



Minutes from Inventory and Monitoring Working Group (IMWG) meeting

Victoria, BC, Canada, September 12 & 13, 2013

Canada: Jeff Dechka, Graham Stinson, Simon Bridge, Joe Kapron, Alex Song, Angie Larabie, plus observers from Provinces and Territories

USA: Brad Smith, Sonja Oswald

Mexico: Raul Rodriguez Franco, Juan Carlos Leyva Reyes

1) **IMWG accomplishments and direction**

- a. Harmonized North American ecoregion map produced with the assistance of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (available at www.cec.org) ready to use for harmonized North American forest reporting and assessment

http://www.cec.org/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=25137&AA_SiteLanguageID=1

- b. Prototype database built for harmonized North American forest inventory and monitoring data aggregated at the level of CEC ecoregions
- c. North American data harmonization rules developed and ready to use for populating the database with data from Canada, USA and Mexico
- d. Draft technical report describing (a), (b) and (c) in preparation (with Brad Smith as coordinating lead author). Will be completed by IMWG members for publication as an FAO Technical Report. Contributions of this report will be (i) transparency for data and methods that can be cited by subsequent North American regional forest reporting or assessment, and (ii) description of how to develop the capacity for forest reporting and assessment using data aggregated at the scale of ecological regions (a scale that will bring reporting on progress toward SFM to the next level relative to what is possible with country-level data such as those in FAO's FRIMS, especially for our continent where we only have three large countries)
- e. To stimulate use of (a), (b) and (c), IMWG members will develop high level Use Case documents to show how our products could be used by other NAFC working groups or others.
- f. IMWG does not plan to produce a regional report for North America in the short term because the FRA team will be coordinating the preparation of a series of thematic papers to accompany the global assessment main document (no regional assessments) and the Montreal Process TAC plans to focus efforts on global overview reporting rather than regional assessment.



Our members:



COMISION NACIONAL FORESTAL



2) Cross-country NFI assistance

- a. Topics
 - i. (A) addressing data gaps caused by lack of ground access
 - ii. (B) best practices for reducing sampling intensity
 - iii. (C) data recorders
 - iv. (D) QA tools
- b. Process
 - i. Prepare detailed articulation of the topics/challenges faced
 - ii. Engage experts/expertise needed (including seeking the resources needed)
 1. statisticians for topic (A)
 2. statisticians and remote sensing specialists for topic (B)
 3. data recorder specialists for topic (C)
 4. QA process specialists for topic (D)
 - iii. Organize visits (travel and/or virtual) with experts (Oct, Nov, Dec)
 - iv. Produce reports (provision of advice, options, best practices)
- c. IMWG tasks
 - i. Suggest this course of action to each of our respective organizations and obtain blessing to proceed with IMWG taking a lead coordination role or learn mechanism for setting the above process in motion
 - ii. Explore the GoogleGroup that was set up for our working group (Simon will invite the new membership in) ...for sharing minutes, budgets, documents... and decide whether we will work with this or need to establish something else
 - iii. CONAFOR lead the preparation of detailed articulation of the topics/challenges faced and share with CFS and USFS by Sept 30, 2013
 - iv. CFS and USFS engage experts by Oct 15, 2013
 - v. IMWG teleconference mid-October (week of Oct 14 – exact date/time to be determined)



Our members:



COMISION NACIONAL FORESTAL



3) North American data, analysis and reporting

- a. Tasks relating to database, map and harmonization rules
 - i. revisit the database schema to make sure it enables everything we need it to
 - ii. examine inclusion of additional variables (e.g. from CFRQ)
 - iii. re-populate with current list of variables and easy ones from above
 - iv. document data harmonization rules
 - v. explore how to make the data available
- b. Technical report
 - i. Translate the current working draft to Spanish and circulate electronically
 - ii. Brad remain as coordinating lead author
 - iii. Work collaboratively toward completion
 - 1. Circulate in English/Spanish (Sept 20)
 - 2. Light review feedback from WG members to WG (Sept 30)
 - 3. Brad check with FAO on willingness to produce as a working paper
 - 4. Brad announce intentions to NAFC in Madison, Wisconsin
- c. Use cases
 - i. Graham produce drafts for discussion (with help from Simon on use cases involving other NAFC WGs)

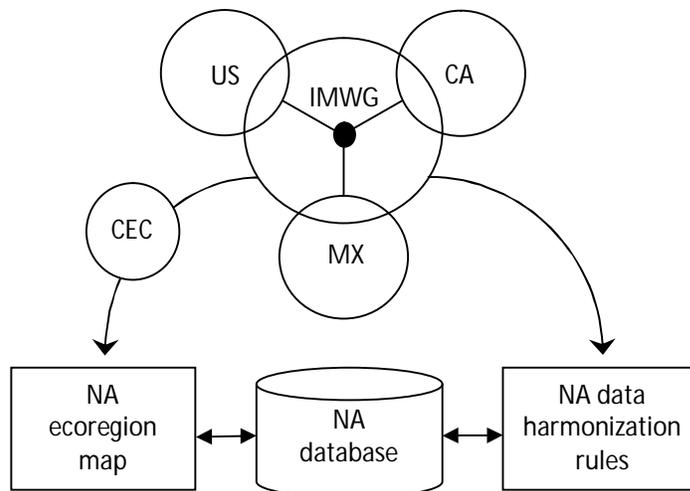


Figure 1. Through the IMWG, Canada, USA and Mexico engaged CEC to re-build the global FAO ecoregion map into a North American (NA) ecoregion map that is suitable for integrated NA reporting and assessment; developed data harmonization rules; and built a relational database into which data from our three countries can be loaded, after harmonization, and aggregated up to the level of NA ecoregions for reporting and assessment. The three elements of this harmonized NA inventory and monitoring infrastructure work together, but can also be used individually for other applications (such as by other NAFC working groups).



4) **Harmonized North American approach to FRA2015**

- a. Table 2a: Primary Forest – Canadian and US approach generally consistent (distinguishing between primary and other naturally regenerated forest at the landscape level using protection status and proximity to development/access as indicators); Mexican NFI able to directly distinguish primary from secondary forest at the plot level using forest structure characteristics that are observable at the plot level.
- b. Table 3c: Net annual increment (NAI) numbers from Draft USA CFRQ package will be reviewed – these seem high. Canadian NAI values are lower than in previous reporting but consistent with recent extreme natural disturbance depletions.
- c. Tables 4a, 5a, 5b and 6: protective functions issue from FRA2010 solved, but FRA2015 solution involves greater reporting complexity (what was 1 table in FRA2010 is now 4 tables in CFRQ). All countries plan to interpret across these tables such that the total forest area adds up across areas reported as having a primary designated function or multiple use, where no single use is predominant (e.g., production forest area + area primarily designed for conservation of biodiversity + multi-use forest area \leq total forest area). All countries plan to treat Tables 5a and 5b as additive (i.e., areas reported in sub-categories sum to area reported in main category).

5) **Report to NAFC in Madison**

- a. Graham send out a draft summary of what needs to be included in a report to the chiefs (as soon as possible)
- b. WG members review and revise as needed (Sept 30)
- c. Brad prepare summary based on input received from WG members, circulate draft before presenting, for final review (October)
- d. Brad present to chiefs in Madison (Oct 15-19)

6) **Next chair of IMWG = Mexico, then USA, then Canada**

- a. Next face to face meeting – to be decided later



Our members:



COMISION NACIONAL FORESTAL