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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).

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.

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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.

1.2 National data

1.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Ministry of agriculture and fisheries	M	Agricultural activities & Fisheries	1992-993, 2003 and 2004-005	Information and statistics on agriculture and Fisheries activities in the country.
Ahmed Mohamed Al-Kathiri	M	dhofar forests and rangelands	1996	Information on dhofar Forests and rangelands and means of protecting them.
dhofar municipal	M	Landscape & afforestation	2003	dhofar Forests
Mascat municipal	M	Afforestation & landscape	2004	Mascat afforestation activities
Ministry of Regional municipals and Environment	M	General information	2004	Information on landscape and afforestation activities.

1.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Forest	Tree formations of Juniperus sp., Prosopis cineraria, Avicennia marina and Acacia spp
Other wooded land	Rangelands, open forests covered by trees and shrubs , mangrove forest, urban trees and gardens and street trees plantations
Other land	All land that is not classified as “Forest” or “Other wooded land”
Other land with tree cover (Subordinated to Other land)	Fruit orchards and palm plantations.

1.2.3 Original data

National class	Area (1000 ha)	
	1990	2000
Forest	300	
Pasture/rangeland and wooded grassland	1000	
Plantation of Baswillia Sacra		2
Parks/Urban forests and trees along roads		8
Coastal forests /mangroves		3
Trees in agricultural land (fruit orchards and date palm plantations		50
TOTAL	1300	63

1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

1.3.1 Calibration

The total country area is 30 950 (000) ha according to the national reports. This differs significantly from the figure kept by UN/FAOSTAT (21 246 (000) ha). For the purpose of this report, adjustments have been made to the Other Land category, and will not affect the area of forest/other wooded land provided above.

1.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

Due to lack of other information the original data have been used for all three reporting years.

National class	Area (1000 ha)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	300	300	300
Pasture/rangeland and wooded grassland	1000	1000	1000
Plantation of Baswillia Sacra	2	2	2
Parks/Urban forests and trees along roads	8	8	8
Coastal forests /mangroves	3	3	3
Trees in agricultural land (fruit orchards and date palm plantations	50	50	50
TOTAL	1363	1363	1363

1.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

Although the Juniperus can reach heights of up to 20 metres, some of the other species in the national class forest (notably the Acacias) reach a maximum of 4 metres. All of this area has thus been classified as “Other wooded land”.

All wooded grasslands have been classified as “Other wooded land”.

The majority of the mangroves are less than 5 metres high and have thus been classified as “Other wooded land”.

National Class	Percentage of a National Class belonging to a FRA 2005 Class			
	Forest	Other Wooded land	Other land with Tree Cover	Other land
Forest		100 %		
Rangeland/Wooded grassland		100 %		
Baswillia Sacra plantation	100 %			
Parks/Urban forests				100 %
Coastal forests/mangroves		100 %		
Fruit orchards/Date palms			100 %	100 %

1.5 Data for National reporting table T1

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	2	2	2
Other wooded land	1 303	1 303	1 303
Other land	19 941	19 941	19 941
Other land with tree cover (urban parks, date palm and fruit orchards) ¹⁾	50	50	50
Inland water bodies	0	0	0
TOTAL	21 246	21 246	21 246

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.

1.6 Comments to National reporting table T1

The total country area is 30 950 (000) ha according to the national reports. This differs significantly from the figure kept by UN/FAOSTAT (21 246 (000) ha). For the purpose of this report, adjustments have been made to the Other Land category.

The estimates of forests and other wooded land are from 1990 except for mangroves and *Baswillia* plantations (5000 ha in total), where the estimates are valid for 2000. Due to lack of other information, it has been assumed that no changes have taken place in the area of natural forest and other wooded land since 1990.

The estimate for other wooded land include all wooded grasslands. It also includes some areas of Juniperus which may qualify as forests.

2 Table T2 – Ownership of Forest and Other wooded land

2.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
ownership	Land owned by individuals, families, private co-operatives, corporations, industries, religious and educational institutions, pension or investment funds, and other private institutions.
Public ownership	Land owned by the State (national, state and regional governments) or government-owned institutions or corporations or other public bodies including cities, municipalities, villages and communes.
Other ownership	Land that is not classified either as “Public ownership” or as “Private ownership”.

2.2 National data

2.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Zafar municipal	M	Landscape & afforestation	2003	Information and statistics on Zafar Forests and plantations
Mascat municipal	M	Afforestation & landscape	2004	Mascat afforestation activities
Ministry of Regional municipals and Environment	M	General information	2004	Information on landscape and afforestation activities.

