International Technical Webinar
Forest data for climate action: the importance of legal and institutional frameworks

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Recording Link: **https://youtu.be/Dlo-Uw2-DEU**

Questions and Answers

For more information about the international technical webinars series, please visit the FAO elearning Academy website

1) **With the devolvement of agriculture and forestry in Kenya what is FAO doing in the counties about data collection?**
FAO has had an office in Kenya since 1977, and in its current Country Programming Framework for Kenya states that "strengthening agricultural statistics, market information systems and the national knowledge management framework" is a part of Priority Area 1. One of FAO's recent interventions has been to establish county offices that work in collaboration with both the national and county ministries of agriculture. Read more about FAO's work in Kenya here http://www.fao.org/kenya/en/.

2) **CBIT-Forest, with budget of 1.9m, targeting globally - how is it set up? It's direct execution by FAO, and most resources funding personnel cost? Were countries requested to pledge anything?**
The CBIT-Forest is complementing on going work and networks on forest monitoring from the following teams at the FAO: Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) and National Forest Monitoring NFM / REDD+ cluster – with global knowledge products and work with pilot countries– all done virtually through webinars and facilitating discussion with those countries to help them enhanced their national forest monitoring systems. More info here: http://www.fao.org/3/cb3094en/cb3094en.pdf
Resources are devoted to personnel that is supporting pilot work and other global activities (MOOC, eLearning etc). Countries are providing their time to be with us during the virtual events, webinars, or massive open online courses. Where applicable, face-to-face workshops/training will happen depending on COVID restrictions.

3) **Can you please share the link of the paper?**
Institutionalization of forest data: Establishing legal frameworks for sustainable forest monitoring in REDD+ countries: http://www.fao.org/3/CB3525EN/CB3525EN.pdf
You can also use this link: https://bit.ly/3c6Pgem

4) **What kinds of data of forest are crucial for NFMS, except forest area?**
This is decided by the country. It can include any variable related to the forest (species, DBH, Height, diseases, productivity). It depends only on what the countries needs to know from the NFMS.

5) **Traditional systems such as the Chakra system in Ecuador play a key role on cope with climate change. I would like to know if these systems are taken in consideration when the legal monitoring is used. This consideration increases the empowerment and the involvement of local stakeholders and in particular indigenous peoples.**
Indeed, it is very relevant to take into consideration existing uses and practices and to provide more certainty by codifying those customary systems, into a national legal

instrument, informed by contributions and inputs from local communities, and IPs (and to make the link with forest community monitoring systems, if they are in place).

6) **In light of the IMF finding that forest elephants are responsible for carbon sequestration to the value of $1.75million per elephant over the course of a 60 year lifespan, how would you suggest legislation should be changed to better protect these national assets in Central African countries?**
https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2020/09/how-african-elephants-fight-climate-change-ralph-chami.htm
Most of developing nations have ratified the CITES Convention which indeed aims to protect wild endangered species, including elephants from illegal trafficking, among other aspects. The main issue is that if not appropriately anchored to national institutions and national laws, and if cross-border controls are not increased, real incentivizes will lack to achieve their goals. Another important matter stands in a stronger cooperation among developed and developing countries to fight illegal hunting and trade of wild endangered species across regions and continents. Appropriate legal frameworks, reflecting country specific needs and including measures and sanctions in order to protect them better might have a key role in this domain. Climate change considerations can certainly have a pivotal role in increasing their importance and incentivizing the adoption of adequate measures.

7) **Do you have any funding support for researches relates on Forest Trees, climate change, environmental protection?**
CBIT-Forest project is being funded by the trust fund Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The CBIT is one of the ways in which the GEF is supporting the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement and its key pillars of transparency and accountability. More information available here: https://www.thegef.org/topics/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit.

8) **How to ensure you address all deforestation drivers if the environment ministry is the leading ministry (and knowing that most drivers of deforestation come from outside the forest or environmental sector, i.e., agriculture, mining, infrastructure)?**
Through the CONPES on Deforestation - this document involves all stakeholders that in one way or another participate in or generate deforestation.

9) **While transparency is extremely important to allow for public accountability and monitoring, access to some level of data can facilitate illegal exploring of forest resources. how open is the access to data from NFI in Colombia and Uganda treated in the law/regulation? who can have access to the data, and how?**
In Colombia, we have the Forest Carbon Monitoring System web page. You can get all the data about National Forest Inventory and Deforestation. Reports are loaded every week. Access is for all regional environmental authorities.

10) **Are indigenous people's territories included in the NFI? and how? (this is also related with access to data - my other question)**

The National Forests Inventory (NFI) has a solid methodology that provides a strategy for data collection in different types of forests and non-forest covers. The territories of the Indigenous peoples' and tribal people like afro-descendant people are included in the NFI. In addition, the technical team or "field brigades" could be made up of indigenous people or Afro-descendants, after socialization and consultation with the respective indigenous and community authorities in the area. Communities under the NFI are considered co-investigators.

