

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense tropical forest. A dark, winding river flows through the center of the forest, reflecting the sky. The forest is a mix of various shades of green, indicating different types of trees and vegetation. The horizon is visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

FRA country reporting:
How does it work?

...and what does not
work so well???

K. G. MacDicken
FAO Forestry



In 1923 the
world first
learned about
global forest
resources...

... in 1948 FAO
began
monitoring
forest resource
change



FRA
2015



.... so what difference did this
knowledge make?



FRA
2015



Four key global results have made a difference since 1923...



1

Widespread forest loss
in the tropics was detected



Resulting in 60+ years of investment

2

Gaps in wood supply were identified



... resulting in increased planting

3

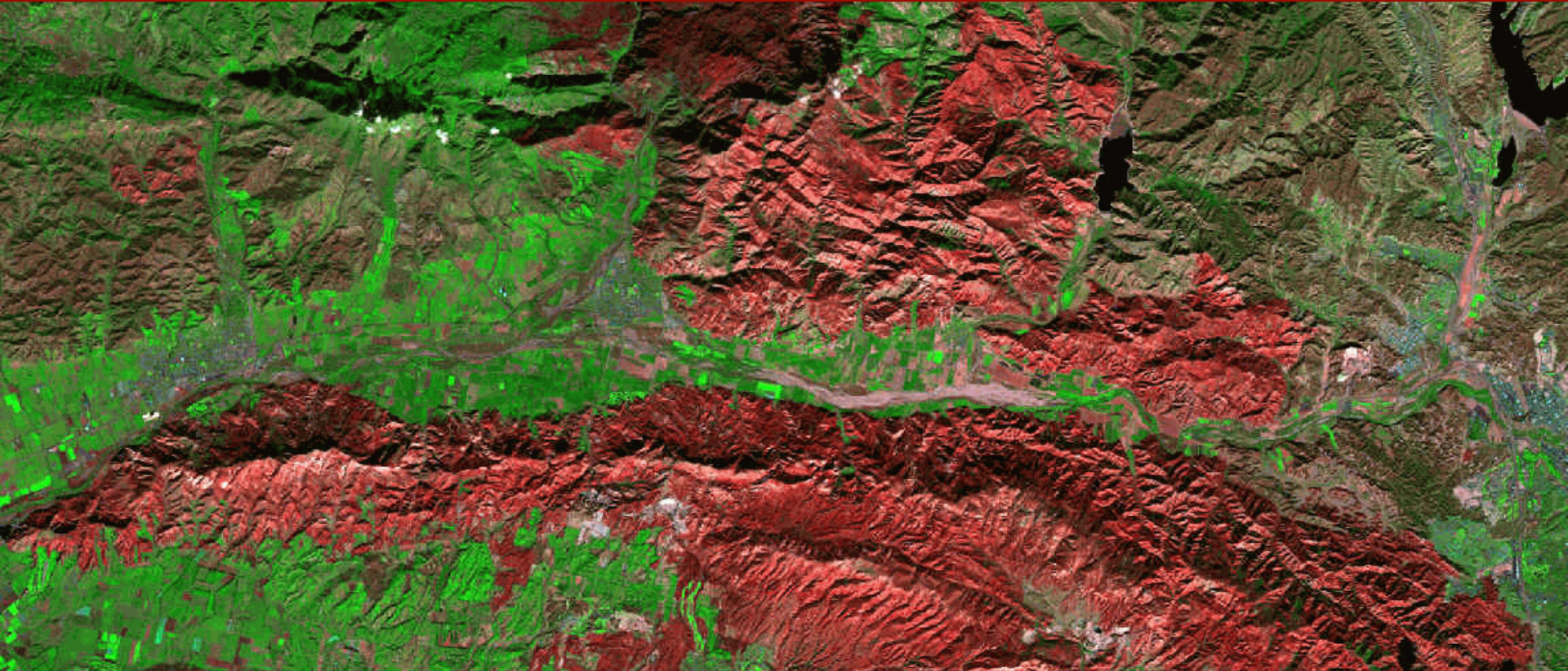
Forest conversion was identified as a contributor to global climate change



Forest management is now part of global mitigation strategies

4

Remote sensing was proven as a tool
for monitoring forest resources



Leading to some 100 earth
observing satellites



Since 1948, most of this information has come from one source: the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)



FRA
2015



...so what have we learned
about the process that
relates to climate
change....?



