



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT**

COUNTRY REPORTS

**THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN
TERRITORY**

FRA2005/013
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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

Information was provided by NC. No source data is available

1.2.2 Classification and definitions

National class	Definition
Abandoned Coconut plantations	Abandoned coconut plantations which have not been managed since the 1970s. It also includes estimated areas of around 5 ha of mixed coconut and other dense trees on the Diego Garcia military base, and elsewhere around 4-8 ha of Casuarina and around 6 ha of other hardwood.

1.2.3 Original data

National Categories	Area (1000 hectares)	
	1990	2000
Abandoned Coconut plantations	2.6	2.6
Other land	3.4	3.4
Inland water bodies	0	0
TOTAL	6	6

1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

1.3.1 Calibration

The area maintained by FAO STAT and UNSTAT is 8,000 ha which differs from the country report. Hence, calibration was needed. The area figures have been adjusted in “Other Land.

National Categories	Area (1000 hectares)	
	1990	2000
Abandoned Coconut plantations	2.6	2.6
Other land	5.4	5.4
Inland water bodies	0	0
TOTAL	8	8

1.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

No information is available on change in extent of forests hence the extent of forest in 1990 and 2000 has been assumed for 2005 as well.

National Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Abandoned Coconut plantations	2.6	2.6	2.6
Other land	5.4	5.4	5.4
Inland water bodies	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	8	8

1.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

National Categories	Classification into FRA 2005 Categories (%)			
	Forest	OWL	Other land	Inland Water bodies
Abandoned Coconut plantations	100			
Other land			100	
Inland water bodies				100

1.5 Data for National reporting table T1

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	2.6	2.6	2.6
Other wooded land	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other land	5.4	5.4	5.4
...of which with tree cover			
Inland water bodies	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	8	8	8

1.6 Comments to National reporting table T1

The total area of the 55 Chagos Islands as reported by the National Correspondent is 6000 ha, rather than 8000 ha shown by FAO STAT and UNSTAT and reported in the above tables. Of the 6,000 ha about 2000 ha is an US military base on Diego Garcia.

The area shown in this table as forest is almost all abandoned coconut plantation, which has not been managed since the 1970s; about 100 hectares of this on the military base. The forest also includes estimated areas of around 5 ha of mixed coconut and other dense trees on the base, and elsewhere around 4-8 ha of Casuarina and around 6 ha of other hardwood.