



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

Report

Ireland

Rome, 2020



FAO has been monitoring the world's forests at 5 to 10 year intervals since 1946. The Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) are now produced every five years in an attempt to provide a consistent approach to describing the world's forests and how they are changing. The FRA is a country-driven process and the assessments are based on reports prepared by officially nominated National Correspondents. If a report is not available, the FRA Secretariat prepares a desk study using earlier reports, existing information and/or remote sensing based analysis.

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Introduction

Report preparation and contact persons

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

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Introductory text

Ireland

1 Forest extent, characteristics and changes

1a Extent of forest and other wooded land

National data

Data sources

1990	References	
	Methods used	National Forest Inventory, Registers/questionnaires
	Additional comments	The 2006 NFI is used as the baseline to calculate the 1990 forest area. Annual afforestation data from official records is subtracted from the NFI 2006 estimate to derive 1990 forest cover estimate.

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2006	References	1st NFI 2006
	Methods used	National Forest Inventory
	Additional comments	

2012	References	2nd NFI 2012
	Methods used	National Forest Inventory
	Additional comments	

2017	References	3rd NFI 2017
	Methods used	National Forest Inventory
	Additional comments	

Classifications and definitions

1990	National class	Definition
	Forest	Land with a minimum area of 0.1ha, a minimum width of 20m, trees higher than 5m and a canopy cover of more than 20% within the forest boundary, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ.
	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 in situ; 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.

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2012	National class	Definition
	Forest	Land with a minimum area of 0.1ha, a minimum width of 20m, trees higher than 5m and a canopy cover of more than 20% within the forest boundary, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ.
	Other Wooded land	

FRA 2020 report, Ireland		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 in situ; 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.
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2017	National class	Definition
	Forest	Land with a minimum area of 0.1ha, a minimum width of 20m, trees higher than 5m and a canopy cover of more than 20% within the forest boundary, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ.
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Original data and reclassification

1990	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Forest	Other wooded land	Other land
	Forest	461.64	100.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
	Other Wooded land	49.27	0.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	510.91	461.64	49.27	0.00

2000	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Forest	Other wooded land	Other land
	Forest	630.36	100.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
	Other Wooded land	49.27	0.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	679.63	630.36	49.27	0.00

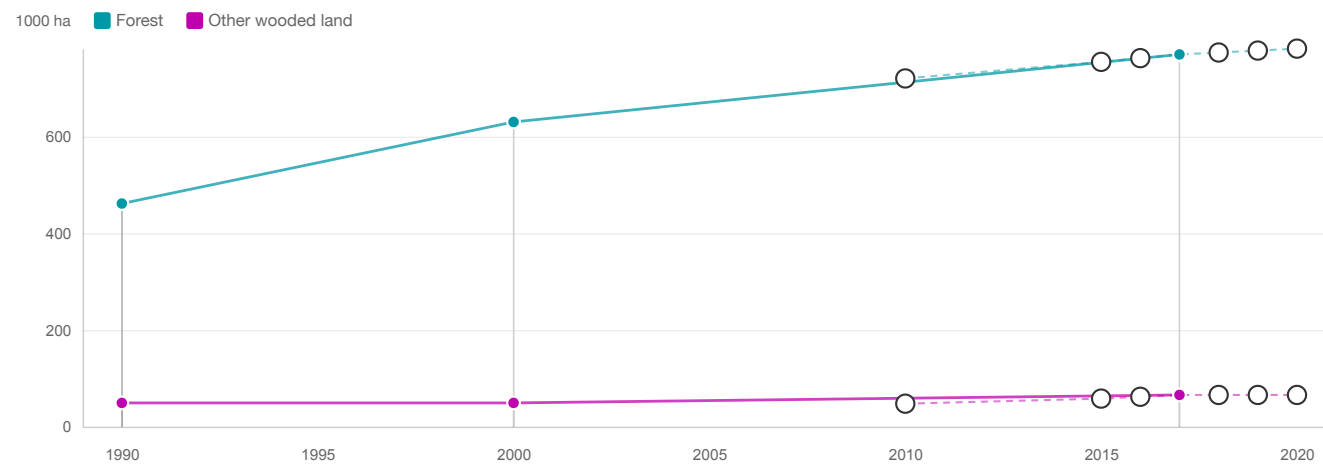
2005	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Forest	Other wooded land	Other land
	Forest	689.81	100.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
	Other Wooded land	49.27	0.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	739.08	689.81	49.27	0.00

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2006	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Forest	Other wooded land	Other land
	Forest	697.84	100.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
	Other Wooded land	49.27	0.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	747.11	697.84	49.27	0.00

2012	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Forest	Other wooded land	Other land
	Forest	731.65	100.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
	Other Wooded land	46.88	0.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	778.53	731.65	46.88	0.00

