## "Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific"

# Report on the National Forest Inventory Capacity Building Workshop for Vanuatu

7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.







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#### **Photo Credit:**

Cover Photo: Group photo of the participants to the 2016 Vanuatu Backstopping Workshop. Photo by Loraini B. Kasainaseva

#### Workshop Photos:

Figure 1: Participants at the summit plantation. Photo by Loraini B. Kasainaseva.

Figure 2: Group discussion. Photo by Loraini B. Kasainaseva

Figure 3: Beer-bottle top forest management exercise Part 1. Photo by Loraini B. Kasainaseva

Figure 4: Beer-bottle top forest management exercise Part 2. Photo by Adam Gerrand.

#### **Abbreviations**

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FCPF: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

NFMS: National Forest Monitoring System

NFI: National Forest Inventory

NFP: National Forest Policy

PICs: Pacific Island Countries

REDD+: Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

SPC: Pacific Community

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UN-REDD: United Nation Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

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## 1.0 Background

The project "Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific", funded by the UN-REDD and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) through the Pacific Community (SPC) has been carrying out capacity building activities since its implementation in May 2014. Together, FAO and SPC have been assisting the countries in building a robust National Forest Monitoring System in the Pacific through its regional training workshops and national backstopping activities.

The Vanuatu backstopping workshop, which was held in Port Villa from the 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> of March was attended by 20 participants from the Vanuatu Department of Forest (Annex 1) who were based in Port Vila and from the outer islands of Espirutu Santo, Malekula, Erromango, Vanua Lava and Tanna. This workshop, which was facilitated by UN-FAO and SPC looked at the current status of the Vanuatu monitoring system, specifically their NFI, its National Forest Policy (NFP) and its link to an NFI, the planning of an NFI and the drafting of a 'roadmap for a NFI proposal'.

Working from their National Forest Policy, the Vanuatu Department of Forests (DoF) has over the years carried out projects that promote and ensure the sustainable utilisation and management of their forest resources. As stipulated in their NFP, the DoF need to carry out forest assessments every ten years in order to properly manage their resource. Though works have been done in the field of National Forest Inventory (NFI) by International organisations such as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the forestry department still feel the need to implement a suitable National Forest Monitoring System by planning a full NFI at national level by local stakeholders (specifically DoF) with the support of regional governing bodies, so as to ensure that local issues are considered.

## 2.0 Purpose of the Workshop

The main purpose of the workshop was to build capacity development toward the implementation of a full National Forest Inventory in 2017. Specific objectives of the activities were to:

- 1. Develop capacity on NFI;
- 2. Review previous NFI experiences in Vanuatu;
- 3. Clarify the main purpose of an NFI for Vanuatu;
- 4. Help with design building on the pilot testing done with GIZ support in 2014/15;
- 5. Develop an outline for a road map toward a full NFI proposal;
- 6. Identify the next steps toward NFI implementation.

## 3.0 Summary of Workshop Proceedings

#### 3.1 Welcoming remarks

The workshop was officially opened by the Vanuatu Director of Forestry, Mr Tate
Hannington with an opening prayer from Mr Samuel Bebe. In his opening remarks, Mr
Hannington welcomed the facilitators, FAO and SPC, and the Vanuatu foresters that had
travelled in from the outer islands with an overview of the current work that the Vanuatu DoF
is carrying out in support of sustainable forest management. Mr Hannington also thanked the
FAO and SPC team for their current support in assisting them in planning and implementing
a full NFI and deliberated upon the need for further technical and financial support.
Mr Adam Gerrand, the resource personal from UN-FAO later provided an overview of the
workshop objectives and agenda. He reflected on how FAO and SPC plan to assist Vanuatu
in their NFI by building capacity and developing a roadmap towards a full NFI for 2017.
This was followed by a round of self-introduction from the participants.

#### 3.2 SPC NFI Support Facility

The project "Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific" is a response to the lack of capacity in most Pacific Island countries to set up and maintain national forest monitoring systems. One of the aims is to support the establishment of a Regional forest inventory facility that will assist member countries with their National Forest Inventory. An overview was presented by Mr Jalesi Mateboto of SPC on the purpose of this project and the need for such a facility.

The Heads of Forestry Meeting in 2011 discussed and endorsed SPC to continue working on Sustainable Forest Management. The lack of reliable inventory data was however identified as a challenge in managing the forest resources sustainably. National Forest Inventories has become an important issue that needs attention. With funding assistance from the UNREDD, and technical support from UN-FAO, the Pacific Community has established a Regional Forest Inventory Support Facility that is housed within the Land Resource Division (LRD) of SPC. This facility will be able to mobilise resources (Human, Physical and financial) and assist countries with their National Forest Inventory.

#### 3.3 FAO's Role in Supporting NFI

Elaborating on the role of the UN-FAO in promoting sustainable forest management, Mr Gerrand discussed on past and present activities of the organisation and their plans to have a broad integrated concept of National Forest Monitoring Systems in the future. The Food and Agriculture Organisation has been supporting countries in implementing projects that is aimed at improving forest data since the 1960's by providing technical expertise, reports and project funding's. Over the years, FAO has come up with mechanisms that assisted countries in measuring their resources. One of these mechanisms is the National Forest Monitoring and Assessments programme (NMFA) that came into place since the year 2000. This programme builds capacity by addressing country circumstances and international reporting requirements. It also promotes south-south collaboration through knowledge sharing and is solid and sustainable. Guidelines, such as the 'Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring', which takes into account the requirements for REDD+ reporting is being developed by FAO to assist countries in their NFMS.

