



Joint Session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

Antalya, Turkey – 10-14 October 2011



Supporting Sustainable Forest Management through Global Forest Resources Assessment

Kenneth MacDicken
Senior Forestry Officer/Team Leader
Global Forest Resources Assessment



Today's presentation

- Context
- What is the same as recent practice
- Evolution!
- Discussion



Long-term FRA strategy development process

Expanding concentric circles of consultation

- FRA team (May 2011)
- FAO forest monitoring colleagues (May 2011)
- FRA Advisory Group (June 2011)
- FAO Forestry leadership (July 2011)
- Expert Consultation (Sept 2011)
- Regional Forestry Commissions ←
- Committee on Forestry (COFO) (Sept 2012)



The Context for FRA 2015-2030

- Human population:  1.2 billion
- Annual cereal demand:  500 million tons
- Annual wood demand:  130 million m³

An estimated 67 million ha of forest land will be converted to agriculture



Long-Term FRA Goal

To provide world-class information
in support of sustainable forest
management*

- * Defined as: The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.



Key expectations from users

- Provide the “big picture” of the state and trends in global forests and forestry
- Ensure relevance of FRA to current global issues, such as deforestation and climate change
- Get the basics right: provide high quality data on key variables
- Data quality & reliability is the key and is a higher priority than the need for widening the scope of the FRA



What remains the same...

Most things

- Overall goals and objectives
- Data collection through country reports and remote sensing
- Continued efforts to harmonize data collection and reporting
- Partnerships



What remains the same (2)...

- Flagship publication with country ownership
- Capacity-building and national correspondent network
- Country-level dissemination



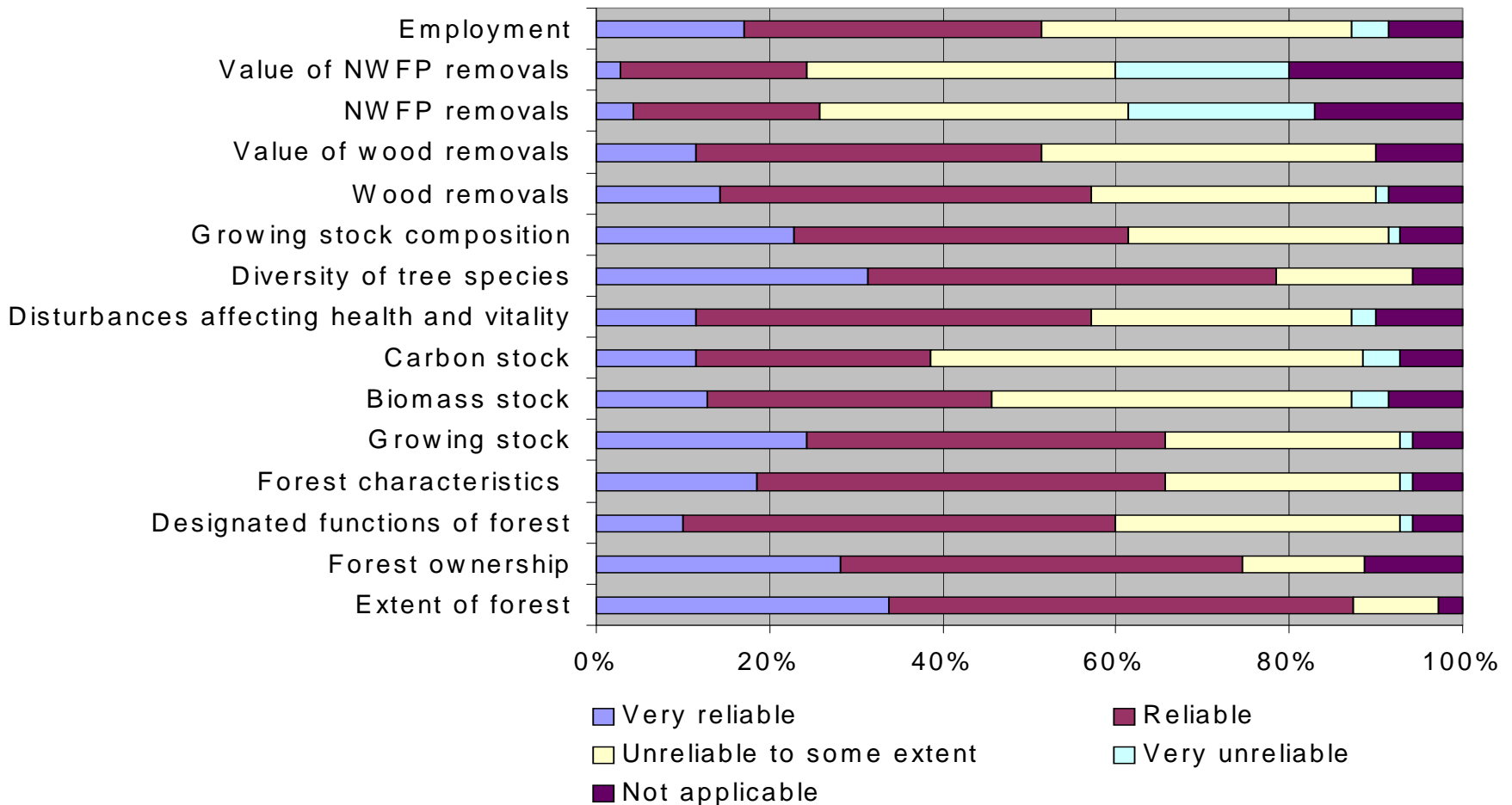
Evolution...!