2.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Private	
Public	All correspond to the FRA 2005 definitions
Other	

2.2.3 Original data

Table 1 is used an input to this table.

All forests and other wooded land are publicly owned except for the 2000 ha of *Baswallia Sacra*, which are under traditional ownership and the fruit orchard and date palm plantations (classified as Other land with tree cover), which are privately owned.

2.3 Analysis and processing of national data

2.3.1 Calibration

2.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

2.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

2.5 Data for National reporting table T2

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	Forest		Other wooded land	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Private ownership	-	-	-	-
Public ownership	-	-	1303	1303
Other ownership	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	1303	1303

2.6 Comments to National reporting table T2

All forests and other wooded land are publicly owned except for the 2000 ha of *Baswallia Sacra*, which are under traditional ownership.

3 Table T3 – Designated function of Forest and Other wooded land

3.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Types of designation

Category	Definition
Primary function	A designated function is considered to be primary when it is significantly more important than other functions. This includes areas that are legally or voluntarily set aside for specific purposes.
Total area with function	Total area where a specific function has been designated, regardless whether it is primary or not.

Designation categories

Category / Designated function	Definition
Production	Forest / Other wooded land designated for production and extraction of forest goods, including both wood and non-wood forest products.
Protection of soil and water	Forest / Other wooded land designated for protection of soil and water.
Conservation of biodiversity	Forest / Other wooded land designated for conservation of biological diversity.
Social services	Forest / Other wooded land designated for the provision of social services.
Multiple purpose	Forest / Other wooded land designated to any combination of: production of goods, protection of soil and water, conservation of biodiversity and provision of social services and where none of these alone can be considered as being significantly more important than the others.
No or unknown function	Forest / Other wooded land for which a specific function has not been designated or where designated function is unknown.

3.2 National data

3.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Ahmed Mohamed Al-Kathiri	M	dhofar forests and rangelands	1996	Information on dhofar Forests and rangelands and means of protecting them.
Mascat municipal	M	Afforestation & landscape	2004	Mascat afforestation activities
Ministry of Regional municipals and Environment	M	General information	2004	Information on landscape and afforestation activities.

3.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Production	Forest / Other wooded land designated for production and extraction of forest goods, including both wood and non-wood forest products.
Protection of soil and water	Forest / Other wooded land designated for protection of soil and water.
Conservation of biodiversity	Forest / Other wooded land designated for conservation of biological diversity.
Social services	Forest / Other wooded land designated for the provision of social services.
Multiple purpose	Forest / Other wooded land designated to any combination of: production of goods, protection of soil and water, conservation of biodiversity and provision of social services and where none of these alone can be considered as being significantly more important than the others.

3.2.3 Original data

Data from Table 1 are used as inputs to this table.

3.3 Analysis and processing of national data

3.3.1 Calibration

3.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

3.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

All areas classified as forests in the national classification system are designated for multiple use, except for the plantation of *Baswallia Sacra*, which is designated for productive purposes.

All rangelands are primarily designated for soil and water protection and the mangroves/coastal forests for biodiversity conservation.

3.5 Data for National reporting table T3

FRA 2005 Categories / Designated function	Area (1000 hectares)					
	Primary function			Total area with function		
	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005
Forest						
Production	2	2	2	2	2	2
Protection of soil and water						
Conservation of biodiversity						
Social services						
Multiple purpose				not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
No or unknown function				not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
Total - Forest	2	2	2	not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
Other wooded land						
Production						
Protection of soil and water	1000	1000	1000	1300	1300	1300
Conservation of biodiversity	3	3	3	303	303	303
Social services						
Multiple purpose	300	300	300	not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
No or unknown function				not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
Total – Other wooded land	1303	1303	1303	not appl.	not appl.	not appl.

3.6 Comments to National reporting table T3

4 Table T4 – Characteristics of Forest and Other wooded land

4.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Primary	Forest / Other wooded land of native species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.
Modified natural	Forest / Other wooded land of naturally regenerated native species where there are clearly visible indications of human activities.
Semi-natural	Forest / Other wooded land of native species, established through planting, seeding or assisted natural regeneration.
Productive plantation	Forest / Other wooded land of introduced species, and in some cases native species, established through planting or seeding mainly for production of wood or non wood goods.
Protective plantation	Forest / Other wooded land of native or introduced species, established through planting or seeding mainly for provision of services.

4.2 National data

4.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Ahmed Mohamed Al-Kathiri	M	dhofar forests and rangelands	1996	Information on dhofar Forests and rangelands and means of protecting them.
Mascat municipal	M	Afforestation & landscape	2004	Mascat afforestation activities
Ministry of Regional municipals and Environment	M	General information	2004	Information on landscape and afforestation activities.