As part of the UN-REDD programme, FAO together with SPC has been working together to promote forest monitoring tools such as the National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) in the Pacific.

#### 3.4 Past NFI Experience in Vanuatu

Based on their past experience, participants namely Mr Dick Tomker, Mr Jude Tabi, Mr Watson Lui, Mr Simon Naupa, Mr Rexon Moli and Mr Philomen Ala shared their experiences on previous NFI processes and the challenges that they faced.

Vanuatu's first NFI was carried out in 1989 with funding through the Australian AUSAID programme. This was carried out on all the islands. Vanuatu foresters during the time were only trained in carrying out data collection processes instead of the whole NFI process from the planning, implementation, data analysis and reporting phase. The field data were handed over to international consultants for analysis and reporting. As remote sensing and mapping programmes were not readily available, field teams would use stereoscopes and aerial photographs to locate sample points followed by plans to access these points. In the field, a compass and tape measure was used to locate these points. Rectangular plots of 30m\*270m were established from the plot point.

In 2012, a NFI design was piloted on the island of Santo by DoF with the support of GIZ. IPCC Guidelines require the measurement and estimation of two variables to calculate total forest carbon: forest area change and carbon stock change estimation or emission factors

(carbon density). These should be based on a common methodology, such as use of remote sensing and ground-based methods. Reference levels and reference emission levels (RLs/RELs) need to be established and verified, taking national circumstances into account. MRV should be based on robust national forest inventories (existing or developed) and subject to periodic external review.

The SPC LRD in close collaboration with FAO, developed a manual on Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting for Sustainable forest Management (MAR – SFM) in the Pacific Island Countries in 2010. The multi-stakeholder consultation workshop in Vila on 25th October 2011, found the MAR system feasible and agreed on its adoption for Forest inventory, Carbon Assessment and Forest Monitoring.

#### 3.5 UNREDD Initiative in Vanuatu

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) in developing countries. UN-REDD works under the collaborative role and technical expertise from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and assists countries with their national REDD+ programmes. Briefly presented by Mr Ioan Vutilolo, the participants and facilitators were brought up to speed with the latest on REDD+ activities in Vanuatu. Vanuatu is one of the five countries in the Pacific that comes under the UN-REDD partner countries. The REDD+ readiness process in Vanuatu began in 2007 with the establishment of the Vanuatu Carbon Credits Project. This process has been ably supported by the SPC/GIZ regional project, Climate Protection through Conservation in Pacific Island Countries and the World Bank (WB) Forest Carbon Partnership. In support of Vanuatu's REDD+ initiative, the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) participant committee has recently accepted the country's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and approved funding of up to US\$3.6 million to assist in the development of their national REDD+ programme (National REDD+ Scheme). This is still under development though works have already started on the ground under the *community-based REDD+ pilot project* (approved by government) that is being implemented by Live and Learn.

#### 3.6 Vanuatu Forest Mapping Information System

Vanuatu's forestry mapping information system is looked after by the Planning division of the DoF. Presented by Ms Phyllis Kamasteia, the main discussion were on the use of software in improving forestry data presentation, planning and development. With the support of the Geo-science division (GSD) of SPC, the planning division has had a number of training opportunities on the use of mappings programmes such as Arc-Gis, Map-info, and incognito. SPC also trained two of their staff, Phyllis and James for a month on the use of the OpenFORIS Collect earth tool. This training was part of the Satellite Land Monitoring Systems component under the project 'Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific'. On this point, Ms Kamasteia also raised that they have not completed the collection of their 10,000 sampling points as there has not been any further contacts with GSD. FAO/SPC will follow up to provide support to prepare the Collect Earth datasets for Vanuatu and see if we can arrange some refresher training.

#### 3.7 Sustainable Forest Management Practical Exercise

This practical exercise was based on a scientific journal article titled 'Beer-Bottle tops: a simple forest management game' written by J. Vanclay et al. in 2006<sup>1</sup>. With this exercise, the participants were divided up into groups of four made up of management, planning and field officers. This game provides an effective way of capturing forest planning and management concepts which is sometimes too complex. Each group were given butcher paper, topography maps (scale of 1:50000) and 160 coloured stickers (to replace the beer-bottle tops used in the original game) with different colours that represents the wood volume on 1,000 hectares. The stickers were spread out over the cubic grid of the maps and turned so that the colours are not visible. Two separate exercises were carried out on this activity, one was on 'area control' and the other on 'volume control'. With area control, participants were asked to harvest an equal area of forest each year for 20 years (each person was to take equal number of stickers from the map on their turn). Results were than recorded on the butcher paper (20 year period against the corresponding wood volume harvested). This allows participants to manage the land area being harvested though wood volume may be very high or low. The second exercise focused on 'volume control'. In this exercise participants were asked to first calculate the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Vanclay, J., Keenan, R., Gerrand, A., Frakes, I. (2006). "Beer-bottle tops: a simple forest management game."

<u>International Forestry Review</u> **8**(4): 432-438.

<a href="http://epubs.scu.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1472&context=esm">http://epubs.scu.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1472&context=esm</a> pubs

total standing volume and allowable cut from an initial small inventory sample of 2, 4, 6 or 8 stickers. This allows them to manage the amount of trees that they should harvest each year by giving them a target value for 'allowable cut' (some groups had very high figure while the others had medium to low figures). Results from this exercise indicated that the teams that had overestimated the allowable cut had harvested all of their trees in 20 years while the teams that had lower allowable cut managed to sustainably harvest their trees for 40 years with a few left. This exercise allowed teams to smartly manage their harvest based on the calculated allowable cut.