2017	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Forest	Other wooded land	Other land
	Forest	770.02	100.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
	Other Wooded land	65.74	0.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	835.76	770.02	65.74	0.00



FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)								
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest (a)	461.64	630.36	720.38	754.67	762.35	770.02	774.02	778.02	782.02
Other wooded land (a)	49.27	49.27	47.68	58.20	61.97	65.74	65.74	65.74	65.74
Other land (c-a-b)	6 378.09	6 209.37	6 120.94	6 076.13	6 064.68	6 053.24	6 049.24	6 045.24	6 041.24
Total land area (c)	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00	6 889.00

The FAOSTAT land area figure for the year 2015 is used for all reference years

Climatic domain	% of forest area 2015	Override value
Boreal	0.00	
Temperate	100.00	
Sub-tropical	0.00	
Tropical	0.00	

Comments

Ireland's national forest definition is as follows: *Land with a minimum area of 0.1ha, a minimum width of 20m, trees higher than 5m and a canopy cover of more than 20% within the forest boundary, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ.*

This differs from the FAO in two aspects:

- 1. Minimum area: The FAO threshold is 0.05ha, therefore our national definition overestimates forest area compared to the FAO definition.
- 2. Canopy cover: Thee FAO threshold is 10%, therefore our national definition underestimates forest area compared to the FAO definition.

The forest areas associated with these differences are very small and the assumption is made that the differences in the minimum area and canopy cover thresholds balance out each other. As a result our national definition area is reported as the FAO forest area.

1b Forest characteristics

National data

Data sources

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Original data and reclassification

1990	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Naturally regenerating forest	Plantation forest	Other planted forest
	Forest	461.64	17.60 %	82.40 %	0.00 %
	Total	461.64	81.25	380.39	0.00

Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
Forest	380.39	77.17 %
Total	380.39	293.55

2000	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Naturally regenerating forest	Plantation forest	Other planted forest
	Forest	630.36	12.92 %	87.08 %	0.00 %
	Total	630.36	81.44	548.92	0.00

Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
Forest	548.92	77.17 %
Total	548.92	423.60

2005	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Naturally regenerating forest	Plantation forest	Other planted forest
	Forest	689.81	12.92 %	87.08 %	0.00 %
	Total	689.81	89.12	600.69	0.00

Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
Forest	600.69	77.17 %
Total	600.69	463.55

2006	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Naturally regenerating forest	Plantation forest	Other planted forest
	Forest	697.84	11.67 %	88.33 %	0.00 %
	Total	697.84	81.44	616.40	0.00

Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
Forest	616.40	77.17 %
Total	616.40	475.68

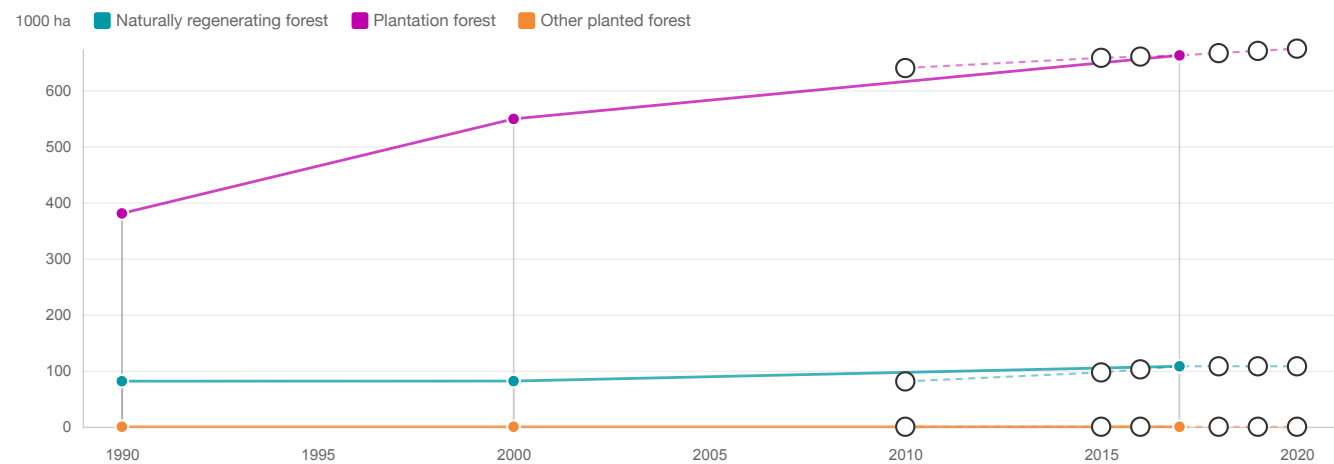
2012	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Naturally regenerating forest	Plantation forest	Other planted forest
	Forest	731.65	11.00 %	89.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	731.65	80.48	651.17	0.00

Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
Forest	651.17	76.00 %
Total	651.17	494.89

