

Annex 1. Forest Definitions

Country	Forest definition
Albania	A forest is defined as land with tree crown cover of more than 10%, an area of more than 0.5 ha and an average width of more than 20 m. Trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i> . FOREST EUROPE, UNECE AND FAO, 2011.
Andorra	...
Austria	Minimum area: 0.05 ha; Minimum width: 10 m; The cultural type registered in the land register is insignificant; minimum crown coverage of 30 % (ocular estimation). Schieler and Hauk 2001.
Belarus	The collection of forest trees and other plants, soil, animals, microorganisms and other natural ingredients that have internal linkages and communication with the external environment; virgin, natural forest has not experienced significant human impact, which varies over many generations forest trees only under the influence of natural processes; small-leaved, forest, formed mainly small-leaved tree species (birch, aspen and alder gray); coniferous, forest, formed mostly shade-tolerant conifers (spruce, fir, cedar, etc.); deciduous, forest, formed by mainly deciduous trees (oak, beech, ash, maple, etc.). Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, 2002.
Belgium (Flanders)	Flanders Forest area included in the forest mapping meets art. 3 of the Forest Decree and is at least 0.5 ha, 25 m wide and has a closure of at least 20%. Shrublands with an area less than 0.5 hectares are not included in the forest mapping, but fall under the rules of the Forest Decree. Bogaert D. Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, 2000.
Belgium (Wallonia)	Area of land of at least 0.1 ha and with at least 10% covered by a forest canopy (trees must be able to reach a minimum of 5 m). IPRFW, Walloon Permanent Forest Resources Inventory, 1994-2006.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Forests (definitions) Including all areas covered with forest tree species, minimum (0.16 ha, minimum width 20 m) with minimum crown coverage 20%, whatever age, or origin of the tree. Growth more than 5 m in height. Forest including areas temporarily unstocked areas (with crown cover less than 20%) if higher coverage can be expected in the near future. Forest includes forest roads inside the forest area, less than 5 m in wide (could be covered with tree crowns) and streams. Forest does not include forest roads wider than 5 m, and streams and rivers wider than 7 m (at the highest water level).
Bulgaria	Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Law - "Forest for the purposes of this Act is land occupied by forest vegetation an area not less than 1 ha." In practice - any land area greater than 1 ha and a width of not less than 10 m (measured to the width of tree roots). Article 2, paragraph 2 ZGor - "Forest Fund under this Act is the territory intended primarily for forest covering forests and shrubs, as well as land for afforestation and agricultural land referred to in the cadastre.
Croatia	National definition: Forest is defined as the land covered by forest trees formed as forest stand over an area larger than 10 ars (1 ar = 100 m ²). Separate forest tree groups over an area up to 10 ars, forest nurseries, windbreaks, tree avenues, and parks in settlements are not considered forests. Faculty of forestry University of Zagreb, Ministry for regional development of forestry and water management, 2010.
Cyprus	It corresponds to FRA definition except the threshold value for minimum area, which is 1 ha, with trees higher than 5 m and a crown cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds <i>in situ</i> . Land predominantly under agricultural or urban use not included. Old definition: Forest Land with tree crown cover of more than 10 % and area of more than 1 ha. Cyprus Department of forests ministry of agriculture, natural resources and environment, 2006. Kyriacou K. 2002.
Czech Republic	Forest land: land with forest stands and land after cutting ready for reforestation, forest line and soft roads of width less than 4 m. Forest roads, water surfaces, land above timber line and other land serving for forest management. Minimum area is 0.01 ha and with a minimum width of 20 m. NIL definition: Forest - areas (subplot), which are forest land as defined in the Forest Act No. 289/95 Coll. § 3, paragraph 1, letter a) and the Ministry of Agriculture Decree No. 84/1996 (which are divided into forest land stand soil and forest-free areas). Are also included in this category sites that have the character of the forest and not defined in the above legislation (e.g. forests on agricultural land). Ustav pro Hospodarskou Upravu Lesu (UHUL), 2004.

Denmark	Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. Areas with agricultural production and urban land are not included. FOREST EUROPE, UNECE AND FAO, 2011.
Estonia	Forest land (reference definition, applied parallel with National definition since 2005) Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ (incl. temporarily unstocked areas). Forest land (= productive forest land, National definition) Minimum area 0.1 ha and 30% crown cover, with height more than 1.3 m, with average annual productivity more than 1 m ³ /ha of stem wood (incl. temporarily unstocked areas). Pärt E., Adermann V., Merenäk M., 2010.
