

3A Index of sustainable forest management

Definition and scope

Composed of 5 sub-components, it can be used as a basic indicator of progress towards sustainable forest management by a country. The sub-indicators (components) are: 1. Forest area annual net change rate, 2. Above-ground biomass stock in forest, 3. Proportion of forest area located within legally-established protected areas, 4. Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan, 5. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme. Within the SDG Framework this is not yet a complete compiled indicator as defined by sub-indicators. There is also scattered related information on Planted forest percentage (FAOSTATS), Forest annual net change rate percentage and Proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan (%) (SDG Database). Meanwhile, the parameters 3b is used corresponding to the sub-component 5.

More: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-15-02-01.docx>

3B Area of Certified forest

Definition and scope

One of the 5 sub-components (namely, Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme), measures the share of forest area certified under an independent forest management certification scheme. As part of SGD Indicator 15.2.1 and Target 15.2, it is available for some countries and updated for the period 2015-2019.

Factsheet rationale

3a: The SFM index incorporates in a single framework both “net permanent forest loss” and “area of certified forest”, which would then not have to be monitored separately. The indicator is under development and, once ready, it could provide a comprehensive view on the sustainability of forest management from environmental, social and economic terms, 3b: A sub-component of SDG indicator 15.2.1, it provides a partial view on progresses towards sustainable management of forest ecosystems. FAO alerts that the sole use of this indicator could underestimate the sustainability of management practices as there are significant areas of sustainably managed forests that, for multiple reasons, are not certified. For this reason, using “area of certified forest” as the sole indicator could give a misleading impression). [NOTE: According to the FAO, there are very significant areas of sustainably managed forest which are not certified, either because their owners have chosen not to seek certification (which is voluntary and market-based) or because no credible (or affordable) certification scheme is in place for that area. The latter is true for most tropical countries].

Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

During the period 2015-2019 a small proportion of countries that need forest management have used the certification scheme, namely, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey. As can be observed in the Figure, France leads the certification of forest management whilst Turkey seems to have made a significant increase in the year 2019. The unit of this indicator is calculated in thousands of hectares (x1000 Ha). Obviously, the southern Mediterranean countries where the climate is subtropical and temperate, the desert conditions prevail and this indicator is mostly applicable to countries that need forest management.

Sources

3a: UN SDG Pending – FAO
3b: UN SDG - FAO

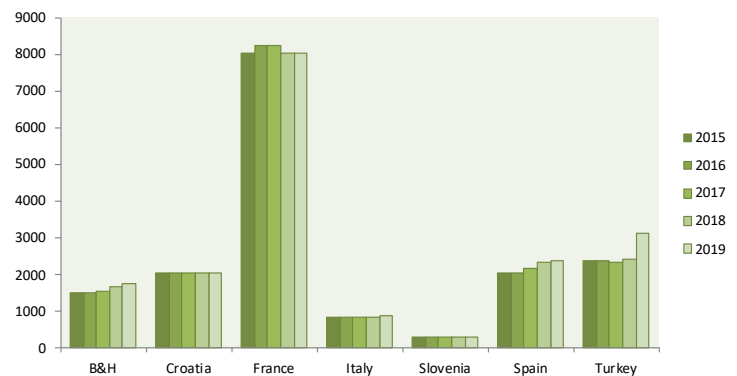
Links

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>
<http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/>

Key message

Only a small proportion of countries that need forest management use certification, and a holistic approach is needed towards sustainability.

Area of certified forest (x1000 Ha)



Area of certified forest (2019)

