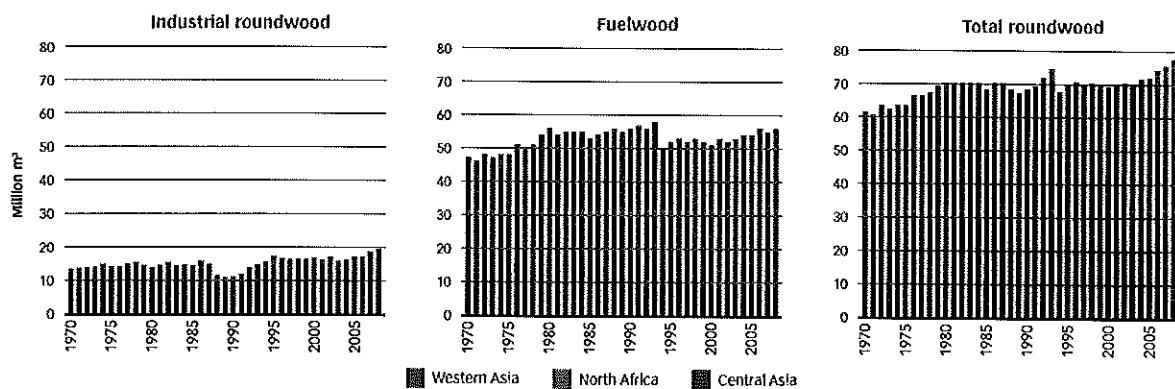




**INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011**

# State of the World's Forests 2011

**Figure 20: Volume of wood removals in the Near East, 1970–2008 (million m<sup>3</sup>)**



Source: FAOSTAT

The region accounted for only 2 percent of global wood removals, more than 70 percent of which was used as fuelwood (Figure 20). Turkey was the only country in the region where industrial roundwood removals were significant (14 million cubic metres) and played an important role as a source of raw material for wood industries. Approximately 296 000 people were employed in 2005 in the primary production of goods in the region (Table 30). Of these, 209 000 were in North Africa.

Information on the value of NWFPs was provided by only 13 countries in the region, with a total value of US\$126 million as of 2005. The reported annual value of wood products in the Near East region was close to US\$2 billion in 2005. However, information was missing from most of the countries in Central Asia, so the true value is likely to be considerably higher. In Western Asia, Jordan and Turkey recorded a sharp drop in the value of wood products between 1990 and 2000, which was only partly recovered during the period 2000–2005 (Figure 21).

**Table 30: Employment in primary production of forest goods in the Near East, 2005 (1 000 FTE)**

Subregion	Employment in primary production of goods, 2005
Central Asia	38
North Africa	209
Western Asia	49
<b>Total Near East</b>	<b>296</b>

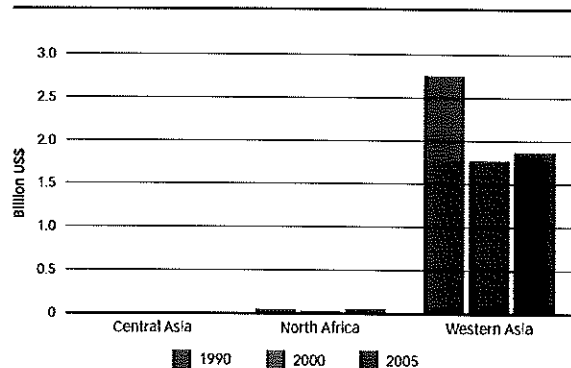
## North America<sup>9</sup>

### Extent of forest resources

In 2010 forests covered 34 percent of North America's land area and accounted for 17 percent of the global forest area. In the North American region, the forest area in 2010 was estimated to be slightly larger than in 1990 (Table 31). While Canada reported no change in forest area, Mexico registered a decreasing rate of loss over the last 20 years, which was outweighed by a net gain in forest area in the United States of America.

Globally, planted forest made up about 7 percent of the world's total forest area. In North America, a total of 6 percent of the forest area (more than 37 million hectares) was planted forest, accounting for 14 percent of the world total (Table 32). In Canada, planted forests represented 3 percent of the total forest area, in Mexico, 5 percent and in the United States of America, 8 percent. The area of planted forest in the three countries continued to increase.

**Figure 21: Value of wood removals in the Near East, 1990–2005 (billion US\$)**



<sup>9</sup> For the purposes of this report, North America includes Canada, Mexico and the United States of America (excluding US territories in the Caribbean).

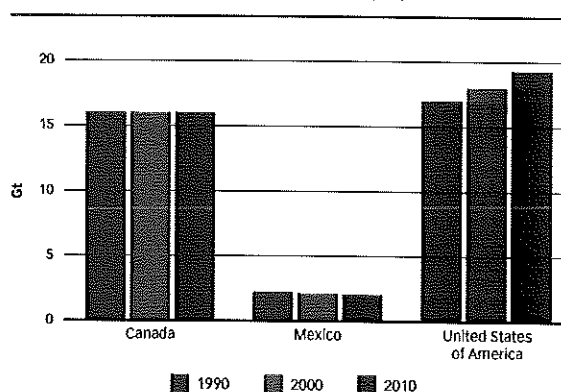
Canada, Mexico and United States of America all reported on carbon in forest biomass (Figure 22) with a positive overall trend for the region.

