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FAO - Global Forest Resources Assessment
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• The importance of forests

• Overview and targets of forest related SDGs indicators

• SDG indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1 at a glance

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• Key points
The importance of forests cannot be underestimated

Forests and trees make vital contributions to both people and the planet, bolstering livelihoods, providing clean air and water, conserving biodiversity and responding to climate change.

Sustainable forest management (SFM)

Social

Environmental

Economic
Importance of forests for the SDGs

Due to their importance for the world and its population, forests and their sustainable management contribute to many of the SDGs, and in particular to Goal 15.
Overview of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and forest-related indicators

“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”
Overview of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and forest-related indicators

**Target 15.1** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreement.

**Indicator 15.1.1** Forest area as a proportion of total land area

**Target 15.2** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

**Indicator 15.2.1** Progress towards sustainable forest management.
Reporting on Indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1 through the Global Forest Resources Assessment

- FAO custodian agency

- Data collection is conducted through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA).
Global network

The National Correspondent network covers 187 countries and territories, which together contain 99.5 percent of the world’s forests.
Consistent reporting

FAO trains the National Correspondents to compile country reports:

- agreed terms & definitions
- standardized reporting methodology.

This is crucial for consistent reporting across countries.
Capacity Development

- Regional workshop for Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sub-regional workshop for South and Central Asia
- Sub-regional workshop for East and South East Asia
- Sub-regional workshop for the Near East countries
- Regional workshop for Francophone African countries
- Sub-regional workshop of the Anglophone Africa
Reporting platform

Reporting is facilitated by online platform.

It also gives access to external data sources:

• latest satellite images
• other geospatial data.
Key products of FRA 2020

Interactive digital report
Short PDF with infographics
Detailed findings, comprising the status of and main trends in each variable
236 country and territory reports with original data and info
Interactive platform and dashboards with the complete FRA 2020 database
Who participates in the monitoring and reporting process on the indicators of SDGs 15.1.1 and 15.2.1?

Countries - a tool for protecting forests and implementing their sustainable management

The FRA National Correspondent - officially nominated by the national forest authorities - collects and reports to the FRA to contribute to the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs

Head of the national forest authority, ministry or policy advisor- to understand the data reporting process for forest-related SDGs and how they relate to other SDGs and the policy process

National statistician - to understand the reporting process
Countries are given the opportunity to report data on these indicators to FAO on an annual basis and every five years a more comprehensive reporting exercise will take place.

**National Correspondents (NCs),** officially nominated by National Forest authorities, compile and submit official national data to FAO, in coordination with National Statistical Offices.

The FRA team reviews data and reverts to NCs if necessary.

Countries validate the data. Once finalized by FAO, the data are sent back to the countries for official validation.

SDG Indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1 are compiled by FAO, and submitted to the UN Statistics Division.
Why reporting through the FRA process?

Data collection and reporting through the FRA process help countries to set up a more effective monitoring and reporting system on national forest resources.

How?

- Provide data that can be compared at global level – ensuring data harmonization
- Clarify what is behind the data – ensuring transparency of data
- Increase coordination between data providers – ensuring consistency of data
Methodology on SDG indicator 15.1.1

Indicator 15.1. measures the proportion of land area covered by forest

This is calculated as the forest area in the latest reporting year divided by the total land area, and expressed as a percentage.
FAO definition on Forest

included

Areas with young trees

Abandoned shifting cultivation land

Windbreaks

Rubber-wood

excluded

Urban trees

Orchards

Agroforestry

Oil palm

“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 in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use”.
Time series of this indicator show whether forests are being conserved or lost or have increased.

The **world’s forest area** declined from 31.9% of the global land area in 2000 to 31.2% in 2020. Forest area losses amounted to almost 100 million hectares in the past two decades.
SDG indicator 15.1.1

ESCWA region

Forest area as a proportion of total land area in ESCWA region 2000-2020 (percent)

- Algeria
- Bahrain
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- State of Palestine
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

2000 2010 2020

ESCWA: Arab countries

0.0 5.0 10.0 15.0 20.0 25.0
Indicator 15.2.1 measures progress towards Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through five subindicators.

