

Jamaica Report Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

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Outline

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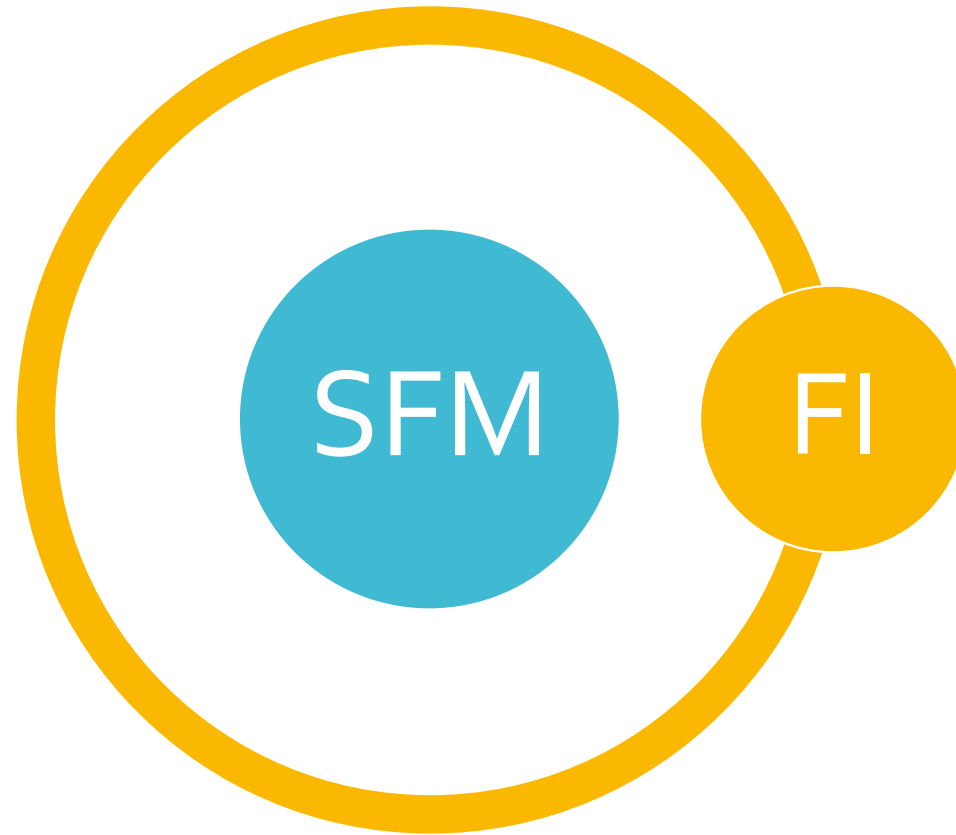


Why is SFM
important?



Forest Instrument (FI)

promotes the dynamic and evolving concept of sustainable forest management, as the means to maintain and enhance the economic, social, and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations (2000)



