



**Forestry Department**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES  
ASSESSMENT

COUNTRY REPORTS

NAURU

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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 persons**

No 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.

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# 1 Table T1 – Extent of Forest and Other wooded land

## 1.1 FRA 2005 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.  |

| Reference to sources of information  | Quality (H/M/L) | Variable(s)     | Year(s) | Additional comments |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|
| FAOSTAT  | H               | Total land area |         | Secondary source    |
| <b>Brown, C.</b> 1997. Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Regional Study - The South Pacific. Working Paper No: APFSOS/WP/01, FAO, Rome | H               | Forest area     | 1996    | Secondary source    |
| <a href="http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/nr.html">CIA</a> 2005. World Factbook-Nauru.  | H               | Other land      | 2005    | Secondary source    |

## 1.2 Original data

Only 250 hectares of land is presently available for cultivation with coconuts being the main crop. Soils are poor and highly porous, rainfall is generally variable. (Source: **Brown, C.** 1997. Reference year: **1996**)

Other land use: 100% (Source: CIA 2005. Reference year: **2005**)

## 1.3 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

Other land use = 100% Other land

#### 1.4 Data for National reporting table T1

| FRA 2005 Categories                       | Area (1000 hectares) |          |               |
|---|----------------------|----------|---------------|
|   | 1990                 | 2000     | Forecast 2005 |
| Forest                                    | 0                    | 0        | 0             |
| Other wooded land                         | 0                    | 0        | 0             |
| Other land                                | 2                    | 2        | 2             |
| ...of which with tree cover <sup>1)</sup> | NDA                  | NDA      | NDA           |
| Inland water bodies                       | 0                    | 0        | 0             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>2</b>             | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b>      |

1) Area of “Other land with tree cover” is included in the area reported under “Other land” and should therefore be excluded when calculating the total area for the country.

#### 1.5 Comments<sup>1</sup>

Only 250 hectares of land is presently available for cultivation with coconuts being the main crop. Soils are poor and highly porous, rainfall is generally variable.

There appears to be little scope for the development of any sort of commercial forestry (beyond coconut groves). The major roles for trees are likely to be as shelterbelts, for amenity purposes and to assist in soil improvement programmes. When the phosphate mines are eventually played out there may be areas of the central plateau that could be made suitable for afforestation. The small scale of such afforestation would mean, necessarily, tree planting would be mainly for amenity purposes, though other values might also be incorporated into such development.

In the foreseeable future Nauru will meet all its forest products needs through imports. Presently, virtually everything, including forest products and fresh water, must be imported into Nauru.

<sup>1</sup> Source = **Brown, C.** 1997. Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Regional Study - The South Pacific. Working Paper No: APFSOS/WP/01, FAO, Rome