

# **VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING - Concept note-**



# VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING

## - Concept Note -



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## RATIONAL

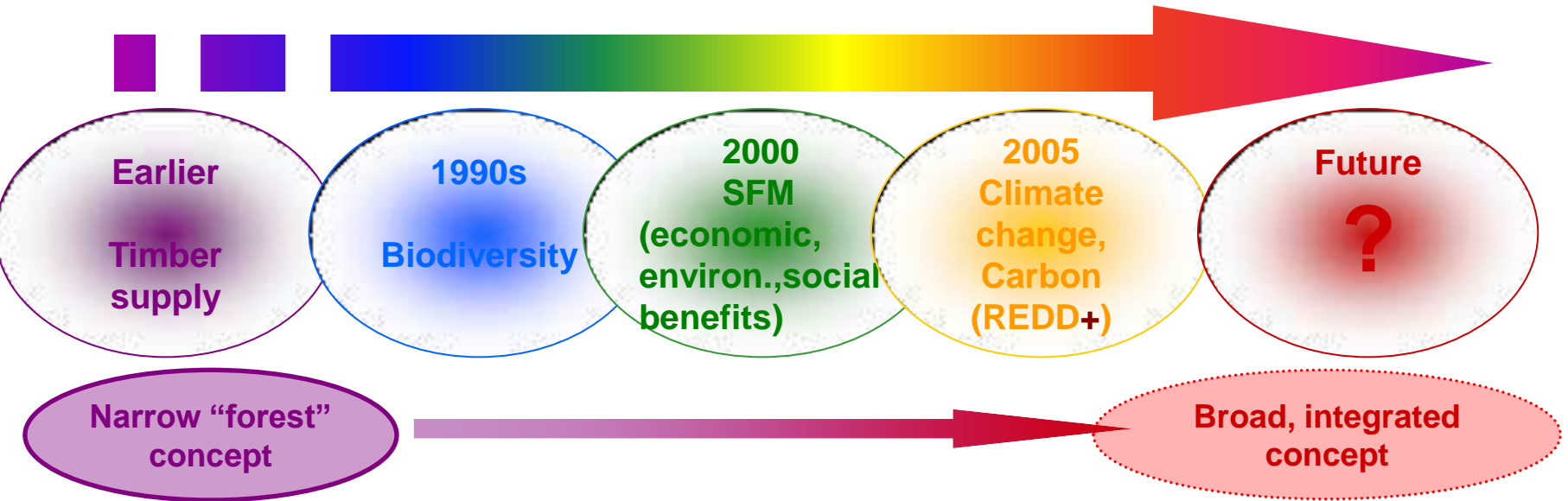
Forest monitoring is one of the main areas of interest in the natural resources assessment process and has become a key issue in national and international environmental and development regulations.

As in most of the cases, this information goes beyond the forest boundaries, can be used as indicator of biodiversity, production, hydrology, soils conservation, watersheds management, urban planning issues for example.



