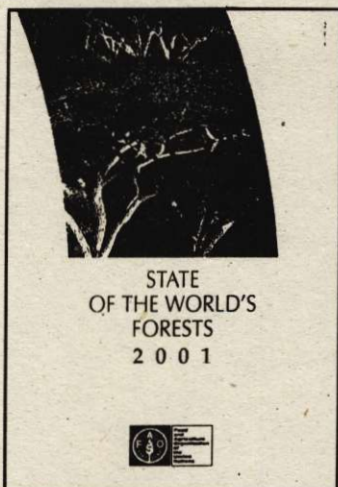




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The State of the World's Forests 2001

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The *State of the World's Forests* reports every two years on the status of forests, recent major policy and institutional developments and key issues concerning the forest sector. The purpose of the publication is to provide current, reliable and policy-relevant information to policy-makers, foresters and other natural resource managers, academics, forest industry and civil society.

The fourth edition of this publication, the *State of the World's Forests 2001*, is organized into four parts. Part I focuses on the past two to three years in its discussion of the main issues and emerging trends in the forest sector. An overview of recent developments regarding the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest resources, forest goods and services, and the changing institutional framework for the forest sector is presented. Part II begins with a chapter that summarizes the methodology and key findings on forest area and forest management of FAO's most recent and comprehensive forest assessment, the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA 2000). It is followed by chapters on three key issues in the forest sector today: climate change; biodiversity conservation; and illegal activities and corruption.

International dialogue and global, regional and national initiatives related to forests is the topic of Part III. It includes sections on the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and its successor - the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), major international conventions and agreements pertaining to forests, efforts at the ecoregional level and national-level initiatives to support sustainable forest management. Part IV provides brief synopses of forest cover and forest products for eleven regional economic groups. For each group, a brief history of its establishment, purpose and list of members is given along with a description of the forest sector in that region.

The *State of the World's Forests 2001* provides a diverse and extensive profile of the current state of global forest resources and the progress in and challenges to their sustainable management. It is thus an invaluable resource which hopefully will facilitate informed discussion and decision-making with regard to the world's forests.

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