



Food and Agriculture Organization
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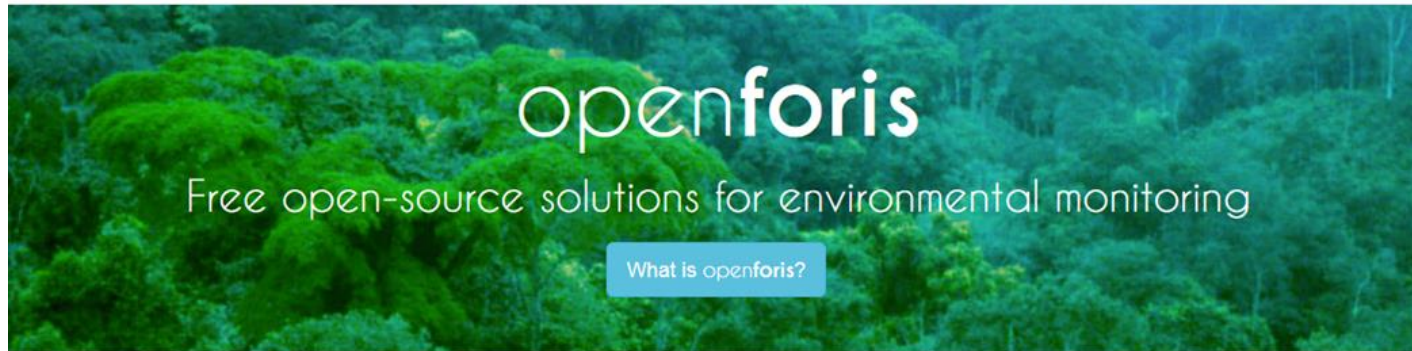
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Regional Briefing
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21 March 2017





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Global Tree Assessment

Towards a Global Tree Assessment

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Abstract Although trees have high economic, cultural and ecological value, increasing numbers of species are potentially at risk of extinction because of forest loss and degradation as a result of human activities, including overharvesting, fire and grazing. Emerging threats include climate change and its interaction with the spread of pests and diseases. The impact of such threats on the conservation status of trees is poorly understood. Here we highlight the need to conduct a comprehensive conservation assessment of the world's tree species, building on previous assessments undertaken for the IUCN Red List. We suggest that recent developments in plant systematics, online databases, remote sensing data and associated analytical tools offer an unprecedented opportunity to conduct such an assessment. We provide an overview of how a Global Tree Assessment could be achieved in practice, through participative, open-access approaches to data sharing and evaluation.

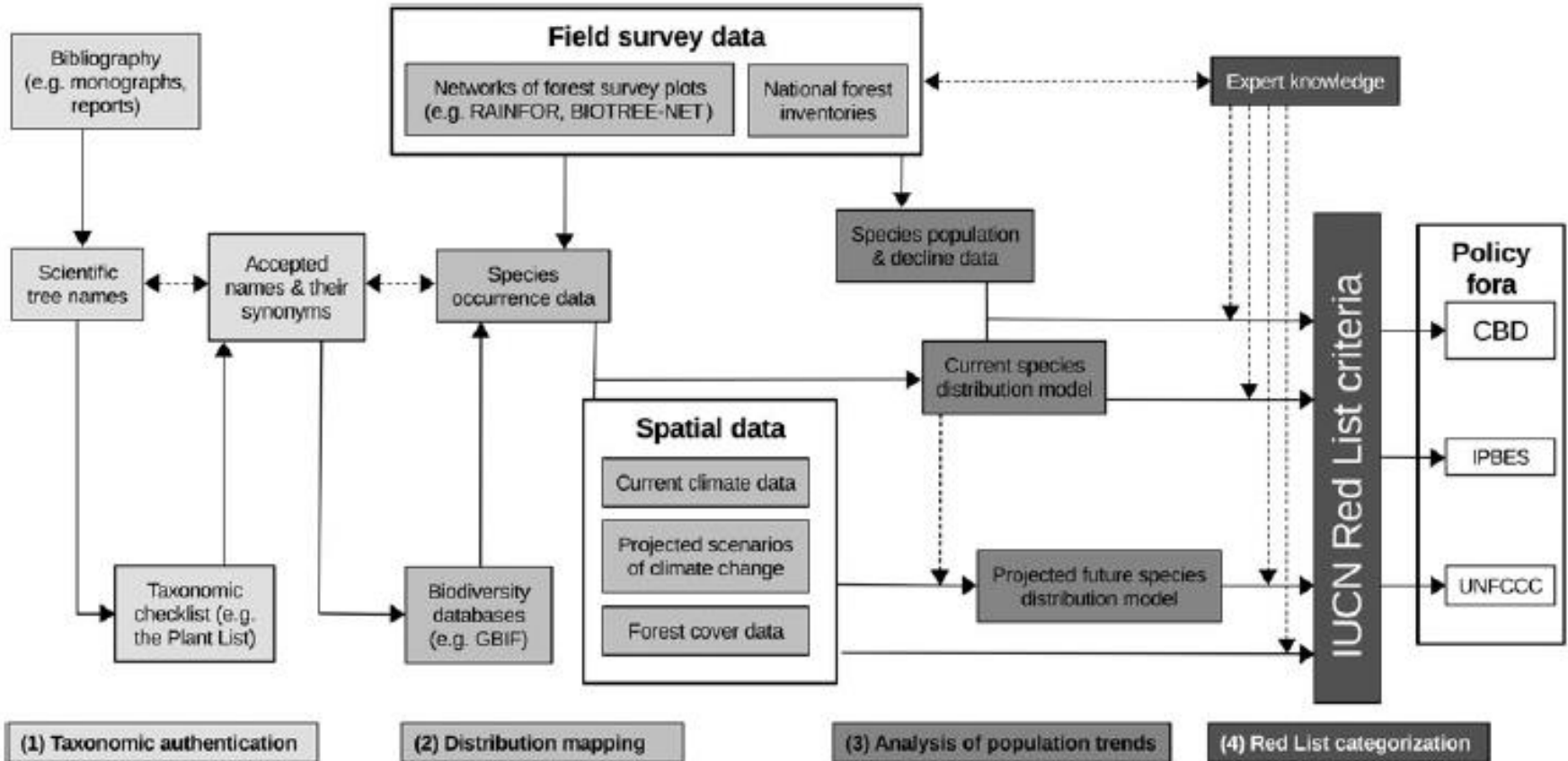
Keywords Biodiversity, conservation, extinction risk, flora, forest, Red List, threat, tree

climate (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). Forests contain c. 50% of terrestrial carbon stocks (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005; FAO, 2010) and are therefore important for mitigation of climate change. Trees provide a wide range of other benefits to people, including production of timber, fuelwood and fibre, maintenance of water yields and quality, flood protection, and prevention of soil erosion, as well as being of cultural and spiritual value (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005; UNEP, 2009). The ecosystem services provided by forests have an estimated annual value of USD 4.7 trillion, or 38% of the terrestrial total (Costanza et al., 1997). Circa 1.6 billion people depend to some degree on trees for their livelihoods (World Bank, 2004). The total contribution of forest industries to the global economy is c. USD 468 billion annually, with products valued at c. USD 122 billion harvested from forests each year (FAO, 2011).

The widespread loss and degradation of native forests is recognized as an environmental crisis. During 2000–2012 global forest area decreased by c. 2.3 million km² (Hansen



Global Tree Assessment





Global Tree Search

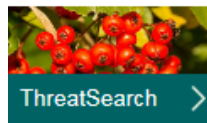


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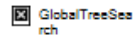
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Scientific name:

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