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 **41282694.9 sqkm** in 1990. As of 2016, the most recent year for which data was available, that number had fallen to **39958245.9 sqkm,** a loss of **1324449 sqkm**, or **3.208**%.

The forest area lost over this time period is slightly more than the entire land area of **Peru** listed for the year 2016 (which is **1279999.9891** sqkm).

2. **REGIONAL OUTLOOK**

In 2016, the percent of the total land area of the world designated as forest was **31.38%** . The region with the highest relative forestation was **Latin America % Caribbean**, with **46.16%**, and the region with the lowest relative forestation was **Middle East & North Africa**, with **2.07%** forestation.

In 1990, the percent of the total land area of the world designated as forest was **32.42%**. The region with the highest relative forestation was **Latin America % Caribbean** , with **51.03%**, and the region with the lowest relative forestation was **Middle East & North Africa**, with **1.78%** forestation.

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

Region	1990 Forest Percentage	2016 Forest Percentage	% change
Latin America & Caribbean	51.03	46.16	4.87
Europe & Central Asia	37.27	38.06	-0.79
North America	35.65	36.04	-0.39
Sub-Saharan Africa	32.19	27.56	4.63
East Asia & Pacific	25.77	26.36	-0.59
South Asia	16.51	17.51	-1.00
Middle East & North Africa	1.78	2.07	-0.29
World	32.42	31.38	1.04

The only regions of the world that decreased in percent forest area from 1990 to 2016 were Latin America & Caribbean (dropped from 51.03% to 46.16%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (32.19% to 27.56%). 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 32.42% to 31.38%.

3. **COUNTRY-LEVEL DETAIL**

A. SUCCESS STORIES

There is one particularly bright spot in the data at the country level, China. This country actually increased in forest area from 1990 to 2016 by 527229.062 sqkm. 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 United States, but it only saw an increase of 79200, much lower than the figure for China.

China and United States 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	541510
Indonesia	East Asia & Pacific	282194
Myanmar	East Asia & Pacific	107234
Nigeria	Sub-Saharan Africa	106506
Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	102320

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 Change
Togo	Sub-Saharan Africa	75.45
Nigeria	Sub-Saharan Africa	61.80
Uganda	Sub-Saharan Africa	59.13
Mauritiana	Sub-Saharan Africa	46.75
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 Sub-Saharan Africa. The countries are Togo, Nigeria, Uganda and Mauritiana. The 5th country on the list is Latin America & Caribbean, which is in the Honduras region.

From the above analysis, we see that Nigeria 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
1	85
2	72
3	38
4	9

The largest number of countries in 2016 were found in the First 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	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?*
- *Which countries should we focus on over others?*

Global Situation:
From 1990 to 2016, the world has lost over **1324449 sqkm** of forest land, which amounts to 3.08% decrease since 1990. In order to understand the size of this forest land lost, this area is slightly less than the area of Peru.

Regional Outlook:
From Table 2.1 we see that Latin America & Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa have seen a drop of 4.87 and 4.63 % repectively in the amount of forest land during the period of 1990-2016. Howeverr other regions have shown and increase on the percentage forest land. But, overall the world has seen a drop of 1.04% in forest land

Country Outlook:
We see that China and US have seen an increase in the total forest area by 527229.062 sqkm and 79200 sqkm. Since, these countries are very large in area these numbers would be better represented in terms of percentage increase.

From Table 3.1 we obser that Brazil and Indonesia have large scale deforestation followed by Myanmar.

From Table 3.2 we observe that Sub-Saharan region countries have experience large percentage forest change. The number are mind-boggeling, with Togo loosing almost 75% followed by Nigeria, Uganda, Mauritiana and Honduras loosing approximately 62%, 59%, 47%, and 45% respectively.

From Table 3.3 we observe that only 9 countries have a percentage forest land greater than 75%, while 85 countries have a forest land of less than 25%.

Table 3.4 list the name of countries having the largest percentage of forest area.

Suggestions:
1. Countries like Brazil, indonesia, Myanmar should be focussed give they are loosing so much forest land
2. regions of Latin America & Caribbean Sub-Saharan Africa need more focus
3. Nigeria needs special efforts given they are in top 5 bothe interms of % forest land lost and total forest land lost.