4.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Primary	Forest / Other wooded land of native species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.
Productive plantation	Forest / Other wooded land of introduced species, and in some cases native species, established through planting or seeding mainly for production of wood or non wood goods.
Protective plantation	Forest / Other wooded land of native or introduced species, established through planting or seeding mainly for provision of services.

Note: If different national data sources use different classes and definitions, a table such as above is needed for each relevant data source.

4.2.3 Original data

Data from Table 1 have been used as input to this table.

4.3 Analysis and processing of national data

4.3.1 Calibration

4.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

4.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

All plantations of *Baswillia Sacra* are classified as productive plantations.

All other forests and other wooded land have been classified as modified natural.

4.5 Data for National reporting table T4

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)					
	Forest			Other wooded land		
	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005
Primary	-	-	-			
Modified natural				1303	1303	1303
Semi-natural	-	-	-			
Productive plantation	-	-	-	-		
Protective plantation	2	2	2			
TOTAL	2	2	2	1303	1303	1303

4.6 Comments to National reporting table T4

5 Table T5 – Growing stock

No data available for this reporting table

6 Table T6 – Biomass stock

No data available for this reporting table

7 Table T7 – Carbon stock

No data available for this reporting table

8 Table T8 – Disturbances affecting health and vitality

8.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Disturbance by fire	Disturbance caused by wildfire, independently whether it broke out inside or outside the forest/OWL.
Disturbance by insects	Disturbance caused by insect pests that are detrimental to tree health.
Disturbance by diseases	Disturbance caused by diseases attributable to pathogens, such as a bacteria, fungi, phytoplasma or virus.
Other disturbance	Disturbance caused by other factors than fire, insects or diseases.

8.2 National data

8.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Ministry of agriculture and fisheries	M	Agricultural activities & Fisheries	2002	Statistics and Information on all agricultural aspects in the country.

8.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Disturbance by insects	Disturbance caused by insect pests that are detrimental to tree health.
Disturbance by diseases	Disturbance caused by diseases attributable to pathogens, such as a bacteria, fungi, phytoplasma or virus.
Other disturbance	Disturbance caused by overgrazing and drought

Note: If different national data sources use different classes and definitions, a table such as above is needed for each relevant data source.

8.2.3 Original data

8.3 Analysis and processing of national data

8.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

8.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

8.5 Data for National reporting table T8

FRA-2005 Categories	Average annual area affected (1000 hectares)			
	Forests		Other wooded land	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Disturbance by fire				
Disturbance by insects			50	45
Disturbance by diseases			30	20
Other disturbance			220	240

8.6 Comments to National reporting table T8

An estimated 350 000 hectares of land are severely affected by camels, goats, cattle and drought.

9 Table T9 – Diversity of tree species

9.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Number of native tree species	The total number of native tree species that have been identified within the country.
Number of critically endangered tree species	The number of native tree species that are classified as “Critically endangered” in the IUCN red list.
Number of endangered tree species	The number of native tree species that are classified as “Endangered” in the IUCN red list.
Number of vulnerable tree species	The number of native tree species that are classified as “Vulnerable” in the IUCN red list.

9.2 National data

9.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Biodiversity in the Arab countries	M		1954-1955	
Woody species grown in Oman	M	Woody plants	1977	

9.2.2 Original data

National class	
Native tree species	155 species
Critically endangered tree species	Boswellia sacra- Euphorbia balsamifera – Euphorbia smithii – Acacia Senegal – Acaia tortilis – Acacia Arabica
Endangered tree species	Euclea schimperi – Dracaena serrulata – Acacia etabica – Jatropha dhofarica
Vulnerable tree species	Acacia Senegal – Acacia Arabica – Anogeissus dhofarica –Commiphora sps

The IUCN Red List includes the following information for Oman:

Critically endangered species: None listed

Endangered species: 1 (*Dracaena serrulata* (Dragon tree))

Vulnerable species: 5 (*Anogeissus dhofarica*; *Blepharis dhofarensis*; *Blepharispermum hirtum*; *Boscia Arabica* and *Ormocarpum dhofarensis*)

9.3 Data for National reporting table T9

FRA 2005 Categories	Number of species (year 2000)
Native tree species	155
Critically endangered tree species	0
Endangered tree species	1
Vulnerable tree species	5

9.4 Comments to National reporting table T9

The number of species listed includes all woody plants.