2017	Classifications and definitions		FRA classes		
	Class	Area (1000 ha)	Naturally regenerating forest	Plantation forest	Other planted forest
	Forest	770.02	14.00 %	86.00 %	0.00 %
	Total	770.02	107.80	662.22	0.00

Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
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Plantation forest	Area (1000 ha)	...of which introduced
Forest	662.22	73.00 %
Total	662.22	483.42



FRA categories	Forest area (1000 ha)								
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Naturally regenerating forest (a)	81.25	81.44	80.80	96.87	102.34	107.80	107.80	107.80	107.80
Planted forest (b)	380.39	548.92	639.58	657.80	660.01	662.22	666.22	670.22	674.22
Plantation forest	380.39	548.92	639.58	657.80	660.01	662.22	666.22	670.22	674.22
...of which introduced species	293.55	423.60	488.48	488.01	485.71	483.42	486.42	489.42	492.42
Other planted forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (a+b)	461.64	630.36	720.38	754.67	762.35	770.02	774.02	778.02	782.02
Total forest area	461.64	630.36	720.38	754.67	762.35	770.02	774.02	778.02	782.02

Comments

The area of naturally regenerated forest from the 2012 NFI is used for all past years

The proportion of introduced tree species from the 2012 NFI is used for all past years, also.

1c Primary forest and special forest categories

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

National Forest Inventory

National classification and definitions

The forest definition used in T1a is also used here.

A lot is classified as Temp unstocked if it has been clearfelled since the previous NFI and not yet replanted.

Original data

NFI (Year)	2006	2012	2017
Temp unstocked	11.2	16.8	14.413

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

The NFI data from 2010, 2015 and 2020 were used to populate the FRA2020 table for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020, respectively.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

No reclassification used.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)				
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Primary forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporarily unstocked and/or recently regenerated			11.20	16.80	14.41
Bamboos	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mangroves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rubber wood	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Comments

1d Annual forest expansion, deforestation and net change

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

Overall net change is based on NFI esatimates as calculated by FRA system.

National classification and definitions

The same definition for forest is used as detailed in T1a.

Original data

The annual estimate is made for natural regeneration of 250ha per annum
The annual estimate for deforestation of 620ha per annum comes from a recent report titled 21st Century Deforestation in Ireland: https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/EPA%20RR%20221%20essentra_web.pdf

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

The Forest area net changes are the basis of the estimation. The expansion due to afforestation is calculated using the deforestation and natural expansion estimates.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

There is no reclassification.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha/year)			
	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020
Forest expansion (a)	17.49	9.62	7.48	6.09
...of which afforestation	16.00	8.13	5.99	4.60
...of which natural expansion	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Deforestation (b)	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62
Forest area net change (a-b)	16.87	9.00	6.86	5.47

Comments

1e Annual reforestation

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

Official data for the public forest sector and expert estimate for the Private sector.

National classification and definitions

Same definitions used for Forest as in T1a.

Original data

Year	Public (ha)	Private (ha)	Total (1000's ha)
1990	3,682	450	4.13
1991	4,003	450	4.45
1992	3,868	450	4.32
1993	4,421	450	4.87
1994	4,000	450	4.45
1995	5,247	450	5.70
1996	6,003	450	6.45
1997	6,890	450	7.34
1998	6,985	450	7.44
1999	7,724	450	8.17
2000	9,038	450	9.49
2001	8,555	450	9.01
2002	9,058	450	9.51
2003	10,102	450	10.55
2004	9,130	450	9.58
2005	7,801	450	8.25
2006	6,747	450	7.20
2007	7,157	450	7.61
2008	5,631	450	6.08
2009	5,362	450	5.81
2010	7,250	500	7.75
2011	5,781	500	6.28
2012	5,849	500	6.35
2013	6,467	500	6.97

2014	6,050	3,000	9.05
2015	6,156	2,000	8.16
2016	7,831	1,500	9.33
2017	7,500	1,500	9.00
2018	7,500	2,000	9.50
2019	7,500	2,000	9.50

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

The private sector data has been estimated using information from official felling licence records.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

No reclassification used.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha/year)			
	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020
Reforestation	5.73	8.31	7.28	9.10

Comments

1f Other land with tree cover

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

NFI 2017 air photo-interpretation.

National classification and definitions

The OLwTC was used based on the FAO publication *Towards the Assessment of Trees Outside Forests* (Resources Assessment Working Paper. 183).

Original data

The area of OLwTC was estimated at 6,800ha.

National Apple Orchard Census (2012) put the area of orchards at 615ha. <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/horticulture/horticulturestatistics/NationalAppleOrchardCensus2012221013.pdf>

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

The NFI 3 data is used for the three reporting years 2010, 2015 and 2020.