RATIONAL

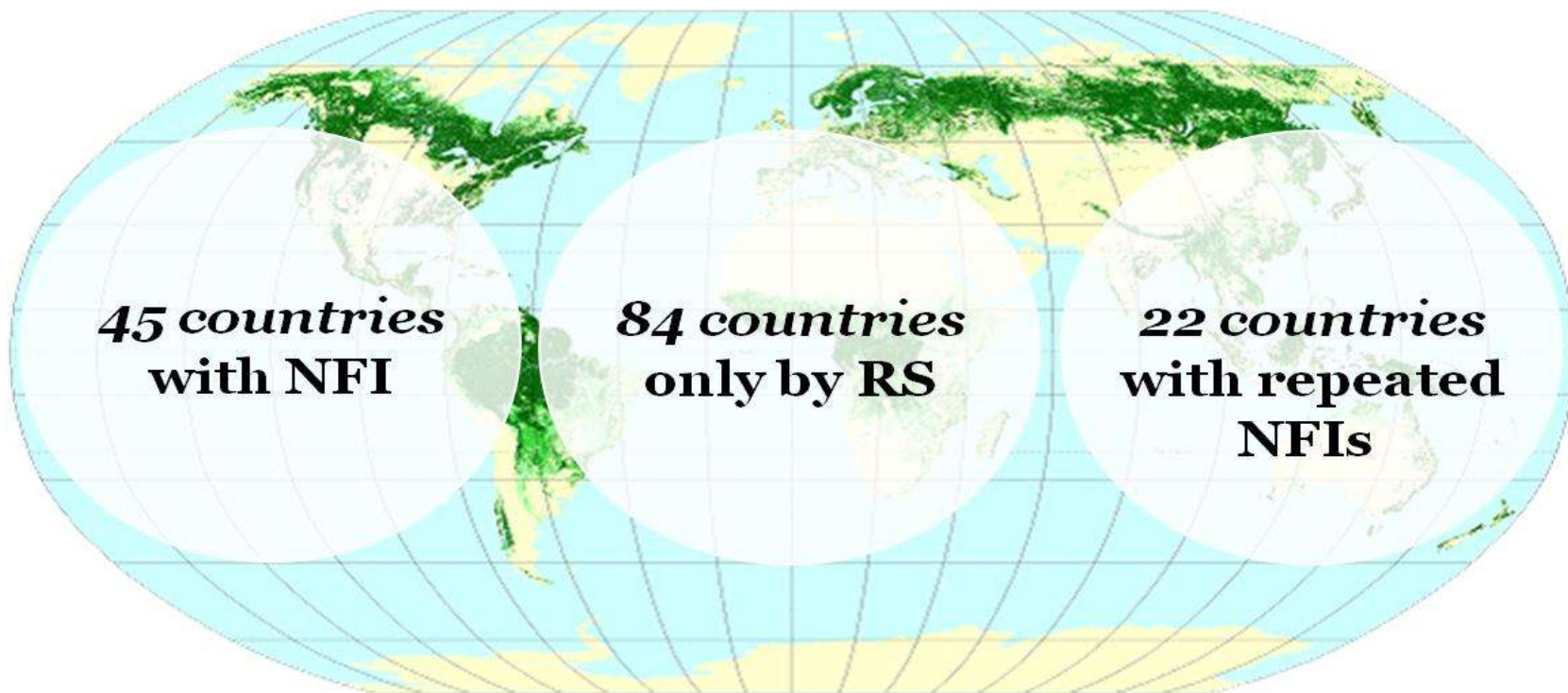
- Evolving needs





**RATIONAL**

While the forest sector faces an increasingly large diversity of data needs on forest and land use, the capacity to collect, compile, analyze data and disseminate information and knowledge related forest resources are often inadequate or lacking.



Data status on forests (FRA 2010)



RATIONAL

**FAO carries out its mandate** in full partnership with other international organizations, national institutions, and non-governmental organizations, **and seeks to assist countries** and the world community by providing relevant, timely, realistic, reliable and useful information.



## RATIONAL

**In this context, it emerges the need of voluntary guidelines for forest monitoring.** It is clear that voluntary guidelines will not solve the lack of information; however it is the key for harmonization and to ensure some degree of reliability of the information.





## RATIONAL

The need for a set of **guidelines for Forest Monitoring** is not **something new**, however, **demand for it has increased in recent years**, particularly after **the decision 1/CP.16 of the Cancun Agreements** which requests developing country Parties aiming to undertake **REDD+ activities to develop robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities.**





RATIONAL

During the last COFO, 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 (FAO 2012a, FAO 2012b).



## MAIN OBJECTIVE 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

**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.

### TARGET AUDIENCE



- ▶ Forest operators, such as state and local forestry agencies, timber companies, indigenous people, conservationist.
- ▶ Policymakers, such as, government agencies dealing with forests, conservation, the environment and land-use planning, development and extension agencies, and civil-society organizations.

- ▶ Agencies, institutions and firms interested in the ecosystem services provided by forests.

- ▶ International funding and development agencies.



### Structure and organization of the document

1

#### Section I

- **Introduction:** the rationale of the document, it may include the concept of a National Forest Monitoring process, why it is important?.
- **Definition of the key facts** to be considered in a National Forest Monitoring process: Society, Economy and Environment.
- **Definition of major sustainability indicators** to be taken in consideration (ex: Biological Diversity, Ecosystem conditions and productivity, Role in global ecological cycles, economic and social benefits, Society's responsibility).