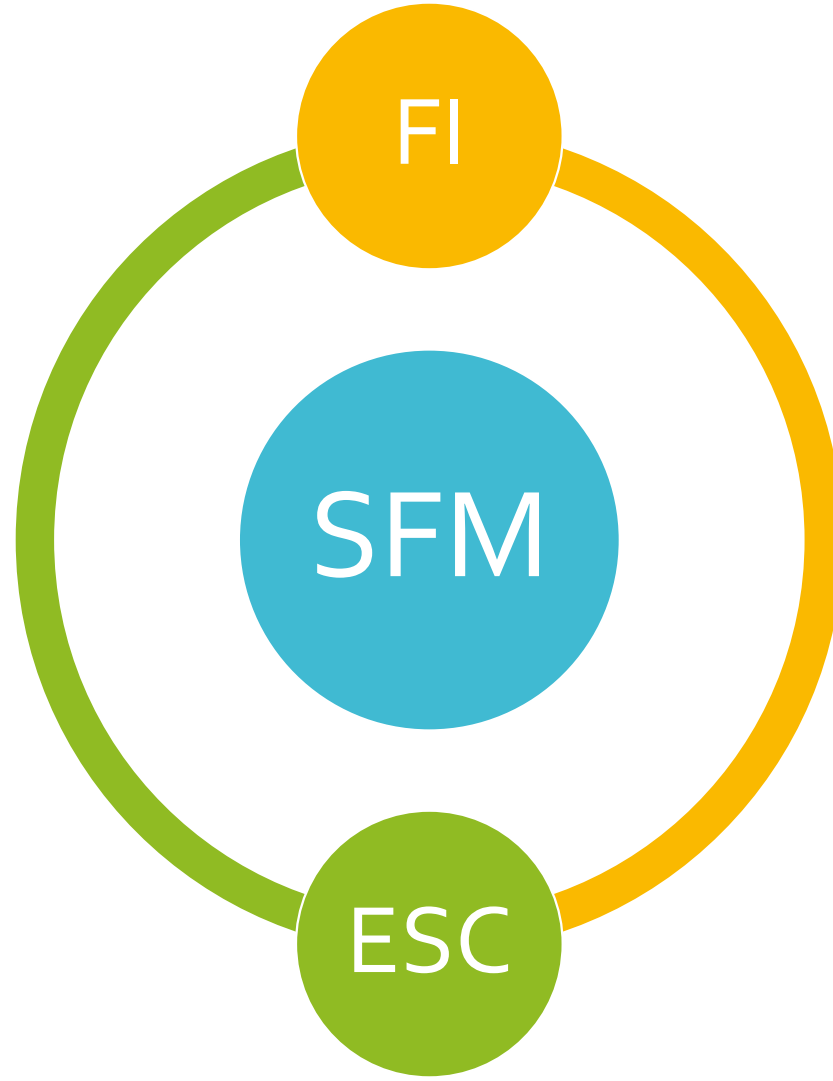
- Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services and that also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities.

Further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that are consistent with national priorities and conditions.

Why is SFM important?

Economic and
Social Council
(ESC)

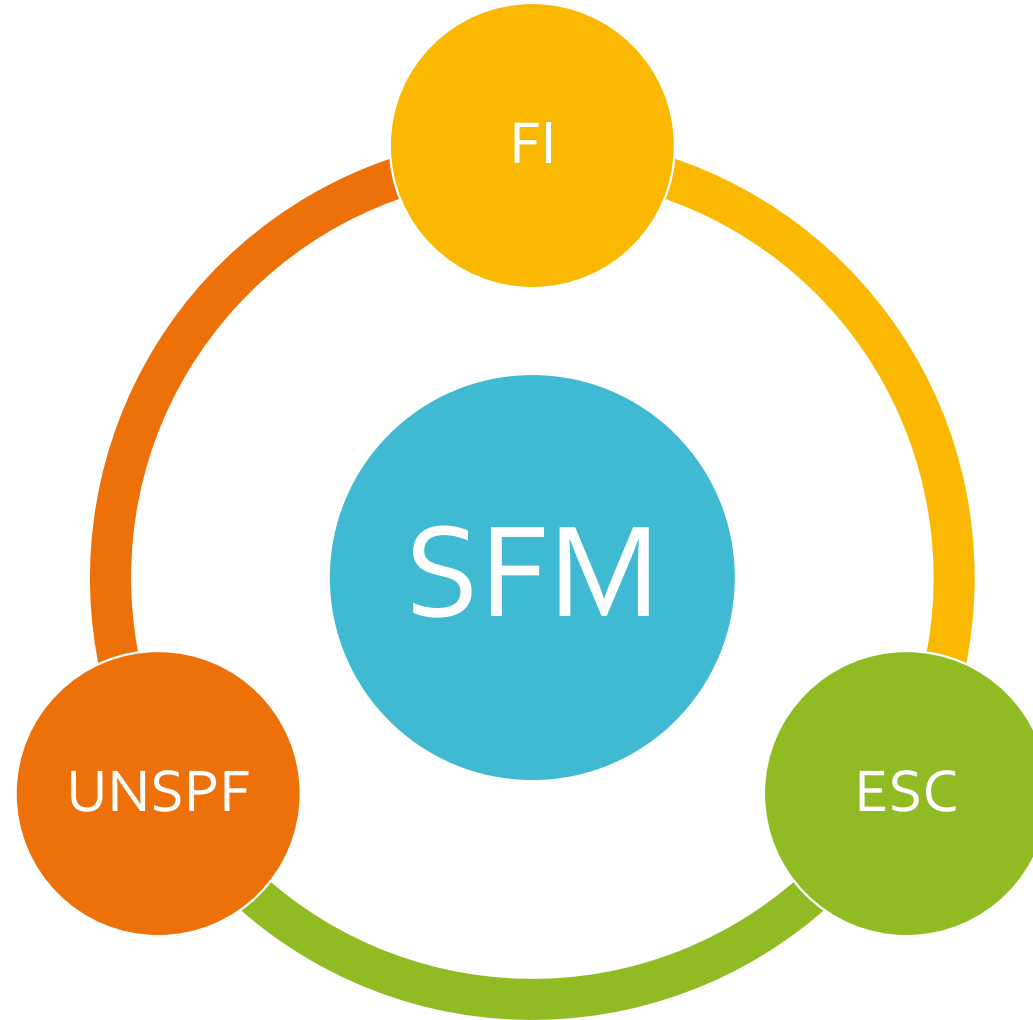
New international
arrangement on
forests



