



## SDG target 15.2

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# Indicator 15.2.1 - Progress towards sustainable forest management

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# Definition

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The UN General Assembly defines sustainable forest management (SFM) as a “*dynamic and evolving concept [that] aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations*” (Resolution A/RES/62/98).



# Current work taking place on the indicator

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- As SFM is a multifaceted concept, no single metric can fully reflect progress towards SFM.
- Therefore, FAO has been working with global and regional partner organizations towards developing a limited set of metrics to monitor progress towards SFM (including CBD, UNFF, UNCCD, ITTO, Montréal Process, Forest Europe, Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries, UNECE, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization).

# Current work taking place on the indicator II

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Based on this work, a proposal for monitoring this indicator through a combination of four metrics was submitted to the IAEG-SDG. These are:

1. Forest cover
2. Carbon stocks
3. Biodiversity conservation
4. Forest management plans

# Current work taking place on the indicator III

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- All of these metrics are being reported by countries to FAO through the global forest resources assessment and with time series available since 1990, and could be individually classed as Tier I indicators.
- There still remains work to establish and agree upon a methodology for combining and aggregating these metrics.
- It is the absence of such an agreed methodology that leads this indicator to be currently categorized as Tier III.
- A recent suggestion has been to use a dashboard approach to avoid combining the metrics.

# Plan to develop the methodology and international standard

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- FAO continues to work with the bodies listed above over the next months to operationally develop the details on how these four metrics can be combined and aggregated.
- A meeting of key bodies is scheduled in April 2016 to discuss and agree on further joint work on methodology and testing. It is expected that this will be finalized before end of June 2016.