



## Minutes from Inventory and Monitoring Working Group (IMWG) meeting

Victoria, BC, Canada, April 5-7, 2017

### Participants:

Raul Rodriguez Franco	Mexico	CONAFOR	raul.rodriguez@conafor.gob.mx
Sergio Armando Villela Gaytan	Mexico	CONAFOR	sவில்லெ라@conafor.gob.mx
Sonja Oswalt	USA	USDA	soswalt@fs.fed.us
Graham Stinson	Canada	NRCan	graham.stinson@canada.ca
Jeff Dechka	Canada	NRCan	jeff.dechka@canada.ca
Alex Song	Canada	NRCan	alex.song@canada.ca
Joe Kapron	Canada	OMNRF	joe.kapron@ontario.ca
Rick Scott	NAFC Working Groups Liaison		rscott8338@aol.com
Matt Makar	Guest: Canada, BCMFLNRO		matt.makar@gov.bc.ca
Rene de Jong	Guest: Canada, BCMFLNRO		rene.dejong@gov.bc.ca

### 1) *Updates on National Forest Inventories*

- Update on Canada's NFI presented by Graham
- Update on Mexico's INFyS presented by Raul and Sergio
- Update on USA's FIA presented by Sonja
- Discussion focussed on how to more effectively engage stakeholders, including the public. FIA is developing an engagement portfolio using AGOL story maps and this approach was discussed at length: <http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicGallery/index.html?appid=e67afb7be2c8443ca64a2e8a8e473532>

### 2) *North American collaboration on Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020*

- In December, 2016, FAO invited Canada and USA to comment on draft terms, definitions and specifications for FRA 2020. These comments were provided in January, 2017. Meanwhile, experts met in Florida to develop options for FAO on reporting forest characteristics in FRA 2020 (primary forests, natural forests, semi-natural forests and plantations). The Florida report was shared by FAO in February.
- An expert meeting on FRA 2020 will be held in Joensuu, Finland, June 12-16. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity for North America to identify foreseen reporting issues and offer solutions. All three countries plan to have expert representation. Four key issues emerged from the discussion:
  - o Designated functions of forests: reporting only on primarily designated functions will provide misleading information for North America. A solution was developed which should be straightforward to implement and therefore easy for FAO and other regions to agree to.
  - o Forest sector employment: reporting only on 'in the woods' jobs under-values the importance of the forest sector to North American economies and our proposed solution should be straightforward to implement.



- Forest characteristics: more clarification and precision is needed on how to classify forests into natural, semi-natural and how to operationally apply the primary forest definition. If FAO elects to pursue the options from the Florida workshop, then there is also a need to develop 'intact forest landscape' thresholds and size criteria that are better tailored to local forest ecologies than the definition developed by Potapov et al. and used by Global Forest Watch. Given the complexity of the issue and the fact that we do not have a ready-made solution to offer, our starting position at the Finland meeting will be to take a wait-and-see approach. Meanwhile, Canada will continue to explore operational primary and intact forest area estimation issues and report back to the working group when/if any noteworthy learning occurs.
- Deforestation: We will ask if it would be possible for FAO to pre-fill using the data that countries already supply in their UNFCCC reporting. Otherwise our stance will be wait-and-see. The advantages of pre-filling would be reduced reporting burden and increased consistency between FRA and UNFCCC. A global remote sensing effort should not be attempted because previous efforts failed to distinguish land cover change from land use change, and a FAO-led global effort for FRA 2020 will only run into the same formidable challenge.
- Briefing notes will be prepared for Canadian, US and Mexican authorities, including our FRA Advisory Group members.

### **3) Field tour: Capital Regional District (CRD) Greater Victoria Water Supply Area**

- Tour leaders: Tony Trofymow (NRCan Research Scientist), Glenda Russo (NFI Ground Plot Program Coordinator), Joel Ussery (Manager, Resource Planning, Capital Regional District)
- Stops: Goldstream Gate, Kapoor Forest Management Operations, Sooke Lake Dam, NFI demo plot, Goldstream 3N old growth site

### **4) BoA business**

- Working group members agreed review IMWG fact sheet, modify as needed, and return to Graham. Graham agreed to prepare version for final review and then finalize and share with Rich Verbisky for translation into our 3 official languages.
- Sonja agreed to develop a draft AGOL storymap to tell our working group's story
- Graham agreed to prepare a draft working group update and PPT deck (for 29<sup>th</sup> session of NAFC) and circulate to working group members for comment
- Graham and Alex agreed to prepare estimates of costs for printing NAFD brochures and for maintaining the NAFD online reporting tool so that we can request the funds from BoA (ideally at their meeting before the NAFC session)

### **5) North American Forest Database**

- Completion of the journal publication
  - Sergio agreed to find out if CONAFOR will produce the publication version of Figure 1 or not, and let Graham know
  - Sergio agreed to produce the publication version of Figure 2
  - Graham agreed to produce the publication version of Figures 3-9.



- Sonja agreed to submit the manuscript to the journal for peer review after receiving the figures.
- Web portal development
  - Alex and Graham agreed to proceed with the Canadian workplan and keep others updated on progress.
- Additional variables or features that could be added in next version
  - In the next phase of the NAFD development, we agreed to
    - add reporting on total area, land area, and water area
    - explore how we could add reporting on [species][species groups][SAF forest types or CAN/MEX equiv][predominant genus]
    - include reporting for two North American nominal dates: 2005 and 2015 instead of what we currently have in Phase 1 (2006 for Canada, 2007 for Mexico and 2011 for USA)
- Harmonization rules for additional variables
  - Sonja, Alex and Sergio agreed to share information on species group classification and forest type classification systems and methodologies and compare our information with the information shared by colleagues.

## **6) Mangrove collaboration**

- Sonja agreed to share information on G-LiHT with working group members.
- Sonja and Sergio agreed to continue advancing the mangrove efforts in US and Mexico.

## **7) Next meeting**

- CONAFOR agreed to host the next working group meeting. Dates to be determined.