

“Global experience with forest governance monitoring and assessment and ways forward”

February 6, 2015, Friday 10AM-12:30PM

The objectives of this session were to share information and raise awareness on approaches and tools for forest governance measurement and assessment, share experiences from several examples of application of these tools and promote a call to action. (see attached agenda).

The first presentation summarized how the 3 FLEG Ministerial processes (East Asia, Africa and ENA) had helped create a political space for forest governance reforms. They led to the birth of a large number of bi and multi lateral initiatives directed at improving governance and controlling illegal logging; and identified the need systematic assessments of forest governance problems at the country level. The second presentation presented details on the FAO-PROFOR forest governance Framework. The Framework organizes forest governance issues into three pillars—policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks, to planning and decision-making processes to implementation, enforcement and compliance. The Framework provides an essential foundation for conducting governance assessment and also for developing indicators for monitoring and reporting on the quality of forest governance. The third presentation referred to a publication (the “Guide”) developed by FAO and PROFOR which provides practical guidance on how to do a good forest governance assessment drawing upon the FAO-PROFOR Framework. Such an assessment can be helpful in the diagnosis of governance challenges and in identifying (home-grown) solutions to the problems. The first three presentations set the stage for the two following panel discussions.

The *first panel* focused on getting to know more about practical considerations and real-life challenges in implementing forest governance measurement approaches, from experts from Indonesia, Russia and Tanzania. In Indonesia, the participatory governance assessment (PGA) was done because of the need to systematically assess governance challenges associated with REDD+. UNDP was tasked to conduct the PGA as it was seen as an impartial convenor. Information was gathered through extensive stakeholder consultations, and the findings were validated through other information sources. The government has been strongly supportive of the process and all information has been widely shared. Among several positive impacts, the assessment has resulted in the modification of 15 regulations related to forest corruption, has enabled NGOs and indigenous people to improve their programs and activities, and has created a demand for provincial level assessment and construction of indices for governance quality (e.g. Jambi).

In Russia, the assessment was undertaken to address the need to review the state of forest governance and to identify where it needed to be improved. The assessment was done with full government support and was conducted in 4 pilot regions with close cooperation between the FFA, the regional forestry agencies and the stakeholders. Recognized regional experts were engaged to provide their opinions on the stakeholder assessments. The assessment tool was considered to be comprehensive and useful for factor analysis and monitoring. The SFA will use the tool for the next round of assessments and hand over responsibility for monitoring to the pilot regions. The FLEG-II (EU supported) program is applying a customized questionnaire at the regional level.

In Tanzania, a forest governance assessment was done principally to gather the necessary information on the country's resource base. A major focus was on understanding the interaction between communities and forests. The assessment was carried out through a carefully designed sampling frame for full country coverage. Information gathering included the challenging task of reaching out to communities in remote and inaccessible areas. The assessment led to a surprising result that forest cover in the country was actually 48 million ha., instead of the widely held figure of 33 m. ha. Among others, it was found that the degree of participatory forest management was significantly less than believed and that the challenge of exploiting forests for charcoal production to meet rural energy needs was significantly larger than thought. The country is now considering ways to deal with these findings.

The *second panel* solicited thoughts on where we are headed with forest governance assessments, from four representatives from FAO, GIZ, HAFL and UNDP. The panel saw:

- a clear role for governance assessments, with robust data from the exercise providing a powerful momentum for action,
- a need for political commitment and government support for the assessments and to ensure that they stand on their own in the existing monitoring and assessment framework of countries,
- that development partners and technical cooperation agencies are supporting such assessments especially in the context of REDD+ and FLEGT, and that there is a need to continue to do so, including in the broader context of promoting SFM,
- the need for a strong pillar on forest governance in the international policy processes on forests and therefore to recommend its incorporation (via CLI) into UNFF, IAF and NLBI.

Accessing the FAO-PROFOR forest governance Framework and the Guide:

The FAO-PROFOR Framework: Search on the internet for "*Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance*"

The FAO-PROFOR Guide to Good Practices: Search on the internet for "*Forest Governance Data Collection and Analysis*"

Session Agenda

Roundtable: Global experience with forest governance monitoring and assessment and ways forward (Feb. 6th, 10-12:30)

Venue: Congress Hall

Convener: Nalin Kishor, PROFOR

1. Summary of regional FLEG processes and follow-up activities
Nalin Kishor
2. A framework for assessing and monitoring forest governance
Doris Capistrano
3. Measuring forest governance with the available approaches
Nalin Kishor
4. Practical considerations and real-life challenges in measuring forest governance
Interactive session with country experts: Amina Bohero, Tanzania, Marina Smetanina, Russia, and Abdul Situmorang, Indonesia.
5. Future of forest governance assessments
Roundtable discussion: Eva Muller, FAO, Tina Sølvsberg, UNDP, Steffen Lackmann, giz, and Juergen Blaser, HAFL.