Overall, different results and scenarios were achieved and discussed thoroughly among group members. Participants found this practical exercise to be very realistic and useful in terms of planning for sustainable forest management in Vanuatu.

#### 3.8 Field Trip to 'The Summit' sandalwood plantation

The Vanuatu DoF organised a half day trip on the second last day of the workshop to a 240ha sandalwood plantation called 'The Summit' owned by Mr and Mrs Jim and Lesley Batty. In 1994, the owners of the summit established its first sandalwood plantation on land that had been previously used for cattle rearing, coconut plantation and timber logging, the shift to a sandalwood plantation came about due to the decreasing number of sandalwood trees in the country and most importantly as a need for strengthening the sandalwood industry in Vanuatu. The owners also saw this as a good opportunity to contribute to the already depleting endemic species. The dominant variety grown is the local species of sandalwood, Santalum austrocaledonicum. The company have their own nursery and also carry out experiments on techniques that would enhance its growth rate and produce high timber volume. This promotes knowledge sharing between the DoF and the company to improve locally owned sandalwood plantations in Vanuatu. Apart from its timber production, the company also uses unused materials for their sandalwood perfumes and scented oils. Today, the company has about 150,000 sandalwood trees and have contracted farmers from the outer islands of Tanna and Erromango to establish sandalwood plantations in a joint venture to improve the sandalwood supply and production of end products flowing to overseas markets. After a tour around their gardens (company also promotes eco-tourism), sandalwood nursery and plantation and perfume/oil production facility, the participants were provided refreshments by the owner. Later on, the director of DOF, Mr Hannington Tate, officially thanked the company for their cooperation and assistance in making the trip a successful one.

#### 3.9 Vanuatu's Roadmap to an NFI proposal

The main aim of the Vanuatu backstopping workshop was to continue with capacity development towards the implementation of a full NFI in 2017. Capacity building activities carried out during the training covered areas of NFI, linkages between national forest assessments and national policy and sustainable forest management. This would allow the participants to write up a draft roadmap for Vanuatu's NFI at the end of the workshop. Resource personal, Mr Gerrand reiterated the need of how the document should capture national needs and circumstances and raised the question 'what does Vanuatu need to do to prepare for an NFI?' Vanuatu is planning to have a full NFI implemented by 2017 but will need resources (financial and human) in order to make this happen. To do so they will need to produce a proposal for funding and a roadmap.

Participants were divided up into four groups lead by the management team of DoF and were assigned different topics from the article 'How to do an NFI in 20 steps' by Chip Scott from USFS and Carla Ramirez from FAO. The four main topics were:

- A. Planning component;
- B. Remote sensing component;
- C. Inventory design and data collection component; and
- D. Processing, reporting and dissemination component.

The main idea was to bring together at the end, four documents that would be used to write up a document like a 'table of contents' for the roadmap which will be filled later on.

#### 4.0 Discussion and Recommendations

The Vanuatu backstopping workshop was overall a success as the main objectives were met. During the training exercises, the facilitators were able to build capacity on NFI and sustainable forest management. Vanuatu DoF was also able to present on their past experience on NFI and their current status. Forest inventory in Vanuatu has not always been an easy task for the forestry department as they do not have the capacity and resource to carry out a full NFI across the islands. In addition to this, work with international organisations

have not always worked out well in terms of delivering of NFI reports or the lack of coordination between national and international key personals.

A few recommendations were put forward by the facilitators to assist Vanuatu in their proposed 2017 NFI. These were:

- 1. Set up a working group for the proposed NFI. This will be made up of selected staff of Vanuatu DoF and representatives from the SPC NFI facility.
- 2. Working group to write up a schedule on the drafting of the NFI roadmap and a Concept Note as a proposal for funding.
- 3. FAO will prepare a dataset for the Department to undertake a study across the country using the FAO "Open-FORIS Collect Earth" tool which will help get an updated set of statistics on forest cover as well as be useful for helping the plot design and stratification for the proposed NFI. FAO will also investigate the possibility of providing some refresher training on Collect Earth to VDoF staff if the funding for travel can be arranged, hopefully with the support of SPC.

## 5.0 Annex

### 5.1 Annex 1: Participant List

	Name	Organization	Location	Email
1	Ioan Vutilolo	Forestry	Vila	Vutilolo3@gmail.com/
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		Department		wlui@vanuatu.gov.vu
3	Jude Tabi	Forestry	Vila	tjude@vanuatu.gov.vu/
		Department		ajubula@gmail.com
4	Godfrey Bome	Forestry	Vila	gbome@vanuatu.gov.vu
		Department		
5	Hanington Tate	Forestry	Vila	htate@vanuatu.gov.vu
		Department		
6	Phyllis Kamasteia	Forestry	Vila	pkamasteia@vanuatu.gov.vu
		Department		
7	James Samuel	Forestry	Vila	Jsamuel925@gmail.com
		Department		
8	Anne Marie	Forestry	Vila	Anne_Sarisets@yahoo.com
		Department		
9	Sam Chanel/	Forestry	Vila	philemon_ala@yahoo.com.au
	Philemon Ala	Department		
10	Ray Kerry	Forestry	Vila	raykerry8@gmail.com
		Department		
11	Dick Tomker	Forestry	Santo	dick.tomker@gmail.com/
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12	Rexon Moli	Forestry	Santo	virarexon012@gmail.com
		Department		
13	Sero Isaiah	Forestry	Santo	isaiahsero163@gmail.com
		Department		
14	Frank Joeli	Forestry	Santo	fjoel66@gmail.com
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16	Toufao Kalsakau	Forestry	Malakula	tkalsakau@vanuatu.gov.vu
		Department		
17	Russell Johnny	Forestry	Erromango	rnuvilau15@gmail.com
		Department		
18	Simon Naupa	Forestry	Tanna	snaupa@gmail.com
		Department		
19	Kesen Alick	Forestry	Vanua Lava	akasen@vanuatu.gov.vu
		Department		
20	Presley Dovo	Forestry	Port Vila	dovopres@gmail.com
		Department		
21	Dhan.B Dhital	Consultant to	Port Vila	dhan_dhital@yahoo.com
		Forestry Dept.		
22	Joseph Tungon	Forestry	Port Vila	jotungon@yahoo.com
		Department		
23	Michael Tabi	Forestry	Port Vila	michael_tabi2001@yahoo.com
		Department		
24	Samson Lulu	Forestry	Port Vila	
		Department		

