



**Forestry Department**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES  
ASSESSMENT

COUNTRY REPORTS

MALDIVES

FRA2005/015  
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## 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 2005 (FRA 2005), which is the most comprehensive assessment to date. More than 800 people have been involved, including 172 national correspondents and their colleagues, an Advisory Group, international experts, FAO staff, consultants and volunteers. Information has been collated from 229 countries and territories for three points in time: 1990, 2000 and 2005.

The reporting framework for FRA 2005 is based on the thematic elements of sustainable forest management acknowledged in intergovernmental forest-related fora and includes more than 40 variables related to the extent, condition, uses and values of forest resources. More information on the FRA 2005 process and the results - including all the country reports - is available on the FRA 2005 Web site ([www.fao.org/forestry/fra2005](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra2005)).

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 2005 is:

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The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 Country Report Series is designed to document and make available the information forming the basis for the FRA 2005 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.

## **Report preparation and contact person**

No official report has been received from the country.

This report is the result of a desk study prepared by the FRA 2005 secretariat in Rome, which summarizes existing available information using the established format for FRA 2005 country reports.

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**Table T1 – Extent of Forest and Other wooded land****1.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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**

<b>References to sources of information</b>	<b>Quality (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Variable(s)</b>	<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
CIA, 2000. The World Fact Book 2000 ( <a href="http://www.authorama.com/world-2000-d-3.html">http://www.authorama.com/world-2000-d-3.html</a> )	M	Extent	2000	
CIA, 1990. The World Fact Book 1990 ( <a href="http://www.theodora.com/wfb1990/maldives/maldives_geography.html">http://www.theodora.com/wfb1990/maldives/maldives_geography.html</a> )	M	Extent	1990	

**1.2.1 Classification and definitions**

<b>CIA World Fact Book Classes</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Arable land</b>	Land cultivated for crops that are replanted after each harvest like wheat, maize, and rice
<b>Permanent crops</b>	Land cultivated for crops that are not replanted after each harvest like citrus, coffee, and rubber;
<b>Permanent pastures</b>	Land permanently used for herbaceous forage crops
<b>Forests and Woodlands</b>	Land under dense or open stands of trees
<b>Other land</b>	Any land type not specifically mentioned above, such as urban areas, roads, desert, etc
<b>Total Area</b>	It is the sum of all land and water areas delimited by international boundaries and/or coastlines
<b>Land Area</b>	It is the aggregate of all surfaces delimited by international boundaries and/or coastlines, excluding inland water bodies (lakes, reservoirs, rivers)
<b>Water Area</b>	It is the sum of all water surfaces delimited by international boundaries and/or coastlines, including inland water bodies (lakes, reservoirs, rivers).

(Source: CIA World Fact Book, 2000)

## 1.2.2 Original data

Land use: arable land: 10% permanent crops: 0% permanent pastures: 3% forests and woodland: 3% other: 84% (1993 est.)

National class	Extent in ha	
	1990	2000
Arable land	3000 (10%)	3000 (10%)
Permanent crops	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Permanent pastures	900 (3%)	900 (3%)
Forests and Woodlands	900 (3%)	900 (3%)
Other land	25200 (84%)	25200 (84%)
Land Area	30000	30000
Water Area	0	0
Total Area	30000	30000

(Note: For breakdown of land use into five classes - CIA reports percentages mentioned in the brackets)

## 1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

### 1.3.1 Calibration

Not needed as total area and land area figures for the country match with UN STAT and FAO STAT figures.

### 1.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

There is no need for estimation as figures for 1990 and 2000 are available. The forecasted figures for 2005 are assumed to be the same as 2000 as no change has been reported between 1990 and 2000.

## 1.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

CIA Categories	FRA 2005 classes (%)		
	Forest	Other Land	Inland water bodies
Arable land		100	
Permanent crops		100	
Permanent pastures		100	
Forests and Woodlands	100		
Other land		100	
Water Area			100

### 1.5 Data for National reporting table T1

Reclassification and rounding to nearest 1000 ha. give the following figures.

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	0.9	0.9	0.9
Other wooded land	0	0	0
Other land	29.1	29.1	29.1
...of which with tree cover			
Inland water bodies	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

### 1.6 Comments to National reporting table T1

The Maldives is an archipelago of nearly 1,190 coral islands grouped into 26 atolls (200 inhabited islands, plus 80 islands with tourist resorts). All the islands are threatened by sea level rise. Species include coconut, iron wood, breadfruit, mangrove, red bean tree, tangion, sea trumpet and Alexander laurelwood, which are harvested for the construction of boats and buildings. Many timber and wood products are imported. The estimate for forests and woodlands is thus a rough estimate. Further, no information has been identified for any of the remaining tables.