



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT**

COUNTRY REPORTS

**SVALBARD AND JAN MAYEN
ISLANDS**

FRA2010/200
Rome, 2010



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 2010 (FRA 2010).

The reporting framework for FRA 2010 is based on the thematic elements of sustainable forest management acknowledged in intergovernmental forest-related fora and includes variables related to the extent, condition, uses and values of forest resources, as well as the policy, legal and institutional framework related to forests. More information on the FRA 2010 process and the results - including all the country reports - is available on the FRA Web site (www.fao.org/forestry/fra).

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 2010 is:

Mette Løyche Wilkie
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome 00153, Italy

E-mail: Mette.LoycheWilkie@fao.org

Readers can also use the following e-mail address: fra@fao.org

DISCLAIMER

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment Country Report Series is designed to document and make available the information forming the basis for the FRA 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.

Contents

This report only contains information on table T1 Extent of forest and other wooded land. As Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands has no forest area, all data on ownership, designation, characteristics, growing stock, biomass, carbon, disturbances and removal of wood and non-wood forest products that refer to the forest area are implicitly considered as zero.

Report preparation and contact persons

The present report was prepared by:

Name (FAMILY NAME, First name)	Institution / address	E-mail	Fax	Tables
Tomter, Stein Michael	Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute	stein.tomter@skogoglandskap.no	+47 64942980	1

Introduction

Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean north of mainland Europe, about midway between Norway and the North Pole. It consists of a group of islands ranging from 74° to 81° North, and 10° to 35° East. The archipelago is the northernmost part of Norway. Three islands are populated: Spitsbergen, Bjørnøya and Hopen. The largest settlement is Longyearbyen. The Svalbard Treaty recognises Norwegian sovereignty over Svalbard and the 1925 Svalbard Act makes Svalbard a full part of the Norwegian Kingdom.

There are 164 vascular plant species on the Norwegian Arctic archipelago of Svalbard. This figure does not include algae, mosses, and lichens, which are non-vascular plants. For an island so far north, 164 species constitutes an astonishing variety of plant life. Because of the harsh climate and the short growing season, all the plants are slow growing. They seldom grow higher than 10 cm.

Woody vegetation is limited to species such as dwarf birch (*Betula nana*), polar willow (*Salix polaris*) and snowbed willow (*Salix herbacea*). Woody formations are never big enough or tall enough to be considered forest or other wooded land.

Jan Mayen Island is a 55 km (34 miles) long (southwest-northeast) and 373 km² (144 mi²) in area arctic volcanic island in the Arctic Ocean, partly covered by glaciers (an area of 114.2 km² around the Beerenberg). It has two parts: larger northeast Nord-Jan and smaller Sør-Jan, linked by an isthmus 2.5 km wide (1.6 mi). It lies 600 km (about 400 mi) north of Iceland, 500 km (about 300 mi) east of central Greenland and 1,000 km (about 600 mi) west of the North Cape, Norway. The island is mountainous, the highest summit being the Beerenberg volcano in the north. The isthmus is the location of the two largest lakes of the island, Sørlaguna (South Lagoon), and Nordlaguna (North Lagoon). A third lake is called Ullerenglaguna (Ullereng Lagoon). Jan Mayen was formed by the Jan Mayen hotspot. It is part of the Kingdom of Norway.

75 different vascular plants including snowbed willow (*Salix herbacea*) occur, and this species is normally about 3 cm tall.

1 Table T1 – Extent of Forest and Other wooded land

1.1 FRA 2010 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
Statistics Norway	H	Other land, inland water bodies	2006	

1.2.2 Classification and definitions

Not needed.

1.2.3 Original data

Not needed.

1.3 Analysis and processing of national data

1.3.1 Calibration

Not needed.

1.3.2 Estimation and forecasting

Not applied.

1.3.3 Reclassification into FRA 2010 categories

All land area = other land

1.4 Data for Table T1

FRA 2010 categories	Area (1000 hectares)			
	1990	2000	2005	2010
Forest	0	0	0	0
Other wooded land	0	0	0	0
Other land	6100	6100	6100	6100
...of which with tree cover	0	0	0	0
Inland water bodies	40	40	40	40
TOTAL	6140	6140	6140	6140

1.5 Comments to Table T1

Variable / category	Comments related to data, definitions, etc.	Comments on the reported trend
Forest		
Other wooded land		
Other land		
Other land with tree cover		
Inland water bodies		

Other general comments to the table

Expected year for completion of ongoing/planned <u>national forest inventory and/or RS survey / mapping</u>	
Field inventory	
Remote sensing survey / mapping	