## 5.2 Annex 2: Agenda

Day One: 14 <sup>th</sup> (Monday) March 2016					
Time Event		Organization	Speaker		
8:30-9:00	Arrival and registration				
9:00-9:15 Opening remarks Introduction of participants		Vanuatu FD	Vanuatu FD		
9:15-10:00 Welcoming remarks, objectives of the workshop, introduction to FAO and SPC's role in assisting Pacific countries with NFI		UN-REDD / SPC	Adam Gerrand / SPC		
10:00-11:00	Previous NFI experiences in Vanuatu	Vanuatu FD	Vanuatu FD		
11:00-13:00	NFI capacity building presentation	UN-REDD	Adam Gerrand / SPC		
13:00-14:00	0 Lunch				
14:00-17:00	NFI capacity building presentations (cont')	UN-REDD	Adam Gerrand / SPC		
17:00-17:30	General discussion and review of day 1				
Day Two: 15th (Tuesday) March 2016					
Time	Event	Organization	Speaker		
8:30-9:00	Arrival and registration				
9:00-9:15	Recap of discussions from first day and introduction to second day	UN-REDD	Adam Gerrand / SPC		
9:15-17:00 (incl. lunch and breaks)	Development of a draft NFI methodology for Vanuatu – plot and sampling design	All	All		

Day Three: 16th (Wednesday) March 2016				
Time	Event	Organization	Speaker	
8:30-9:00	Arrival and registration			
9:00-13:00	Field test of the proposed NFI design	All	All	
13:00-14:00 Lunch				
14:00-17:00	Field test of the proposed NFI design	All	All	
Day Four: 17 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday) March 2016				
Time	Event	Organization	Speaker	
8:30-9:00	Arrival and registration			
9:00-13:00	Refinement of NFI methodology	All	All	

13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-17:00	Commence drafting of a NFI proposal, and develop a roadmap for drafting of a full proposal	UN-REDD	Adam Gerrand
Day Five: 18th (Friday) March 2016			
Time	Event	Organization	Speaker
8:30-9:00	Arrival and registration		
9:00-12:00	Review of progress made during the week and identification of next steps building toward NFI implementation in 2017	UN-REDD	Adam Gerrand / SPC
		Vanuatu FD	
12:00-13:00	Closing remarks	Vanuatu	FD

#### 5.3 Annex 3: Pictures



Figure 1: Participants at The Summit sandalwood plantation.

Figure 2: Group discussion.



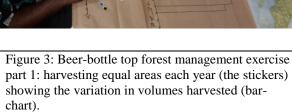




Figure 4: Beer-bottle top forest management exercise part 2: aiming to harvest consistent volume each year (bar-chart) showing the variation in areas harvested (the stickers).

#### 5.4 Annex 4: Presentations

#### 5.4.1 FAO's role in supporting NFI's

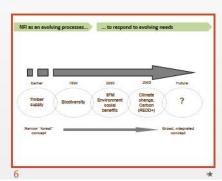


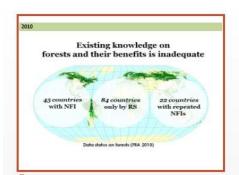




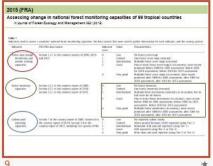


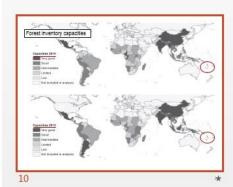












Najor improvements can be seen in forest area change monitoring capacities and in forest inventory capacities

> The total forejoal forest area that is monitored with good to very good forest area change monitoring and remote sensing capacities increased from 65% (1435 million ha) in 2005 to 63% (1695 million ha) in 2015

> Fifty-flour of the 95 countries now have good to very good forest area change monitoring and remote sensing capacities

> Free and open source high resolution as statistic data such as Landsat remain an important data source

> The total tropical freest area that is monitored with good to very good forest inventory capacities increased from 38% (758 million ha) in 2005 to 68% (1358 million ha) in

Key messages:

Carbon pool reporting capacities did not increase as dramatically (yet coming?)

The results demonstrate that capacity building programmes have proven to be successful.

Targeted programmes, such as those from FAO projects seem to be very effective with a success rate of 6%.

Also, the engagement in REDD+ capacity development initiatives had a positive impact on country forest monitoring capacity.

This clearly service is emportance of capacity building programmes and the need for further capacity development.

Further investments will enable countries to obtain accurate and reliable data and information on firest area and frest resources which provides the necessary input to refine policies and decisions to frack drivers of deforestation, to conserve forests and to further improve forest management.

