

GLOSSARY

Arid: Not having enough rainfall to support agriculture.

Avalanche: A large mass of snow, ice, earth, rock, or other material in swift motion down a mountainside.

Average: The usual kind or amount. The number gotten by dividing the sum of two or more quantities by the number of quantities added.

Axis: In the context of this report, an imaginary straight line about which Earth rotates.

Biodiversity: The state of having a variety of life forms including plants and animals, including a variety of genetic information among members of the same plant and animal species.

Browse: To graze. Browsing often refers to grazing on low shrubs or tree branches.

Bushmeat: The meat of land-based wild animals.

Classify: To assign to a category.

Climate: The average condition of the weather at a place usually over a period of years.

Conservation: Protection of something; especially the planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.

Conserve: To avoid wasteful or destructive use of.

Correspondent: In the context of this report, a correspondent is a representative from each country who gathered and sent information to FAO.

Criterion (criteria is plural): A standard on which a judgment or decision may be based.

Decompose: To decay or rot.

Deforestation: The action or process of clearing of forests. Deforestation happens when a forest is destroyed and the area previously occupied by the trees is used for other purposes.

Degradation: The act of impairing or bringing to a lower level of quality. When a forest experiences degradation, it does not always mean that the area of forest is reduced. It may mean that the forest's natural processes have been disturbed. The result is that the forest is less productive than it could be.

Distort: To twist out of a natural, normal, or original shape or condition.

Diversity: A measure of the differences between the types and numbers of living things in a natural area.

Drought: A period of dryness lasting a long time.

Ecological: Having to do with a branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environments.

Economic: Of, relating to, or based on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Ecosystem: A set of relationships among the living resources, habitats, and residents of an area.

Equator: A great circle of Earth that is everywhere equally distant from the two poles and divides Earth's surface into the northern and southern hemispheres.

Erode: To wear away.

Genetic: Having to do with genes; the hereditary material of living things.

Germinate: To cause to sprout or develop.

Habitat: Environment where a plant or animal naturally grows and lives.

Indicator: A pointer toward something.

Introduced: A tree species that is not native to the area in which it is growing.

Invasive species: A plant or an animal whose presence in an area causes harm or destruction to the native plants or animals.

Latitude: Distance north or south from Earth's equator, measured from 0 degrees (at the equator) to 90 degrees (at the poles)

Manage: To look after and make decisions about.

Modernize: To bring conditions to the present or the immediate past.

Native: Living or growing naturally in a particular region.

Northern Hemisphere: The half of Earth that is north of the equator.

Organism: A living being.

Population: The total of individuals occupying an area or making up a whole.

Protected area: In the context of this report, a protected area is legally established for the purposes of protecting the area's natural resources and values.

Revenue: The total income produced by a given source.

Sequestration: The act of holding.

Social: Of or relating to human society.

Species: A class of individuals having common attributes and designated by a common name.

Stabilize: The act of firmly establishing or putting into a condition of having no change.

Sustainable: Of, relating to, or being a method of using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged.

Sustainably: Of, relating to, or being a method of using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged.

Transition: Change; passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another.

Unit of measurement: A standard quantity of a physical property, such as meters, degrees Celsius, or grams.

Variable: A quantity that may assume any one of a set of values.

Vegetation: Plant life.