



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT 2010**

COUNTRY REPORT

CAYMAN ISLANDS

FRA2010/038
Rome, 2010



The Forest Resources Assessment Programme

Sustainably managed forests have multiple environmental and socio-economic functions important at the global, national and local scales, and play a vital part in sustainable development. Reliable and up-to-date information on the state of forest resources - not only on area and area change, but also on such variables as growing stock, wood and non-wood products, carbon, protected areas, use of forests for recreation and other services, biological diversity and forests' contribution to national economies - is crucial to support decision-making for policies and programmes in forestry and sustainable development at all levels.

FAO, at the request of its member countries, regularly monitors the world's forests and their management and uses through the Forest Resources Assessment Programme. This country report forms part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010).

The reporting framework for FRA 2010 is based on the thematic elements of sustainable forest management acknowledged in intergovernmental forest-related fora and includes variables related to the extent, condition, uses and values of forest resources, as well as the policy, legal and institutional framework related to forests. More information on the FRA 2010 process and the results - including all the country reports - is available on the FRA Web site (www.fao.org/forestry/fra).

The Global Forest Resources Assessment process is coordinated by the Forestry Department at FAO headquarters in Rome. The contact person for matters related to FRA 2010 is:

Mette Løyche Wilkie
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome 00153, Italy

E-mail: Mette.LoycheWilkie@fao.org

Readers can also use the following e-mail address: fra@fao.org

DISCLAIMER

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment Country Report Series is designed to document and make available the information forming the basis for the FRA reports. The Country Reports have been compiled by officially nominated country correspondents in collaboration with FAO staff. Prior to finalisation, these reports were subject to validation by forestry authorities in the respective countries.

Contents

1 TABLE T1 – EXTENT OF FOREST AND OTHER WOODED LAND..... 5

2 TABLE T4 – FOREST CHARACTERISTICS 8

3 TABLE T14 – POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK 11

4 TABLE T15 – INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK..... 13

For the remaining tables, no information is available.

Report preparation and contact persons

The present report was prepared by the following person(s):

Name (FAMILY NAME, First name)	Institution / address	E-mail	Fax	Tables
Mat Cottam Special Projects Officer	Department of the Environment PO BOX 486 GT, Grand Cayman	Mat.Cottam@gov.ky	Tel.: (345) 949 8469 Fax: (354) 949 4020	1,14 and 15
Gillian Diggins	Forestry Commission, Silvan House 231 Corstorphine Road Edinburgh EH12 7AT	Gillian.Diggins@forestry.gsi.gov.uk	+44 131 316 4344	

1 Table T1 – Extent of Forest and Other wooded land

1.1 FRA 2010 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Forest	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds <i>in situ</i> . It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.
Other wooded land	Land not classified as “Forest”, spanning more than 0.5 hectares; with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of 5-10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds <i>in situ</i> ; or with a combined cover of shrubs, bushes and trees above 10 percent. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.
Other land	All land that is not classified as “Forest” or “Other wooded land”.
Other land with tree cover (Subordinated to “Other land”)	Land classified as “Other land”, spanning more than 0.5 hectares with a canopy cover of more than 10 percent of trees able to reach a height of 5 meters at maturity.
Inland water bodies	Inland water bodies generally include major rivers, lakes and water reservoirs.

1.2 National data

1.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Cayman Islands National Biodiversity Action Plan 2009	H		2009	Habitat mapping data source.
Burton, F.J. (2008b). <i>Vegetation Classification for the Cayman Islands</i> . In: <i>Threatened Plants of the Cayman Islands: The Red List</i> . Pub. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Richmond, Surrey UK.	H		2008	Used to classify vegetation types.

1.2.2 Classification and definitions

Key Habitat Categories for *Forest and woodland in the Cayman Islands*

Incorporates, the following vegetation formations, as *per* Burton (2008):

- Lowland semi-deciduous forest I.C.1.N.a
- Seasonally flooded / saturated semi-deciduous forest I.C.1.N.c
- Xeromorphic semi-deciduous forest I.C.4.N.b
- Lowland / submontane drought-deciduous woodland II.B1.N.a.
- Tropical or subtropical semi-deciduous woodland II.C.1.N.a

- Seasonally flooded evergreen sclerophyllous forest I.A.5.N.c
- Tidally flooded mangrove forest I.A.5.N.e
- Seasonally flooded / saturated sclerophyllous evergreen woodland II.A.1.N.i

- Tidally flooded evergreen woodland II.A.1.N.e
- Seasonally flooded / saturated evergreen shrubland III.A.1.N.f
- Saturated sclerophyllous evergreen shrubland III.A.1.N.h
- Tidally flooded evergreen shrubland III.A.1.N.i

1.2.3 Original data

The Cayman Islands Department of Environment has recently mapped the vegetation of the three Cayman Islands. The data is supplied in the form of tables extracted from the ‘Cayman Islands National Biodiversity Action Plan 2009’. These results (below) represent the most comprehensive survey of the forests of the Cayman Islands to date, and will serve as the baseline for subsequent monitoring of trends.