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#### Mandate

During COFO-2012, member countries recommended FAO to support countries in strengthening national forest information systems and requested FAO "to prepare a set of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring, which takes into account the requirements for REDO+ reporting and is in line with the principles and goals of the Forest Instrument

#### Main objectives of the Voluntary Guidelines

•The guidelines aim to present a general framework to compile good practice principles, methodologies and tools for planning and implementing a multi-objective national forest inventory.

a a be nd

 The Guidelines should be designed as a technical reference or framework that can be used taking into consideration the needs and capacities of member countries.

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Target Audience

Policymakers
Public and private institutions
International agencies

13

#### FAO Knowledge reference for national forest assessments

New report + online resources being planned for release late 2016 Contents:

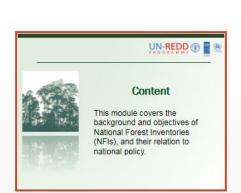
- 1. National forest assessments and policy influence
- 2. Organization and implementation
- 3. Sampling designs for national forest assessments
- Observations and measurements
   Data collection through interviews
- Remote sensing supporting NFI's
- 7. Information management
- 8. Modelling for estimation and monitoring
- 9. Scenarios

ng

NFMA VIDEO get link

5.4.2 NFI Policy linkages







2





Decision-making and policy – information demand

The reality:

Many countries still exhibit serious shortcomings in the supply and use of information required for forestry policy-making.

Often there is a fatigue to link the supply of information (the producer) to demand (the user).

Collected data remain little or poorty used.

Some donor-driven inventories neglect to undertake analyses of actual needs.

Demand for forest information is also changing

The reality:

Many countries still exhibit serious shortcomings in the supply and use of information required for forestry policy-making.

One there is a failure to link the supply of information (the producer) to demand (the user).

Collected data remain little or poorty used.

Some donor-driven inventories neglect to undertake analyses of actual needs.

Demand for forest information is also changing

The reality:

Amy countries still exhibit serious shortcomings in the supply and use of information required for forestry policy-making.

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#### Introduction

The gap between supply and demand of information cannot be solved by improving the supply side alone (e.g. by introducing or improving national forest inventories);

it is also the result of issues on the demand (users) side

It is important to improve policy process, including administrative environments that affect the production, flow and communication of information.



Stakeholder involvement at all levels:

Involving producers and users of data in this process is crucial.

UN-REDD

11

#### Introduction

In this Module:



poor?

What kind of information is needed?

Why are inventories needed?

How can the links between information provision and policy-making be improved.

UN-REDD

· Lack of national commitment and clarity on what is needed

■ Information is kept secret or in closed government files → Hide real figures to avoid criticism (e.g. high deforestation). Or to hide failures, or to protect personal or small group's interests.

2. Why is the knowledge about forest

resources still poor? Mechanisms to formulate policy-relevant questions are often poor

The information presented is supply-driven (by foresters), without proper analysis of the questions that users need answering.
 → provides answers to irrelevant questions.

Inventories are carried out under pressure from donors
 → tend to be one-time undertakings, with no real connection with what
the country wants and needs to know

UN-REDD

#### 2. Why is the knowledge about forest resources still poor?

- Information may be present but fails to answer key questions
- Information exists but is spread across many institutions
   (e.g. coast, land boundaries in Lands Dept., forest types/areas in forestry Dept)
- Collected information has been lost or become inaccessible due to lack of staff continuity / knowledge or good storage where is the information from the past NFI?
- · Planners and policy-makers have difficulties in finding and understanding available information

**UN-REDD** 

#### Why is information needed?

The need for information is mainly to develop forest-related policies and strategies, implement and monitor them.

Additionally, NFI data can enable the fulfilment of rnational commitments, such as reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).

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The NFI allows a country to estimate anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals associated with forests because it includes field measurements that allow the estimation of forest carbon stocks and changes

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#### NFI & the policy process

Information should inform national policy Information is most meaningful if a functioning policy process operates Forest policies must be integrated with national objectives and policies



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#### The policy process

The policy process should precede information acquisition and should included the following steps:

- Public debate
- Identify problems and potentials
- Design options for action
- . Analyze the consequences of action
- . Decision-making (select the option)
- Implementation
- Monitoring

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#### What information is needed?

Data collection should be demand driven Should result from a political commitment and connected to a policy



NFI decisions should be guided by what the information is required for; e.g. achieving national objectives or reporting to international conventions, often relevant beyond the forestry sector too.



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#### Types of information commonly needed

Land use - possible conflict: wood vs. agricultural production.

Forest use - quantities, patterns and trends in the production and consumption of forest products. (including non-wood commodities and services derived from forests).

The present state of the forests - basic information: areas, topography, ownership, accessibility, volumes and growth.

Change - only repeated or "continuous" inventories can provide such information.

Plantations - purpose, planted area by year, ownership and tenure arrangements, etc.

Trees outside of forests – in many countries the majority of forest products originate from this resource.



Types of information commonly needed

orests supplying local communities - socio-economic needs often not well considered \$\to development of policies to strengthen the beneficial roles of forests for rural communities and enable these communities to participate in sustainable forest management is often challenging

Other Issues: e.g. biological diversity, forest fires, non-wood forest products, en benefit etc.



