

# The World's Forests: Design and Implementation of Effective Measurement and Monitoring

A Proposal from Resources for the Future to the Sloan  
Foundation

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# Current Situation

- Only imprecise measurements of the physical variables that determine valued attributes.
- This is the consequence of many problems including nonstandard reporting methodologies.
- New global satellite measurements and monitoring capabilities hold promise of significant improvements.

# Proposal

- One-year project to design and advance a framework for improved measurements and monitoring.
- Framework on four critical attributes:
  - area
  - timber volume
  - biomass
  - carbon

# Desired Outcomes

- Design a workable framework for effective global forest measurements and monitoring, and
- development an international network of experts and institutions to advance the framework for implementation.
- This outcome is necessary to a) provide information fundamental to managing competing demands on the world's forests, b) provide estimates of forest resources for decision makers and c) serve as the basis for a forest carbon market.

# 4 Tasks over the next year

- Document discrepancies and level of uncertainty in various forest monitoring systems.
- Analysis to estimate the level of forest monitoring by attribute, e.g., precision, frequency, that would be needed support goals.
- Outline a detailed framework for and international network of technical experts who could provide better design and monitoring systems to the GEO.
- Build synergy with related groups and efforts.