



**Forestry Department**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

**GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES  
ASSESSMENT 2010**

**COUNTRY REPORT**

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

FRA2010/216  
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](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra)).

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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.

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## Introduction

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between the Bahamas, Cuba and Hispaniola. Together with southern Florida, the Bahamas and Northern Cuba, they are part of a platform of rocks formed as limestone depositing in shallow seas as the crust slowly subsided. The Turks and Caicos Islands are on two shallow banks (Turks bank and the larger Caicos Bank), with deep ocean between them. The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) natural landscape takes on a dry and somewhat frazzled appearance.

The TCI is an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom forming a part of the British West Indies. It comprises a complex of some 40 islands located along the western rim of the Atlantic Ocean to the south east of Florida at the southern extremity of the Bahama Plateau. The TCI has 300 km<sup>2</sup> protected land area that comprise 31.64% of the total protected area of the Territory. At present, there are 33 protected sites classified as follows: **National parks** are crown lands that are primarily intended for the promotion, conservation and management of specific ecosystem for the enjoyment of the general public; **Nature reserves** are sites that a) serve to conserve representative, rare or attractive habitats and species, b) to maintain vital physical and ecological processes and services, c) as a recreational and educational resource for both local people and tourists; **Sanctuaries** are ecosystem that serve to conserve endangered or valued habitats, species or life stages which are vulnerable to human disturbance; and **Historic sites** that serve to conserve an object of historical interest.

Although about 80% of the territory's land area is covered by scrub (stunted trees and bushes) vegetation, they are popularly referred to as bushes, rather than a forest. The width of the Islands is very narrow, and they view the scrub as extended part of the coastal ecosystem and management of the bushes is integrated into the coastal management framework. The territory's economy is highly dependent on tourism because of its white powdery sand-beaches and beautiful coastal ecosystems. On that premise, development plans and management initiatives are focused on beach and coastal areas and conservation and management of the scrub vegetation are integrated in the beach/coastal management plan.

In North Caicos, there are limited number of tall trees and are classified as Dry Broadleaf Evergreen Formation- Forests. Also in North and Middle Caicos, including the Pine Cay, there are Pine trees (*Pinus caribea var. bahamensis*). The rest of the Territory is considered as a scrub vegetation and scattered mangrove forest.

The figures supplied in this report are estimates due to the absence of actual determination of forest areas. However, this year (April 2009) a Habitat (Terrestrial) Mapping Project to cover all the Territorial land will be conducted and expected to be finished on November 2009. After that date, an accurate figure will be available and more practical classification will be made to reflect the actual composition of the vegetation.

# 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
Caribbean Development Bank. 1983. Regional Forestry Sector Study, Final report, Caribbean Development Bank/DFS Deutsch Forstinventur Service Gmbh, Barbados.	M	Forest area	1983	Secondary data source

### 1.2.2 Original data

#### 1983

Woodlands = 80% of the land

Total area = 43 000 ha (FAOSTAT)

## 1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

### 1.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

Due to lack of sufficient information, data reported in 1983 was used for all four reporting years. A remote sensing and habitat mapping exercise is due for completion at the end of 2009 but will not be available for inclusion in this report.

### 1.3.2 Reclassification into FRA 2010 categories

Woodlands consist of both Forests and Other Wooded Land, but as they cannot be separated they are here all reported under forest..

### 1.4 Data for Table T1

FRA 2010 categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Forest	34.4	34.4	34.4	34.4
Other wooded land	0	0	0	0
Other land	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
...of which with tree cover	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Inland water bodies	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>

### 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 1983 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

In the absence of actual determination of forest areas and other wooded lands and based on ocular observations, the forest cover decreased by about 1% based on 2005 vegetation cover, which is considered as negligible.

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

Field inventory	
Remote sensing survey / habitat mapping	November 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).
<b>Characteristics categories</b>	
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.
<b>Special categories</b>	
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
<b>Bacon P.R.</b> 1993. Mangroves in the Lesser Antilles, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. In: Lacerda L.D. 1993. <i>Conservation and sustainable utilization of mangrove forests in Latin America and Africa regions, Part I - Latin America</i> . Mangrove Ecosystems technical reports vol.2 ITTO/ISME Project PD114/90. p. 155 210	M	Mangrove area	1988	Largely based on a comprehensive mangrove site inventory conducted in 1991. Inventory based on <b>Wager, J., Bisset, R., Bacon, P., &amp; McLoughlin, J.</b> 1988. <i>Turks and Caicos Islands: Ecological survey and environmental policies for the National Physical Development Plan</i> . Report to the United Nations Center for Human Settlements UNCHS (Habitat), by Cobham Resource Consultants, UK. 240 pp.



## 2.2.2 Original data

Mangrove area 1988: 23600 hectares. It likely includes both forest and other wooded land areas.

## 2.3 Analysis and processing of national data

No trend data is available. The 1988 figure is used for all reporting years.

## 2.4 Data for Table T4

Table 4a

FRA 2010 Categories	Forest area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Primary forest				
Other naturally regenerated forest				
...of which of introduced species				
Planted forest				
...of which of introduced species				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Table 4b

FRA 2010 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Rubber plantations (Forest)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mangroves (Forest and OWL)	23.6	23.6	23.6	23.6
Bamboo (Forest and OWL)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

## 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		Data is only available for one point in time (1988) and is used for all 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)			
<b>Forest policy statement with national scope</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
If Yes above, provide:	Year of endorsement		
	Reference to document		
<b>National forest programme (nfp)</b>	<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			
<b>Law (Act or Code) on forest with national scope</b>	<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.	
<b>Sub-national forest policy statements</b>	Yes
	✓ No
If Yes above, indicate the number of regions/states/provinces with forest policy statements	
<b>Sub-national Laws (Acts or Codes) on forest</b>	Yes
	✓ 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	Ministry of Natural Resources Hon. McAllister Hanchell Minister	
Level of subordination of Head of Forestry within the Ministry	✓	1 <sup>st</sup> level subordination to Minister
		2 <sup>nd</sup> level subordination to Minister
		3 <sup>rd</sup> level subordination to Minister
		4 <sup>th</sup> or lower level subordination to Minister
Other public forest agencies at national level	Matters concerning forestry are integrated under the Department of Environment and Coastal resources (DECR). Mr. Wesley Clerveaux, Director of DECR	
Institution(s) responsible for forest law enforcement	Matters concerning forestry are integrated under the Department of Environment and Coastal resources (DECR). Mr. Wesley Clerveaux, Director of DECR	

Table 15b – Human resources

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

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