4. We also focus on region where the forest area has increased and take efforts to preserve it and understand what steps these countries take.

Github: https://github.com/rishabhCMS/SQL_Deforestation_project#sql-deforestation-project

SQL Queries

create view

```
CREATE VIEW forestation AS
SELECT f.country_code,
                        f.country_name,
                        r.region,
                        r.income_group,
                        f.year,
                        f.forestare_sqkm,
                        l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59 AS land_area_sqkm,
                        f.forest_area_sqkm/(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)*100 AS prcnt_area
                        FROM forest_area f
                        FULL JOIN land_area l
                        ON f.country_code = l.country_code
                        AND f.year = l.year
                        JOIN regions r
                        ON r.country_code = f.country_code
                        Order by 1,5
```

Part 1

a.

```
SELECT * FROM forest_area
WHERE country_name= 'World' AND year = '1990'
```

b.

```
SELECT * FROM forest_area
WHERE country_name= 'World' AND year = '2016'
```

c.

```
WITH t1990 AS (SELECT forest_area_sqkm
                        FROM forest_area
                        WHERE country_name = 'World' AND year = '1990'),
        t2016 AS (SELECT forest_area_sqkm
                        FROM forest_area
                        WHERE country_name = 'World' AND year = '2016')
SELECT (t1990.forest_area_sqkm - t2016.forest_area_sqkm) change
```

```
FROM t1990, t2016
```

d.

```
WITH t1990 AS (SELECT forest_area_sqkm
                      FROM forest_area
                      WHERE country_name = 'World' AND year = '1990'),
       t2016 AS (SELECT forest_area_sqkm
                      FROM forest_area
                      WHERE country_name = 'World' AND year = '2016')
SELECT t1990.forest_area_sqkm forest_area_sqkm_1990,
                       t2016.forest_area_sqkm forest_area_sqkm_2016,
            (t1990.forest_area_sqkm - t2016.forest_area_sqkm) change,
            ((t1990.forest_area_sqkm - t2016.forest_area_sqkm)/t1990.forest_area_sqkm)*100
as prcnt_change
FROM t1990, t2016
```

e.

```
WITH Country_2016 AS (SELECT *
                                FROM land_area
                                WHERE year = '2016')
SELECT *,
                       ABS((((Country_2016.total_area_sq_mi)*2.59) - 1324449)) diff_sq_km
FROM Country_2016
ORDER BY diff_sq_km
LIMIT 10
```

Part 2

a.

```
WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                              FROM land_area
                              WHERE year = '2016' and country_name = 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
         forest_table AS (SELECT *
                                 FROM forest_area
                                 WHERE year = '2016' and country_name = 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL)
SELECT  r.region,
                       SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59) total_area_sqkm,
            SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
```

```
                        ROUND(
                                cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                                AS NUMERIC),2
                         ) AS prcnt_area

FROM land_table l
INNER JOIN forest_table f
ON f.country_name = l.country_name
INNER JOIN regions r
ON r.country_code = f.country_code
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 4 DESC
LIMIT 10
```

b.

```
WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                    FROM land_area
                    WHERE year = '1990' and country_name = 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
        forest_table AS (SELECT *
                        FROM forest_area
                        WHERE year = '1990' and country_name = 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL)
SELECT  r.region,
                    SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59) total_area_sqkm,
            SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
                    ROUND(
                        cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                        AS NUMERIC),2
                     ) AS prcnt_area

FROM land_table l
INNER JOIN forest_table f
ON f.country_name = l.country_name
INNER JOIN regions r
ON r.country_code = f.country_code
GROUP BY 1
```

```
ORDER BY 4 DESC
LIMIT 10
```

