

Deforestation: Definitions, Trends, and Policies for Forests and Forest Products

Key Takeaways



GLOBAL FOREST ASSESSMENT

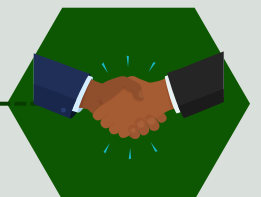
The **FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment** has been reporting on the extent of forest resources, their condition, management and uses since 1948.

1948

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



Deforestation is the conversion of forest to other land use - as defined in global forest assessments with the participation of more than 230 countries and territories.



GLOBAL FOREST

31% Today forests cover 31% of the global land area; **down** from an estimated maximum of 57% at the end of the last ice age.

POLICY CHANGES



The EU, US, and other nations have COMMITTED to developing policies addressing the trade in products associated with the risk of deforestation.



FOREST TRENDS

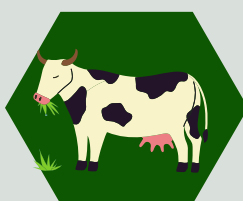
The global rate of net forest loss has **SLOWED** by **40%** since 2000. Reforestation globally exceeds deforestation and forest recovery is **stable** to **increasing**.



AGRICULTURE

7%

Strategies to reduce deforestation require changes to agriculture and the process is well underway. Since 1961, the global human population has increased by 147% but the amount of land used for agriculture has increased only 7%.



DEFORESTATION

Nearly 90% of deforestation is related to agriculture, 95% of global deforestation occurs in tropical regions, and 60% of tropical forest loss is associated with expansion of three crops - beef, soy, and palm oil.