The agroforestry area is estimated to be 10ha for 2010 & 2015, then rising to 20ha by 2020.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

None.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)				
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Palms (a)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tree orchards (b)			0.62	0.62	0.62
Agroforestry (c)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.05
Trees in urban settings (d)					
Other (specify in comments) (e)			6.80	6.80	6.80
Total (a+b+c+d+e)	0.00	0.00	7.43	7.43	7.47
Other land area	6 378.09	6 209.37	6 120.94	6 076.13	6 041.24

Comments

2 Forest growing stock, biomass and carbon

2a Growing stock

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

NFI data is available for the years 2006, 2012 and 2017.

National classification and definitions

Volume estimated according to FAO growing stock definitions.

Original data

Not relevant.

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Using the NFI data available for the years 2006, 2012 and 2017 estimates were generated using interpolation pre2017.

For 2018 to 2020, the values from the 3rd NFI cycle (2017) were used.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

Not relevant.

FRA categories	Growing stock m³/ha (over bark)						
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Naturally regenerating forest	109.00	110.00	111.00	111.00	115.00	115.00	115.00
Planted forest	134.00	157.00	160.00	163.00	162.00	162.00	162.00
...of which plantation forest	134.00	157.00	160.00	163.00	162.00	162.00	162.00
...of which other planted forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forest	131.00	151.00	154.00	156.00	156.00	156.00	156.00
Other wooded land							

FRA categories	Total growing stock (million m³ over bark)						
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Naturally regenerating forest	8.81	10.66	11.36	11.97	12.40	12.40	12.40
Planted forest	85.70	103.27	105.60	107.94	107.93	108.58	109.22
...of which plantation forest	85.70	103.27	105.60	107.94	107.93	108.58	109.22
...of which other planted forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forest	94.37	113.96	117.40	120.12	120.75	121.37	122.00
Other wooded land							

Comments

2b Growing stock composition

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

NFI data is available for the years 2006, 2012 and 2017.

National classification and definitions

Volume estimated according to FAO growing stock definitions.

Original data

Not relevant.

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Using the NFI data available for the years 2006, 2012 and 2017 estimates were generated using interpolation 2010 and 2017.

The proportion of species GS from the 2017 NFI is used as the basis of estimating the 2020 data supplied.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

Not relevant.

FRA categories	Scientific name	Common name	Growing stock in forest (million m³ over bark)				
			1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Native tree species							
#1 Ranked in terms of volume	Fraxinus excelsior	ash			2.20	3.18	3.73
#2 Ranked in terms of volume	Quercus robur	pedunculate oak			1.91	2.09	2.25
#3 Ranked in terms of volume	Betula pubescens	downy birch			1.61	1.95	2.15
#4 Ranked in terms of volume	Quercus petraea	sessile oak			1.62	1.81	1.89
#5 Ranked in terms of volume	Salix caprea	goat willow			1.00	1.78	2.10
#6 Ranked in terms of volume	Betula pendula	silver birch			1.16	1.76	2.06
#7 Ranked in terms of volume	Alnus glutinosa	alder			1.22	1.52	1.68
#8 Ranked in terms of volume	Pinus sylvestris	Scots pine			1.03	1.06	1.06
#9 Ranked in terms of volume	Ilex aquifolium	holly			0.34	0.46	0.53
#10 Ranked in terms of volume	Corylus avellana	hazel			0.30	0.38	0.43
Remaining native tree species					0.54	0.43	0.48
Total volume of native tree species			–	–	12.93	16.42	18.36
Introduced tree species							
#1 Ranked in terms of volume	Picea sitchensis	sitka spruce			53.57	66.14	71.76
#2 Ranked in terms of volume	Pinus contorta	lodgepole pine			8.70	10.03	10.84
#3 Ranked in terms of volume	Picea abies	Norway spruce			3.64	4.66	5.14
#4 Ranked in terms of volume	Larix kaempferi	Japanese larch			2.39	3.53	4.00

FRA categories	Scientific name	Common name	Growing stock in forest (million m³ over bark)				
			1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Native tree species							
#5 Ranked in terms of volume	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas fir			2.44	3.03	3.30
Remaining introduced tree species					10.66	10.17	8.59
Total volume of introduced tree species			–	–	81.40	97.56	103.63
Total growing stock			–	–	94.33	113.98	121.99

Comments

2c Biomass stock

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

All outputs are based on the new Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector (CBM) which is now used for UNFCCC reporting.

Forest denition is different in UNFCCC and KP reporting. This is the preliminary NIR data submitted to the UNFCCC. The UNFCCC used a CBM model and NFI data (2006-2017) to derive C fluxes and biomass, liiter, deadwood C pools.#

Model used by CBM: Kurz, W.A., Dymond, C.C., White, T.M., Stinson, G., Shaw, C.H., Rampley, G.J.,Smyth, C., Simpson, B.N., Neilson, E.T., Trofymow, J.A., Metsaranta, J., andApps, M.J. 2009. CBM-CFS3: a model of carbon-dynamics in forestry and land- use change implementing IPCC standards. Ecol. Model. 220(4): 480–504. doi 10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2008.10.018.