### Biological diversity and protective functions

North America accounted for 25 percent of global primary forest in 2010, which corresponded to 41 percent of the forest area in the region. In Canada and Mexico, 53 percent of the countries' forest area was classified as primary forest, while in the United States of America it made up 25 percent. The area of primary forest in the region overall increased slightly in the last decade (Figure 23). This can occur when countries set aside natural forest areas in which no intervention should take place.

North America designated 15 percent of its forest for the conservation of biological diversity compared with 12 percent at the global level. At a national level, the United States of America classified 25 percent of its forest under this designation, the highest in the region,

**Figure 22: Carbon stock in forest biomass in North America, 1990–2010\* (Gt)**



\* The figures presented for Canada are FAO estimates as Canada only reported carbon in forest biomass of 'managed forests' in accordance with reporting requirements for the UNFCCC.

followed by Mexico (13 percent) and Canada (5 percent). Canada showed no change over the period analysed, while the area in Mexico rose and in the United States of America the area decreased (Table 33). Nine percent

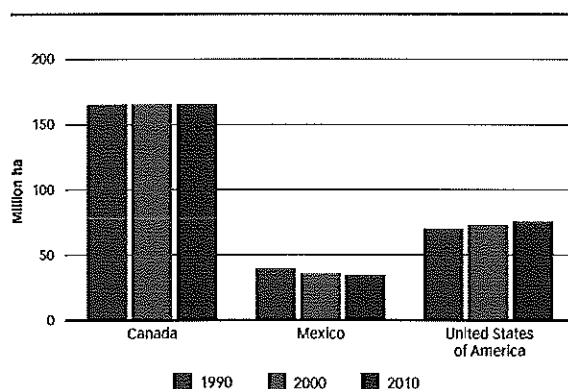
**Table 31: Forest area in North America, 1990–2010**

Region	Area (1 000 ha)			Annual change (1 000 ha)		Annual change rate (%)	
	1990	2000	2010	1990–2000	2000–2010	1990–2000	2000–2010
Canada	310 134	310 134	310 134	0	0	0	0
Mexico	70 291	66 751	64 802	-354	-195	-0.52	-0.30
United States of America	296 335	300 195	304 022	386	383	0.13	0.13
<b>Total North America</b>	<b>676 760</b>	<b>677 080</b>	<b>678 958</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>n.s.</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>4 168 399</b>	<b>4 085 063</b>	<b>4 032 905</b>	<b>-8 334</b>	<b>-5 216</b>	<b>-0.20</b>	<b>-0.13</b>

**Table 32: Area of planted forest in North America, 1990–2010**

Region	Area (1 000 ha)			Annual change (1 000 ha)		Annual change rate (%)	
	1990	2000	2010	1990–2000	2000–2010	1990–2000	2000–2010
Canada	1 357	5 820	8 963	446	314	15.67	4.41
Mexico	350	1 058	3 203	106	215	-	11.71
United States of America	17 938	22 560	25 363	462	280	2.32	1.18
<b>Total North America</b>	<b>19 645</b>	<b>29 438</b>	<b>37 529</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>2.46</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>178 307</b>	<b>214 839</b>	<b>264 084</b>	<b>3 653</b>	<b>4 925</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>2.09</b>

**Figure 23: Area of primary forest in North America, 1990–2010 (million ha)**



of the forest area in the region falls within a protected area system, ranging from 8 percent of the forest area in Canada to 13 percent of the forest area in Mexico.

In North America, the protection of soil and water are embedded in forest legislation, policy and guidance on

sound forest management practices. The protection of soil and water are primary considerations in the development of forest plans and practices. While legislation, regulations and policy exists to guide where forest areas must be set aside, these areas are not legally defined and captured on land use maps. As a result, forest areas that are set aside for the purposes of soil and water conservation are included in the multiple use primary designated function.

#### Productive and socio-economic functions

About 14 percent of the forest area in North America was designated primarily for production in 2010, compared with 30 percent at the global level (Table 34). The vast majority of this area (93 percent) was located in the United States of America, where 30 percent of the forest area was designated primarily for productive purposes, compared with only 5 percent of Mexico's forest area and 1 percent of Canada's. An additional 68 percent of the forest area in the region was designated for multiple use – in most cases including the production of wood and NWFPs. There was

