Report for ForestQuery into Global Deforestation, 1990 to 2016

ForestQuery is on a mission to combat deforestation around the world and to raise awareness about this topic and its impact on the environment. The data analysis team at ForestQuery has obtained data from the World Bank that includes forest area and total land area by country and year from 1990 to 2016, as well as a table of countries and the regions to which they belong.

The data analysis team has used SQL to bring these tables together and to query them in an effort to find areas of concern as well as areas that present an opportunity to learn from successes.

1. GLOBAL SITUATION

According to the World Bank, the total forest area of the world was <u>41282694.9 sq km</u> in 1990. As of 2016, the most recent year for which data was available, that number had fallen to <u>39958245.9 sq km</u>, a loss of <u>1324449 sq km</u>, or -<u>3.21%</u>.

The forest area lost over this period is slightly more than the entire land area of <u>1279999.9891sq km</u> listed for 2016 (which is <u>Peru</u>).

2. REGIONAL OUTLOOK

In 2016, the percent of the total land area of the world designated as forest was <u>31.38</u>. The region with the highest relative forestation was <u>Latin America & Caribbean</u>, with <u>46.2</u>%, and the region with the lowest relative forestation was <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>, with <u>2.1</u>% forestation.

In 1990, the percent of the total land area of the world designated as forest was <u>32.4</u>. The region with the highest relative forestation was <u>Latin America & Caribbean</u>, with <u>51</u>%, and the region with the lowest relative forestation was <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>, with <u>1.8</u>% forestation.

Table 2.1: Percent Forest Area by Region, 1990 & 2016:

Region	1990 Forest Percentage	2016 Forest Percentage	
East Asia & Pacific	25.78	26.36	
Europe & Central Asia	37.28	38.04	
Latin America & Caribbean	51.03	46.16	
Middle East & North Africa	1.78	2.071	
North America	35.65	36.04	
South Asia	16.51	17.51	
Sub-Saharan Africa	30.67	28.79	
World	32.42	31.38	

The only regions of the world that decreased in percent forest area from 1990 to 2016 were <u>Latin America & Caribbean</u> (dropped from <u>51</u>% to <u>46.2</u>%) and <u>Sub-Saharan Africa</u> (<u>30.7</u>% to <u>28.8</u>%). All other regions actually increased in forest area over this time period. However, the drop in forest area in the two aforementioned regions was so large, the percent forest area of the world decreased over this time period from **32.4**% to **31.4**%.

3. COUNTRY-LEVEL DETAIL

A. SUCCESS STORIES

There is one particularly bright spot in the data at the country level, <u>China</u>. This country actually increased in forest area from 1990 to 2016 by <u>527,229.06 sq km</u>. It would be interesting to study what has changed in this country over this time to drive this figure in the data higher. The country with the next largest increase in forest area from 1990 to 2016 was the <u>United States</u>, but it only saw an increase of <u>79200.00 sq km</u>, much lower than the figure for <u>China</u>.

Russian Federation and **China** are of course very large countries in total land area, so when we look at the largest *percent* change in forest area from 1990 to 2016, we aren't surprised to find a much smaller country listed at the top. **Iceland** increased in forest area by **213.66**% from 1990 to 2016.

B. LARGEST CONCERNS

Which countries are seeing deforestation to the largest degree? We can answer this question in two ways. First, we can look at the absolute square kilometer decrease in forest area from 1990 to 2016. The following 3 countries had the largest decrease in forest area over the time period under consideration:

Table 3.1: Top 5 Amount Decrease in Forest Area by Country, 1990 & 2016:

Country	Region	Absolute Forest Area Change	
Brazil	Latin America & Caribbean	541,510.00	
Indonesia	East Asia & Pacific	282,193.98	
Myanmar	East Asia & Pacific	107,234.00	
Nigeria	Sub-Saharan Africa	106,506.00	
Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	102,320.00	

The second way to consider which countries are of concern is to analyze the data by percent decrease.