National classification and definitions

Biomass stock in below-ground living biomass includes all roots to a minimum diameter of 5mm.

Biomass stock in deadwood: Lying deadwood with a min top diamter 7cm is include. Stumps with a minimum top diameter of 10cm are included. Dead standing trees with a minimum Dbh of 7cm are included. Both litter and slash are exclude from deadwood.

Biomass stock in litter harvest slash (i.e lop and top less than 7cm diameter).

Biomass stock in soil is estimated to to a maximum depth of 100cm

Forerst denition is different in UNFCCC / KP reporting is the same as our national definition outlined in T1a. Please see Ireland's National Invetory Report for Greenhouse Gas Emmissions:
<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/airemissions/ghg/nir2018/Ireland%20NIR%202018.pdf>

Original data

NFI data (2006-2017)

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Based on UNFCCC submission (NIR, 2019) preliminary data.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

No reclassification was done.

FRA categories	Forest biomass (tonnes/ha)								
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Above-ground biomass	87.28	89.19	98.21	103.91	105.55	105.90	107.47	109.74	111.64
Below-ground biomass	19.28	19.82	21.61	22.57	22.77	22.83	23.14	23.60	23.98
Dead wood	59.90	42.99	39.04	38.38	38.30	38.82	39.15	39.15	39.23

Comments

Increased afforestation (311kha since 1990) increase in harvest as resource decomes avaiable (harvest increased from 1.6M3 in 1990 to 3.1Mm3 in 2015).

All outputs are based on the new Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector (CBM) which Ireland now uses for UNFCCC reporting. The differences in the deadwood data reported for FRA 2015 compared to the latest data supplied is due to a difference modelling approach, which has a large influence on deadwood. The previous model used for FRA 2015 excluded below ground deadwood stock. The inclusion of below ground stocks and the multiple component pool decay and transfer models in the new CDM model result in a much higher accumulation of deadwood, when compared to previous models. The previous models only used a one pool decay model which did not consider fragmentation and transfer of deadwood between pools. Also, the predominance of the clearfell silvicultural system in Ireland gives rise to large volumes of deadwood. The uptake of thinning in our maturing private estate is also another reason why deadwood volume has been increasing.

2d Carbon stock

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

All outputs are based on the new Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector (CBM) which is now used for UNFCCC reporting.

Forest denition is different in UNFCCC and KP reporting. This is the preliminary NIR data submitted to the UNFCCC. The UNFCCC used a CBM model and NFI data (2006-2017) to derive C fluxes and biomass, liiter, deadwood C pools.

Model used by CBM: Kurz, W.A., Dymond, C.C., White, T.M., Stinson, G., Shaw, C.H., Rampley, G.J.,Smyth, C., Simpson, B.N., Neilson, E.T., Trofymow, J.A., Metsaranta, J., andApps, M.J. 2009. CBM-CFS3: a model of carbon-dynamics in forestry and land- use change implementing IPCC standards. Ecol. Model. 220(4): 480–504. doi 10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2008.10.018.

National classification and definitions

Carbon stock in below-ground living biomass includes all roots to a minimum diameter of 5mm.

Carbon stock in deadwood: Lying deadwood with a min top diamter 7cm is include. Stumps with a minimum top diameter of 10cm are included. Dead standing trees with a minimum Dbh of 7cm are included. Both litter and slash are exclude from deadwood.

Carbon stock in litter harvest slash (i.e lop and top less than 7cm diameter).

Carbon stock in soil is estimated to to a maximum depth of 100cm

Forerst denition is different in UNFCCC / KP reporting is the same as our national definition outlined in T1a. Please see Ireland's National Invetory Report for Greenhouse Gas Emmissions:
<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/airemissions/ghg/nir2018/Ireland%20NIR%202018.pdf>

Original data

NFI data (2006-2017)

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector uses biomass functions carbon fraction assumed to be 50%

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

No reclassification was done.

FRA categories	Forest carbon (tonnes/ha)								
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Carbon in above-ground biomass	43.64	44.59	49.11	51.95	52.78	52.95	53.73	54.87	55.82
Carbon in below-ground biomass	9.64	9.91	10.81	11.29	11.39	11.42	11.57	11.80	11.99
Carbon in dead wood	29.95	21.50	19.52	19.19	19.15	19.41	19.57	19.57	19.61
Carbon in litter	15.30	11.25	11.26	11.61	11.72	12.13	12.45	12.68	12.92
Soil carbon	348.66	339.61	330.24	325.25	322.93	319.89	323.30	324.24	325.17

Soil depth (cm) used for soil carbon estimates	100.00
------------------------------------------------	--------

Comments

All outputs are based on the new Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector (CBM) which Ireland now uses for UNFCCC reporting. The differences in the deadwood and litter data reported for FRA 2015 compared to the latest data supplied is due to a difference modelling approach, which has a large influence on deadwood. The previous model used for FRA 2015 excluded below ground deadwood stock. The inclusion of below ground stocks and the multiple component pool decay and transfer models in the new CDM model result in a much higher accumulation of deadwood, when compared to previous models. The previous models only used a one pool decay model which did not consider fragmentation and transfer of deadwood between pools. Also, the predominance of the clearfell silvicultural system in Ireland gives rise to large volumes of deadwood. The uptake of thinning in our maturing private estate is also another reason why deadwood volume has been increasing.