Finland	Finland adopts two definitions of forests: one is the FRA FAO 2000 definition: "Forest is land spanning more than 0.5 ha with trees higher than 5 m and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these 5 m thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use." The second definition is the national definition of forest that in Finland is the same as in the two other Nordic countries, Sweden and Norway: forest is defined as a land capable of producing an annual increment of volume growing stock of at least 1 m ³ /ha per year over the rotation under the most favorable tree species composition, and not used for any other purpose than forestry or forestry related purposes. METLA (Finnish Forest Research Institute), 2009.
France	A forest is defined as land with tree crown cover of more than 10%, an area of more than 0.5 ha and an average width of more than 20 m. Trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i> . Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière, 2010.
Georgia	State Forest Fund (SFF): The integrity of state forest, land and other resources defined as SFF by the Georgian legislation (Forest Code of Georgia, 1999). Includes the land categories listed below: Forest: Part of geographic landscape, which includes the unity of trees (defined by the Georgian legislation as parts of forests), lands, bushes, grasses, animals and other objects, which are biologically inter-related and have an impact upon each other as well as environment. Forest lands: Open plantations, nurseries, clear-cut areas, fire damaged and dead stands, 0.1 ha and larger fields and forest farm yards. (President of Georgia, 1999). A forest is defined as land with tree crown cover of more than 10%, an area of more than 0.5 ha and an average width of more than 20 m. Trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. FAO, 2010.
Germany	The National Forest Inventory definition follows the definition of forest under the Federal Forest Act: Forest within the meaning of the NFI is any area of ground covered by forest vegetation, irrespective of the information in the cadastral survey or similar records. The term forest also refers to cutover or thinned areas, forest tracks, fire breaks, openings and clearings, forest glades, feeding grounds for game, landings, rides located in the forest, further areas linked to and serving the forest including areas with recreation facilities, overgrown heather and moorland, overgrown former pastures, alpine pastures and rough pastures, as well as areas of dwarf pines and green alders. Heath, moorland, pastures, alpine pastures and in rough pastures are considered to be overgrown if the natural forest cover has reached an average age of five years and if at least 50% of the area is covered by forest. Areas with forest cover in open pasture land or in built-up areas of under 1000 m, Coppice under 10 m wide and the cultivation of Christmas trees and ornamental brushwood as well as parkland attached to country houses are not forest within the meaning of the NFI. Watercourses up to 5 m wide do not break the continuity of a forest area. Source: Survey instructions for Second Federal Forest Inventory, 2nd corrected and revised reprint, May 2001. Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz, 2002.
Greece	FRA 2000. Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 meters (m) at maturity in situ. FOREST EUROPE, UNECE AND FAO, 2011. NATIONAL DEFINITIONS. Area with 0.5 ha or 30 m strips with a tree crown closure that covers 10% of the area, or areas with 250 trees of a regeneration size, not used for other purposes or/and other services. Area where trees have been removed with a crown closure less than 10% and they have not been used for other purposes. Area with regeneration. Brush lands (area covered by evergreen broadleaved trees). NEW DEFINITION: Forest is a land with 10% crown cover with minimum height of trees of 5 m at maturity (in situ); areas of approximately 0.5 ha or strips with widths of 30 m (with tree canopy cover of 10%); areas not used for any purpose other than production of wood. Galatsidas S. 2001.
Holy See

Hungary	Forest land (1000 ha) - With defined tree species, minimum block size 0.5 ha, -Crown cover min. 50% (30% if protection function). Area: all forest where the forest block is at least 0.5 ha (all area which has "forest" cadastral status, plus all area where forest is found) Definition: Forest should be consisted more than 50% of the tree species (listed in the Forest Act) and forest cover is more than 30%. Mezőgazdasági Szakigazgatási Hivatal (MGSZH), 2006.
Iceland	Forest area is a land with a minimum area of 0.5 ha, with a minimum 10% crown cover, and minimum height of trees of 5 m at maturity in situ. FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO 2011. National definition: areas with trees higher than 2 m and 10% crown cover are defined as forests in Iceland.
Ireland	To define area as a forest it has to pass these minimum requirements: - tree crown cover: 10%- land area: 0.5 ha - tree height: 2 m. Further IFI has added practical requirements that are in accordance to international definitions: - minimum width of forest: 20 m - maximum permanent gap in forest. 0.5 ha. Tomppo E., Gschwantner T., Lawrence M., 2010.