Table 3.2: Top 5 Percent Decrease in Forest Area by Country, 1990 & 2016:

Country	Region Pct Forest Area Char	
Togo	Sub-Saharan Africa 75.46	
Nigeria	Sub-Saharan Africa	61.79
Uganda	Sub-Saharan Africa	59.29
Mauritania	Sub-Saharan Africa	47.50
Honduras	Latin America & Caribbean	45.03

When we consider countries that decreased in forest area the most between 1990 and 2016, we find that four of the top 5 countries on the list are in the region of <u>Sub-Saharan Africa</u>. The countries are <u>Togo</u>, <u>Nigeria</u>, <u>Uganda</u>, and <u>Mauritania</u>. The 5th country on the list is <u>Honduras</u>, which is in the <u>Latin America & Caribbean</u> region.

From the above analysis, we see that <u>Nigeria</u> is the only country that ranks in the top 5 both in terms of absolute square kilometer decrease in forest as well as percent decrease in forest area

from 1990 to 2016. Therefore, this country has a significant opportunity ahead to stop the decline and hopefully spearhead remedial efforts.

C. QUARTILES

Table 3.3: Count of Countries Grouped by Forestation Percent Quartiles, 2016:

Quartile	Number of Countries
0-25%	85
25% -50%	73
50% - 75%	38
75% - 100%	9

The largest number of countries in 2016 were found in the <u>0-25%</u> quartile.

There were **9** countries in the top quartile in 2016. These are countries with a very high percentage of their land area designated as forest. The following is a list of countries and their respective forest land, denoted as a percentage.

Table 3.4: Top Quartile Countries, 2016:

Country	Region	Pct Designated as Forest	
Suriname	Latin America & Caribbean	n 98.26	
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	East Asia & Pacific 91.86		
Gabon	Sub-Saharan Africa	90.04	
Seychelles	Sub-Saharan Africa	88.41	
Palau	East Asia & Pacific	87.61	
American Samoa	East Asia & Pacific	87.50	
Guyana	Latin America & Caribbean	83.90	
Lao PDR	East Asia & Pacific	82.11	
Solomon Islands	East Asia & Pacific	77.86	

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Write out a set of recommendations as an analyst on the ForestQuery team.

- What have you learned from the World Bank data?
 According to the data, there are 7 regions and a total of 218 countries. Two regions experienced a decrease in forestation between 1990 and 2016, namely Latin America & Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa, as shown in table 2.1.
- Which countries should we focus on over others?

We should focus on the countries in Table 3.4, the top quartile countries. Study and adopt their methods of maintaining a high percentage of forestation. Various forestation techniques could be adopted in the countries listed in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.

SQL QUERIES USED:

```
--forest area table exploration
SELECT *
FROM forest area
LIMIT 5;
--land area table exploration
SELECT *
FROM land area
LIMIT 5;
--regions table exploration
SELECT *
FROM regions
LIMIT 5;
--View creation called forestation
CREATE VIEW forestation
AS
  (SELECT r.country code,
          r.country name,
          l.year,
          forest area sqkm,
          1.total area sq mi * 2.59
             total area sqkm,
          ( forest_area_sqkm / ( l.total_area_sq_mi * 2.59 ) ) * 100
             pc dsgnd as forest,
          region,
          income group
   FROM forest area f
```

```
JOIN land area l
            ON f.country_code = l.country_code
               AND f.year = l.year
          JOIN regions r
            ON r.country_code = l.country_code)
-- forestation VIEW exploration
SELECT *
FROM forestation
LIMIT 5
--Confirm the presence of 'World' in the region table
SELECT *
FROM forestation
WHERE country name = 'World'
       OR country name = 'world'
LIMIT 1
-- confirm 2016 is the most recent year
SELECT year
FROM forestation
ORDER BY 1 DESC
LIMIT 1
O1 GLOBAL SITUATION
```

a. What was the total forest area (in sq km) of the world in 1990? Please keep in mind that you can use the country record denoted as "World" in the region table.

```
-- total forest area of the world in 1990

SELECT country_name,
forest_area_sqkm,
year

FROM forestation

WHERE year = 1990
AND country_name = 'World'
OR country_name = 'world'
```

b. What was the total forest area (in sq km) of the world in 2016? Please keep in mind that you can use the country record in the table denoted as "World."

```
AND country_name = 'World'
OR country name = 'world'
```