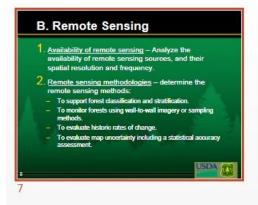
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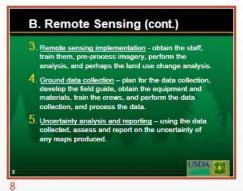
#### 5.4.3 NFI Policy Exercise

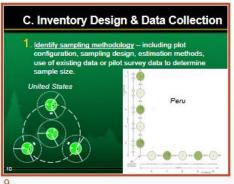


5.4.4 How to do an NFI in 20 Steps Scott \_Vanuatu



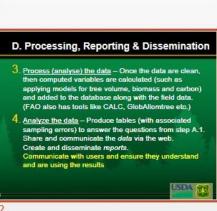


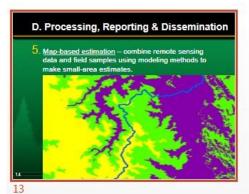


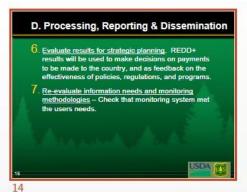










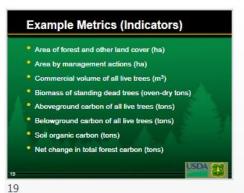


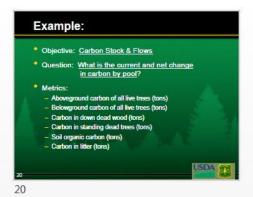


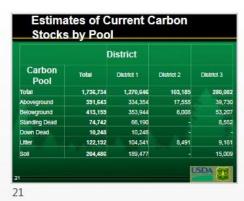
A. Planning Steps 1. Information needs and priorities – determine the information needed to make management and policy decisions. a. Identify the stakeholders b. The stakeholders identify their broad objectives c. Select the monitoring questions to address the objectives d. Select metrics (indicators) to answer the questions. USDA IS 16

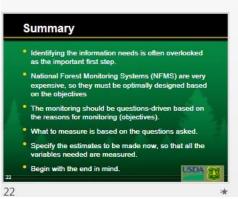


**Example Monitoring Questions** viriat is the distribution of tree species across the landscape? What tree species are increasing or decreasing in importance? Are forests replacing themselves? What factors are impacting regeneration? What is the distribution of biomass across the forested landscape? Is total biomass increasing or decreasing? Does total net growth exceed removals? What is the current and net change in carbon by pool? How are the changes related to human activity?







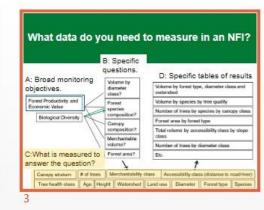




5.4.5 Exercise: How to do an NFI in 20 Steps







List 2 objectives your group thinks should be answered by the NFI, and fill in like example below on what is measured to answer your question? Train staff doing field work to identify species, look for them when in the forest and in the NFI plots - taking photos and samples of bank, leaves and fruits. Are the locations of rare or threatened species known? Example: Forests with high Improving records, points or maps of biological, cultural, spiritual and historical locations of rare or threatened species recorded in DoF and historical values are conserved and protected. Cultural site (from page 24 Vanuativ sites are and record them with a GPS or take a picture with GPS camera/phone locations of cultural sites. [Interviews can be good source of information]

#### 5.4.6 :US-FAO Collaboration on Forest Monitoring

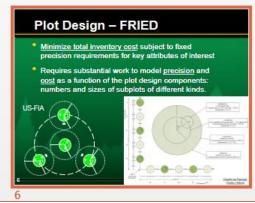
















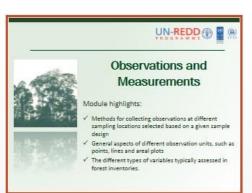


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#### Introduction

The design components of a sample-based inventory can be subdivided into: (i) sample design, (ii) response design and (iii) estimation design, following a logical and also a temporal order.

This module is concerned with the response design, (also called the observation design), and examines observations and measurements made on population elements that were selected from the population by the sample design.

✓ Measurements and observations for National Forest Assessments (NFAs) are drawn from several different sources: maps, aerial photographs, satellite imagery and the field, but also: previous inventory reports, documents, research studies and expert knowledge.

Types of variables

- Observations produce values for variables and are made on defined observation units.
- Variables (or attributes) may be classified according to

#### Types of variables

Variables in a statistical sense

"measurements" may yield a metric value (for metric variables such as distance, diameter or height) or a classification into one out of a set of two or more categories (for categorical variables such as species, forest type and soil type).





Types of variables

Directly observed vs. Derived variables

Some variables are directly measured/observed, such as dbh or tree species, and some are derived/modelled, such as volume and biomass, and most observations of change



Branches (11N) Stem (62%)

#### Types of variables

Status vs. Change variables:

The majority of measurements give a status value for a given attribute.

Only a few change attributes can be measured directly at one point in time. [i.e. increment borings; length of terminal shoots of coniferous trees].

The <u>estimation of change</u> for other variables is therefore based on measurements taken at <u>two</u> points in time.







Types of variables

How many variables?

A wide number of attributes are typically covered in an NFI.

Traditionally, biophysical variables; more recently, multipurpose inventories: data on forest use, socio-economic variables, etc. to analyze drivers of change.

The number of attributes observed on each plot can be as high as over 250 and, in most cases, is not less than about 100. Some examples: land use, forest area, forest type, growing stock, non-wood forest products, biodiversity, soil erosion, etc. Which variables to include?

- √ The decision concerning which variables to observe is strategic.
- ✓ Commonly a core set of variables but customization is possible.
- $\checkmark$  Focus on those variables that will yield the target information or are required as input for models (i.e. height)
- ✓ Decision depends also on staff capacity and resources

#### Variables definition and Measurement protocol

All variables need to be clearly defined

Measurement procedure must also be defined in detail.





Measurements

Measurements that are carried out in forest inventories are usually of the following types:

- ✓ Measurement of distance/lengths

✓ Measurement of angles

- ✓ Measurement of areas (using maps or remotely sensed data).
- ✓ Measurement of position (satellite navigation).
- √ "Measurement" of a condition class (i.e. classification -

assigning an object to a defined set of condition classes).

