

Capacity building, information dissemination and data sharing
in the sub-region

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Participant's list

1. Challenges and obstacles to data sharing and information dissemination
2. Challenges and obstacles to capacity building

Pause café 11 H

Methods, participants wrote maximum of three ideas

Brainstorming on three ideas to extract the best ideas for
syntheses involved regrouping of common ideas

Syntheses of discussions,

DATA SHARING/INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

1. Human resources strengthening
2. Data, information dissemination

3. Collection and harmonization
4. Coordination of existing projects and link them to existing networks
5. Develop common understanding of emerging forest carbon issues and share that knowledge (this is better handled by the other group)
6. Identify existing networks and evaluate if there is need for strengthening on the bases of their functioning. If there are projects that can be linked to the network and evaluate strengths, weaknesses and opportunities

7. DATA: Collection and harmonization, validation, weak standardization, definition of needs and type.
Determination of data needs; collection points; Collection of data must consider ownership, rights, propriety.
Dissemination strategies; mechanisms, channels
8. Depending on type (**e.g. Satellite**), what type of organizations can manage these
9. Existing initiatives (e.g. GOF-C-GOLD) 5-6 networks exist.
Who are covered by this network? Assess the performance of this existing network. See point 6 above.
10. Fields data, (spatial and non spatial), themes, (same as above)
11. Data collection:

- a. Data quality; **needs (list and responsibility)** format, standards, gaps, completeness, collection methods,
 - b. Responsibility for dissemination
 - c. Channels/blockages
12. DATA TYPE, QUALITY & AVAILABILITY :
- a. **Field data** Allometric data: inventories
 - b. Physical data, drivers; deforestation, infrastructure, socio-economic (demographic),
 - c. **Satellite data (see above for details)**
 - d. **Availability**: who has what data? And apply the quality control mentioned; to prepare data for sharing, dissemination, etc
 - e. **Methods**: collection activities, standardization, structuring, treatment, uniformization (need to refer to what group on MRV is doing)
 - f. See OFAC procedures (user-friendly facilities for validation and access from different countries are in place for different types of data). Collection of data must consider ownership, rights, propriety, copyright (IPR).
 - g. Standardization of **meta-data** for different datasets for comparability: e.g., rights, methods, limits, adaption needs, detailed descriptions, errors, basic

information on data (description), clear definition of protocols for data collection, data protection

How to integrate new projects coming on, onto existing networks

Need for coordination of existing and emerging projects, within regional efforts. Further strengthen the role of COMIFAC in carrying out these coordinating responsibilities. How to ensure consolidation of data dissemination?

Putting in place and clearing house mechanism (information exchange) with clearly defined responsibilities for coordination.

How do regional efforts at networking between projects, benefit, link to and relate to higher level networks (e.g. global networks) or other networks. How do regional networks communicate (e.g. through their metadata)

Regional networks should be encouraged to publish meta-data on their websites.

Learn from existing networks e.g.
(WWW.AFRITRON.ORG)

Biodiversity network of Madagascar presents another example to learn from.

Important to inventory existing cyber sources (websites) of information, data, compile links and make these available to members of network. Give sites possessing data on Central Africa priority.

Need to consider a data sharing (policy), guidelines, codes of conduct, principles of sharing data.

It should be possible to be inspired by the example of the 'creative commons' license (example OFAC). This site, resource provides examples and cases of how to ensure, access, rights, protection, etc.

Supplementary Synthesis:

Define geographic region

Define thematic focus

Include small group of regional members and larger groups of national members

Ensure links to national and international institutions and projects

Include multiple activities and specializations in network interactions: e.g. technical, administrative, policy, communication aspects requiring capacity-building.

RECOMMENDATIONS.....

1. COMIFAC should ensure centralization of regional data and later-on assume responsibility for its dissemination as a clearing House
2. OFAC should be officially integrated into the functional structure of COMIFAC as a technical direction and operational department.
3. GOFC-GOLD should support the COMIFAC countries by providing regular and updated satellite datasets through focal persons of networks
4. Improvement of internet connectivity within/between the COMIFAC countries should be a priority
5. Each network should develop a comprehensive meta data system
6. OFAC and OSFAC should strengthen the capacity of national institutions in information/data dissemination within countries

CAPACITY BUILDING:

1. Focusing on the Carbon needs within the network, Identifying members, characterizing their capacity needs. Need to monitor and evaluate use of information by clients.
2. Capacity building of national structures/institutions based on clearly defined themes and as a part of a monitoring and evaluation system of information use
3. Identification of relevant beneficiary ministries and individuals within those ministries such as Forest and Environment Ministries as recipients of capacity-building inputs
4. Identification of priority areas for capacity building: collection, analyses, interpretation, diffusion, and re-diffusion.
5. There is need to facilitate capacity building; information, exchange, training, etc, of community levels stakeholders regarding Carbon concepts.
6. Facilitate adaptation of and strengthening of university curriculums in relation to current knowledge contexts of forest carbon in relation to climate change.

7. Carry-out a competence, dynamic needs assessment (current situations at each point in time), against a check-list of requirements, then develop a strategy for filling the gaps, relevant to the identified needs and capacities.
8. Prepare an overview inventory of service providers/trainers to meet the identified needs for capacity building in the different areas of assessing forest carbon.
9. Develop strategy to sustain capacity within institutions once developed, in other to address leakages once they happen within institutions.
10. Ensure that means are put at the disposal of institutions receiving training to enable them use skills acquired through training. One way could be making available freeware to potential users as a starting point.
11. Ensure formalization of skills development (e.g. certificate training) and seek ways which encourage human resources to stay-on.
12. Encourage skills development to reflect other dimensions of forest measurements beyond carbon.

13. Place emphases on building knowledge and skills which can be operationalized quickly within existing projects.
14. Make information on training opportunities available to potential users, such as students and the general public requiring training and other forms of support (e.g. scholarships..)
15. Knowledge of existing (planned training), and an inventory of organizations providing such training within the region

Short-term recommendations....(12-18 months)

- Carry-out quantitative/qualitative needs assessment (current situation of capacity), per country per geographic site, against a check-list of requirements,
- Develop roadmap for meeting identified needs and capacities.
- Prepare an overview/ inventory of service providers
- Evaluate role that RIFFEAC can play in carrying out these tasks

- Ensure the sharing of information presented and generated by this workshop(workshop proceedings, State of Forest report..) in most effective and efficient way at national level through both electronic media and appropriate public forums
- Re-enforce mechanisms for uptake of recommendations of workshop by relevant State structures, via the COMIFAC country focal points while ensuring that all other mechanisms and entry-points into government are fully served.
- Organigram of relevant ministries/departments should be made available to COMIFAC/focal points and network members for better alignment of capacity-building, support initiatives....