Italy	Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. May consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various stories and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; or open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10%. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes which have yet to reach a crown density of 10% or tree height of 5 m are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest. Includes: forest nurseries and seed orchards that constitute an integral part of the forest; forest roads, cleared tracts, firebreaks and other small open areas; forest in national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas such as those of specific scientific, historical, cultural or spiritual interest; windbreaks and shelterbelts of trees with an area of more than 0.5 ha and width of more than 20 m; plantations primarily used for forestry purposes, including rubberwood plantations and cork oak stands. Excludes: Land predominantly used for agricultural practices. National definition: forest is a land covered by trees more than 2000 m ² , 20% of canopy, with a minimum width of 20 m. Ministero Delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali Corpo Forestale Dello Stato. CRA (Istituto Sperimentale per l'Assessmentamento Forestale e per l'Alpicoltura), 2007.
Kosovo	Review of the existing system of classification as to the system of classification of the region countries compatible with the international definitions (UN-ECE/FAO). FRA 2000. Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. Gashi F., 2010.
Latvia	Forest (area>0.1 ha, potential height of trees>7 m, present or potential projection of crowns >20%). Latvijas Valsts meži, 2000.
Liechtenstein	Minimum area of land: 0.0625 ha (with a minimum width of 25 m), minimum crown cover: 20%, minimum height of the dominant trees: 3 m (dominant trees must have the potential to reach, 3 m at maturity in situ). Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft (AWNL), 2000.
Lithuania	Forest land NFI is: a land area not less than 0.1 ha in size covered with trees, the height of which in a natural site in the maturity age is not less than 5 m, other forest plants as well as thinned or vegetation-lost forest due to the acts of nature or human activities (cutting areas, burnt areas, clearings). Forest pitches, nursery areas, forest seed orchards, raw-material bushings and plantation, forest roads, forest block, technological and fire break lines, areas covered by timber storage houses and other forest-related equipment, recreation grounds, animal feed grounds, and land assigned for afforestation is ascribed to forest land as well. Tree lines up to 10 m of width in fields, at roadsides, water bodies, in living areas and cemeteries, single trees and bushes, parks planted and grown by man in urban and rural areas are not defined as forests. Department of Statistics, 2010.
Luxembourg	Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. Le gouvernement du Grand Duché du Luxembourg, 2003.
Macedonia	Land covered with forest tree and shrub as well as forest bare lands and forest roads, forest nurseries and other areas that are closely connected to forests. (Law on forests, 1997g., article 3). Republic Of Macedonia, Ministry Of Agriculture, Forestry And Water Economy. National Forestry Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2002.
Malta	Forest area is land under natural or planted stands of trees of at least 5 m in situ, whether productive or not, and excludes tree stands in agricultural production systems (for example, in fruit plantations and agroforestry systems) and trees in urban parks and gardens. EarthTrends, 2003.

Moldova	Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 % and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO, 2011.
Monaco
Montenegro	no definition
Netherlands	Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 % and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. National definition: Under forest is normally closed forests with a mean crown projection of less than 60%. There is no longer any old natural forest present in the Netherlands, and virtually all forest is planted. Only in some heaths and marshes is there any spontaneous natural regeneration. About 7% of forest area is such naturally regenerating young forest. Landbouw, natuur en Voedselkwaliteit, 2006.
Norway	Forest is Land spanning more than 0.5 ha with trees higher than 5 m and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. Productive forest area: Forest area that under favourable stand conditions has an annual yield capacity per hectare of at least 1 cubic metre of wood including bark. Noregs Offisielle Statistikk, 1992.
Poland	(1) Land covered with forest vegetation, of area above 0.1 ha; it includes forest grounds temporarily deprived of forest vegetation, and (2) Lands related to forestry (forest roads, nurseries etc.) (FAO 2010).
Portugal	Extent of land with an area $\geq 5\,000$ m ² and a width ≥ 20 m, with a degree of covered (defined as the ratio between the area of horizontal projection of the crown and the total area of the plot) $\geq 10\%$ which reveal the presence of trees that forest for their characteristics or form of exploitation has reached or will reach, arboreal (height than 5 m) regardless of the stage which is the time of observation. Autoridade Florestal National (AFN) and Ministerio da Agricultura do Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pesca, 2010.
Romania	Forest is a land covered 0.5 ha, 10% crown cover and 5 m height. SILVA RNP, 2011.
Russia (European Part)	Forest Land (FL) = covered by forest + uncovered by forest, comprises land which is suitable and designated for forest growth. FL is divided into following categories: Forested Areas; Non-Stocked Planted Forests; Forest Plantations and Nurseries; Natural Sparse Forests; and Unforested Areas. Forested Areas include: (1) lands, covered by young stands with the relative stocking 0.4 and more, and stands of other age groups with the relative stocking 0.3 and more; (2) cutovers, burns and other territories of naturally reforesting FL, on which amount and quality of natural regeneration, or young trees, protected under harvest, are corresponding to requirements, developed for conversion of these categories into FA; (3) areas covered by shrubs in regions where tree species cannot grow due to severe natural and geographical conditions, or where special shrub management is provided. IIASA 2003.