2006 (Habitat Status 2006 Forest and woodland from the ‘Cayman Islands National Biodiversity Action Plan 2009’)

		Acres	Hectares
Forest and woodland			
	Seasonally flooded / saturated semi-deciduous forest	163	66
	Xeromorphic semi-deciduous forest	4,530	1,833
	Dry forest and woodland	9,294	3,761
Mangrove			
	Seasonally flooded mangrove shrubland / woodland	1,402	567
	Seasonally flooded mangrove forest / woodland	14,098	5,705
	Tidally flooded mangrove shrubland / woodland	463	187
	Tidally flooded mangrove forest / woodland	1,359	550
	TOTAL	31,309	12,670

1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

1.3.1 Calibration

Total land cover (1000 ha)

National data	27.2
FAOSTAT data	26.0

It is assumed that the reported area of forest and other wooded land are correct. Therefore the calibration was applied by adjusting the category “Other land”.

1.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

Due to lack of sufficient information, data reported in the 2009 mapping exercise was used for all four reporting years.

1.3.3 Reclassification into FRA 2010 categories

As many of the national classes do not separate “forest” from “other wooded land”, it has been difficult to assign to the FRA categories. All categories available have therefore been classed as “forest” although there will be areas of “other wooded land” within the total.

1.4 Data for Table T1

FRA 2010 categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Forest	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7
Other wooded land	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other land	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9
...of which with tree cover	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Inland water bodies	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
TOTAL	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0

1.5 Comments to Table T1

Variable / category	Comments related to data, definitions, etc.	Comments on the reported trend
Forest	The total area referred to as Forests is a combination of Forests and Other Wooded land.	Due to lack of sufficient information, data reported in the 2009 mapping exercise was used for all four reporting years.
Other wooded land	Any areas of other wooded land that may exist are included under Forest.	
Other land		
Other land with tree cover		
Inland water bodies		

Other general comments to the table

--

Expected year for completion of ongoing/planned national forest inventory and/or RS survey / mapping

Field inventory	Completed Jan 2009
Remote sensing survey / mapping	Completed Jan 2009

2 Table T4 – Forest characteristics

2.1 FRA 2010 Categories and definitions

Term / category	Definition
Naturally regenerated forest	Forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration.
Introduced species	A species, subspecies or lower taxon, occurring <u>outside</u> its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (i.e. outside the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans).
Characteristics categories	
Primary forest	Naturally regenerated forest of native species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.
Other naturally regenerated forest	Naturally regenerated forest where there are clearly visible indications of human activities.
Other naturally regenerated forest of introduced species (sub-category)	Other naturally regenerated forest where the trees are predominantly of introduced species.
Planted forest	Forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding.
Planted forest of introduced species (sub-category)	Planted forest, where the planted/seeded trees are predominantly of introduced species.
Special categories	
Rubber plantations	Forest area with rubber tree plantations.
Mangroves	Area of forest and other wooded land with mangrove vegetation.
Bamboo	Area of forest and other wooded land with predominant bamboo vegetation.

2.2 National data

2.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Cayman Islands National Biodiversity Action Plan 2009	H	Total mangroves	2009	Habitat mapping data source.
FRA's the World's Mangroves, 1980- 1995	H	Total mangroves	1998	

2.2.2 Classification and definitions

See chapter 1.2.2

2.2.3 Original data

2006 (Habitat Status 2006 Forest and woodland from the ‘Cayman Islands National Biodiversity Action Plan 2009’)

		Acres	Hectares
Mangrove			
	Seasonally flooded mangrove shrubland / woodland	1,402	567
	Seasonally flooded mangrove forest / woodland	14,098	5,705
	Tidally flooded mangrove shrubland / woodland	463	187
	Tidally flooded mangrove forest / woodland	1,359	550
	TOTAL Mangroves	17,321	7,008

2.3 Analysis and processing of national data

2.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

Due to lack of sufficient information, data reported in the 2009 mapping exercise was used for all four reporting years.

2.4 Data for Table T4

Table 4a

FRA 2010 Categories	Forest area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Primary forest	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Other naturally regenerated forest	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
...of which of introduced species	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Planted forest	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
...of which of introduced species	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
TOTAL	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7

Table 4b

FRA 2010 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Rubber plantations (Forest)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Mangroves (Forest and OWL)	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Bamboo (Forest and OWL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

2.5 Comments to Table T4

Variable / category	Comments related to data, definitions, etc.	Comments on the reported trend
Primary forest		
Other naturally regenerating forest		
Planted forest		
Rubber plantations		
Mangroves		Due to lack of sufficient information, data reported in the 2009 mapping exercise was used for all four reporting years.
Bamboo		