c. What was the change (in sq km) in the world's forest area from 1990 to 2016? 1324449 sq km

```
WITH table 1990
     AS (
        -- total forest area of the world in 1990
        SELECT country name,
              forest area sqkm,
              year
         FROM forestation
        WHERE year = 1990
               AND country_name = 'World'
                OR country name = 'world'),
     table 2016
     AS (
        -- total forest area of the world in 2016
        SELECT country name,
               forest area sqkm,
              year
         FROM forestation
        WHERE year = 2016
               AND country_name = 'World'
                OR country name = 'world')
SELECT t16.country name,
      t16.forest area sqkm forest area sqkm 2016,
      t90.forest area sqkm forest area sqkm 1990,
       ( t16 forest area sqkm - t90 forest area sqkm ) diff
FROM table 2016 t16
      JOIN table 1990 t90
         ON t90.country name = t16.country name
```

d. What was the percent change in the world's forest area between 1990 and 2016? -3.2%.

```
WITH table_1990
AS (
-- total forest area of the world in 1990
SELECT country_name,
forest_area_sqkm,
year
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
```

```
AND country name = 'World'
                 OR country name = 'world'),
     table 2016
     AS (
        -- total forest area of the world in 2016
        SELECT country name,
               forest area sqkm,
               year
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 2016
                AND country name = 'World'
                 OR country name = 'world')
SELECT t16 country name,
       t16.forest area sqkm forest area sqkm 2016,
       t90.forest area sqkm forest area sqkm 1990,
       Round(( ( t16.forest area sqkm - t90.forest area sqkm )
             * 100 / t90.forest area sqkm ) :: NUMERIC, 2) pct change
FROM
      table 2016 t16
       join table 1990 t90
         ON t90.country name = t16.country name
```

e. If you compare the amount of forest area lost between 1990 and 2016, to which country's total area in 2016 is it closest? (Peru 1279999.99)

2. REGIONAL OUTLOOK

a. In 2016, the percent of the total land area of the world designated as forest was 31.38

```
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 2016
AND country_name = 'World'
OR country_name = 'world'
```

b.The region with the highest relative forestation was Latin America & Caribbean, with 46.2%

c. and the region with the lowest relative forestation were Middle East & North Africa, with 2.1% forestation.

d. In 1990, the percent of the total land area of the world designated as forest was 32.42

e.The region with the highest relative forestation was Latin America & Caribbean, with 51.03%

```
SELECT Round(( ( SUM (forest area sqkm) / SUM (total area sqkm) ) * 100
) :: NUMERIC, 2) pc relative forestation,
       SUM(total area sqkm) total region area,
       SUM (forest area sqkm) total region forest,
       year,
      region
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
GROUP BY 4,
ORDER BY 1 DESC
f.and the region with the lowest relative forestation was Europe & Central Asia, with 1.8%
forestation.
SELECT Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total_area_sqkm) ) * 100
) ::
             NUMERIC, 2)
                             pc relative forestation,
       SUM(total area sqkm) total_region_area,
       SUM (forest area sqkm) total region forest,
       year,
       region
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
GROUP BY 4,
ORDER BY 1
--Explore all the distinct regions
SELECT DISTINCT region
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
ORDER BY 1
--- Table showing the region and 2016 Forest Percentage
SELECT region,
       Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm) ) * 100
) ::
             NUMERIC, 2)
```

pc relative forestation,

SUM(total area sqkm) total region area,

```
SUM (forest area sqkm) total region forest,
      year
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 2016
GROUP BY 1,
ORDER BY 1
--- --- Table showing the regions and 1990 Forest Percentage
SELECT region,
      Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm) ) * 100
) ::
             NUMERIC, 2)
                            pc relative forestation,
       SUM(total area sqkm) total region area,
      SUM (forest area sqkm) total region forest,
      year
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
GROUP BY 1,
ORDER BY 1
Q3 COUNTRY-LEVEL DETAIL
--- --- Table showing countries and 1990 total Forest area
SELECT DISTINCT country name,
                Sum(forest area sqkm) total region forest 1990
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 1
--- --- Table showing countries and 2016 total Forest area
SELECT DISTINCT country name,
                Sum(forest area sqkm) total region forest 2016
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 2016
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 1
```

Next, combine the two tables with a WITH subquery.

