



Medio Ambiente
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales



CONAFOR
COMISIÓN NACIONAL FORESTAL



IFN-LAC Network
Latin America and the Caribbean
National Forest Inventories Network



Global Forest
Observations Initiative

Forests without borders:

The Latin America and the Caribbean National Forest Inventories Network (LAC-IFN)

José Armando Alanís-de la Rosa

Why LAC National Forest Inventories are relevant?



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- Latin America and the Caribbean region has **940 million hectares of forest**, representing **23%** of the world's total forest area and covering **47%** of the region's land area (FAO, 2021).
- Reliable forest information is fundamental for understanding and assessing the effects of human activities on the environment, and it is essential for supporting evidence-based decision-making in forest management at the national and regional levels.



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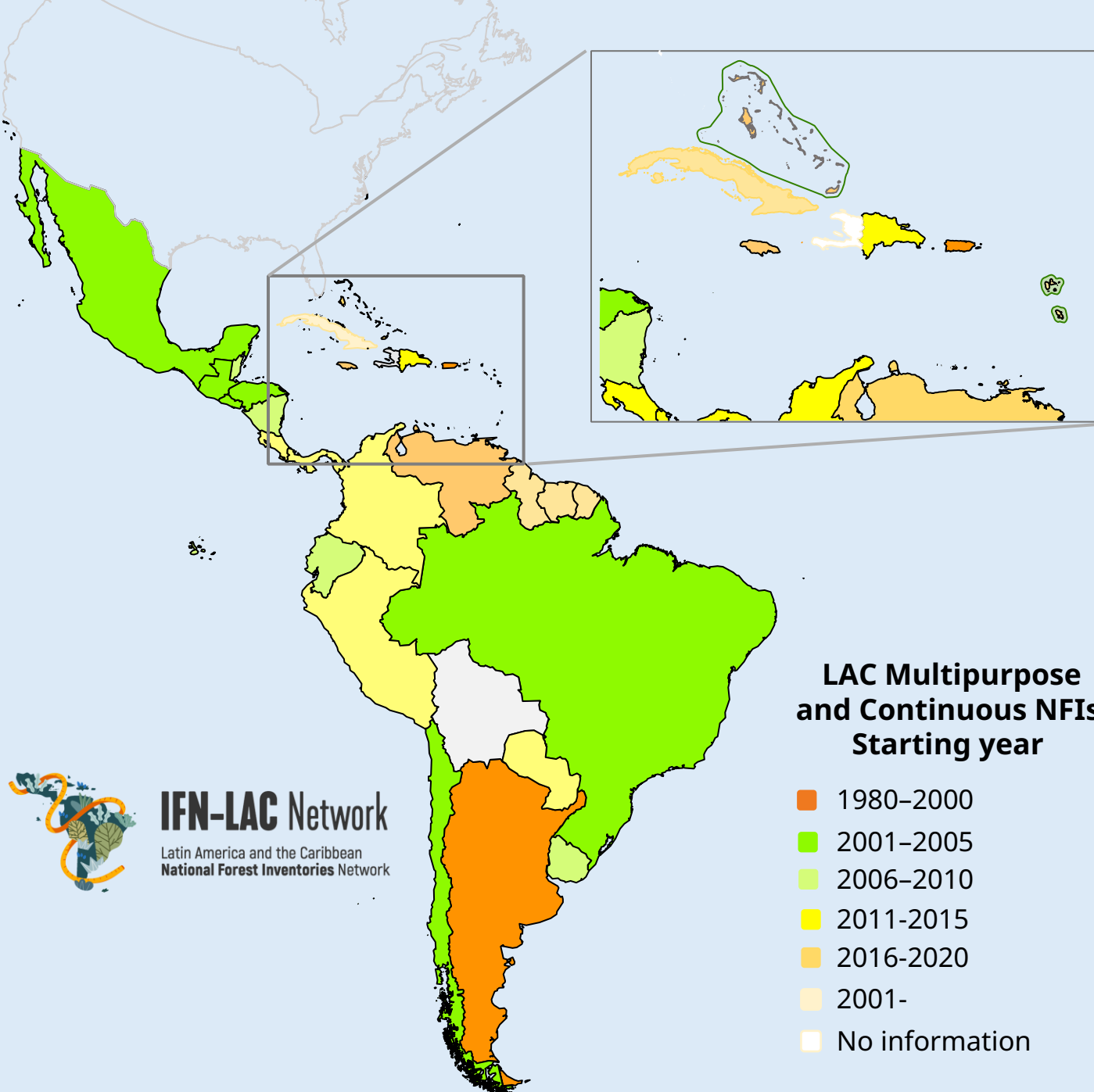


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LAC Multipurpose and Continuous NFIs Starting year

- 1980–2000
- 2001–2005
- 2006–2010
- 2011–2015
- 2016–2020
- 2001–
- No information



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What is the IFN-LAC?



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- Voluntary association of those **responsible for implementing NFIs** in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, together with experts and collaborators, committed to **strengthening technical capacities** and **advancing the transparency and comparability of forest data** across the region.
- **IFN-LAC** collaborative activities include **technical exchanges** and **targeted training initiatives** aimed at **harmonizing definitions and measurement criteria** for **collecting** and **analyzing** forest data.



Valdivia, Chile, 2012



Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia,
2013



Manaos, Brazil, 2017



Turrialba, Costa Rica, 2018

IFN-LAC was officially launched in October 2022



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REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
GOBIERNO NACIONAL

**MINISTERIO DE
AMBIENTE**

INICIO ▾ PROYECTOS ▾ PUBLICACIONES ▾ MEDIA ▾

Red de Inventarios Forestales Nacionales de América Latina y el Caribe se reúne en Panamá

Prensa | Publicado el 19 octubre, 2022

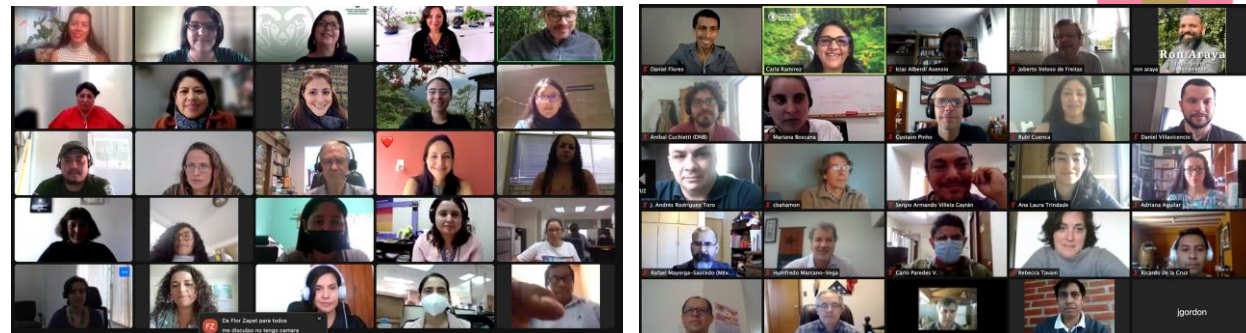


Member countries

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Argentina | 9. Guatemala |
| 2. Belize | 10. Honduras |
| 3. Brazil | 11. Jamaica |
| 4. Chile | 12. Mexico |
| 5. Colombia | 13. Nicaragua |
| 6. Costa Rica | 14. Panama |
| 7. Cuba | 15. Paraguay |
| 8. Dominican Republic | 16. Peru |
| 9. France (French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinica) | 17. Uruguay |

Active but pending formal membership:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bahamas | 4. Puerto Rico / Virgin Islands (USA) |
| 2. Ecuador | 5. Suriname |
| 3. El Salvador | 6. Venezuela |



LAC-INF collaboration activities



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Capacity building



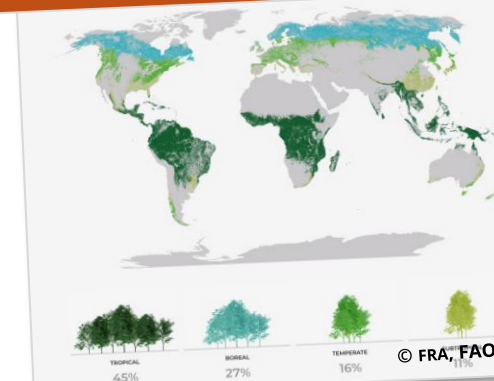
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Enhancing the use of forest data



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Enhancing transparency of forest data



Monitoring NFIs strategies



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Promoting participation of local communities



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Technical exchange

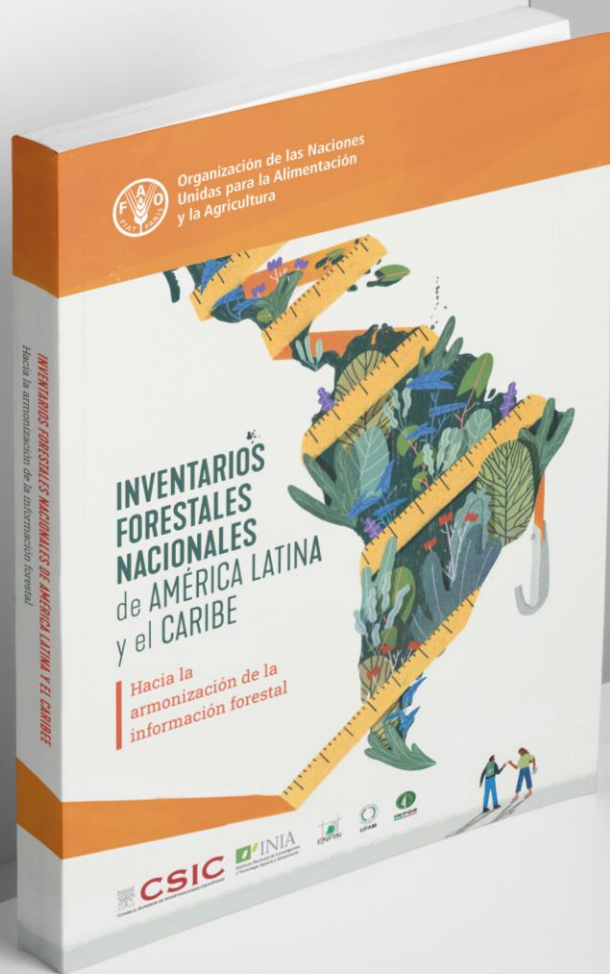


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National Forest Inventories of Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards the harmonization of forest information



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- This publication represents a milestone in the beginning of the harmonization process towards data transparency within the forestry sector in Latin America and the Caribbean and constitutes the first collaborative effort of the IFN-LAC network.
- It describes the importance and history of NFIs in the LAC region, and examines similarities and differences in IFN designs, challenges and opportunities, and prospects for data harmonization.
- It compiles methodologies for data collection and measurement of the most relevant indicators in 21 LAC countries.

Available at:

Spanish: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7791es>

English: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7791en>



Organización de las Naciones
Unidas para la Alimentación
y la Agricultura



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA
E INNOVACIÓN



Harmonization of key forest indicators

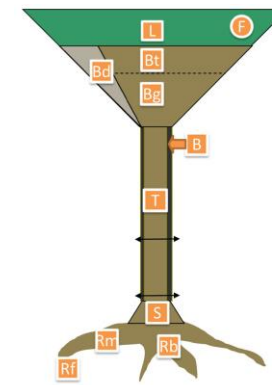


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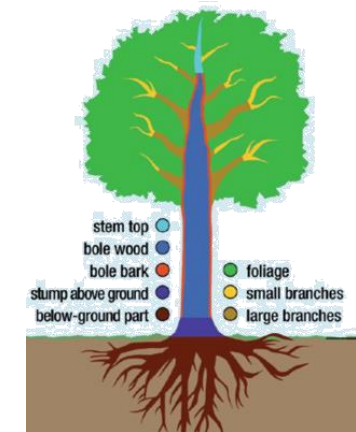
- IFN-LAC launched an harmonization process selecting area, volume and aboveground biomass (ABG) as key indicators.
- Criteria and thresholds for forest area (FRA), volume and ABG were defined through technical exchange .
- Preliminary results on volume and ABG harmonization tables and regional criteria for growing stock aligned with the FRA were presented.
- Completed regional compilation and analysis of volume equations to finalize harmonization efforts.
- The process has fostered collaboration among countries to improve transparency, comparability, and scientific consistency in forest data reporting.



Forest area



Volume



ABG

Forest Data Without Borders:

Knowledge Exchange on National Forest Inventories and Forest Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean



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OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate dialogue and technical knowledge exchange on NFIs among countries in the region.
- Share best practices and lessons learned in biodiversity assessment, volume estimation and data harmonization.
- Promote the use of innovative, non-destructive tools such as terrestrial LiDAR and ForeStereo.
- Strengthen countries' technical capacities to produce high-quality, comparable NFIs data and harmonized indicators.
- Promote the openness of forest data and its use in evidence-based decision-making.
- Encourage regional cooperation opportunities and support voluntary updates to the FAO's FRA.



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Antigua Guatemala
7 – 11 July 2025



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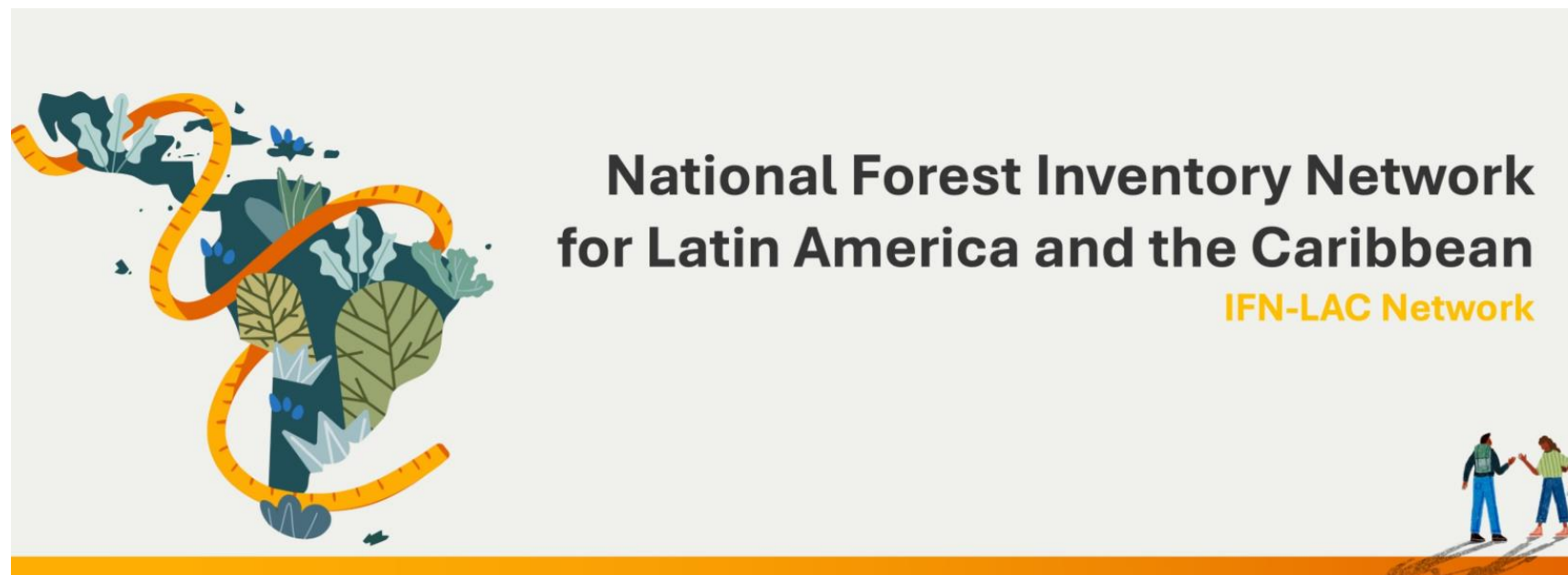
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KEY MESSAGES

- High-quality, accessible, and transparent forest data is critical for sustainable forest management and achieving international goals like the SDGs and FRA; NFIs are essential tools for this purpose.
- FAO supports countries in developing and implementing robust NFIs; many Latin American and Caribbean countries are advancing their forest monitoring, with growing demand for regional collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Regional NFI networks offer valuable platforms to harmonize methodologies, build technical capacity, and foster collaboration, thereby improving the comparability, transparency, and quality of forest data across countries.





THANK YOU

Webpage

Spanish <https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/regional-initiatives/ifn-lac-network/es>

English <https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/regional-initiatives/ifn-lac-network/en>