



Strengthening the ENFIN network in providing forest
information for international purposes – feasibility study

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TAPIO 

Overview of data needs within international and EU processes and agencies

Sources:

- Desk study
- Interviews
 - EU Commission (DG Agri, ENV, Clima, Research, JRC)
 - EEA
 - FAO/UNECE
 - Eurostat
 - Forest Europe

Main forest-related data needs (example)

Initiative	Main forest-related data needs
A European Green Deal and the EU plan for Green Transition (Fit for 55)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Forest area- Forest carbon stock- Forest carbon stock change or gains/losses- Soil carbon stock- Soil carbon changes
Biodiversity strategy of the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protected areas- Afforested areas- Primary and old-growth forests
EU taxonomy for sustainable activities	<p>On forest estate level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Forest area- Forest carbon stock- Forest carbon stock change or gains/losses- Soil carbon stock and changes <p>Criteria for forest management activities</p>

Data needs – conclusions based on desk study

Categories

- Common stand and forest area variables
- Data produced by modelling
- Statistics on forest value chain
- Undefined data needs (not yet defined)



Current data needs – excerpts from interviews (1/2)

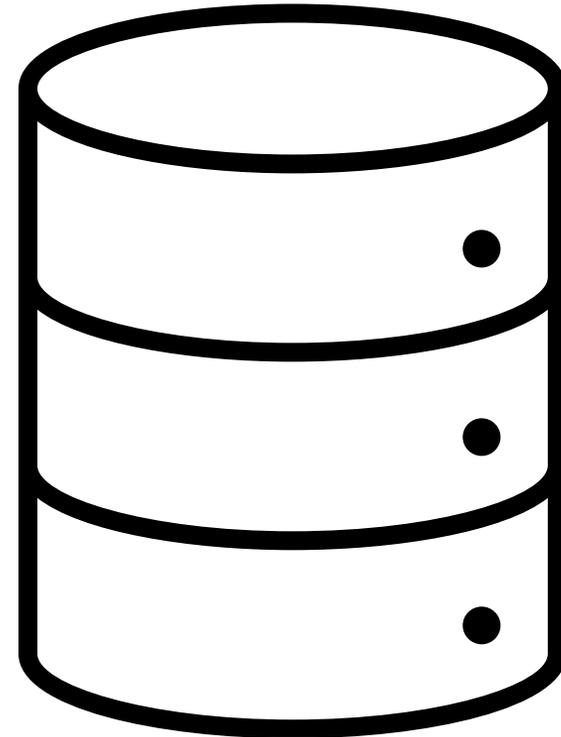
- Range of answers concerning the aggregation level
 - Basic forest variables – used on an aggregate/national level
 - pre-processing of data
 - Usually raw data, sometimes data is analyzed by consultants. Varies between organizations
- Harmonization
 - Data must allow comparison between MS:s

Current data needs – excerpts from interviews (2/2)

- Additional data
 - Climate data is most important, including data on mitigation
 - NFI data used together with other data
- Data collection
 - In partnership with other organizations
 - National correspondents, pre-processing of data
 - Most data from an international data base, already harmonized

Data use – excerpts from interviews

- As input for policy-making
- To test member states' reporting
- For supporting implementation of European policy
- Transparency (open data access) is crucial
- 1. Busy decision makers 2. more detailed level 3. original data base-
for researchers
- For use by forest experts



Bottlenecks and future needs (1/3)

- NFI:s are originally designed for other needs than ours
 - Resistance towards changes within the NFI:s
 - emerging needs should be matched
 - Look more at future data uses but every wish cannot be fulfilled
- Resolution
 - We need more timely information (**better temporal resolution**).
High priority +++
 - Spatial resolution should also be improved
- Synergies with other tools, especially remote sensing

Bottlenecks and future needs (2/3)

- Remote sensing is not the silver bullet for everything: biodiversity etc
- Need for new variables
 - non-wood goods and services,
 - soil data,
 - forest product uses,
 - forest value chain

Bottlenecks and future needs (3/3)

- Needs improvement
 - Forest damages - data collection
 - data set description and harmonization
 - Harmonization - handling of different definitions
 - Validation
- Self-reflection
 - We need decisions on the indicators needed
 - not increase the reporting burden
- Forest Alliance – will this imply new data needs?

Trust

- Lack of trust
 - for NFIs or for governments?
 - NFIs are not known widely enough
 - "Competition" with Global Forest Watch and similar tools
- Possible solutions
 - Best way to address lack of trust is to make data more transparent
 - Think about possibilities to combine plot data and remote sensing data in a safe way

Conclusions

- The Data table is a good summary – a few additions mentioned
- Varying data acquisition routines
- **Harmonization mentioned in every discussion**
 - NFI:s need to be open to changes
 - Interest for alternatives to NFI:s
- NFIs should be better known and "branded"
- **Temporal resolution** is high priority, also mentioned in each discussion
- Need for new variables in addition to current NFI data
 - Needs decisions from data users
- "The project was needed 5-10 years ago"
- All data users are open to discussions with the NFIs.





Thank you

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