3 Forest designation and management

3a Designated management objective

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

The availability of information in relation designated management objective is very poor in Ireland. Unlike other central European countries there is no forest management planning system required by law in Ireland.

Information is only available for the public forest estate.

National classification and definitions

The information used to populate this table is derived from information about Management Objectives in the public forest estate from 2013.

Original data

Public forest estate: Production (88.8%); Conservation of biodiversity (11.1%); Recreation (0.001%)

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Not relevant.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

Not relevant.

Primary designated management objective

FRA 2020 categories	Forest area (1000 ha)				
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Production (a)	311.31	351.96	348.01	347.85	347.08
Protection of soil and water (b)					
Conservation of biodiversity (c)	38.94	44.03	43.53	43.51	43.41
Social Services (d)	0.46	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52
Multiple use (e)					
Other (specify in comments) (f)					
None/unknown (g)	110.93	233.85	328.32	362.79	391.01
Total forest area	461.64	630.36	720.38	754.67	782.02

Total area with designated management objective

FRA 2020 categories	Forest area (1000 ha)				
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Production	311.31	351.96	348.01	346.68	347.08
Protection of soil and water					
Conservation of biodiversity	38.94	44.03	43.53	43.36	43.41
Social Services	0.46	0.53	0.52	0.52	0.52
Other (specify in comments)					

Comments

3b Forest area within protected areas and forest area with long-term management plans

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

NFI forest area estimates for 2006, 2012 and 2017 is the basic information used.

National classification and definitions

Designations include: Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Special Protection Area (SPA); National Heritage Area (NHA); Fresh Water Pearl Mussel (FPM); Nature Reserve; National Park; Fisheries Sensitive, Acid Sensitive and Hen Harrier Higher Likelihood Nesting Area (HLNA).

Original data

NFI forest area estimates for 2006, 2012 and 2017 is the basic information used.

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

The entire public forest estate has a formal management plan in place.

It is estimated that approx 50% of the private grant aided estate has a management plan in place. While management plans are not required by law, as part of government supports for afforestation, a forest management plan is required at year 4 and 10 for conifer plantations >10ha and broadleaf plantations greater than 5ha.

The area of non-grant aided private forests has been estimated at 17%.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

The designations listed above in National classification and definitions are assumed to be Protected Areas.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)								
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area within protected areas			139.60	141.66	142.30	142.94	143.68	144.42	145.17
Forest area with long-term forest management plan	390.92	484.82	526.69	539.22	542.16	545.10	547.93	550.76	553.59
...of which in protected areas									

Comments

4 Forest ownership and management rights

4a Forest ownership

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

NFI and official afforestation records.

National classification and definitions

Our national ownership definition is used which is based on land ownership.

Original data

NFI Data

	Area (1,000ha)		
Ownership	NFI 2006	NFI 2012	NFI 2017
public	397.4633	389.36	391.36
private	300.379	342.30	378.66
Total	697.8423	731.65	770.02

Official Afforestation records

Year	State	Private	Total
1990	6,670	9,147	15,817
1991	7,855	11,292	19,147
1992	7,565	9,134	16,699
1993	6,827	9,171	15,998
1994	6,622	12,837	19,459
1995	6,367	17,343	23,710
1996	4,426	16,555	20,981
1997	851	10,583	11,434
1998	2,926	10,002	12,928
1999	891	11,777	12,668
2000	1,464	14,231	15,695
2001	317	15,147	15,464
2002	319	14,735	15,054
2003	128	8,969	9,097
2004	122	9,617	9,739
2005	64	10,032	10,096

2006	25	8,012	8,037
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Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Interpolation is used in between NFI dates. Pre-NFI the official afforestation records are subtracted from the 2006 NFI data.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

Not relevant.

FRA categories	Forest area (1000 ha)			
	1990	2000	2010	2015
Private ownership (a)	110.92	233.85	328.32	364.11
...of which owned by individuals				
...of which owned by private business entities and institutions				
...of which owned by local, tribal and indigenous communities				
Public ownership (b)	350.72	396.51	392.06	390.56
Unknown/other (specify in comments) (c)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total forest area	461.64	630.36	720.38	754.67

Comments

4b Holder of management rights of public forests

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

NFI, official afforestation records and information from the state forestry company on holders of management rights.