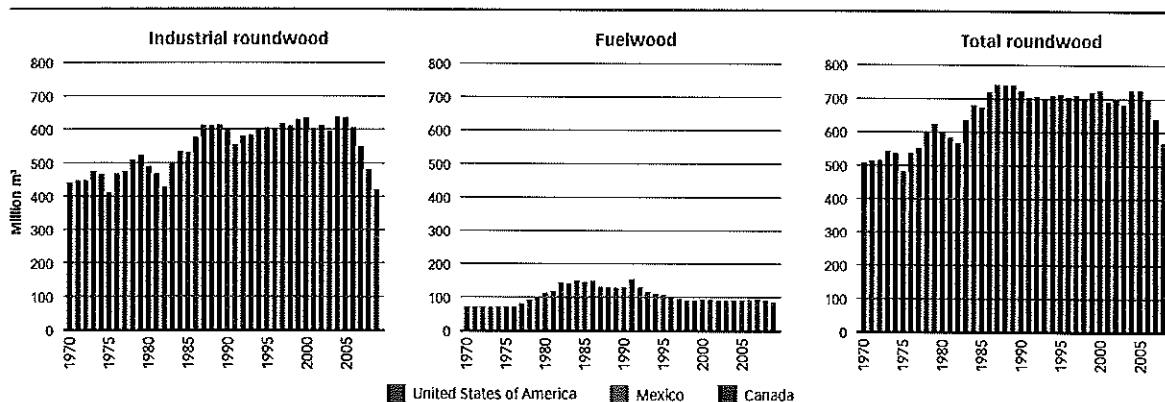
**Table 33: Area of forest designated primarily for conservation of biological diversity in North America, 1990–2010**

Region	Area (1 000 ha)			Annual change (1 000 ha)		Annual change rate (%)	
	1990	2000	2010	1990–2000	2000–2010	1990–2000	2000–2010
Canada	15 284	15 284	15 284	0	0	0	0
Mexico	4 547	4 457	8 488	-9	403	-0.20	6.65
United States of America	69 980	72 878	75 277	290	240	0.41	0.32
<b>Total North America</b>	<b>89 811</b>	<b>92 619</b>	<b>99 049</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.67</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>270 413</b>	<b>302 916</b>	<b>366 255</b>	<b>3 250</b>	<b>6 334</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>1.92</b>

**Table 34: Area of forest designated primarily for production in North America, 1990–2010**

Region	Area (1 000 ha)			Annual change (1 000 ha)		Annual change rate (%)	
	1990	2000	2010	1990–2000	2000–2010	1990–2000	2000–2010
Canada	3 928	3 928	3 928	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	1 058	3 203	106	215	-	11.71
United States of America	76 632	82 520	90 007	589	749	0.74	0.87
<b>Total North America</b>	<b>80 560</b>	<b>87 506</b>	<b>97 138</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>1.05</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>1 181 576</b>	<b>1 160 325</b>	<b>1 131 210</b>	<b>-2 125</b>	<b>-2 911</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.25</b>

**Figure 24: Volume of wood removals in North America, 1970–2009 (million m<sup>3</sup>)**



Source: FAOSTAT

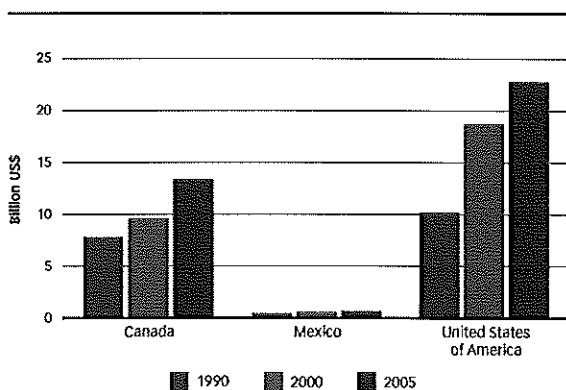
a large variation in the proportion of forest for multiple use within the region with values ranging from 46 percent in the United States of America to 87 percent in Canada. A combination of the two areas (production plus multiple use) may thus provide a better picture of the area available for wood supply in this region.

Only 10–15 percent of the wood removed in North America was used as fuelwood. The remainder was industrial roundwood consumed by wood processing and pulp industries. The long-term trends (Figure 24) show that in North America (the United States of America and Canada in particular), wood removals fluctuated widely over the past four decades. This suggests that forest owners and managers were quick to adjust wood supply depending on the level of demand for forest products and prices. The recent economic and housing crises in

the United States of America led to a sharp decline in industrial roundwood removals (about 30 percent). The information available on NWFPs at the regional level was insufficient to draw conclusions or to identify trends. The principal reported products were Christmas trees, maple products, resins, hides and skins, and fruit. The value of wood products increased steadily between 1990 and 2005 (Figure 25), but has since fallen sharply.

Countries were requested to report on paid employment in terms of full-time equivalents involved in primary production of forest goods (Table 35). Mexico did not provide data for this variable. The United States of America showed a continuous decrease in employment from 1990 to 2005. Canada's figures indicated that the employment level rose by 18 percent between 1990 and 2000 and then declined by 20 percent between 2000 and 2005.

**Figure 25: Value of wood products in North America (billion US\$)**



**Table 35: Employment in primary production of forest goods in the United States of America and Canada, 1990–2005 (1 000 FTE)**

Employment in primary production of goods			
	1990	2000	2005
Canada	73	87	70
United States of America (paid employment only)	103	98	84