

# WORLD'S FORESTS THIRD EDITION SUMMARY

FAO's report, as well as this journal based on  
FAO's report, summarizes the state of the world's  
forests in 2015. Much of the report's information  
also looks at trends in the world's forests over

25 years (Figure 85). Based on Figure 85, what  
can you conclude about the future of your  
continent's forests specifically, and the world's  
forests overall?

**FIGURE 85.**

Direction of change (D = Downward, U = Upward) (1990 to posted year) (~ = Less than ½ percent change) by continent.

CONTINENT	AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA	OCEANIA	SOUTH AMERICA
Forest area (million ha) 2015	D	U	U	~	D	D
Natural forest (million ha) 2015	D	D	~	D	D	D
Planted forest (million ha) 2015	U	U	U	U	U	U
Carbon (Gt) 2015	D	D	U	U	~	D
Carbon (Gt per ha) 2015	U	D	U	U	U	U
Total wood removals (million cubic meters) 2011	U	U	D	D	U	U
Protection of soil and water (million ha) 2015	D	U	U	U	U	D
Ecosystem services, cultural, and spiritual values 2015 (million ha)	D	U	U	~	D	U
Conservation of biodiversity 2015 (million ha)	U	U	U	U	U	U
Primary forest (million ha) 2015	D	~	U	~	D	D
Forest area within protected areas 2015 (million ha)	U	U	U	U	U	U
Forest area certified under an international program 2014 (million ha)	U	U	U	U	U	U

ha = hectares; Gt = gigatonnes.