(i) To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests

Why is SFM important?

United Strategic Plan for Forest (UNSPF)



Global forest goal 1 - Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation, and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.

Why is SFM important?

Background to the Project



- monitoring and reporting still remains a challenge for many – mainly for developing countries. There are often deficiencies regarding to the adequacy of methodologies to conduct inventories and the socio-economic data on forests.
- received significant amounts of information on the contribution of forests and SFM to livelihoods through national reports, which are rich in anecdotal information

Background to the Project

- there remains a gap with regards to systematic data on the socio-economic contribution of forests and the financial support for the implementation of SFM.

- even in cases where this information has been supplied the differences in methodologies makes and standardise reporting difficult and lacking in coherence.

Background to the Project

- considering the challenges of reporting and against the urgent requirement of reliable, standardised data on the world's forests; this project is intended to support Jamaica along with five other pilot countries in developing a comprehensive and efficient system for monitoring progress towards SFM.

Background to the Project

TORs

- Prepare an analytical study on: 1) the national and international reporting requirements on forests and forest related goals and targets, 2) inventory/availability of forest data (including socio-economic information).
- In consultation with other national stakeholders propose monitoring framework for SFM, GFGs and forest related SDGs.
- Facilitate, with the assistance of the national UNFF focal point, a national meeting/workshop on monitoring and reporting on forests.

Approach

Review of existing data and reports prepared by the Forestry Department with regards to its international and national obligations.