Measurements

Measurement of distance/lengths

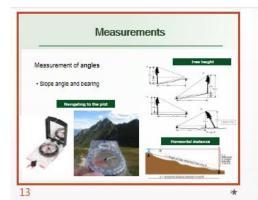
- for individual tree characteristics (diameter and height)
   plot establishment (e.g. the radius of a circular plot)
   when navigating to the chosen plot location

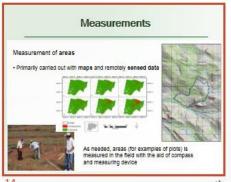
How? Pacing, tape, mechanical-optical devices (Suunto), laser technology (Vertex)

Always follow clear definitions!











Measurements Measurement of a condition (Class rows For categorical variables, measurement conditions to one of a set of defined classes. Here, Collected here type? or "tree species".

To categorical variables, measurement content of the condition of the conditi ro ro ru Forest plantations Droadleaved forest Conferous forest PG PC PM GI GI H AC PC PA DUA Paramete prop Pastares Built up ares jurban or rural 16

# Measurements Lastly, the set of variables to be covered by a specific NFA depends on the specific set of objectives. The variables can be grouped into major subject areas. An example: Geographic and topographic variables. Ownership variables. Variables on wood production. Variables of site and soil. Variables oncerning forest structure. Variables concerning regeneration. Variables concerning forest condition. Variables concerning accessibility and harvesting. Variables describing forest ecosystems. Variables concerning non-wood forest products.

Observation units and their characteristics The "objects" selected for observation in NFAs usually comprise one of the following types: Individual elements (e.g. tree)
 Points (dimensionless observation units) – often center of the plotone point determines the characteristic of the plot (forest/non forest; one point determines the characterists of the plot (to resultant norest; forcest type, soil type, ownership etc.)

• Lines – "line intersect sampling" i.e. for measuring deadwood

Areas (fixed/variable) - entire plot is the observation unit and each plot delivers one independent observation for estimation (i.e. the plot mean or the plot total).

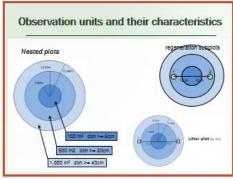
• Fixed area plot — most frequent

• Nested plot (regeneration plot)

#### Observation units and their characteristics

- •Nested plots contain smaller subunits of various shapes and sizes depending on the variables to be measured
- For example, saplings could be measured on a small subunit, trees between 5-50 cm on a medium subunit and trees above 50 cm could be
- measured on the entire plot

  Nested plots can be cost-efficient for forests with a wide range of tree diameters or stands with changing diameters and stem densities



20 21

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## Sample Plots / Plot Size

19

- Objective:

   to achieve the highest possible precision for a given cost (or the lowest cost for a defined level of precision).

   to maximize variability by encompassing as many different conditions as nosethia.
- High variability within a plot minimizes the differences between plot values of a sample, which in turn leads to smaller standard error.

- Optimization is usually undertaken for one principal variable, often growing stock.
- In the case of NFIs, many important variables are observed  $\Rightarrow$  advisable to make a formal optimization along a key variable (usually volume) and make a pragmatic decision taking into account general experiences from other NFAs.

#### Sample Plots / Plot Size

#### Key principles (2):

- Practical consideration (time and budget) often become determining factors for
- \*Production considerability and bodge, often recome determining factors and decicion.

  In Cluster plots the field crews spend much time walking in the product of the same area (because of the minimized perimeter).

  In Circular plots field implementation is more straightforward, as these are defined by locating a single centre point.

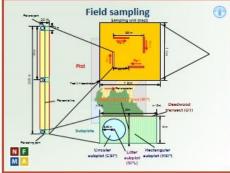
- Also consider:

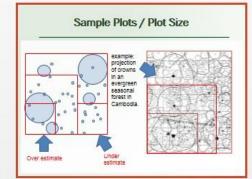
  \*Visibility: strip plots are preferred for poor visibility while Circle plots are preferred for good visibility.

  \*A valid (though uncommon) approach is to combine in the same survey, plots of the same area but different shapes.

  \*Integration with Remote Sensing.

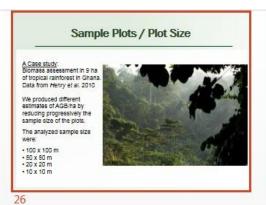
  \*Empirical evicine has found that about 15-20 trees per plot is a good value for plot size.

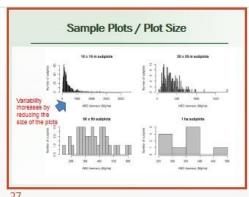




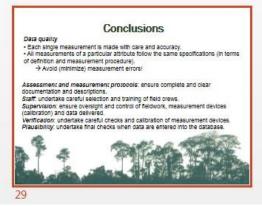
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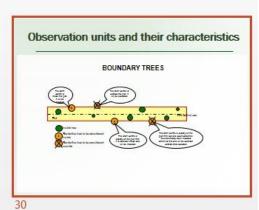




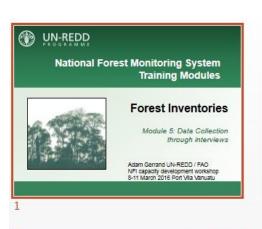


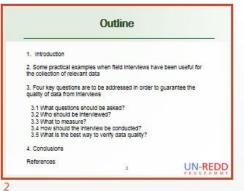
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#### 5.4.8: NFI Data Collection and Interviews







Policy-makers need monitoring programmes that assess characteristics of resource users (and their use of resources).

These cannot rely only on conventional forest inventories (quantitative estimates).

Interviews (providing qualitative information) are also of great help.





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In Gambia, interviews and Participatory Learning elements served in the assessment of Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) impacts in rural communities, and the capacities of Community Forest Committees (CFCs) in forest management (FAO, 2011).

Kessy et al (2010) provide fieldwork instructions for socioeconomic data collection in the framework of the National Forestry Resources Monitoring and Assessment (NAFORIMA) Programme in Tanzania.

Identification of drivers of deforestation

Community level consultations and stakeholder interviews have been useful for understanding the drivers of deforestation in Zambia and assess the ourrent impact of consumption, production and development on deforestation (Vynia et al, 2012).

Qualitative information from stakeholders, at the sites of deforestation (e.g. through key informant interviews, focussed group discussions, participatory rural appraisal sessions and livelihood analyses), is important for FAO to understand the dynamics of the drivers of deforestation<sup>1</sup>.

\*Interviews Private Procession\*\*

Participatory observation, self-administered interviews and questionnaire survey have been used to collect information and explore the impacts of land tenure change on forest covers in Pakistan (Rahman et al., 2014)

Multi-stakeholder consultation processes have been fundamental for the assessment of issues and actions included in the Voluntary Guidelines of FAO on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (FAO, 2012).

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3.1 What questions should be asked?

A needs assessment during the planning help decide what variables should be measured.

These are series of meetings with stakeholders, where they express their ophigns and suggestions regarding the conduction of field interviews

It helps clarify and prioritize gaps and information regarding forestry planning and decision making.

3.1 What questions should be asked?

The needs assessment help clarify some issues, such as:

"Hot topics" related to forest use and forest users that could light on

Current knowledge gaps that may prevent national forest policy from increasing its cost-effectiveness

Analytical products that stakeholders may find most useful

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S.3.3 What to measure?

Interview Control information

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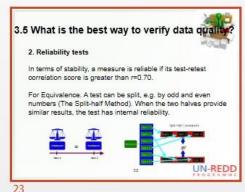
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The quality of a study is related to the questions the NFA team asks, who they ask, how they ask their questions and how they go about verifying the information obtained.

The credibility of the NFA results hinges on how the NFA team presents its estimate of uncertainty.

Without a good description of the degree of uncertainty, a particular finding is difficult to interpret.

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4. Conclusions

It is important to estimate explicitly the bounds of uncertainty for the conclusions drawn from the results.

The degree of uncertainty can be estimated by considering how observed limitations in reliability and validity might influence the study's findings.

Presenting the study's limitations up-front and in a systematic fashion, strengthens the scientific merit of the results and increases the credibility of the study.

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Seufert, P. (2013). The FAO voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. Globalizations, 10(1), 181-186.

Virys, R., Syempungani, B., Kasumu, E.C., Monde, C. S. Kasubika, R. (2011). Preliminary Body on the Orivers of Detorestation and Potential for REOD- in Zamble. A consultancy report preparted for Forestry Department and FAO under the national UN-REDD+ Programme Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources, Lussita, Zambli

Zagst, L. 2012. Bodio-economic Survey EADD-MICOA Plot Project in Kenye. Mitgation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICOA) Programme Sociograma Report 4. Food and Agriculture Organization. Available of https://www.fao.org/climatechange/32889-036986930ff00244e1930d1967980710.pdf.



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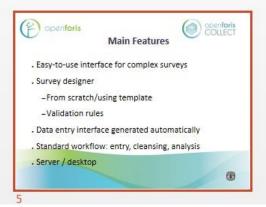
#### 5.4.9 Open Foris Vanuatu































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Conforts

Service of the service of



Openforis
COLLECT EARTH

Visual interpretation tool for land use/cover classification



Collect Earth - Stand-alone or server based

Stand-alone
Collect Earth uses a single-file database (SQLite) to store/fetch the data
The data can be exported into XML
A user can gather data from several operators (through the XML files) and import it into his Collect Earth instance to combine it
Server-based
Collect Earth uses a server database (PostgreSQL)
All operators connect to the same database
Collected data available to all operators

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Construction

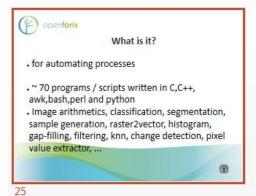
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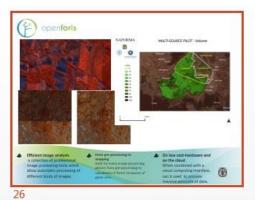


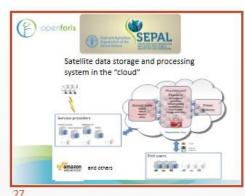


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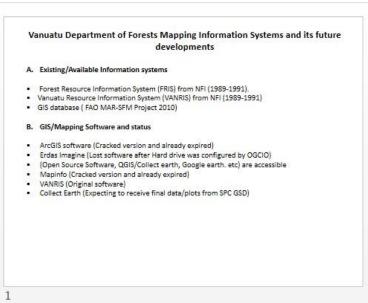
Resource partners

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#### 5.4.10 Vanuatu Department of Forest Mapping Information System.



C. Future Developments

The forest mapping information systems will only contribute effectively in providing baseline information for any future developments if financial assistance is provided to purchase licenses for GIS software.

Specific GIS Training attachments highly required especially:

ArcGIS for updating the current vegetation layer consistently

Erdas Imagine for processing of images

DOF should employ a full time IT in the future to work with the Planning Section

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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The end