



**Forestry Department**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

**GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES  
ASSESSMENT**

**COUNTRY REPORTS**

**KIRIBATI**

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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](http://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.

## **Report preparation and contact person**

No official report has been received from the country.

This report is the result of a desk study prepared by the FRA 2005 secretariat in Rome, which summarizes existing available information using the established format for FRA 2005 country reports.

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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

Reference to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
FAOSTAT	H	Total land area		Secondary source
Brown, C. 1997. Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Regional Study - The South Pacific. Working Paper No: APFSOS/WP/01, FAO, Rome	H	Other land with trees	1996	Secondary source
<a href="http://www.emulateme.com">www.emulateme.com</a>	M	Forest area	2000	Secondary source

#### 1.2.2 Original data

The estimation was done using the data on the EMULATEME web page in which it is reported that 3% of the land area of Kiribati is covered by forest. Considering the total land area as 73 000 ha, this gives 2190 ha of forest.

According to Brown (1997), coconut plantations = 17 400 ha. These are actually a sophisticated and intensive agro-forestry system based on coconut, breadfruit, bananas pandanus and native figs.

### 1.3 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

Forest = 100% forests

Coconut plantations = 100% other land with tree cover.

#### 1.4 Data for National reporting table T1

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	2.2	2.2	2.2
Other wooded land	NDA	NDA	NDA
Other land	70.8	70.8	70.8
...of which with tree cover <sup>1)</sup>	17.4	17.4	17.4
Inland water bodies	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>73.0</b>

- 1) Area of “Other land with tree cover” is included in the area reported under “Other land” and should therefore be excluded when calculating the total area for the country.

#### 1.5 Comments to National reporting table T1

According to Brown (1997), Kiribati equally has coconut plantations which are actually a sophisticated and intensive agro-forestry system based on coconut, breadfruit, bananas pandanus and native figs. Coconut is by far the dominant species. ( Source: **Brown, C.** 1997. Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Regional Study - The South Pacific. Working Paper No: APFSOS/WP/01, FAO, Rome )

Because of this reason, the area area has been reclassified under the land use class: “other land with tree cover”.

## 2 Table T2 – Ownership of Forest and Other wooded land

### 2.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Private ownership	Land owned by individuals, families, private co-operatives, corporations, industries, religious and educational institutions, pension or investment funds, and other private institutions.
Public ownership	Land owned by the State (national, state and regional governments) or government-owned institutions or corporations or other public bodies including cities, municipalities, villages and communes.
Other ownership	Land that is not classified either as “Public ownership” or as “Private ownership”.

### 2.2 National data

#### 2.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Oliver, W. 1999. An update of plantation forestry in the South Pacific RAS/97/330 Working Paper, UNDP/FAO, Rome	H	ownership	1994	Secondary data source

#### 2.2.2 Original data

According to the source, most of the land ownership in Kiribati is individualised

### 2.3 Analysis and processing of national data

#### 2.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

Forest land (as classified in T1) is considered to be individualised.

### 2.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

Individualised land = 100% Private land

## 2.5 Data for National reporting table T2

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	Forest		Other wooded land	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Private ownership	2.2	2.2		
Public ownership				
Other ownership				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>		

## 2.6 Comments to National reporting table T2

According to the source, most of the land ownership in Kiribati is individualised