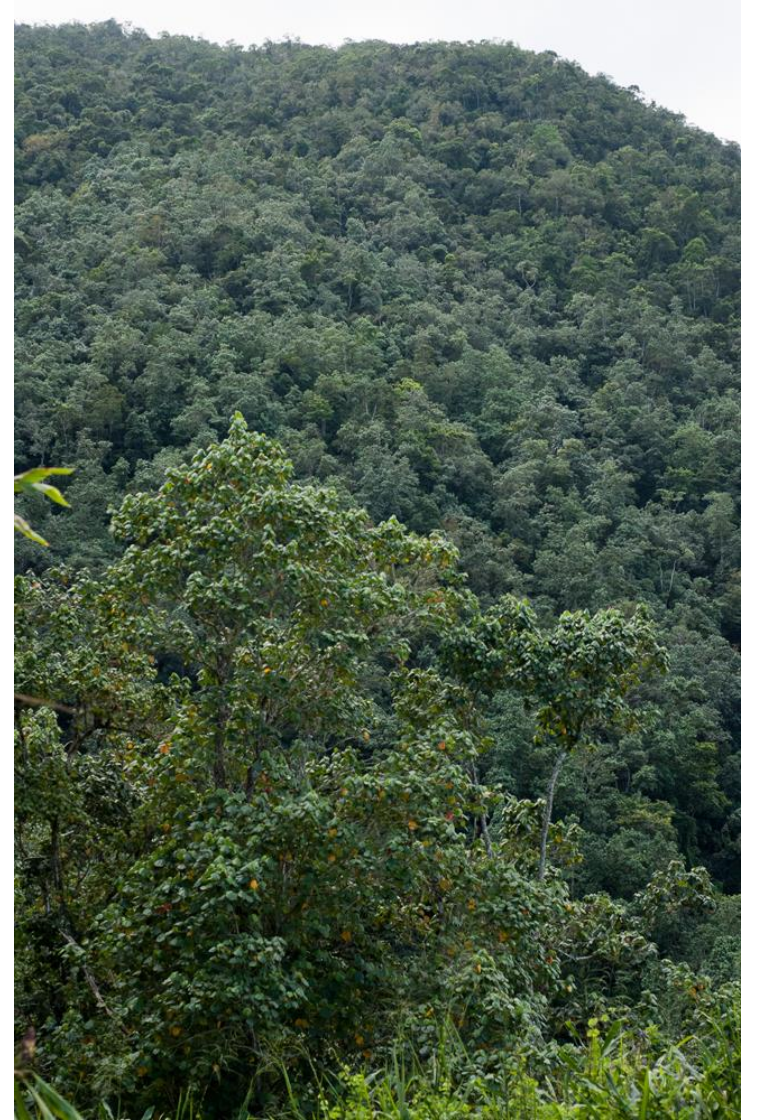
(i) The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2015

(ii) Voluntary National Report to 11th Session of UNFF

(iii) Evaluation report NFMCP 2010

(iv) Medium Term Socioeconomic Framework Reporting.

Findings



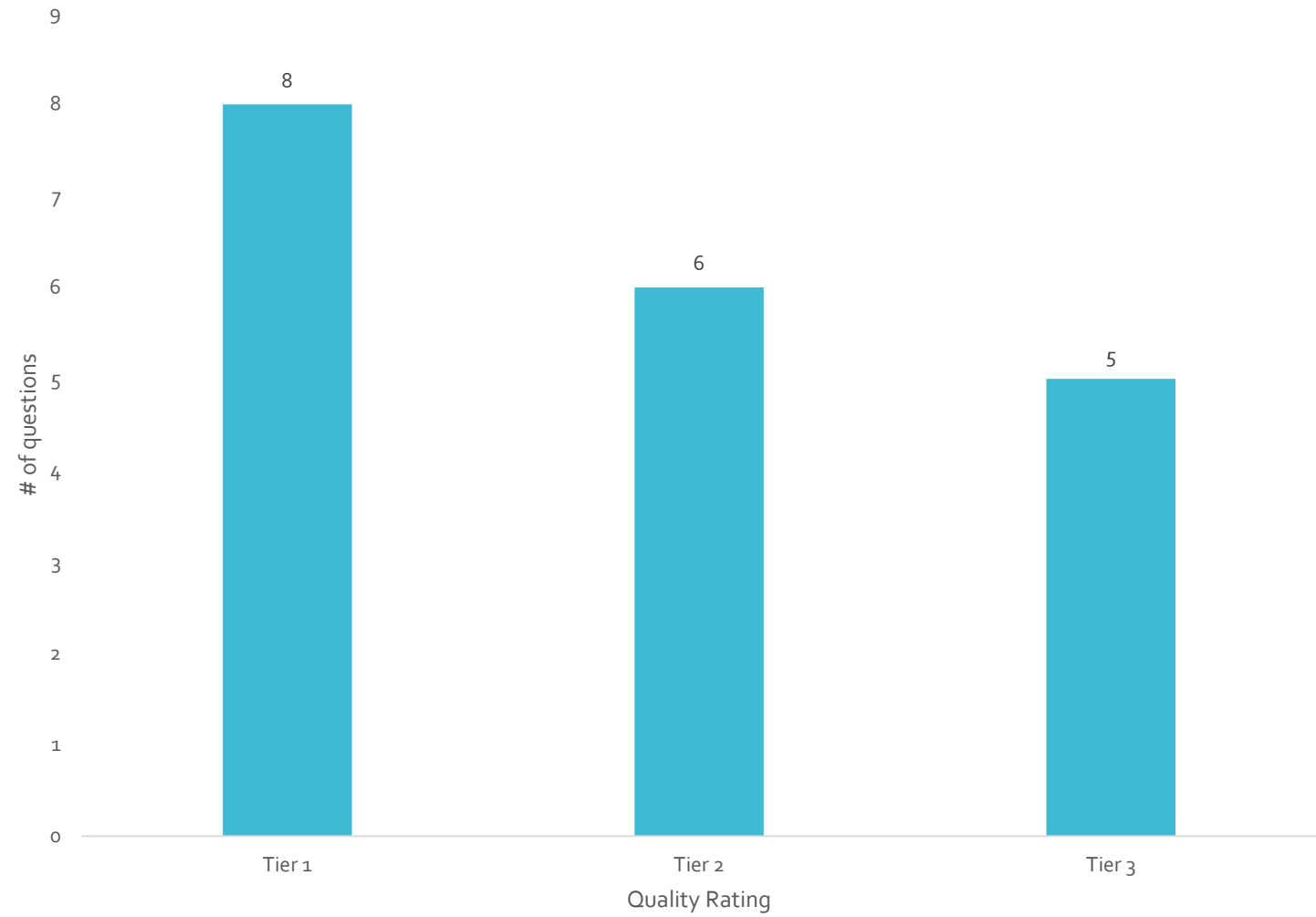
- FRA began in 1948, FAO was the only organization collecting and reporting global forest resource information. Today there are many international and regional organizations involved in measuring, monitoring and reporting forest resource data, mostly using remote sensing.