Other general comments to the table

3 Table T14 – Policy and legal framework

3.1 FRA 2010 Categories and definitions

Term	Definition
Forest policy	A set of orientations and principles of actions adopted by public authorities in harmony with national socio-economic and environmental policies in a given country to guide future decisions in relation to the management, use and conservation of forest and tree resources for the benefit of society.
Forest policy statement	A document that describes the objectives, priorities and means for implementation of the forest policy.
National forest programme (nfp)	A generic expression that refers to a wide range of approaches towards forest policy formulation, planning and implementation at national and sub-national levels. The national forest programme provides a framework and guidance for country-driven forest sector development with participation of all stakeholders and in consistence with policies of other sectors and international policies.
Law (Act or Code) on forest	A set of rules enacted by the legislative authority of a country regulating the access, management, conservation and use of forest resources.

3.2 Data for Table T14

Indicate the existence of the following (2008)			
Forest policy statement with national scope	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
If Yes above, provide:	Year of endorsement		
	Reference to document		
National forest programme (nfp)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
If Yes above, provide:	Name of nfp in country		
	Starting year		
	Current status	<input type="checkbox"/>	In formulation
		<input type="checkbox"/>	In implementation
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Under revision
<input type="checkbox"/>		Process temporarily suspended	
Reference to document or web site			
Law (Act or Code) on forest with national scope	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, specific forest law exists	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but rules on forests are incorporated in other (broader) legislation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, forest issues are not regulated by national legislation	
If Yes above, provide:	Year of enactment		
	Year of latest amendment		
	Reference to document		

In case the responsibility for forest policy- and/or forest law-making is decentralized, please indicate the existence of the following and explain in the comments below the table how the responsibility for forest policy- and law-making is organized in your country.		
Sub-national forest policy statements		Yes
	x	No
If Yes above, indicate the number of regions/states/provinces with forest policy statements		
Sub-national Laws (Acts or Codes) on forest		Yes
	x	No
If Yes above, indicate the number of regions/states/provinces with Laws on forests		

3.3 Comments to Table T14

Variable / category	Comments related to data, definitions, etc.
Forest policy statement with national scope	
National forest programme (nfp)	
Law (Act or Code) on forest with national scope	
Sub-national forest policy statements	
Sub-national Laws (Acts or Codes) on forest	

Other general comments to the table

4 Table T15 – Institutional framework

4.1 FRA 2010 Categories and definitions

Term	Definition
Minister responsible for forest policy-making	Minister holding the main responsibility for forest issues and the formulation of the forest policy.
Head of Forestry	The Head of Forestry is the Government Officer responsible for implementing the mandate of the public administration related to forests.
Level of subordination	Number of administrative levels between the Head of Forestry and the Minister.
University degree	Qualification provided by University after a minimum of 3 years of post secondary education.

4.2 Data for Table T15

Table 15a – Institutions

FRA 2010 Category	2008	
Minister responsible for forest policy formulation : please provide full title	Charles Clifford Minister of Tourism, Environment, Investment and Commerce.	
Level of subordination of Head of Forestry within the Ministry	x	1 st level subordination to Minister
		2 nd level subordination to Minister
		3 rd level subordination to Minister
		4 th or lower level subordination to Minister
Other public forest agencies at national level		
Institution(s) responsible for forest law enforcement	<p>There are no nationally protected species of flora in the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>There are no nationally protected forests / national parks in the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>Terrestrial Protected Areas in the Cayman Islands are limited to Animal Sanctuaries (ponds and pools) – most with a 300ft buffer of vegetation – usually mangrove), and buffer zones associated with sensitive marine areas (mangrove). All currently protected forest land in the Cayman Islands falls under the ownership of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, and is protected under the National Trust for the Cayman Islands Law (1987). As of Jan 2009, National Trust owned / shared ownership properties, protected under the National Trust for the Cayman Islands Law (1987), extended to a total of ca. 3109 acres.</p>	

Table 15b – Human resources

FRA 2010 Category	Human resources within public forest institutions					
	2000		2005		2008	
	Number	%Female	Number	%Female	Number	%Female
Total staff	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
...of which with university degree or equivalent	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.

Notes:

1. Includes human resources within public forest institutions at sub-national level
2. Excludes people employed in State-owned enterprises, education and research, as well as temporary / seasonal workers.

4.3 Comments to Table T15

Variable / category	Comments related to data, definitions, etc.	Comments on the reported trend
Minister responsible for forest policy formulation		
Level of subordination of Head of Forestry within the Ministry		
Other public forest agencies at national level		
Institution(s) responsible for forest law enforcement		
Human resources within public forest institutions		

Other general comments to the table

Government commitments under the Cayman Islands Environment Charter require that new legislation be drafted, towards providing a framework for the conservation of our national biodiversity, and the implementation of MEAs, such as Ramsar, SPAW and the CBD, to which the Cayman Islands is signatory.

This new legislation is called the National Conservation Law. At the present time, this legislation has been pending approval for over seven years.