2

#### Section II

- **The principles:** provides an overview of the Principles, showing how they respond to national needs, and as well to international demands.
- Principles should include a wide range of issues, such as biophysics, remote sensing, socioeconomics, land use change, governance, harvesting, environmental payments, protected areas, indigenous territories, accuracy, transparency, accessibility to data and information, among others taking in consideration the major sustainability indicators defined

3

#### Section III

Recommendations per specific thematic fields, such as:

- Allometric Equations,
- Information systems and data management,
- field work,
- Remote sensing,
- Land Use/land cover Classification systems,
- Sampling Design,
- Biodiversity,
- International Reporting,
- Socio-economic and forest service's aspects,
- Country Implementation,
- Quality assurance,
- Forest Governance,
- Data Sharing Policy,
- Carbon Pools.

References to recommended manuals of specific thematic fields

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#### Annexes

→ A glossary of terms





## ROUTE MAP

The goal is to have the Forest Monitoring Guidelines ready for COFO 2014. In this process, opinions of the member countries will be required.

Other stakeholders such as UNFCCC, IPCC, World Bank, UICN, ITTO, CIFOR, WRI , and others should be included in the process.

Regional commissions should be used to inform and acquire feedback from member countries before COFO 2014, as well as the FRA regional meetings and different technical meetings to be hold during this year

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### ROUTE MAP

#### Official meetings or forum to discuss the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring

Title	Organizer	Date	Country
Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) - 28th Session	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbeans	9 September 2013 - 13 September 2013	Guyana
North American Forest Commission - 27th Session	FAO (FODL), US Forest Service	October 2013	United States of America
25th Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	November 2013	New Zealand
Joint Meeting - 37th European Forestry Commission- 71st UNECE Timber Committee	Jointly organized by FAO and UNECE	December 2013	Finland
21st Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission	Regional Office for the Near East (RNE)	January 2014	To be decided
19th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission	Regional Office for Africa (RAF)	February 2014	Namibia
COFO 2014	FAO	June, 2014	Italy



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### ROUTE MAP

Some regional meetings / expert meetings organized by FAO that can be used to present and discuss the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring

Title	Specific topic in the context of the voluntary guidance to be discussed	Type of meeting	Organizer	Date	Country
South American seminar on national forest inventory as framework tool for future challenges	Dissemination, request of collaboration	Regional meeting	FAO, INFOR, USFS, SFB, UNREDD	5-7 Nov, 2012	Chile
FRA Global workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration	Global meeting	FAO	6-10 May, 2013	Thailand
Regional Workshop on tree volume and biomass allometric equations in South and Central America	Allometric equations	Expert meeting	FAO, UNREDD, CATIE, USFS	20-22 May, 2013	Costa Rica
FRA African Regional Workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration, feedbacks	Regional meeting	FAO, ITTO, OFAC, COMIFAC	August, 2013	Cameroon
FRA India Regional Workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration, feedbacks	Regional meeting	FAO, Forest Survey of India	19-23 August, 2013	India
FRA East Asian and Pacific Island countries Regional Workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration, feedbacks	Regional meeting	FAO, MAFF-Japan	9-12 Sept, 2013	Japan
FRA European countries and Russian speaking countries Regional Workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration, feedbacks	Regional meeting	FAO, UNECE, Forest Europe	16-18 Oct, 2013	Switzerland
FRA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration, feedbacks	Regional meeting	FAO	14-18 Oct, 2013	Mexico
FRA Silva Mediterranea Workshop	Dissemination, request of collaboration, feedbacks	Regional meeting	FAO, Silva Mediterranea, GIZ, Spain	November, 2013	Spain
Forest Management, Climate Change and Biodiversity: Advancing an understanding of Caribbean forest dynamics and creating long-term regional networks	Permanent Plots	Regional meeting	Caribbean Foresters, USFS, FAO,	5-9 August, 2013	Dominican Republic
Technical Workshop on Socio-economic Assessment and Monitoring as part of National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA)	Socio-Economics	Expert meeting	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	November 2013	New Zealand



**HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE**

Different possibilities will be promoted:

- Participation in expert meetings
- Participation on Regional and Forest Commissions.
- Direct contributions.
- Please write down your name in the enclosed form.

Name	Country	Institution	Email	Mail address	General inputs	Specific Thematic field
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					Y__ N__	
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					Y__ N__	
					Y__ N__	
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*thank you!*