Serbia	The inventory uses the definition of FRA FAO A national definition is given in the FRA 2010 country report: A forest is every area over 5 are covered with forest trees in the form of stands having a protective function but is used for production of forest assortments or has a special purpose. Tree line paths, parks in inhabited places, forest tree nurseries, and groups of forest trees on an area under 5 are are not considered a forest. [1 are=0.01 ha]
Slovak Republic	A forest is defined as land with tree crown cover of more than 10%, an area of more than 0.5 ha and an average width of more than 20 m. Trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. FOREST EUROPE, UNECE AND FAO, 2011. National definition: Forest is land spanning more than 0.3 ha with trees taller than 5 m and a canopy cover of more than 20%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, 2009

Slovenia	<p>The national forest inventory defines forest as:</p> <p>(a) A plot of land overgrown with forest trees in the form of stands, which can reach a height of at least 5 m and sized to at least 0.25 ha</p> <p>(b) A plot of agricultural land in transition to forest land sized to at least 0.25 ha that has not been used for agriculture for the last 20 years and is overgrown with forest trees which can reach a height of at least 5 m and their crown cover should be at least 75%</p> <p>(c) Riverside forest corridors and windbreaks sized to at least 0.25 ha, if their widths are at least one tree-height. Kusar et al. in Tomppo et al. 2009. p. 439-440.</p> <p>The term “forest” is defined also by the Law on Forests of Slovenia (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, nr. 30/1993). Article two states:</p> <p>“A forest is an area of land, covered with forest trees in the form of stands or other forest growths which provide any of the functions of a forest. Forest, according to this law also includes overgrown plots of land which are defined as forest in the spatial part of the forest management plan. The forest infrastructure which is apportioned to individual plots is an integral part of the forest. The following are not forest within the meaning of this law: individual forest trees; groups of forest trees up to an area of 0.05 ha; non-autochthonous riverine and windbelt trees; avenues; pastures overgrown with forest trees if they are used for pasturing, irrespective of how they are described in the land register. Zavod za Gozdove Slovenije, (Institution for forest of Slovenia), 2011.</p>
Spain	<p>Forest surface is considered the land populated by forest tree species and whose dominant canopy cover (FCC) is more than 10%. It consists of: (i) woodland - land with trees whose FCC >= 20%; (ii) sparse woodland - 10% < FCC < 20%. It also includes land with scrub or grassland species dominant plant natural expression, but a FCC of between 10% and 20%. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino, 2008.</p>
Sweden	<p>Types of land under the Forestry Act Determined for the traditional types of land in productive forest, bog, mountain pine forests and other land.</p> <p>Forest land: Land bearing forest or without measures to increase production has the potential to bear forest with a height of 5 m and with a crown cover of at least 10%. Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU), 2009.</p>
Switzerland	<p>Forest is land covered by trees with a minimum height of 3 m and the minimum width of the tree stand is 50 m. In addition, the tree crowns have to cover at least 20% of the area. Swiss Federal Research Institute (WSL) and Swiss Forest Monitoring, 2006.</p>
Turkey	<p>A forest is defined as land with tree crown cover of more than 10%, an area of more than 0.5 ha and an average width of more than 20 m. Trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. FOREST EUROPE, UNECE AND FAO, 2011.</p>
Ukraine	<p>In Ukraine's forest are forest areas, including those protective plantings linear type, area of not less than 0.1 ha. In Ukraine the forest area does not include: green spaces within settlements (parks, gardens, squares, boulevards, etc.) that are not included in the prescribed manner to the forest; individual trees and groups of trees, shrubs on agricultural land, homestead, cottage and garden areas. Supreme Council of Ukraine, 2006.</p>
United Kingdom	<p>For the National Inventory of Woodland, forest is defined as areas with a canopy cover of 20% or more (or the potential to achieve this) and over 50 m in width. The NIWT woodland map aimed to include all areas satisfying this definition and with a minimum area of 2.0 ha or over. Woodland area from 0.1 ha to 2.0 ha was derived from the Survey of Small Woods and Trees.</p> <p>For the National Forest Inventory (2009-2014), the definition of forest or woodland as an area of tree-covered land greater than 0.5ha (about 1.25 acres) and at least 20 m wide whose “canopy cover” or “canopy closure” extends to 20% or more of the land area (or the potential to achieve this). In other words, if the site were viewed from the air, 20% or more of the ground would be obscured by the trees' foliage when the trees are mature. This definition of woodland is in keeping with other internationally accepted definitions of woodland. The current National Inventory is being carried out between 2009 and 2014. FC, 2010.</p>