- More information: http://www.ideam.gov.co/web/ecosistemas/inventario-forestal-nacional
- Video: http://181.225.72.78/archivosSIAC/recursosSiac/img/segundo_seminario_deforestacion_2017/03_VIDEOS/Inventario%20Forestal.mp4
- NFI field manual: http://181.225.72.78/archivosSIAC/recursosSiac/img/segundo_seminario_deforestacion_2017/01_MANUALES/Manual%20del%20IFN_FINAL%2020180531.pdf

11) **How information is being channelled from conflict zones (forestry, illegal mining, etc.). In what way is the information made available to the majority of the population in an effective, understandable and timely manner so that it is used efficiently?**

The information is shared every week to the regional authorities. We monitor deforestation by fire, mining and illegal use of the forest, illegal livestock. In addition, the information reaches the territory through an investigation of causes and agents. It is with this analysis that information is channelled to the territory depending on the incidence of deforestation. The population is informed through quarterly deforestation bulletins. These bulletins are published on the web page and a report is made in networks of this information.

12) **Who formulates the data sharing protocol? How long does it take to update the Information System?**

It is a national led process, under the auspices of the competent national institutions. Data sharing protocol is formulated by the parties, there is not a receipt or a fixed timeframe, it depends a lot on the national legal framework.

13) **Institution involved in the NFMS seem to be restricted to just Forestry related institutions. Not involving other institutions like the universities, forest communities and research institutions that have also collected forest data over the years could be a challenge for obtaining data.**

The presentation displayed only the main actors, but other institutions like NARO Kawanda and Makerere are involved when it is needed (Needs includes communications)

14) Hector, I understand that information cannot be openly accessed by general public, correct? e.g. if I want data about the NFI in a certain region of the country, are there specific protocols for that?

The information is open accesses by the general public. You need just a username an password to get into the platform. You need to registry first. The information you can get is the resume of the NFI by region. All the data set...like plots information, is a very big component and is not available.

15) What is the importance of FAO elearning, and what is the verifiable goal of its activities. How can we use FAO learning materials?

Learners can access more than 350 multilingual e-learning courses, available in our platform, which are delivered free of charge as a global public good, through the FAO elearning Academy: https://elearning.fao.org.

16) Do you have/collect data on forests under different dryland zones (depending on precipitation level, e.g. humid, semi-humid, etc.)?

This depends from the sampling strategy applied in country: In DRC, Uganda, Ethiopia, for example, data has been collected in every strata.

17) How do you differentiate NFI from National Forest Carbon monitoring system?

Colombia's national forest monitoring system (NFMS) is made up of three instruments: the forest and carbon monitoring system (FCMS), the national forest inventory (NFI), and the forestry information system (FIS). Each instrument has its scope, and they are related to each other, generating the information that the country requires for decision-making. The Forest Monitoring System (SMByC) advances in the generation of information at a higher temporal and spatial frequency with the use of medium and high-resolution images (Sentinel 1/2 and Planet Scope), which identify known coordinates of deforested patches, generating for the critical sites monthly data as an input for the effective control of deforestation.

The National Forest Inventory (IFN) is a large-scale initiative, whose implementation in the field began in 2015. Decree No. 1655 of 2017 defines the IFN as the statistical operation that, through processes, methodologies, protocols, and tools, performs the collection, storage, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data that allow knowing the current state and composition of the country's forests and their changes over time.

More information:
- http://www.ideam.gov.co/web/ecosistemas/bosques-recurso-forestal
- http://smbyc.ideam.gov.co/MonitoreoBC-WEB/
- https://www.unredd.net/documents/un-redd-partner-countries-181/latin-america-the-caribbean-334/colombia-706/16776-sistema-de-medicionmonitoreo-reporte-y-verificacion-mmrv-en-colombia-avances-y-hoja-

de-ruta-para-su-consolidacion.html?path=un-redd-partner-countries-181/latin-america-the-caribbean-334/colombia-706
- http://www.ideam.gov.co/web/ecosistemas/inventario-forestal-nacional

18) Can you share the Ethiopia case?

You can find an analysis of the NFMS in Ethiopia in this report:
https://agritrop.cirad.fr/591680/1/OP-192%20low%20res.pdf

19) Many policies and laws exist in Uganda related to forestry management monitoring systems but operationalizing it by providing Forestry funds is a challenge, how can local level implementer fit in global support funding?

Yes, indeed many great policies exist in Uganda, to provide an enabling environment for forestry management monitoring systems e.g., Access to Information act, 2005, and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003, among others. Your involvement and participation in both the delivery of forestry monitoring is welcome, and it is possible through the many participatory structures and/or platforms we have set up as a country under the REDD+ support e.g., if you are a tree grower, you could join the Uganda Timber Growers Association. Secondly, there are several capacity building initiatives by the MWE in Uganda geared towards building capacity of the citizenry e.g., training in tree planting and management, watershed, and catchment protection. You can visit the website http://mwe.go.ug, and visit the site of the Water Institute for such trainings.

Useful links

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGxRWhagnOI

Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest):
http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/

The FAO course on Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement is available in English, Spanish, French and Chinese through the following links:
- English: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587
- Spanish: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=610
- French: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=616
- Chinese: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=647

Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector – One year in numbers:
http://www.fao.org/3/cb3094en/cb3094en.pdf

Information note - Legal assessment to set up and operationalize a national forest monitoring system in

- English: http://www.fao.org/3/cb3759en/cb3759en.pdf

- Spanish : http://www.fao.org/3/cb3759es/cb3759es.pdf
- French: http://www.fao.org/3/cb3759fr/cb3759fr.pdf

Institutionalization of forest data: Establishing legal frameworks for sustainable forest monitoring in REDD+ countries: http://www.fao.org/3/CB3525EN/CB3525EN.pdf

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You can access all webinar recordings here.

https://online.fliphtml5.com/juygg/hnwj/