

## Indicator 15.1.1

### Indicator Name, Target and Goal

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

**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 agreements

**Goal 15** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### Definition and Rationale

#### ○ Definition

This indicator is defined as the proportion of forest area of the total land area of a country. It is represented as a percentage.

#### ○ Concepts

*Forest* is defined as 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, *according to Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) published by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. Additional detailed criteria are listed in FAO's Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2020 Terms and Definitions Document available at:

<http://www.fao.org/3/I8661EN/i8661en.pdf>.

Japan has reported "forest" as (1) and (2) below to FAO, and uses the same definition of forest for this indicator.

(1) Land on which trees and/or bamboo grow collectively, together with those trees and bamboo, or any other land that are provided for collective growth of trees and/or bamboo. Lands that are utilized mainly for agriculture, residential use, or other similar purposes, are not included.

(2) Forests are classified into the following two categories:

i) National forest: Forest where land is owned by the national government, or where land is owned by other party but the national government implements silviculture under a contract which defines the share of profit between the national government and landowner(s).

ii) Private forest: Forest other than national forest, including publicly owned forests such as by local/prefectural governments.

- Lands with trees and/or bamboo are not included in forests if:
- a) they are owned and managed by national government agencies other than the Forestry Agency (since the land is not provided mainly for growing trees and/or bamboo); or
  - b) Spanning equal or less than 0.3 hectares and isolated from adjacent forests

*Total land area* refers to the total surface area of a country excluding the area covered by water surface, rivers and water channel.

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

The availability of accurate data on a country's forest area is a key element for forest policy and planning within the context of sustainable development. Forest area as a proportion of total land area can provide a rough proxy for the extent to which the forests in a country are being conserved or restored.

### **Data Sources and Collection Method**

Forest area in Japan are counted from "Survey on the State of the Forest Resources".

Point of time: As of March 31 in 2012 and 2017

Methodology: Forestry Agency aggregated the areas of national forests (forests owned and managed by Forestry Agency and other ministries or agencies), based on the information (such as forest register) which was utilized for establishment of "Forest Management Plan for National Forest". Prefectural governments aggregated the area of private forests, based on the information which was utilized for establishment of "Regional Forest Plan". And Forestry Agency compiled the area of national and private forests.

The Regional Forest Plan and Forest Management Plan for National Forest, which have been established in previous years of the survey, are aggregated after reflecting appropriate adjustment of secular changes (such as changes in age, area caused by harvest, planting and land use conversion areas, growing stock and volume increment) to the values gained in the year of their establishment.

Total land area in Japan are counted from "Survey on the State of Land Use"

### **Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations**

○ Computation Method

The formula of the indicator is given as follows:

$$\text{Percentage of area under forest cover} = \frac{\text{Total forest area}}{\text{Total land area}} \times 100$$

○ **Comments and limitations**

Forests in the Northern Territories (the Habomai Islands, Shikotan Island, Kunashiri Island and Etorofu Island) are not included.

Forest area is statistical value from the Survey on the State of the Forest Resources, which is conducted every five years.

FAO's report for this indicator may include values in the years which the survey has not been conducted. These values are estimated along the method indicated by FAO.

Land area data is the total surface area of a country excluding the area covered by water surface, rivers and water channel, counted from Survey on the State of Land Use (in the year of 2012 and 2017 when the Survey on the State of the Forest Resources is conducted)

## **Data Disaggregation**

N/A

## **References**

Survey on the State of the Forest Resources

(2012) <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/keikaku/genkyou/h24/>

(2017) <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/keikaku/genkyou/h29/>

Survey on the State of Land Use

(~2016)

[http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudoseisaku/kokudoseisaku\\_fr3\\_000033.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudoseisaku/kokudoseisaku_fr3_000033.html)

## **Custodian Ministries of Data**

Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

## **Custodian Ministries of Related Policies**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Ministry of the Environment

## **International Organization**

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)