DRAFT Meeting Report
Core Expert Group on Forest Governance Data Collection
WRI Offices, Washington, 20–21 June 2013

Summary

On 20 and 21 June 2013, PROFOR, FAO, the UN-REDD Programme, WRI and others convened a second meeting of the Core Expert Group on Forest Data Collection. The first meeting, in Brussels in November 2012, produced an outline for a practical guide to measuring forest governance for assessments or monitoring. This meeting reviewed a draft guide based on the outline and discussed next steps. The authors of the draft will produce a revised guide by November 2013.

Background

The process leading to this meeting began in June 2012 in Rome, where thirty-five international and national experts heard presentations on country experiences, discussed common issues in governance assessment and monitoring, and considered the value of producing resource materials for people measuring forest governance. The participants agreed that guidance would be useful. In November 2012 a core group of experts met in Brussels to produce an outline of the guidance—"a practical guide to measuring forest governance for assessments and monitoring"—and a plan for collecting tools and cases in the area. FAO, PROFOR, and the UN-REDD Programme hired two consultants to write a draft of the guidance.

Comments on the Draft

The main output of the meeting was an extensive set of comments on the draft. Some of the highlights are reported here.

Overall: The draft is clear and well written but not a practical document in its present form. It needs to give more examples and more guidance on how to actually plan and do data collection—to move from having an information need to finding a workable way to serve that need.

The guide may be too long and could to be shortened, either by breaking it up into separate publications or by leaving the details to other works, to which the guide can offer links. The guide needs to strike a balance, though. It should contain enough information to allow a person to perform a governance assessment and should not make such heavy use of references to outside material that the reader is left without real guidance.

Each chapter should begin with a statement of its deliverables.

The guide should consider and reflect a wide range of governance issues, balancing issues such as corruption, enforcement, and investment with other aspects such as

community management, benefit sharing, customary rights and stakeholder participation.

The terms "assessment", "monitoring", "measurement", "data collection" (and possibly others) should be used as appropriate throughout the document, aiming to address different users in a wide range of contexts.

The need to follow ethical practices could receive stronger focus in several chapters.

The title of the guide was discussed. No consensus was reached, but a tentative title was "Assessing Forest Governance: A Practical Guide to Data Collection, Analysis & Use". As assessment carries different connotations when translated into other languages, the translators may need some freedom in translating this term throughout the document.

Introduction: The introduction must give a better orientation to the guide. It should explain the purpose and audience of the guide. The guide addresses the reader as "you", and the introduction should make clear who "you" includes.

Rather than simply refer the reader to the Framework document, the introduction may want to define forest governance. It should highlight that assessments identify the good as well as the bad. It should explain that the guide uses "assessment" in a broad sense, that assessments can range from the simple to the elaborate, and that few assessments will find every step in the guide relevant.

Chapters 1 & 2 (Setting Objectives and Developing a Work Plan): The discussion of context should focus on aspects relevant to planning and implementing a forest governance assessment, including power dynamics and history. It should also cover windows of opportunity and timing of assessments— "when" as well as why and who. It should mention the risks of assessment. The discussion in these chapters needs to be equally applicable to community-driven assessments as to government or donor-driven assessments. The terms "primary" and "secondary" in the discussion of objectives need to be reconsidered. The text should treat anecdotes as a subclass of qualitative data. Step 2 (in combination with Chapter 3) should provide more concrete and practical guidance on choosing & planning for an appropriate mix of primary/secondary as well as quantitative/qualitative methods.

Chapter 3 & 4 (Choosing Methods and Collecting Data): Chapter 3 should be rewritten using the following outline:
- Decide exactly what aspects of governance to assess.
- Identify potential sources of information (existing and new).
- Select data collection methods.
- Develop sampling plans.

- Develop tools for each method (questionnaires for surveys, protocols for interviews, etc.).
- Develop a data collection field manual.

Chapter 4 should basically discuss implementation of tools.

These chapters should use the Framework nomenclature—in particular, not the term "criteria". They should show how to move from ("operationalize") information need to effective tool. They should tie into the objective-setting and planning in chapters 1 & 2.

In particular, Chapters 3 and 4 should build upon the method mix options outlined in Chapter 2, focusing on practical support to data collection. They should provide guidance and specific examples of how to measure aspects of forest governance that are frequently of interest.

Chapters 5, 6 & 7 (Interpretation & Analysis; Reporting & Application of Results, and Learning & Improvement): The analytic chapter (5) should have more references to outside works on analysis and more examples based on experience with forest governance. It should talk about comparing forest governance to governance in other sectors. It should stress the need for recommendations to be practical. The reporting chapter (6) should emphasize the value of tailoring the report to fit the intended audiences. It should encourage people to take multiple paths to reach the audiences.

Annexes: The annexes could include—
- References to further information on all the various tools mentioned throughout the guide.
- A small number of *brief* case studies, reflecting a variety of approaches and actors, explaining how each handled the various steps suggested in the guide.
- Examples of budgets.
- Outlines or links to examples of good reports.
- A listing of some past assessments that might serve as models, including participatory approaches.
- A list of some non-forest-sector assessments or guides that might hold lessons for the forest sector (e.g., fisheries governance assessments or general governance assessments).

Next Steps
- The core group will help the authors add boxes with brief case examples, references and other material. The authors will ask the core group members for specific box input by mid-July and the core group will provide the input by mid August.
- The core group will submit any further comments on the draft in writing to the authors by 22 July.

- The authors will have substantially rewritten versions of the Introduction and Chapter 3 to the core group for comments by late August.
- The authors will have a new draft of the guide by the end of September. Comments should come back by mid October.
- The authors will produce a dissemination strategy by mid October. Comments are due back by the end of October.
- The draft should be ready for the publication process by mid November.

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Annex: Persons attending the meeting

RETURNING CORE GROUP MEMBERS	
Emelyne Cheney	FAO/UN-REDD
Crystal Davis	WRI
Filippo Del Gatto	Expert, Ecuador
Nalin Kishor	World Bank
Steve Nsita	Expert, Uganda
Saskia Ozinga	FERN
Ewald Rametsteiner	FAO
Boris Romaniuk	St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute
Kenneth Rosenbaum	Consultant to the group
Nguyen Quang Tan	RECOFTC

NEW PARTICIPANTS/OBSERVERS	
Tuukka Castrén	World Bank
Phil Cowling	Consultant to the group
Florence Daviet	WRI
Flore Martinant de Preneuf	World Bank
Ragna John	GIZ
Dan Miller	World Bank
Lauren Goers Williams	WRI

NOT ABLE TO ATTEND	
Guido Broekhoven	Consultant to the group
Tina Sølvberg	UNDP/UN-REDD
Rudi Kohnert	FERN
Bob Simpson	FAO
Jo Van Brusselen	EFI

Participating via remote connection