Forests and land use

Forests are invaluable to all life on earth

- Forests cover 1/3 of the total land area
- Forests contain most of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity
- 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods
- US$108 billion a year of medicinal plants from tropical forests
- The rate of deforestation, though slowing, is still alarmingly high
- 5.2 million hectares lost each year, equivalent to the size of a soccer field every second

Widespread forest restoration and tree-planting are significantly reducing the net loss of forest area.

A sustainable future for forests

- Forests must be managed sustainably to help reverse the effects of land degradation and deforestation
- Widespread forest restoration and tree-planting are significantly reducing the net loss of forest area
- Sound policies are needed to ensure a future for forests

The world’s land areas

- 12% Arable land and crops
- 26% Meadows and pastures
- 31% Forest area
- 31% Other land

Source: FAOSTAT (faostat.fao.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
www.fao.org/forestry
www.fao.org/es/ess

Arable land and crops

- Americas
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania

Meadows and pastures

- Americas
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania

Forest area

- Americas
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania

Other land

- Americas
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania

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