



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT

COUNTRY REPORTS

FAEROE ISLANDS
(DENMARK)

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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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Contents

INTRODUCTION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION	3
1 TABLE T1 – EXTENT OF FOREST AND OTHER WOODED LAND	3
1.1 FRA 2005 CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS.....	3
1.2 NATIONAL DATA	3
1.3 ANALYSIS AND PROCESSING OF NATIONAL DATA.....	3
1.4 DATA FOR NATIONAL REPORTING TABLE T1	3
1.5 COMMENTS TO NATIONAL REPORTING TABLE T1	3

Introduction and sources of information

There is limited information available on the vegetation and the forest areas of The Faeroe Islands. Since no inventory has been carried out, only data for table T1 is given. The remaining tables have insufficient data.

Other references:

Andrias Højgaard, Jóhannes Jóhansen og Søren Ødum "A century of tree-planting in the Faeroe Islands", eds., Føroya Fróðskaparfelag, Tórshavn 1989.

Malmros, C. 1994 Exploitation of Local, drifted and Imported Wood by the Vikings on the Faeroe Islands. Botanical Journal of Scotland. Vol. 46 Part 4: 552-558.

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
Skógrøkt landsins	H	Forest	2005	Cadastral information.
Tróndur Leivsson (pers. comm)	M	Forest, Other wooded area	2000, 2005	The knowledge of local experts supplements the information available.
FAOSTAT	M	Land Area, Inland water		

Other references:

Andrias Højgaard, Jóhannes Jóhansen og Søren Ødum "A century of tree-planting in the Faeroe Islands", eds., Føroya Fróðskaparfelag, Tórshavn 1989.

Malmros, C. 1994 Exploitation of Local, drifted and Imported Wood by the Vikings on the Faeroe Islands. Botanical Journal of Scotland. Vol. 46 Part 4: 552-558.

1.2.2 Classification and definitions

No definitions and classifications exist for forest and other wooded land, but an attempt has been made to estimate the areas using the FAO definitions.

1.2.3 Original data

Forest reserves of mainly plantations cover 83 hectares.

Beside these plantations are a number of minor planted woodland areas for recreational purposes and under public or private ownership.

Remnants of the original woodland vegetation, consisting of *Juniperus communis* and *Salix spp.*, are also to be found. The largest areas with this *J. communis* is found on the island Svínoy and with *S. phyllicifolia* on the river bank by Hvalvík/Streymnes. *Betula pubescens* was extinct from the Faeroe Islands in the Viking age, Malmros (1994).

The total area of these two latter categories is not known, but is expected to be approx. 17 hectares.

Hereby the total forest area on the Faeroe Islands including forest reserves, original forest and small plantations and other wooded areas amounts to approx. 100 hectares.

There are no data on Other wooded land and the category may not be relevant for the Faeroe Islands.

1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

1.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

There is no basis for any forecasting other than repeating the current values. Furthermore, no significant changes are expected to occur in the next few years.

1.4 Data for National reporting table T1

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other wooded land	ID	ID	ID
Other land	139.9	139.9	139.9
...of which with tree cover	ID	ID	ID
Inland water bodies	0	0	0
TOTAL	140	140	140

1.5 Comments to National reporting table T1

There is limited information available on the vegetation and the forest areas of The Faeroe Islands. Since no formal inventory has been done for Faeroe Islands, data are only provided for table T1.