What is Sustainable Forest Management?

The United Nations General Assembly has defined Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as...

* ... a dynamic and evolving concept that aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Source: Resolution A/RES/62/98. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
Monitors the rate at which forest area changes over time.

Measures the amount of living above-ground biomass stored in forests.

Measures the proportion of the forest estate for which there is a documented intention to manage.

Monitors the extent to which forest is managed for the protection and maintenance of biodiversity and other natural and cultural resources.

Measures the area of forest for which forest management certificates have been issued by accredited independent bodies, in compliance with national and international standards.

The five subindicators:

1. Annual forest area change rate
2. Above-ground biomass stock
3. Proportion of forest area located in legally established protected areas
4. Proportion of forest area under forest management plans
5. Forest area under independently verified forest management certification schemes

15.2.1
**Indicator 15.2.1** Progress towards SFM is monitored through a dashboard of traffic lights, with *green*, *yellow* and *red* selected for each of the five subindicators.

For each subindicator, the value assigned to a country in the most recent reporting year is compared with the value assigned in the previous reporting year.
Subindicator 1 – Forest area net change rate

As a first step, the forest area change direction is determined by examining the value of the forest area change.

Negative value = Forest loss
Zero = No change
Positive value = Forest gain
Subindicator 1 – Forest area net change rate

2 Second step, comparing forest area change from the last period to the change previous period

Forest area change direction

- Forest area stable or increasing
- Forest area decreasing

Change in forest area loss rate

- Loss rate decreasing
- Loss rate stable or increasing

Legend:
- Red: Indicates negative change
- Orange: Indicates no/small change
- Green: Indicates positive change
Subindicator 2 – Above-ground biomass stock in forest
Subindicator 3 – Proportion of forest area located in protected areas
Subindicator 4 – Proportion of forest area under long-term management plans
Subindicator 5 – Forest area under independently verified forest management certification schemes

$r > 1$ means an increase

$r = 1$ indicates a stable condition. A narrow interval for $r$ has been established

$r < 1$ means a decrease

From FRA through country reporting platform
Directly from certifying bodies

Subindicator 2: In biomass stock per ha
Subindicator 3: % of forest area in Protected area
Subindicator 4: % of forest area with management plans
Subindicator 5: Certified forest area
How to report data to the UN Statistics Division?

FAO analyses and submits this data at regional and subregional level to the UNSTAT.

### 2021 reporting

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The way **forward**

- FRA report every five years
- Voluntary updates of key indicators
- Guidance and tools for more consistent reporting e.g. on primary forests
- Support using remote sensing, based on country capacity and capability
Forests provide critical goods and services to humankind. It is crucial to have a clear understanding of the situation of the world’s forests and ongoing trends, in order to protect and manage forests wisely.

SDG 15 and Targets 15.1 and 15.2 are intended to stimulate action on forest conservation and sustainable forest management. Both are critically important and are included within the ambitious framework of the 2030 Agenda plan of action for people, planet and prosperity.

Indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1 have been developed to report progress on Targets 15.1 and 15.2 at global level.

Reporting on these SDG indicators is carried out through the FRA process. Data reported by the countries, analysed by FAO and reported to the UNSD for inclusion in the SDG progress report.
Useful Links

• Global Forest Resources Assessment

• Global Forest Resources Assessment process
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmMyfNILZ-jQ&feature=emb_logo

• FAO SDG website

• 2019 Progress report on SGD 15.1.1 / 15.2.1 / 15.4.2 / 15.6.1

• E-learning on indicators 15.1.1 and 15.12.1
  (https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=446)

• The FRA Platform
  (https://fra-data.fao.org/)
Thank you!

www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment