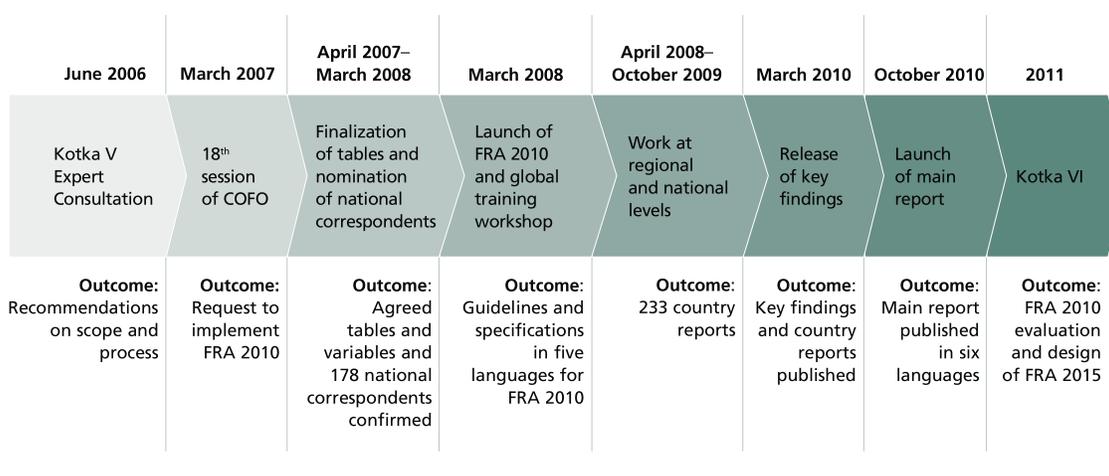


FIGURE 1.2
FRA 2010 timeline



Besides the core staff, a large number of FAO staff, consultants and volunteers were engaged in various phases of FRA 2010 as specialists within specific subjects, as assistants in the preparation of reports for countries and areas without a national correspondent and as regional staff in decentralized offices. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe/FAO Timber Section (now UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) in Geneva was a key institutional partner, handling communications and support to several countries in Europe and Central Asia.

An FRA advisory group provided guidance and support throughout the process. Members of the group represent partner institutions, including ITTO, the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE – now known as Forest Europe), representatives from the secretariats of CBD and UNFCCC, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), as well as a range of countries from all regions (See Annex 1 for the full list of members). The advisory group has been instrumental in the development of FRA 2010, as well as fulfilling a valuable oversight and review function.

In line with recommendations from Kotka V and COFO 2007, FAO requested countries to officially nominate a national correspondent to the FRA 2010 process. The response to this request has been very strong from practically all countries. At present, 178 national correspondents are confirmed. These correspondents, and their respective professional networks in the countries, represent a tremendous strength of the FRA 2010 process, and were responsible for coordinating inputs and preparing country reports according to a standard format in English, French or Spanish. A training session, attended by 265 forest assessment specialists, including representatives from 154 countries and 14 key forest-related organizations, was held in March 2008 in Rome, and detailed guidelines, specifications and reporting formats were provided.

The reporting format required countries to provide the full reference for original data sources and an indication of the reliability of the data for each of these, as well as definitions of terminology. Separate sections in these reports deal with analysis of data, including any assumptions made and the methodologies used for estimations and projections of data to the four reference years (1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010); calibration of data to the official land area as held by FAO; and reclassification of data to the classes used in FRA 2010. Comments attached to the tables yield additional information,