Increased emphasis on data quality

- Making data sets more relevant to national reporting first – particularly for resource constrained countries
- Increased integration of remote sensing into country reporting
- Reduced reporting burden
- Dropping variables that cannot reasonably be collected
- Online reporting option



Data reliability ratings: the highest on the extent of forests, the least reliable on NWFP and carbon



Integration of RS into country reporting

- Build on FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey methods
- Work with interested countries to help enhance RS use for management planning and country reporting
- Key opportunity to improve FRA reporting by providing benefits to national programs
- Close coordination with REDD+ actions



Evolution (2)...!!

- Understanding and addressing specific user needs
- Improving online access and analytical/presentation tools
- Projecting the future
- Increased use of non-FRA data sources

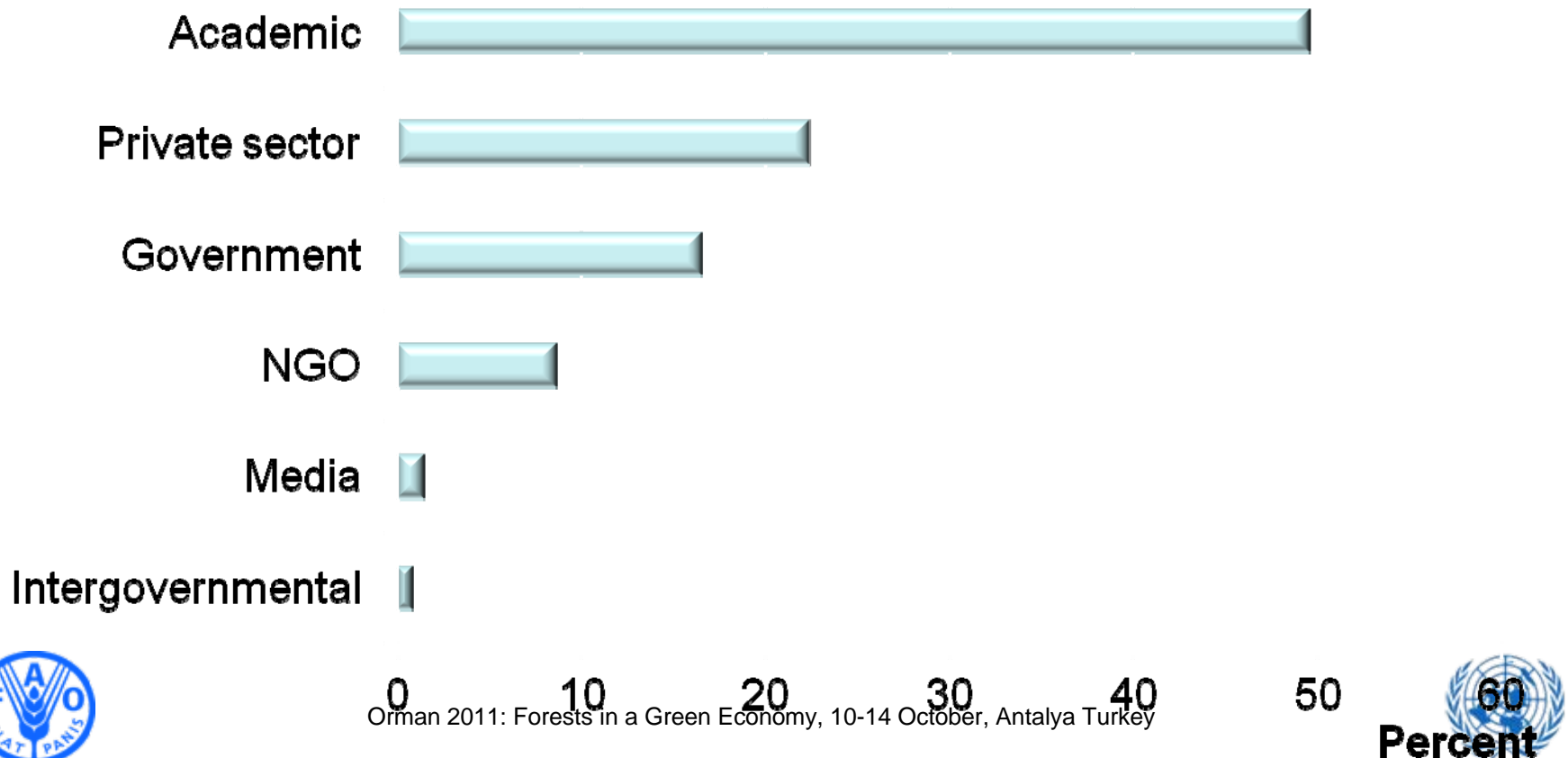


For example: Understanding our customers/users

- Customers include:
 - Academics and researchers
 - Non-Governmental Organizations
 - Private sector investors
 - International organizations
 - Governments
- They don't all have the same interests....