The national listing of endangered species differs from the IUCN Red List and includes the following:

National listing	Number of species (year 2000)
Critically endangered tree species	15
Endangered tree species	2
Vulnerable tree species	20

Critically endangered tree species include:

Boswellia sacra - *Euphorbia balsamifera* – *Euphorbia smithii* – *Acacia Senegal* – *Acacia tortilis* – *Acacia Arabica*

Endangered tree species include:

Euclea schimperi – *Dracaena serrulata* – *Acacia etabica* – *Jatropha dhofarica*

Vulnerable tree species include:

Acacia Senegal – *Acacia Arabica* – *Anogeissus dhofarica* – *Commiphora sps*

10 Table T10 – Growing stock composition

No data available for this reporting table

11 Table T11 – Wood removal

No data available for this reporting table

12 Table T12 – Value of wood removal

No data available for this reporting table

13 Table T13 – Non-wood forest product removal

13.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

The following categories of non-wood forest products have been defined:

Category
<u>Plant products / raw material</u>
1. Food
2. Fodder
3. Raw material for medicine and aromatic products
4. Raw material for colorants and dyes
5. Raw material for utensils, handicrafts & construction
6. Ornamental plants
7. Exudates
8. Other plant products
<u>Animal products / raw material</u>
9. Living animals
10. Hides, skins and trophies
11. Wild honey and bee-wax
12. Bush meat
13. Raw material for medicine
14. Raw material for colorants
15. Other edible animal products
16. Other non-edible animal products

13.2 National data

13.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Ministry of agriculture and fisheries	M	Agricultural activities & Fisheries	2002	Statistics and Information on all agricultural aspects in the country.

13.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Wild honey and bee-wax	

13.2.3 Original data

Wild and bee wax production

year	Production (kg)
1998	
1999	
2000	60500
2001	
2002	
2003	
2004	99709

13.3 Analysis and processing of national data

13.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

13.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

13.5 Data for National reporting table T13

FRA 2005 Categories	Scale factor	Unit	NWFP removal		
			1990	2000	2005
<u>Plant products / raw material</u>					
1. Food					
2. Fodder					
3. Raw material for medicine and aromatic products					
4. Raw material for colorants and dyes					
5. Raw material for utensils, handicrafts & construction					
6. Ornamental plants					
7. Exudates					
8. Other plant products					
<u>Animal products / raw material</u>					
9. Living animals					
10. Hides, skins and trophies					
11. Wild honey and bee-wax		Ton	n.a	60.5	99.7
12. Bush meat					
13. Raw material for medicine					
14. Raw material for colorants					
15. Other edible animal products					
16. Other non-edible animal products					

14 Table T14 – Value of non-wood forest product removal

14.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

The following categories of non-wood forest products have been defined:

Category
<u>Plant products / raw material</u>
1. Food
2. Fodder
3. Raw material for medicine and aromatic products
4. Raw material for colorants and dyes
5. Raw material for utensils, handicrafts & construction
6. Ornamental plants
7. Exudates
8. Other plant products
<u>Animal products / raw material</u>
9. Living animals
10. Hides, skins and trophies
11. Wild honey and bee-wax
12. Bush meat
13. Raw material for medicine
14. Raw material for colorants
15. Other edible animal products
16. Other non-edible animal products

14.2 National data

14.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Ministry of agriculture and fisheries	M	Agricultural activities & Fisheries	2002	Statistics and Information on all agricultural aspects in the country.

14.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Wild honey and bee wax	

Note: If different national data sources use different classes and definitions, a table such as above is needed for each relevant data source.

14.2.3 Original data

The price of one kilogram of honey is 10 Omani REYAL
One Omani REYAL = 2.6 US \$

14.3 Analysis and processing of national data

The value in US \$ (1573 (000) US\$ for year 2000 and 2592 (000) US\$ for 2005) have been rounded to 1600 and 2600 respectively.

14.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

14.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

14.5 Data for National reporting table T14

FRA 2005 Categories	Value of the of NWFP removed (1000 USD)		
	1990	2000	2005
<u>Plant products / raw material</u>			
1. Food			
2. Fodder			
3. Raw material for medicine and aromatic products			
4. Raw material for colorants and dyes			
5. Raw material for utensils, handicrafts & construction			
6. Ornamental plants			
7. Exudates			
8. Other plant products			
<u>Animal products / raw material</u>			
9. Living animals			
10. Hides, skins and trophies			
11. Wild honey and bee-wax	n.a	1600	2600
12. Bush meat			
13. Raw material for medicine			
14. Raw material for colorants			
15. Other edible animal products			
16. Other non-edible animal products			
TOTAL			

14.6 Comments to National reporting table T14

15 Table T15 – Employment in forestry

No data available for this reporting table