a. Which five countries saw the most significant amount decrease in forest area from 1990 to 2016? What was the difference in forest area for each?

```
WITH total 1990 forest area
    AS (SELECT DISTINCT country name,
                        Sum(forest area sqkm) total country forest 19
90
        FROM forestation
        WHERE year = 1990
        GROUP BY 1
        ORDER BY 1),
    total 2016 forest area
    AS (SELECT DISTINCT country name,
                        Sum(forest area sqkm) total country forest 20
16
        FROM forestation
        WHERE year = 2016
        GROUP BY 1
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT *,
      COALESCE (total country forest 2016 - total country forest 1990)
      diff in forest area
      total 2016 forest area table 2016
FROM
      JOIN total 1990 forest area table 1990
        ON table 2016 country name = table 1990 country name
ORDER BY diff in forest area DESC
--LIMIT 5
_____
--TABLE 1990 showing the percentage of forestation
SELECT country name,
      Round(( SUM(forest area sqkm) * 100 / SUM(total area sqkm) ) ::
NUMERIC,
      2) pc relative forestation,
      SUM(total area sqkm) total country area 1990,
      SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 1990
FROM forestation
WHERE year = 1990
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 1
-- TABLE 2016 showing the percentage of forestation
SELECT country name,
      Round(( SUM(forest_area_sqkm) * 100 / SUM(total_area_sqkm) ) ::
NUMERIC,
```

b. Which five countries saw the most significant percent decrease in forest area from 1990 to 2016? What was the percent change to 2 decimal places for each?

```
WITH total_1990_forest_area
    AS (SELECT country name,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest_area_sqkm) / SUM(total_area_sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                     pc relative forestation 1990,
                SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 1990,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 1990
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 1990
         GROUP BY 1
         ORDER BY 1),
     total 2016 forest area
    AS (SELECT country_name,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                      pc relative forestation 2016,
                SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 2016,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 2016
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT *,
      ( (pc relative forestation 2016 - pc relative forestation 1990
        pc_relative_forestation_1990 ) \star 100 pc_diff_in_forest_area
      total 2016 forest area table 2016
FROM
```

```
join total_1990_forest_area table_1990
        ON table_2016.country_name = table_1990.country_name
WHERE pc_relative_forestation_1990 > 0
        AND pc_relative_forestation_2016 > 0
ORDER BY pc_diff_in_forest_area DESC
```

'Russian Federation and 'China' are, of course very large countries in total land area, so when we look at the largest percent change in forest area from 1990 to 2016, we aren't surprised to find a much smaller country listed at the top

```
WITH total 1990 forest area
     AS (SELECT country name,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                      pc relative forestation 1990,
                SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 1990,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 1990
               forestation
         FROM
         WHERE year = 1990
         GROUP BY 1
         ORDER BY 1),
     total 2016 forest area
    AS (SELECT country name,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
 ) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                     pc relative forestation 2016,
                SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 2016,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 2016
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT *,
       ( ( pc relative forestation 2016 - pc relative forestation 1990
) /
        pc relative forestation 1990 ) * 100 pc diff in forest area
       total 2016 forest area table 2016
FROM
       join total 1990 forest area table 1990
        ON table 2016.country name = table 1990.country name
WHERE
      pc relative forestation 1990 > 0
       AND pc relative forestation 2016 > 0
ORDER BY total country area 2016 DESC
```

' Iceland' increased in forest area by '213.66'% from 1990 to 2016.

```
WITH total 1990 forest area
     AS (SELECT country name,
                Round(( ( SUM (forest area sqkm) / SUM (total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                      pc relative forestation 1990,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 1990
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 1990
         GROUP BY 1
         ORDER BY 1),
     total 2016 forest area
     AS (SELECT country name,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                      pc relative forestation 2016,
                SUM(total area sqkm) total country area 2016,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 2016
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT *,
      Round(( ( total country forest 2016 - total country forest 1990
) * 100 /
                     total country forest 1990 ) :: NUMERIC, 2)
      pc diff in forest area
FROM total 2016 forest area table 2016
       join total 1990 forest area table 1990
         ON table 2016.country name = table 1990.country name
WHERE pc relative forestation 1990 > 0
       AND pc relative forestation 2016 > 0
ORDER BY pc diff in forest area DESC
```

