Forest Related SDGs
Update on SDG indicators under FAO custodianship

39th Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management
29-31 March 2017, Geneva
- FAO identified as “custodian” agency for 15.1.1, 15.2.1 and 15.4.2. As such, it is responsible for:
  - Collecting data from national sources and reporting at global level
  - Further methodological development and documentation
  - Contributing to statistical capacity development
  - Coordinating with other relevant stakeholders
Indicator 15.1.1
Forest cover

- Tier 1 indicator
  - Analysis of regional and global aggregates already reported in the 2016 SDG progress report
  - Country data published on the IAEG-SDG website
  - Data source: FRA
  - Improvements in data collection and possibilities for more frequent reporting under discussion as part of the FRA process
Indicator 15.2.1
Progress Towards Sustainable Forest Management

- Tier 2 indicator
  - Upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 at the 4th IAEG-SDG meeting
  - First report and storyline provided in February 2017
  - Data source: FRA
Indicator 15.2.1
Progress Towards Sustainable Forest Management

- Formulation of Indicator as reported in 2017 (Tier 2)
  - Forest area annual net change rate
  - Above-ground biomass stock in forest
  - Proportion of forest area located within legally established protect areas
  - Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan
  - Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme

  ➢ Data analysis based on thresholds/traffic lights
**Indicator 15.2.1**

Progress Towards Sustainable Forest Management

- Issues pointed out by IAEG preventing upgrade to Tier 1:
  - The first sub-indicator is equivalent to 15.1.1
  - The sub-indicator on forest certification perceived as not universally applicable (coverage)
  - Concerns about data aggregation

- Request to present new submission by January 2017
New submission proposing upgrade to Tier 1 (January 2017):

- Consideration of IAEG-SDGs observations expressed during November meeting:
  
  i) ensure no overlap with other indicators, specifically indicator 15.1.1;
  
  ii) streamline methodology, harmonizing reference years and improving clarity and transparency; and
  
  iii) coverage and country capacity to report sub-indicator on certification of areas under sustainable forest management.
New submission proposing upgrade to Tier 1 (January 2017):

Suggest to report on the following four sub-indicators that – in combination with Indicator 15.1.1 - cover the dimensions of SFM:

- Above-ground biomass stock in forest
- Proportion of forest area located within legally established protect areas
- Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan
- Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme
New submission proposing upgrade to Tier 1 (January 2017):

- Main differences from previous submission:
  - The sub-indicator on “Forest area annual net change rate” dropped.
  - The dashboard with traffic lights dropped, instead each sub-indicator to be reported on individually and storyline built also with information from Indicator 15.1.1.
  - All sub-indicators calculated using as reference the latest reporting year.
  - The sub-indicator on forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme, maintained as its data is available for all countries and is country validated.

Proposal acknowledges that less than half of the world’s countries have certified forests, i.e. although the indicator coverage is 100%, a large amount of countries do not have certified forests and request the IAEG to decide on the maintenance of this sub-indicator, following lack of consensus on this topic among countries (result from OLI meeting). FAO considers that the other three sub-indicators still cover the key elements of sustainable forest management.
Tier 2 indicator

- First report and storyline provided in February 2017
- Data source: Remote sensing

Process to upgrade to Tier 1 will be conducted through online validation of data
Forest Related SDG Indicators

Next Steps

- Country capacity building (for 15.1.1. and 15.2.2 in coordination with FRA)
- Development of online courses
- Prepare for review of SDG15 indicators to take place in 2018, building on results from the work on the Core Set of Global Forest Indicators and FRA process.
Thank you!

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