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Forestry

Key facts

In 2005, forests covered about 30 percent of the world's total land area – about 3 952 million hectares.

About 93 percent of the world's forest cover is natural forest and 7 percent is planted. In 2005, planted forests were able to provide about two-thirds of the world's industrial roundwood.

Deforestation affected an estimated 13 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2005; net forest loss was 7.3 million hectares per year.

Most deforestation takes place in tropical countries, whereas most developed countries with temperate forest ecosystems are experiencing stable or increasing forest areas.

Between 1990 and 2005, the amount of forest land designated primarily for the conservation of biological diversity increased by 32 percent, indicating a political commitment to conserve forests. Such protected land now comprises about 11 percent of the world's forests.

The World Bank estimates that illegal logging results in losses of between US\$10 billion and US\$15 billion in forest resources from public lands.

In developing countries, wood-based fuels are the dominant source of energy for more than 2 billion poor people. In Africa, over 80 percent of harvested wood is used for energy.

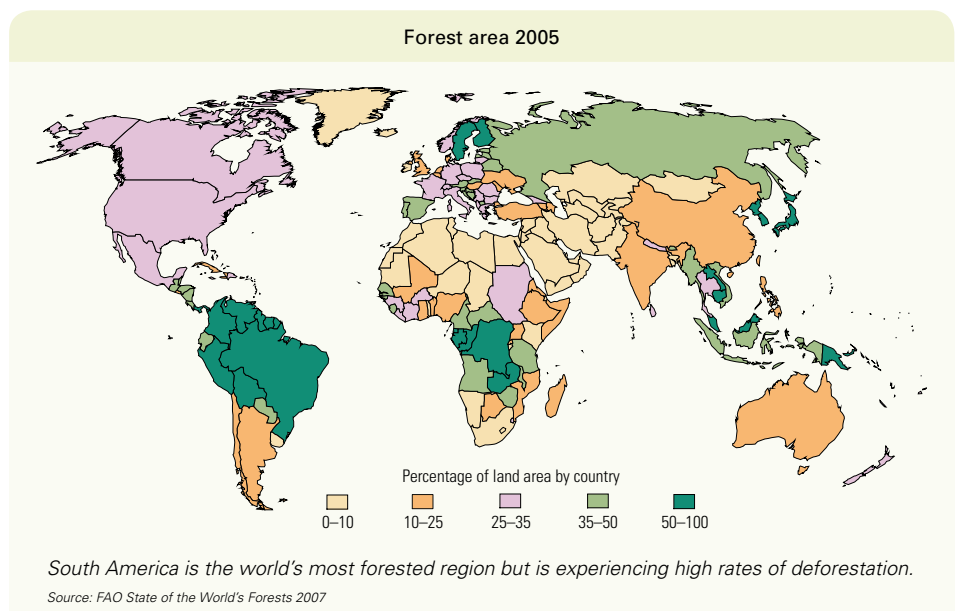
Managing forests for the future

One of FAO's strategic goals is the sustainable management of the world's forests. The FAO Forestry Department works to balance social and environmental considerations with the economic needs of trade in forestry products. FAO serves as a neutral forum for policy dialogue, as a reliable source of information on forests and trees and as a provider of expert technical assistance and advice to help countries develop and implement effective national forest programmes.

Sharing ideas, creating partnerships

FAO's Committee on Forestry brings together decision-makers from national forest services, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to examine emerging international forestry issues and shape the Organization's programme of work. Six regional forestry commissions meet to address regional issues. There is also an FAO Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products that brings together leaders from the private sector to address global issues and to provide advice to FAO.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests, a group of 14 leading international organizations concerned with the world's forests, is chaired by FAO. The Organization also hosts the Mountain Partnership, an international consortium concerned with livelihoods of mountain people and the conservation of mountain ecosystems, and the National Forest Programme Facility, an innovative approach to forest development in developing countries that promotes participatory processes and effective national policies that integrate forestry with other key sectors.



Sound information for sound forest policy

FAO is both a global clearinghouse for information on forests and forest resources and a facilitator that helps build countries' local capacity to provide their own national forest data. In collaboration with member countries, FAO carries out periodic global assessments of forest resources, which are made available through reports, publications and the FAO Web site. The *Global Forest Resources Assessment* provides

the most comprehensive reporting on forests worldwide.

Every two years, FAO publishes the *State of the World's Forests*, a major report covering current and emerging issues facing the forestry sector. *Unasylva*, FAO's peer-reviewed journal on forestry, has been published in English, French and Spanish on a regular basis since 1947, the longest-running multilingual forestry journal in the world.



Fighting a fire in Lebanon.

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Knowledge for better forest management

FAO provides technical assistance and advice to help countries develop and improve national forest programmes, plan and carry out forest activities, and implement effective forest legislation. More than 120 countries have benefited from the Organization's forestry guidance over the last 20 years.

FAO develops guidelines for forestry management through broad consultative processes with stakeholders in all regions of the world. Popular guidelines cover fire management, responsible management of planted forests and forest harvesting practices.

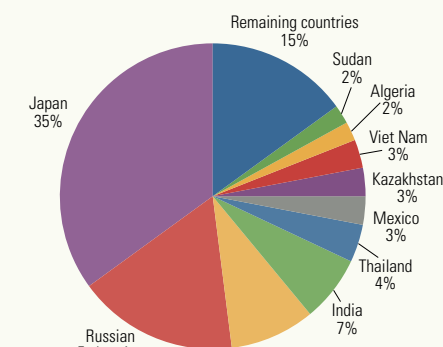
Forests are the world's most important source of renewable bioenergy. The FAO publication *Forests and Energy: Key Issues* provides guidance to member countries that are facing critical policy decisions in this important area. FAO works with countries to develop systems for harnessing energy without depleting tree resources.

The Organization also helps countries to develop strategies to control pests and diseases, in addition to providing emergency assistance to safeguard forest health.

Fire affects millions of hectares of forest land every year. FAO works with countries to adopt community-based approaches, strengthen fire-related policy and legislation, and promote international cooperation in fire management.

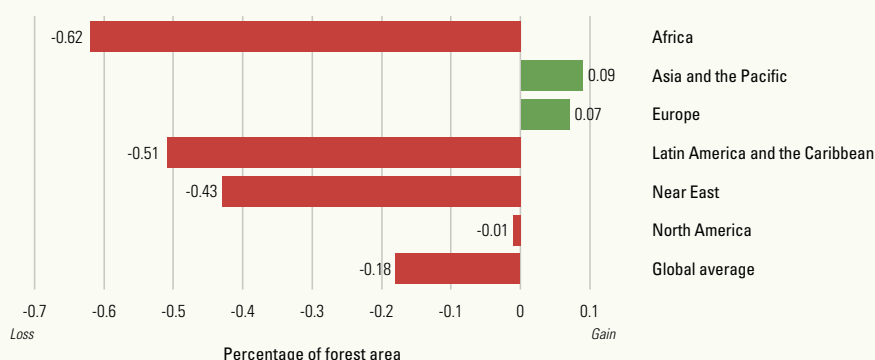
The livelihoods of hundreds of millions of rural people depend on forests and trees. People who benefit from forests are more likely to conserve them if they have a say in how they are managed. FAO promotes participatory forestry and community-based enterprise development to enable communities to balance their economic needs with the conservation of forest resources for the future.

Ten countries with largest area of protective forest plantation 2005



Source: FAO State of the World's Forests 2007

Annual net change in forest area 2000–2005



Source: FAO State of the World's Forests 2007



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