Table 3.1: Top 5 Amount Decrease in Forest Area by Country, 1990 & 2016:

```
WITH total_1990_forest_area
AS (SELECT country_name,
region,
```

```
Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                     pc relative forestation 1990,
                SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 1990,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 1990
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 1990
         GROUP BY 1,
         ORDER BY 1),
     total 2016 forest area
     AS (SELECT country name,
                region,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
                                     pc relative forestation 2016,
                SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 2016,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 2016
         FROM
               forestation
         WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1,
                   2
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT *,
       (total country forest 1990 - total country forest 2016)
      abs_forest_area_change
FROM total 2016 forest area table 2016
       join total 1990 forest area table 1990
         ON table_2016.country_name = table_1990.country_name
     BY abs forest area change DESC
ORDER
```

Table 3.2: Top 5 Percent Decrease in Forest Area by Country, 1990 & 2016:

```
SUM (total area sqkm) total country area 1990,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 1990
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 1990
         GROUP BY 1,
         ORDER BY 1),
     total 2016 forest area
     AS (SELECT country name,
                region,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
 ) * 100 )
                     NUMERIC, 2)
                                     pc relative forestation 2016,
                SUM(total area sqkm) total country area 2016,
                SUM (forest area sqkm) total country forest 2016
         FROM forestation
         WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1,
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT *,
      Round(( ( pc relative forestation 2016 - pc relative forestatio
n 1990 ) *
               100 /
                     pc relative forestation 1990 ) :: NUMERIC, 2)
      pc diff in forest area
      total 2016 forest area table 2016
FROM
      join total 1990 forest area table 1990
        ON table 2016.country name = table 1990.country name
      pc relative forestation 1990 > 0
WHERE
      AND pc relative forestation 2016 > 0
ORDER BY pc diff in forest area
```

Table 3.3: Count of Countries Grouped by Forestation Percent Quartiles, 2016:

```
WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1
         ORDER BY 1)
SELECT CASE
         WHEN pc relative forestation 2016 <= 25 THEN '0-25%'
         WHEN pc relative forestation 2016 < 50
             AND pc relative forestation 2016 > 25 THEN '25-50%'
         WHEN pc relative forestation 2016 < 75
             AND pc relative forestation 2016 > 50 THEN '50-75%'
         WHEN pc relative forestation 2016 < 100
             AND pc relative forestation 2016 > 75 THEN '75-100%'
         ELSE 'NULL'
      END
              quartile,
      Count(*) no of countries
      table 2016
FROM
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 1
```

d. List all of the countries that were in the 4th quartile (percent forest > 75%) in 2016. Table 3.4: Top Quartile Countries, 2016:

```
WITH table 2016
    AS (SELECT country_name,
                region,
                Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
 ) * 100 )
                      NUMERIC, 2)
               pct designated as forest
               forestation
         FROM
         WHERE year = 2016
         GROUP BY 1,
         ORDER BY 1)
SELECT country name,
      region,
      pct designated as forest
FROM table 2016
WHERE pct designated as forest < 100
      AND pct designated as forest > 75
GROUP BY 1,
          2.
          3
ORDER BY 3 DESC
```

e. How many countries had a percent forestation higher than the United States in 2016?

```
first confirmed the value of United States 'pct designated as forest:3
3.93'
WITH table 2016
    AS (SELECT country name,
               region,
               Round(( ( SUM(forest_area_sqkm) / SUM(total_area_sqkm)
) * 100 )
                     NUMERIC, 2)
               pct designated as forest
        FROM forestation
        WHERE year = 2016
        GROUP BY 1,
                2
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT country name,
      region,
      pct_designated_as_forest
FROM table 2016
WHERE country name = 'United States'
GROUP BY 1,
         2,
ORDER BY 3 DESC
______
--then ran a query that met my condition
WITH table 2016
    AS (SELECT country_name,
               region,
               Round(( ( SUM(forest area sqkm) / SUM(total area sqkm)
) * 100 )
                     NUMERIC, 2)
              pct designated as forest
        FROM forestation
        WHERE year = 2016
        GROUP BY 1,
                  2
        ORDER BY 1)
SELECT Count (country name) no of countries above usa
FROM table 2016
WHERE pct designated as forest > 33.93
```