- In 2011, six international organizations and processes came together to create the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), representing some 100 countries and 88 percent of the world's forest area.

The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2015

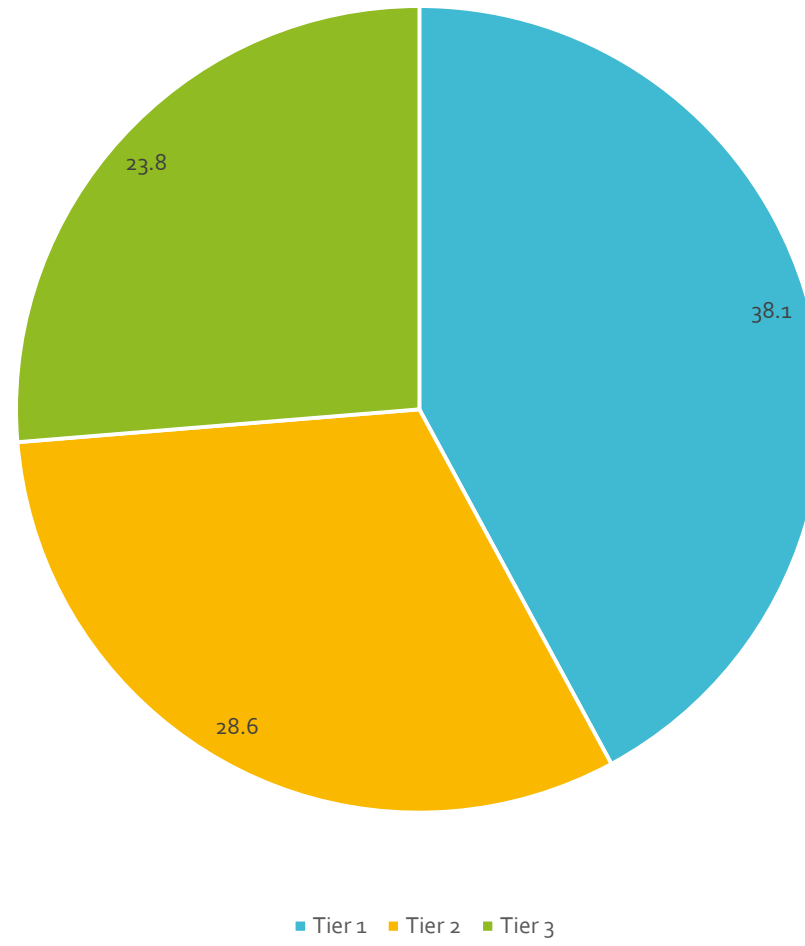
FAO FRA 2015

FRA 2015 -Analysis of Quality of Responses



FAO FRA 2015

FRA 2015 Quality Rating by percentage



The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2015

- The areas in which the responses were strongest was with regards to forest cover, forest degradation, biodiversity conservation, forest management plans, and protection using remote sensing technology supported by its GIS mapping capability.
- There were significant gaps in the areas of private ownership, employment in the sector, revenues and expenditure on forests, SFM, gross domestic product (GDP) and forecasting changes in land use.

The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2015

- There are several reasons for these gaps.
- ✓ Insufficient resources (human and financial) for measurement and data collection – affects timeliness of measurements and reporting.
- ✓ Shortage of equipment (measuring devices, GIS infrastructure etc).
- ✓ Absence of multi organisational framework and commitment to provide data.
- ✓ No formal online data base to facilitate multi-agency uploading of data given cross cutting multi-sectoral nature of the forest sector.
- ✓ No agreed methodology for calculation of GDP and other socio-economic data.
- ✓ No agreed framework of criteria and indicators to measure SFM.

UNFF Voluntary Report

- Jamaica is currently one of six countries taking part in a pilot project and the following section of the report describes the countries experiences in completing the voluntary national report to the 11th session which is a revised format intended to simplify the reporting requirement and minimize any areas of overlap.

UNFF Voluntary Report

- Part I of the questionnaire contains 18 questions – the majority of which were framed in ways that necessitated qualitative responses supported and verified by documents.
- Part II of the UNFF's questionnaire sought to determine the country's contribution to the MDGs. No doubt future questionnaires will focus on the SDGs.

UNFF Voluntary Report

- Jamaica's responses were based on information extracted from reports coupled with expert judgement. While there is nothing inherently wrong with this it does not provide a framework for measuring and monitoring areas of interest. To a large extent then the information remains anecdotal and may continue to pose challenges to standardising and synthesizing data at the local, region and global levels.
- The answers to questions regarding financing whether in support of the forestry sector through ecosystem services or domestic or project funding did not receive fulsome answers. This indicates that help is required to build capacity on valuation tools and well as fund raising capabilities.

UNFF Voluntary Report

- With regards to the questions related to socio-economic issues like eradicating poverty and hunger, contributing to employment and livelihoods, fuel wood and food security, while answers were provided there was no supporting documentation and this strongly suggests that there are opportunities to strengthen this area of reporting.
- The same is true for questions related to contributions to achieving the MDGs and no doubt the same difficulties will be experienced in measuring, monitoring, and reporting on contributions to SDG

UNFF Voluntary Report

- Measuring the impact and progression of SFM is at best a challenging task. Questions 1,3, 7,9,11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the UNFF questionnaire are linked to SFM. Jamaica responded to all the questions; but, it was evident from the responses that criteria and indicators to measure performance in SFM have not yet been fully developed and that to do so would require some agreement on what is entailed in SFM in the Jamaican context.

NFMCP 2000-2010

- Some weakness in data availability and suggested that this was due to the absence of a consistent monitoring approach and absence of a comprehensive monitoring plan.
- The report noted that there were variations in collection frequencies and that important information was absent regarding issues like the success of reforestation (survival), results of timber harvest, and monitoring of climate change adaptation measures.
- With respect to matters related to forest inventory, there were commendable efforts with respect in remote sensing of forest resources, which produced estimates of change in forest cover over time. Nevertheless, there were gaps in respect of important forest types for example mangroves, swamps, and areas critical to biodiversity.

