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The Forest Resources Assessment Programme

Forests are crucial for the well-being of humanity. They provide foundations for life on earth through ecological functions, by regulating the climate and water resources and by serving as habitats for plants and animals. Forests also furnish a wide range of essential goods such as wood, food, fodder and medicines, in addition to opportunities for recreation, spiritual renewal and other services.

Today, forests are under pressure from increasing demands of land-based products and services, which frequently lead to the conversion or degradation of forests into unsustainable forms of land use. When forests are lost or severely degraded, their capacity to function as regulators of the environment is also lost, increasing flood and erosion hazards, reducing soil fertility and contributing to the loss of plant and animal life. As a result, the sustainable provision of goods and services from forests is jeopardized.

FAO, at the request of the member nations and the world community, regularly monitors the world's forests through the Forest Resources Assessment Programme. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA 2000) reviewed the situation of the world's forest by the end of the millennium and the main report is available on the World Wide Web (www.fao.org/forestry/fra).

Currently, FAO is preparing the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA 2005) which will be published in 2005. The reporting framework will be based on the thematic elements of sustainable forest management derived from the nine regional criteria and indicator processes.

The Forest Resources Assessment Programme is organized under the Forest Resources Division at FAO headquarters in Rome. The contact person for matters related to FRA 2005 is:

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DISCLAIMER

The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 Country Report Series is designed to document and make available the information forming the basis for the forthcoming FRA 2005 report. The Country Reports are not authoritative information sources – they *do not* reflect the official position of FAO nor of the country concerned and should not be used for official purposes.

The Country Report Series provides an important forum for the release of preliminary country information for validation and comments in order to facilitate the final development of official quality-controlled publications. Should users find any errors in the documents or have comments for improving their quality they should contact fra@fao.org.

The FRA 2005 Country Reports have been compiled by officially nominated country correspondents in collaboration with FAO staff. The information presented in these reports is subject to validation by the forestry authority in the respective countries.

Report preparation and contact person

No official report has been received.

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.

This country report comprises only the following national reporting tables:

- Table T1 – Extent of Forest and Other wooded land
- Table T3 – Designated function of Forest and Other wooded land
- Table T4 – Characteristics of Forest and Other wooded land
- Table T9 – Diversity of tree species

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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

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
FAOSTAT	H	Country area	2005	Secondary data source
Carribbean Development Bank 1983. Regional Country Sector study, country report, Monserrat	M	Forest area	1982	Secondary data source

1.2.2 National definitions

National class	
Scrub	Dry scrub woodlands are secondary forest with a height of only 5-10 meters. Common species are <i>Pisonia fragrans</i> , <i>simaruba</i> , <i>Tamarindus indica</i>
Littoral woodland	"Littoral woodland" occurs along the eastern and northeastern coastline and is exceptionally magnificent. As a rule, littoral woodland is not strictly a single formation but rather a series of closely associated formations grouped together for convenience. It includes the littoral hedge and all the transition from this to the tall evergreen woodland behind, where growth is sheltered from the wind. The littoral hedge, immediately fronting the sea, consists of a dense, matted, and interlaced woody growth of gnarled shrubs, usually of distorted form, which rises in height rapidly inland, unless trees of 18 m tall are seen.
Rain and cloud forest	This is secondary forest. This vegetation type occurs toward the interior of the island. The forest is dense and closely ranked, with dominant trees from 27 to 33 m tall.
Moist forest	Moist forest is also secondary forest characterized by species such as <i>Cordia sulcata</i> , <i>Swietenia mahogani</i> , <i>Cedrela odorata</i> , <i>Inga laurina</i> .

1.2.3 Original data

1982

National class	Area (ha)
Scrub	500
Littoral woodland	500
Rain and cloud forest	1500
Moist forest	1000
TOTAL	3500

1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

1.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

Due to lack of other information, the data for 1982 was used for all three reporting years.

1.4 Reclassification into FRA 2005 classes

National class	Area (ha)
Scrub	100% forest
Littoral woodland	100% forest
Rain and cloud forest	100% forest
Moist forest	100% forest

1.5 Data for National reporting table T1

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Forest	3.5	3.5	3.5
Other wooded land			
Other land	6.5	6.5	6.5
...of which with tree cover ¹⁾	NDA	NDA	NDA
Inland water bodies	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	10	10

1.6 Comments

Due to lack of other information, the data for 1982 was used for all three reporting years. In FRA the national class “scrub” was reclassified as “shrubs” while in this report, this same class has been reclassified as “forest”. The result is a larger forest area than was reported in FRA 2000.

2 Table T3 – Designated function of Forest and Other wooded land

2.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Types of designation

Category	Definition
Primary function	A designated function is considered to be primary when it is significantly more important than other functions. This includes areas that are legally or voluntarily set aside for specific purposes.
Total area with function	Total area where a specific function has been designated, regardless whether it is primary or not.

Designation categories

Category / Designated function	Definition
Production	Forest / Other wooded land designated for production and extraction of forest goods, including both wood and non-wood forest products.
Protection of soil and water	Forest / Other wooded land designated for protection of soil and water.
Conservation of biodiversity	Forest / Other wooded land designated for conservation of biological diversity.
Social services	Forest / Other wooded land designated for the provision of social services.
Multiple purpose	Forest / Other wooded land designated to any combination of: production of goods, protection of soil and water, conservation of biodiversity and provision of social services and where none of these alone can be considered as being significantly more important than the others.
No or unknown function	Forest / Other wooded land for which a specific function has not been designated or where designated function is unknown.

2.2 National data

2.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
Purey-Cust, J.R. 1992. Grenada National Forestry Action Programme report, FAO, Rome.	H		1991	Secondary data source

2.2.2 Original data

T1

No information has been found on the designated function of forest and other wooded land in Monserrat.

2.2.3 Estimation and forecasting

Table T1 values were classified as 100% "no or unknown function"

2.3 Data for National reporting table T3

FRA 2005 Categories / Designated function	Area (1000 hectares)					
	Primary function			Total area with function		
	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005
Forest						
Production						
Protection of soil and water						
Conservation of biodiversity						
Social services						
Multiple purpose				not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
No or unknown function	3.5	3.5	3.5	not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
Total - Forest	3.5	3.5	3.5	not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
Other wooded land						
Production						
Protection of soil and water						
Conservation of biodiversity						
Social services						
Multiple purpose				not appl.	not appl.	not appl.
No or unknown function				not appl.	not appl.	NDA
NDA	NDA	NDA	NDA	not appl.	not appl.	not appl.

2.4 Comments to National reporting table T3

No information has been found on the designated function of forest and other wooded land in Monserrat.

3 Table T4 – Characteristics of Forest and Other wooded land

3.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Primary	Forest / Other wooded land of native species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.
Modified natural	Forest / Other wooded land of naturally regenerated native species where there are clearly visible indications of human activities.
Semi-natural	Forest / Other wooded land of native species, established through planting, seeding or assisted natural regeneration.
Productive plantation	Forest / Other wooded land of introduced species, and in some cases native species, established through planting or seeding mainly for production of wood or non wood goods.
Protective plantation	Forest / Other wooded land of native or introduced species, established through planting or seeding mainly for provision of services.

3.2 National data

3.2.1 Data sources

T1

3.3 Analysis and processing of national data

3.3.1 Estimation and forecasting

All forests have been classified as 100% Modified natural and reported following T1.

3.4 Data for National reporting table T4

FRA 2005 Categories	Area (1000 hectares)					
	Forest			Other wooded land		
	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005
Primary						
Modified natural	3.5	3.5	3.5			
Semi-natural						
Productive plantation						
Protective plantation						
TOTAL	3.5	3.5	3.5			

3.5 Comments to National reporting table T4

4 Table T9 – Diversity of tree species

4.1 FRA 2005 Categories and definitions

Category	Definition
Number of native tree species	The total number of native tree species that have been identified within the country.
Number of critically endangered tree species	The number of native tree species that are classified as “Critically endangered” in the IUCN red list.
Number of endangered tree species	The number of native tree species that are classified as “Endangered” in the IUCN red list.
Number of vulnerable tree species	The number of native tree species that are classified as “Vulnerable” in the IUCN red list.

4.2 National data

4.2.1 Data sources

References to sources of information	Quality (H/M/L)	Variable(s)	Year(s)	Additional comments
IUCN REDLIST	H	Vulnerable species, endangered species	2005	

4.2.2 Original data

Vulnerable tree species: *Cedrela odorata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*

Endangered tree species: *Guaiacum officinale*, *Swietenia mahagoni*

4.3 Data for National reporting table T9

FRA 2005 Categories	Number of species (year 2000)
Native tree species	
Critically endangered tree species	
Endangered tree species	2
Vulnerable tree species	2

4.4 Comments

No information has been found on the total number of tree species.

The IUCN Redlist contains the following species:

Vulnerable tree species: *Cedrela odorata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*

Endangered tree species: *Guaiacum officinale*, *Swietenia mahagoni*