National classification and definitions

A small portion of the public forest lands are managed by the Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IForUT) and Davy Forestry Fund (DFF).

Original data

NFI Data

	Area (1,000ha)		
Ownership	NFI 2006	NFI 2012	NFI 2017
public	397.4633	389.36	391.36
private	300.379	342.30	378.66
Total	697.8423	731.65	770.02

Official Afforestation records

Year	State	Private	Total
1990	6,670	9,147	15,817
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2000	1,464	14,231	15,695
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2003	128	8,969	9,097
2004	122	9,617	9,739
2005	64	10,032	10,096
2006	25	8,012	8,037

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

nterpolation is used in between NFI dates. Pre-NFI the official afforestation records are subtracted from the 2006 NFI data.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

Not relevant.

FRA categories	Forest area (1000 ha)			
	1990	2000	2010	2015
Public Administration (a)	350.72	393.01	384.56	383.06
Individuals (b)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Private business entities and institutions (c)	0.00	3.50	7.50	7.50
Local, tribal and indigenous communities (d)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unknown/other (specify in comments) (e)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total public ownership	350.72	396.51	392.06	390.56

Comments

5 Forest disturbances

5a Disturbances

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

Severe weather event information comes from our felling licensing system and on-off projects aimed at assessing storma damage.

In relation to diseases, intensive surveys for the disease are conducted each year since they have been found:

- The first confirmed finding of the Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) disease in October 2012, on imported trees used in forestry plantations.
- The first finding in Ireland of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch in 2010.
- In September 2016 *Dothistroma Needle Blight* (previously referred to as Red Band Needle Blight) was found in Ireland for the first time.
- Brown spot needle blight was first found in 2018 so doesn't figure in the calculations.

National classification and definitions

FRA classification and definitions are followed.

Original data

In Feb 2014, 8,000ha of forest were windthrown due to Storm Darwin. In Oct. 2017 500ha were windthrown due to Storm Ophelia.

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

None.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

None.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)																	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Insects (a)																		
Diseases (b)											0.08	0.01	0.09	0.15	0.14	0.19	0.49	0.57
Severe weather events (c)															8.00			0.50
Other (specify in comments) (d)																		
Total (a+b+c+d)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.08	0.01	0.09	0.15	8.14	0.19	0.49	1.07
Total forest area	630.36	–	–	–	–	689.81	697.84	–	–	–	720.38	–	731.65	–	–	754.67	762.35	770.02

Comments

5b Area affected by fire

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

Official returns from state forest management company. Private sector returns for reconstitution grant for the years 2005-2009.

National classification and definitions

As per FRA definition.

Original data

Year	Public	Private	Total (ha)	Total (1000 ha)
2000	197	119	316	0.32
2001	503	323	826	0.83
2002	39	26	65	0.07
2003	474	332	806	0.81
2004	342	248	590	0.59
2005	69	46	115	0.12
2006	204	251	455	0.46
2007	243	329	572	0.57
2008	199	251	450	0.45
2009	60	66	126	0.13
2010	816	660	1,476	1.48
2011	840	689	1,529	1.53
2012	25	20	45	0.04
2013	215	179	394	0.39
2014	178	150	328	0.33
2015	100	84	184	0.18
2016	20	17	37	0.04
2017	1,760	200	1,960	1.96

Analysis and processing of national data

Estimation and forecasting

Estimates of fires in privately-owned forests for 2000-2005 and 2010-2016, were derived by multiplying the proportion of the area impacted by fire in the public forest by the total private area.

The estimate for 2017 is based on an expert estimate as returns are yet to be received.

Reclassification into FRA 2020 categories

Not relevant.

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)																	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total land area affected by fire												20.00	6.00	10.00	5.00	10.00	5.00	10.40
...of which on forest	0.32	0.83	0.07	0.81	0.59	0.12	0.46	0.57	0.45	0.13	1.48	1.53	0.04	0.39	0.33	0.18	0.04	0.20

Comments

5c Degraded forest

Does your country monitor area of degraded forest		No
If "yes"	What is the national definition of "Degraded forest"?	
	Describe the monitoring process and results	

Comments

6 Forest policy and legislation

6a Policies, Legislation and national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

All legislation, forest policies and requirements are at a national level. There are no regional or sub-national policies, legislation or national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy formulation.

National classification and definitions

National legislation is available here: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/act/31/enacted/en/html>

Policy document is available here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/forestpolicyreviewforestsproductsandpeople/00487%20Forestry%20Review%20-%20web%2022.7.14.pdf>

European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) and Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) - <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/eutr-flegt/>

Policies supporting SFM: *Irish National Forest Standard* and *Code of Best Forest Practice* <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/>

Original data

Not relevant.