NFMCP 2000-2010

- Understanding forests benefits, the values of forest land (including timber and non-timber goods and services), the economic contribution of forests to the well-being and livelihoods of forest communities; were not adequately quantified or described.
- Gaps remain in describing socioeconomic conditions; that is trends of economic contributions, community impacts/earnings, public benefits, and motivations for participating in conservation and restoration.
- These gaps in information along with absence of resource valuation tools and expertise make it difficult to evaluate the contribution of the forest sector to the economy and to develop a case and as incentives for protection of forest lands as well as expanding economic incentives for conservation and restoration.

NFMCP 2000-2010

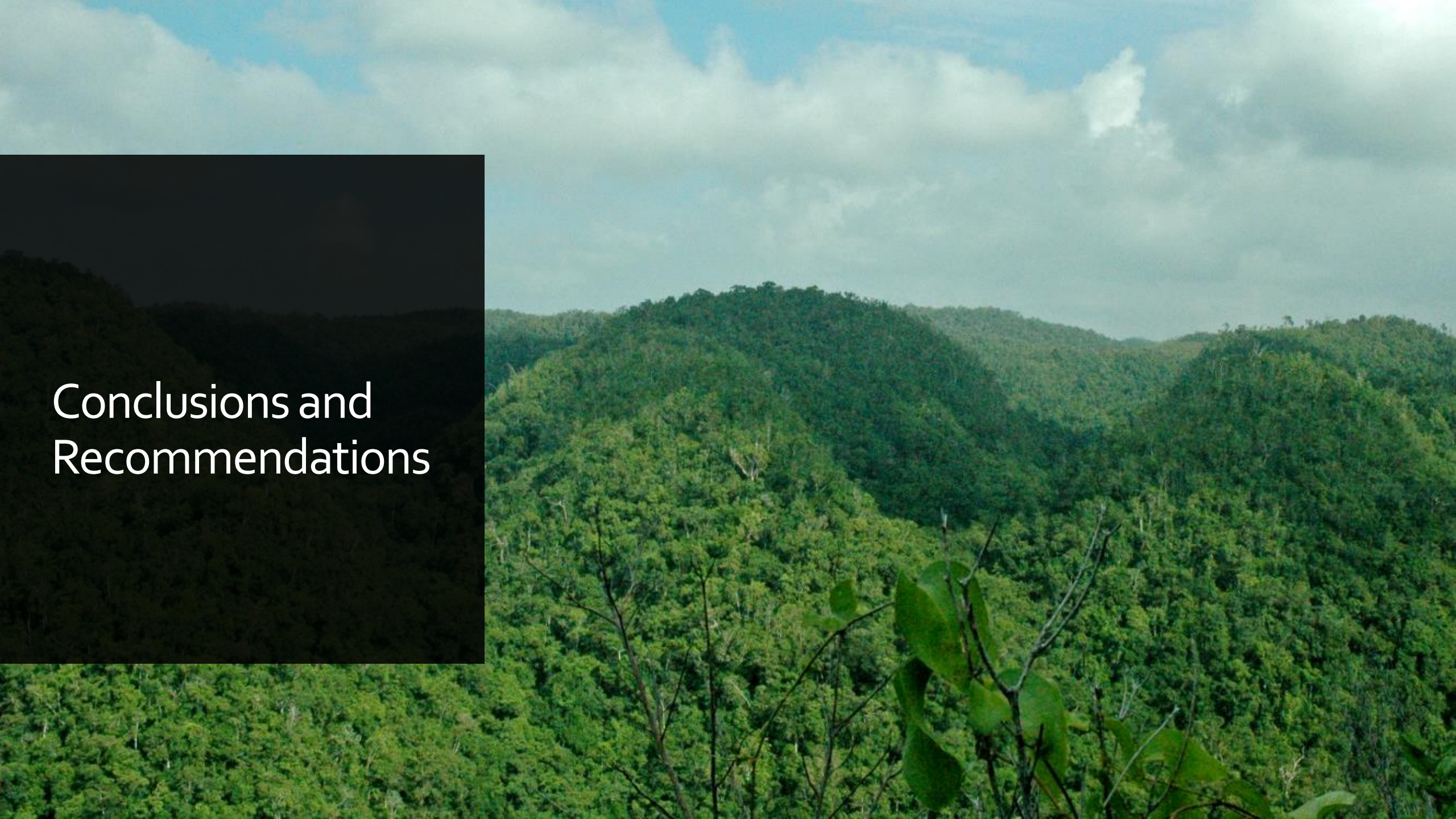
- The following areas were found to be deficient in data.
 - ✓ Forest Inventory/Boundary Surveys
 - ✓ Biodiversity no baseline established
 - ✓ Partial biophysical data - analysis to establish baseline incomplete
 - ✓ Boundary surveys incomplete lack surveyors, equipment, and financing
- Socioeconomic Assessment
 - ✓ Data on livelihoods insufficient
 - ✓ Limited data on timber harvesting and other non-timber resource extraction
 - ✓ Data on services inadequate
- Climate change
 - ✓ No comprehensive programme on carbon sequestration