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What do our users want?

1. Consistent definitions
2. Easy to interpret data
3. Potential for practical use
4. Known levels of quality/precision



Broad consultation with experts, stakeholders – building on past FRA experience guided by long-term strategy



Process



Challenges

- High demand for additional information
- Limited capacity for countries to respond
- Very different stakeholder interests

- National Correspondents from ~160 countries
- Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)



Partnerships



Challenges

- Changes in National Correspondents
- Limited training resources
- Timing differences for regional partner reporting needs



The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire: Making Joint Data Collection Work

Statistics on:

- Forest area and characteristics
- Production
- Biodiversity
- Disturbance
- SFM
- Economics/ownership
- Projections



Statistical content



Challenges

- Changes with every cycle
- Definitions are unevenly applied
- Time series are updated with every reporting cycle

- Mostly online:
 - FRIMS
 - Flexibility to allow off line reporting
 - Online error checking
- Review and data cleaning provided centrally



Data entry



Challenges

- Software bugs
 - Scarce resources for improvements
- Uneven reporting formats for off line submissions
- Online connections for some countries



CFRQ
Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire



Please sign in

User:

Password:

Select your language:

English

Release 20140417

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This website was produced with partial funding by the [European Union](#).

- Reports from sovereign governments
- Remote sensing analyses reviewed and revised by national experts
- Special studies



Data sources



Challenges

- Not spatially explicit
- Original data not always described
- Reporting is often incomplete



Primary Forest – Climatic Domains

Domain	Total n° of countries	n° of countries reporting	Percent
Boreal	6	6	100
Sub-Tropical	36	32	89
Temperate	48	43	89
Tropical	142	119	84



Carbon Storage – Global reporting

	proportion of countries reporting	% of Total Forest Area
Above ground	162/234	82
Below ground	160/234	82
Soil	109/234	64

Note: Data based on most recent year of reporting (2015)



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- Transparent indication of quality through IPCC-like tier system
- Quality control through peer-review
- Online system checks during data entry



Measures of Quality



Challenges

- Unknown precision
- Inaccurate reporting where capacity is weak
- Numbers may not add up
- Time series inconsistencies

Carbon Storage – Climatic Domains

Domain	Carbon above ground		Soil carbon		Difference
	% Forest Area*	proportion of countries	% Forest Area*	proportion of countries	
Boreal	100	5/6	99	4/6	-20
Sub-Tropical	52	27/36	24	18/36	-33
Temperate	65	39/48	39	24/48	-38
Tropical	88	100/142	70	63/142	-37

* Percentage of forest area reported compared to total forest area in the same category



Primary Forest – Income Categories

Income category*	n° of countries	n° of countries reporting	Percent
H	71	61	86
UM	55	47	85
LM	48	44	92
L	33	31	94

* World Bank categories



Carbon Storage – Income Categories

Income category*	Carbon above ground		Soil carbon		Difference
	% Forest Area **	proportion of countries	% Forest Area **	proportion of countries	%
H	72	48/71	69	30/71	-32
UM	34	44/55	56	25/55	-43
LM	83	38/48	51	25/48	-42
L	96	30/33	85	24/33	-27

* World Bank categories

** Percentage of forest area reported compared to total forest area in the same category



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In summary...

- FRA challenges have persisted since 1948
- Capacity building investments need to be extensive, targeted and broad-based
- Partnerships are vital in reducing reporting burden and improving consistency
- Automation, review are critical and need substantial resources

Thank you



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense green forest. A dark river or stream winds through the forest, starting from the right side and moving towards the bottom center. The sky is visible at the top, showing some light clouds.

For more information:

Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/en>