Indicate the existence of	Boolean (Yes/No)	
	National	Sub-national
Policies supporting SFM	Yes	No
Legislations and regulations supporting SFM	Yes	No
Platform that promotes or allows for stakeholder participation in forest policy development	Yes	No
Traceability system(s) for wood products	Yes	No

Comments

6b Area of permanent forest estate

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

The permanent removal of trees and forests (without reforestation) where a felling licence is required under the Forestry Act 2014 may also be considered under exceptional circumstances.

The permanent removal of trees and forests is permitted in certain circumstances. Mitigating measures form part of the decision-making process, including the afforestation of alternative lands and / or the refunding of grant and premium payments already paid by the State.

National classification and definitions

Not relevant.

Original data

Not relevant.

FRA 2020 categories	Forest area (1000 ha)					
	Applicable?	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Area of permanent forest estate	Yes	461.64	630.36	720.38	754.67	782.02

Comments

7 Employment, education and NWFP

7a Employment in forestry and logging

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

The data for 2010 and 2015 have been provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), which is Ireland's national statistical office

Data from 1990 and 2000 is taken from the prefilled tables supplied for SoEF 2015, which was sourced from the Eurostat Labour Force Survey.

National classification and definitions

NACE classification is used.

Original data

Original data is provided in the table.

FRA 2020 categories	Full-time equivalents (1000 FTE)											
	1990			2000			2010			2015		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Employment in forestry and logging	2.52	0.21	2.30	2.85	0.24	2.61	2.27			2.34		
...of which silviculture and other forestry activities							0.52			0.59		
...of which logging							0.34			0.36		
...of which gathering of non wood forest products							0.01			0.01		
...of which support services to forestry							1.40			1.37		

Comments

7b Graduation of students in forest-related education

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

The four providers of education in Ireland were contacted to get information on the graduation of students in forest-related education:

- University College Dublin
- Waterford Institute of Technology
- Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
- Teagasc Forestry College Ballyhaise

National classification and definitions

Information provided according to ISCED levels, as specified in FRA guidelines.

Original data

Not relevant as original data is used. Although the returns were rounded as FRA system did not accept fractions.

FRA 2020 categories	Number of graduated students											
	1990			2000			2010			2015		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Doctoral degree	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
Master's degree	1.00	0.00	1.00	7.00	2.00	5.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
Bachelor's degree	12.00	3.00	9.00	57.00	7.00	50.00	30.00	2.00	28.00	34.00	2.00	32.00
Technician certificate / diploma	12.00	0.00	12.00	13.00	1.00	12.00	19.00	1.00	18.00	21.00	0.00	21.00
Total	26.00	4.00	22.00	78.00	10.00	68.00	51.00	3.00	48.00	58.00	3.00	55.00

Comments

7c Non wood forest products removals and value 2015

National Data

Data sources + type of data source eg NFI, etc

No information is available on the topic of Non wood forest products removals and their value.

However it is worth noting that the removal of non-wood forest products is not widespread in Ireland. Deer hunting is the only aspect that would be relatively common but no information is available on removals.

National classification and definitions

Not relevant.

Original data

Not relevant.

	Name of NWFP product	Key species	Quantity	Unit	Value (1000 local currency)	NWFP category
#1	Wild meat	Deer				12 Wild meat
#2	Foliage	Varied				6 Ornamental plants
#3	Honey	Deer				11 Wild honey and bee wax
#4	Deer hides and trophies	Deer				10 Hides skins and trophies
#5	Mushrooms	Varied				1 Food
#6						
#7						
#8						
#9						
#10						
All other plant products						
All other animal products						
Total					—	

Name of currency	
------------------	--

Comments

8 Sustainable Development Goal 15

8a Sustainable Development Goal 15

SDG Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as proportion of total land area 2015

Indicator	Percent							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area as proportion of total land area 2015	9.15	10.46	10.95	11.07	11.18	11.24	11.29	11.35

Name of agency responsible	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
----------------------------	------------------------------------------------

SDG Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management

Sub-Indicator 1	Percent						
	2000-2010	2010-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Forest area annual net change rate	1.34	0.93	1.01	1.00	0.52	0.51	0.51

Name of agency responsible	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
----------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Sub-Indicator 2	Forest biomass (tonnes/ha)							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Above-ground biomass stock in forest	89.19	98.21	103.91	105.55	105.90	107.47	109.74	111.64

Name of agency responsible	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
----------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Sub-Indicator 3	Percent (2015 forest area baseline)							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas	–	18.50	18.77	18.86	18.94	19.04	19.14	19.24

Name of agency responsible	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
----------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Sub-Indicator 4	Percent (2015 forest area baseline)							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Proportion of forest area under long-term forest management plan	64.24	69.79	71.45	71.84	72.23	72.61	72.98	73.36

Name of agency responsible	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
----------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Sub-Indicator 5	Forest area (1000 ha)							
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area under independently verified forest management certification schemes	0.00	449.57	448.12	446.65	446.65	446.87	–	–