

AREA OF FOREST UNDER SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT		
Land	Forests	

1. INDICATOR

- (a) **Name:** Area of forest under sustainable forest management as a percent of forest area.
- (b) **Brief Definition:** The amount of area under sustainable forest management tracked over time.
- (c) **Unit of Measurement:** %.
- (d) **Placement in the CSD Indicator Set:** Land/Forests.

2. POLICY RELEVANCE

(a) **Purpose:** The purpose of the indicator is to show the area under sustainable forest management of a region/country over time.

(b) **Relevance to Sustainable/Unsustainable Development (theme/sub-theme):** Forests serve multiple environmental, socio-economic, and cultural roles in many countries. They are among the most diverse and widespread ecosystems of the world. Forests provide many significant resources and functions including wood products and non-wood products, recreational opportunities, habitat for wildlife, conservation of biological diversity, water and soil, and play a crucial role in the global carbon cycle. They support employment and traditional uses, and biodiversity. There is general concern over human impact on forest health, and the natural processes of forest growth and regeneration. Combating deforestation to maintain the production of wood and non-wood products and to preserve soils, water, air and biological diversity is explicitly considered in Agenda 21.

The areas under sustainable forest management are likely to contribute directly to sustainable development.

(c) **International Conventions and Agreements:** Specific forest agreements include the *Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests* (the Forest Principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)); and the *International Tropical Timber Agreement*. Many other international agreements deal with forests within the context of natural resources and environment conservation, for example, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification. In addition, several regional conventions cover forests.

(d) International Targets/Recommended Standards: There are no international targets/recommended standards available for area of forest under sustainable management. The United Nations Forum of Forests (UNFF) recently developed four global objectives on forests, including an objective to “reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation”. Members agreed to work globally and nationally and to make progress toward the achievement of these objectives by 2015.

In absence of international targets/recommended standards countries are encouraged to develop a set of measurable criteria/benchmarks and process to determine the forest area under sustainable management, if possible, involving different stakeholders. The criteria are likely to differ between countries, but it is more important to have consistent time national trends than comparable data.

(e) Linkages to Other Indicators: The indicator is closely linked with several other environmental indicators, such as forest area, land use and land condition change, wood and non-wood products harvesting intensity, protected forest area, threatened species, sustainable use of natural resources in mountain areas, etc. In some countries, it will also be generally linked to some of the socio-economic indicators, such as population growth and share of natural resource industries in manufacturing.

3. METHODOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

(a) Underlying Definitions and Concepts: The underlying definitions and concepts of sustainable forest management are under development. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) will include this indicator in the next Global Forest Assessment (FRA 2010).

4. ASSESSMENT OF DATA

(a) Data Needed to Compile the Indicator: The total forest area of a country and forest area under sustainable management, at different yearly intervals.

(b) National and International Data Availability and Sources: Not available.

(c) Data References: Not available.

5. AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDICATOR

(a) Lead Agency: The lead agency is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The contact point is the Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department, FAO; fax no. (39 06) 5705 3152.

(b) Other Contributing Organizations: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Tropical Timber Organization

(ITTO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) as well as other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

6. REFERENCES

(a) Readings:

ITTO. 2006. Status of Tropical Forest Management. ITTO Technical Series No 24. ITTO (Japan), 302 pp.

(b) Internet sites:

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). <http://www.itto.or.jp/>

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). <http://www.unep.org/>

The United Nations Forum on Forests. <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>

The Convention on Biological Diversity. <http://www.cbd.int/>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations <http://www.fao.org>