



Instruction to GFIS - Gateway and Partnership Development

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Challenges to organize and disseminate electronic information

- Volume of information is enormous and growing;
- More information from developed and less data from less-developed countries
- Difficult to locate information;
- The majority of institutes fail to categorize and create adequate reference data (i.e. metadata);

=> Global Forest Information Service, GFIS



What is the Global Forest Information Service – GFIS ?

1. Partnership to organize forestry information: Partners for the whole forest community of practise
2. Internet gateway that allows institutions to share forest-related information through a web portal at www.gfis.net



GFIS and CPF



- GFIS is a CPF initiative led by IUFRO;
- CIFOR, FAO, USGS-BIO , the UNFF Secretariat are core partners;
- GFIS is open for partners outside CPF;
- Current sponsors KFRI, ITTO, Austrian government and Metla



Partnership Development

GFIS is built on the principle of partnership, across sectors and international, and in this way maximising the value of all forest information resources and providers worldwide.

- **Steering Committee (SC)** - strategic guidance to GFIS.
- **Implementation Group (IG)** - responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining GFIS.
- **National/Regional support organization** - expertise in information management and dissemination
- **Information provider** - maintain forest-related information and make it available to GFIS.



What is GFIS good for?

- Helps partners organize information – and make it available;
- Helps users to find forestry information – from one place;
- Strengthens international collaboration by increasing network and enhancing communication



What GFIS Offers?

- Common standards for sharing forest-related information resources
- A system of web-based tools for information exchange and dissemination
- Participation in GFIS of both information providers and users through appropriate capacity building measures
- Networking and partnership for sharing forest-related information



Benefits for GFIS Information Providers

- Better visibility and recognition of information products
- Higher number of potential users of information
- Participation in organizing information will also help to improve internal information management and build related capacity
- Closer cooperation and networking with other information providers and partners around the world



Benefits for users

- Easier and more efficient access to world-wide forest information
- Improved networking among forestry professionals



How does it work?

1. Institutes manage their own information;
2. Common GFIS standard for information exchange;
3. Institutes make their metadata available in these formats;
4. GFIS harvests and indexes the metadata;
5. Users search;
6. Feedback to partners on information usage.



Where is GFIS?

- Upgraded GFIS gateway at www.gfis.net since January 2007
- GFIS information types: News, Events, Recent publications, Job vacancies, Library and document collections and Datasets and databases;
- The freshest items will be displayed on the front page of the gateway;
- Interface languages: English, French, Spanish, German and Finnish;
- 89 information provider partners from around the world
- Many more partners will join, Africa, Asia, Latin America, Russia etc.;
- The solution is scaleable.



Partnership development - Asia

- Dr Kang, Regional Coordinator since 2007- ;
- The first consultation, CIFOR, Indonesia, December 2003;
- The second consultation, FRIM, Malaysia, August 2004;
- GFIS Training Workshop, CAF, China, October 2006;
- GFIS-Korea Workshop, SNU, December 2006;
- GFIS-Indonesia Workshop, April 2008.



Partnership development - Russia

- Dr Kang, Regional Coordinator since 2007-
- GFIS Russia workshop, MSFU, Moscow, May 2006
- GFIS Russia project, 1st phase 2007
- GFIS Russia II project, 2nd phase 2008



Partnership development – Other Regions

- GFIS Africa Project 2002
- GFIS Latin American Workshop, CATIE, March 2007
- Collaborative project IUFRO - IICA-CATIE, 15 Latin American partners should contribute to GFIS content by June 2008
- GFIS European Workshop, IUFRO, March 2008



Actions 2008 -

- Gateway and partnership development continues
- GFIS Strategic Plan 2008-2013
- Collaboration with IPFE
- The ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2008-2009 'Continue to Support ITTO Participation and Contribution to the IUFRO-led CPF Initiative GFIS has been approved
- 23rd IUFRO World Congress (www.iufro2010.com) (23-28 Aug 2010, Seoul, Republic of Korea)



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www.un.org/esa/forests/



Welcome to use and provide information to GFIS!

“Sharing forestry information around the world”