pacific 2) In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.
10:30-10:45	Tea – Coffee Break	
11:00-12:00	Item 6 (contd.)	Review of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Pacific 2) In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.
12:00-13:15	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00	Item 7	Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Pacific 2) In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.
15:00-15:15	Tea – Coffee Break	
15:30-17:00	Item 7 (contd.)	Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Pacific 2) In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.

Thursday, 25th November 2004		
Time	Agenda Item	Agenda Notes
09:00-10:30	Item 8	<p>Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Pacific 2)</p> <p>In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.</p>
10:30-10:45	Tea – Coffee Break	
11:00-12:00	Item 8 (Contd.)	<p>Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 8, 9, 11 and 12 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Pacific 2)</p> <p>In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.</p>
12:00-13:15	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:30	Item 9	<p>Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Working group Pacific 2)</p> <p>In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.</p>
15:00-15:15	Tea – Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	Item 15	<p>Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Asia 1) Review of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 10 (Working group Asia 2) Review of Tables 13, 14 and 15 (Working group Pacific 1) Review of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Working group Pacific 2)</p> <p>In this session the NCs will review the contents of Tables and the resource persons will attempt to assist and guide them where necessary.</p>
Friday 26th November 2004		
Time	Agenda Item	Agenda Notes
09:00-10:30		<p>INBAR Thematic Study - Bamboo Resources -Assessment and Reporting</p> <p>In this session, the INBAR will present to the NCs its proposed framework of a thematic study on Bamboo resources and its reporting format.</p>
10:30-10:45	Tea – Coffee Break	
11:00-12:00		<p>INBAR Thematic Study - Bamboo Resources -Pilot Studies</p> <p>In this session, the INBAR will present to the NCs its two or three pilot studies on bamboo resources assessment and its thematic reporting.</p>
12:00-13:15	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00		<p>Concluding Session – Summary of Issues</p> <p>This session will compile that need to be addressed either by FAO or by countries.</p>
15:00-15:15	Tea – Coffee Break	
15:30-17:00		<p>Concluding Session – Way Ahead – Future Plan of Action</p> <p>This session will develop future plan of action till submission of final report by the countries to FRA 2005.</p>
Meeting closes		

