



Global Forest Product Statistics: Where do they come from and how can they contribute to sustainable development?

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Abstract

How much industrial roundwood is produced in sub-Saharan Africa every year? Is that amount increasing or decreasing? Where does our global estimate of wood fuel production come from? Are guitars really killing the rainforest? In this presentation, I will share the story of forest product statistics beginning with what we know and how we know it. I will describe the inner workings of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) and provide two case studies of how we might improve data availability. The first case study explores issues and opportunities with estimating global wood fuel production. The second case study, a pilot project in Zambia, estimates production of wild foods from forests. I will touch on the importance of classification systems; how these influence data quality and availability; and what FAO and colleagues are doing to improve global availability of forest product statistics through classification codes. Data limitations as well as opportunities for leveraging forest product statistics to better understand national carbon balances, global trends in legal (and illegal?) logging, or urbanization are considered. We conclude with opportunities for leveraging forest product statistics in designing policies to support sustainable development.