Medium Term Socio Economic Framework

- The 2016 NFMCP is expected to contribute to the goals of the 2015-2018 MTF - and National Outcome # 13 – Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources and National Outcome # 14 – Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change.
- In terms of Outcome #13, the priorities are related to improving the state of the natural environment, thereby contributing to reduced vulnerabilities, and advancing socioeconomic development. The NFMCP is linked to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) # 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15; that is to:
 - ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; and
 - protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.
- In the case of National Outcome # 14 – Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change the NFMCP is aligned to SDGs Goals # 13 and 15 to:
 - take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and
 - protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

Medium Term Socio Economic Framework

FD are presently providing reports based on the limited data.; there is a need here to strengthen the reporting capacity. This will require building institutional capacity and capabilities of with the FD and its key partners and the needs in this case are aligned with those identified to support monitoring and reporting on the NFMCP.



Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- The 2030 development agenda towards has now been defined, including the new Sustainable Development Goals. Forests and their role in protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and their services are essential for the post-2015 development agenda.
- Against this background, the reliability of the information collected in this area must continue to improve in order to contribute to shaping and informing the policy agendas and programmes locally, regionally, and globally.

Conclusions

- Yet significant gaps remain in terms of measuring the socioeconomic impact of forest, valuation of forest resources and ecosystem services, carbon sequestration and the identification of criteria and indicators with regards to SFM.
- Additionally, higher levels of performance are now required from the forest sector in line with the implementation of the NFMCP 2016-2026 and the importance of the sector in building the country's resilience to climate change and in this regard, robust reliable, monitoring and reporting mechanisms are critically important.

Conclusions

So, while Jamaica has a platform from which to strengthen its monitoring and reporting programme it faces several challenges. These are summarised as follows:

- the institutional capacity, including comprehensive monitoring and assessment programmes, required effective manage the sector;
- adequacy of human, infrastructure, and financial resources;
- absence of critical skills in resource valuation and socioeconomic impact analysis;
- absence of agreed methodologies to determine socioeconomic impacts within the sector;

Conclusions

- difficulty in monitoring the action and measures within the forest instrument;
- the lack of agreed consistent approach to determining indicators for measuring progress in implementing SFM; and
- problem of reporting requirements to the UNFF, other related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Recommendations

1. Design a comprehensive monitoring programme for the Agency and its key reporting partners e.g. NEPA, ODPEM, MS and STATIN.
2. Design an on-line data management system which supports the reporting framework and facilitates multiple users.
3. Strengthen the Agency's capacity to measure by supporting further investment in remote sensing, ground truthing and GIS mapping.
4. Strengthen the Agency's capabilities in resource valuation, carbon sequestration, and SFM monitoring.
5. Support a special project to develop appropriate and transferable methodologies for determining socioeconomic impact of the forest sector involving key local entities eg UWI Department of Economic, Statin, RADA, WRA and PIOJ at a minimum. And implement incrementally through a pilot project.
6. Consider further, streamlining and where applicable integrating the reporting obligations to FAO and UNFF.

Thank you