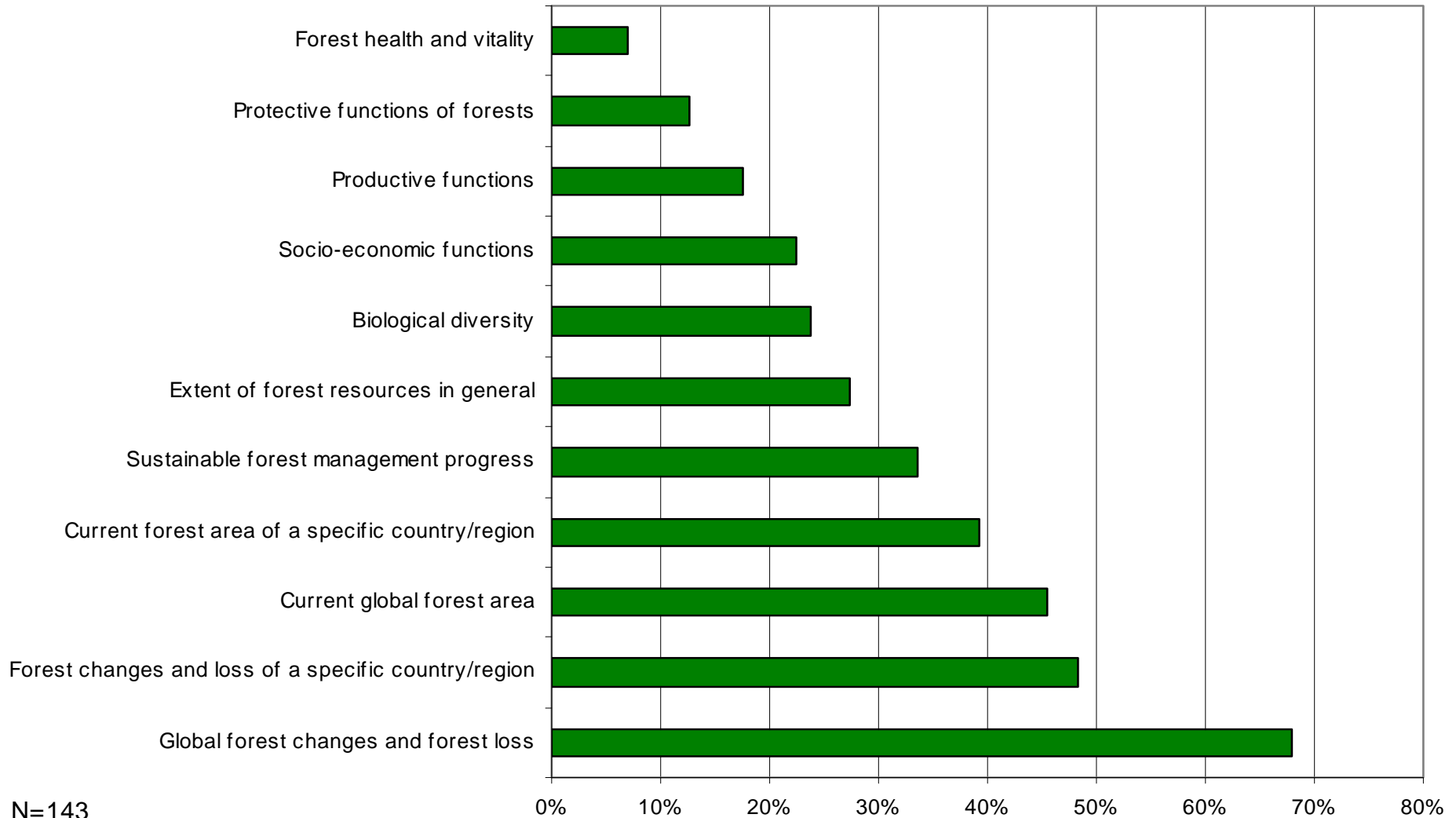


Example: Users for FAO wood products statistics (n=657 users)



How much interest in what topics?

Source: FRA2010 evaluation



Better data access expands FRA utility, demand and importance....

- Improved FRA website access:
 - User defined reports, graphs, analyses
- Using current technologies, modern display and analytical online tools
- Improving public visibility as quality improvements appear



Voluntary Guide for National Forest Monitoring

- FAO proposes a generic voluntary guide that would complement IPCC Good Practice Guidance, REDD and biodiversity monitoring efforts
- Considered to be normative work
- Broad stakeholder-based effort outside the FRA process
- Would this be a useful initiative?



Expected results from implementing the strategy...

- Data quality will be improved
- User-relevance will increase as a result of periodic needs assessment
- Data collection and reporting burden reduced
- Emphasis on ***important and practical*** variables
- Remote sensing use for reporting enhanced
- Projections of future global wood supply/demand and forest area change will be produced
- Analytical outputs will be tailored to user needs



Thank you!!!



Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey

