



The Global Forest Resources Assessment and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire

**Presented to the International
Seminar on Forest-based
Reporting: A new challenge of C&I
processes**

**Kenneth MacDicken, Ph.D.
Senior Forestry Officer/Team Leader
Global Forest Resources Assessment**



A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a lush green forest. In the foreground, a wooden boardwalk or path is visible, leading into the woods. The trees are tall and thin, with dense foliage.

Today's presentation

- **Brief history**
- **Challenges**
- **FRA 2015 approaches**
- **The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)**



1945

REQUEST FOR FIRST GLOBAL ASSESSMENT



FRA history

- 11 global assessments since 1948
- Assessment methods regularly improved
- Demands for data/definitions evolving
- An emphasis on change from 1980 onwards
- Remote sensing in 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2011



THE WORLD'S FORESTS

31%
OF TOTAL LAND AREA

4,000,000,000HA



THE WORLD'S FORESTS



64 "LOW FOREST COVER COUNTRIES"

Regarding the FRA...

“All these investigations made valuable additions to our knowledge, but all suffered from certain fundamental difficulties..”

World Forest Inventory Report, 1948
True for every assessment since



Global forest assessment has always been, and will always be difficult

- Remote sensing is not enough...
- Ground-based inventory is not enough...
- Country reporting is clearly needed
- Bottom line: A combination of data sources that help improve forest management is essential



One goal, two approaches:

- Goal: Accurate reporting of global forest resources
- Two approaches:
 - Country reports
 - Essential basis for global reporting if more than just snapshots of land cover are desired
 - Remote sensing
 - Providing countries with large-scale analyses for their use



Key international forest data challenges

- Data quality/reliability is highly variable
- Increasing reporting burden a concern
- User needs are not adequately considered
- Inconsistency in numbers used causes confusion



Reducing reporting burden

Three strategies:

1. Prioritising variables to focus effort
2. Streamlining country reporting
3. Initiating joint data collection and analysis with international partners



Joint data collection

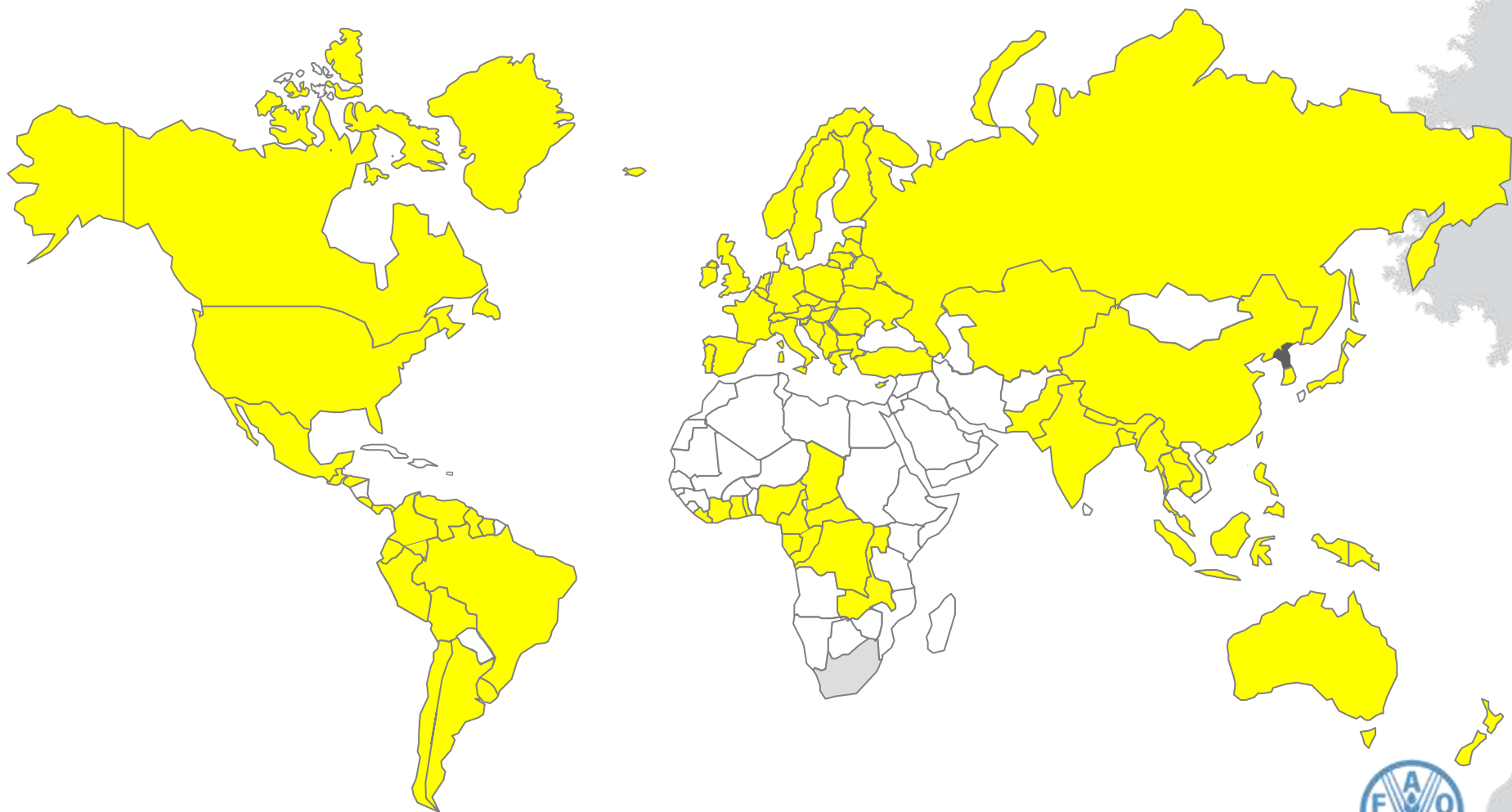
- A new 'Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaire' (CFRQ) will be used:
 - for 36 of 66 main variables covered by the FRA
 - by 103 countries
- The CFRQ will contain a set of shared variables from the FRA – and will be augmented by additional variables from the FRA, FOREST EUROPE/UNECE, ITTO, OFAC and MP





The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire: Making Joint Data Collection Work

Countries covered by the CFRQ



103 countries, 87.4% of global forest area



Benefits of joint data collection

- Benefits:
 - Reduced country reporting burden
 - Greater sense of ownership amongst partners
 - Reduced analytical effort
 - Expected to lead to more reliable information
 - Improved harmonisation of definitions and data over time
- A step in the process to increase collaboration in forest reporting



Summary

- The Global Forest Resources Assessment remains the only global assessment of world forest resources
- FRA 2015 will be the first step in implementing the new FRA Long-Term Strategy
- Greater emphasis on capacity and data quality improvement and reduced reporting burden
- CFRQ is an important step forward in reducing reporting burden and improving data consistency



A special thanks to...

Our financial sponsors:



European Union



Finland



Japan



United States of America



A special thanks to...

**彼らの強力な支援のために日本の林野
庁に心から感謝**





FRA 2015