

MANAGING FORESTS FOR

THE FUTURE



FAO FORESTS AND FORESTRY



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One of FAO's strategic goal is the sustainable management of the world's forests. The FAO Forestry Department works to balance social, economic and environmental objectives so that present generations can reap the benefits of future generations. FAO serves as a neutral forum for policy dialogue, as a reliable technical assistance and advice to help countries develop and implement effective national forest programmes.

SHARING IDEAS, CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

FAO works in partnership with governments, international organizations and agencies, non-governmental groups, the private sector, communities and individuals. FAO works with its member countries through its headquarters in Rome; through a network of decentralized but closely coordinated offices at country, subregional and regional levels; and through field projects.

FAO's Committee on Forestry brings together decision-makers from national forest services, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to examine emerging international forestry issues and shape the Organization's programme of work. Six regional forestry commissions meet to address regional issues. There is also an FAO Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products that brings together leaders from the private sector to address global issues and to provide advice to FAO.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests, a group of 14 leading international organizations concerned with the world's forests, is chaired by FAO. The Organization

also hosts the Mountain Partnership, an international consortium concerned with livelihoods of mountain people and the conservation of mountain ecosystems, and the National Forest Programme Facility, an innovative approach to forest development in developing countries that promotes participatory processes and effective national policies that integrate forestry with other key sectors.

SOUND INFORMATION FOR SOUND FOREST POLICY

FAO is both a global clearinghouse for information on forests and forest resources and a facilitator that helps build countries' capacity to provide their own national forest data. In collaboration with member countries, FAO carries out periodic global assessments of forest resources, which are made available through reports, publications and the FAO Web site. The Global Forest Resources Assessment provides the most comprehensive reporting on forests worldwide.

FAO, in collaboration with member countries, undertakes regional forest sector outlook studies to examine the direction of development of forests and forestry. Such studies help to identify the policy, programme and investment options that can enhance the forest sector's contribution to sustainable development.

Every two years, FAO publishes State of the World's Forests, a major report covering current and emerging issues facing the forest sector. *Unasylva*, FAO's peer-reviewed journal on forestry, has been published in English, French and Spanish on a regular basis since 1947 – the longest-running multilingual forestry journal in the world.

KNOWLEDGE FOR BETTER FOREST MANAGEMENT

FAO provides technical assistance and advice to help countries develop and improve national forest programmes, plan and carry out forest activities, and implement effective forest legislation. Through training and workshops, for example, FAO helps develop the institutional capacity for policy formulation at the national level. More than 120 countries have benefited from the Organization's forestry guidance over the last 20 years.

FAO develops guidelines for forest management through broad consultative processes with stakeholders in all regions of the world. Popular guidelines cover fire management, responsible management of planted forests and forest harvesting practices.

Recognizing the harmful effects of climate change on forest ecosystems and resources, and the role of forests in mitigating climate change by storing carbon in their biomass, FAO is intensifying efforts in this area. In addition to providing technical expertise to international climate change negotiations, FAO provides advice to developing countries on how they can contribute to mitigation of climate change.

Forests are the world's most important source of renewable bioenergy. FAO provides guidance to member countries that are facing critical policy decisions in this important area. FAO works with countries to develop systems for harnessing energy without depleting tree resources.

The Organization also helps countries to develop strategies to control pests and diseases, in addition to providing emergency assistance to safeguard forest health.

Fire affects millions of hectares of forest land every year. FAO works with countries to adopt community-based approaches, strengthen fire-related policy and legislation, and promote international cooperation in fire management.

The livelihoods of hundreds of millions of rural people depend on forests and trees. People who benefit from forests are more likely to conserve them if they have a say in how they are managed. FAO promotes participatory forestry and community-based enterprise development to enable communities to balance their economic needs with the conservation of forest resources for the future.



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