c.

```
WITH t1 AS(WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                               FROM land_area
                               WHERE year = '1990' and country_name != 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
                         forest_table AS (SELECT *
                                  FROM forest_area
                                  WHERE year = '1990' and country_name != 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL)
                                   SELECT  r.region,
                                                  SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)
total_area_sqkm,
                                            SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
                                                  ROUND(
                                                        cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                                                        AS NUMERIC),2
                                                   ) AS prcnt_area

                                   FROM land_table l
                                   INNER JOIN forest_table f
                                   ON f.country_name = l.country_name
                                   INNER JOIN regions r
                                   ON r.country_code = f.country_code
                                   GROUP BY 1
                                   ORDER BY 4 DESC),

        t2 AS (WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                               FROM land_area
                               WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
                         forest_table AS (SELECT *
                                  FROM forest_area
                                  WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL)
                                   SELECT  r.region,
```

```
                                                SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)
total_area_sqkm,
                                            SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
                                                ROUND(
                                                    cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                                                    AS NUMERIC),2
                                                ) AS prcnt_area

                                    FROM land_table l
                                    INNER JOIN forest_table f
                                    ON f.country_name = l.country_name
                                    INNER JOIN regions r
                                    ON r.country_code = f.country_code
                                    GROUP BY 1
                                    ORDER BY 4 DESC)

SELECT t1.prcnt_area - t2.prcnt_area diff,t1.region
FROM t1
JOIN t2
ON t1.region = t2.region
ORDER BY 1 DESC
```

Part 3

a.

```
WITH t1990 AS (SELECT *
                    FROM forest_area
                    WHERE country_name != 'World' AND year = '1990' AND forest_area_sqkm
IS NOT NULL),

      t2016 AS (SELECT *
                    FROM forest_area
                    WHERE country_name != 'World' AND year = '2016' AND forest_area_sqkm
IS NOT NULL)

SELECT  t1990.country_name,
                     t1990.forest_area_sqkm forest_area_sqkm_1990,
                     t2016.forest_area_sqkm forest_area_sqkm_2016,
                     (t1990.forest_area_sqkm - t2016.forest_area_sqkm) change,
                     ((t1990.forest_area_sqkm -
t2016.forest_area_sqkm)/t1990.forest_area_sqkm)*100 as prcnt_change
FROM t1990
JOIN t2016
ON t1990.country_name = t2016.country_name
ORDER BY 4 DESC
LIMIT 5
```

b.

```
WITH t1990 AS (SELECT *
                    FROM forest_area
                    WHERE country_name != 'World' AND year = '1990' AND forest_area_sqkm
IS NOT NULL),

      t2016 AS (SELECT *
                    FROM forest_area
                    WHERE country_name != 'World' AND year = '2016' AND forest_area_sqkm
IS NOT NULL)

SELECT  t1990.country_name,
                     t1990.forest_area_sqkm forest_area_sqkm_1990,
                     t2016.forest_area_sqkm forest_area_sqkm_2016,
                     (t1990.forest_area_sqkm - t2016.forest_area_sqkm) change,
```

```
                        ROUND(
                                CAST(((t1990.forest_area_sqkm -
t2016.forest_area_sqkm)/t1990.forest_area_sqkm)*100 AS NUMERIC),2
                                ) as prcnt_change
FROM t1990
JOIN t2016
ON t1990.country_name = t2016.country_name
ORDER BY 5 DESC
LIMIT 5
```

c.

```
WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                        FROM land_area
                        WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
        forest_table AS (SELECT *
                                FROM forest_area
                                WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL),
        t1 AS (SELECT     f.country_name,
                                SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59) total_area_sqkm,
                        SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
                                ROUND(
                                        cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                                        AS NUMERIC),2
                                 ) AS prcnt_area

                                FROM land_table l
                                INNER JOIN forest_table f
                                ON f.country_name = l.country_name
                                INNER JOIN regions r
                                ON r.country_code = f.country_code
                                GROUP BY 1
                                ORDER BY 4 DESC
                                )

SELECT t2.quartile, COUNT(*)
```

```
FROM(SELECT *,
                    CASE
                    WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 75 THEN 4
                    WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 50 AND t1.prcnt_area <= 75 THEN 3
                    WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 25 AND t1.prcnt_area <= 50 THEN 2
                    ELSE 1
          END AS quartile

          FROM t1) AS t2
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 2 DESC
```

d.

```
WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                          FROM land_area
                          WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
        forest_table AS (SELECT *
                              FROM forest_area
                              WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL),
        t1 AS (SELECT     f.country_name,
                              SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59) total_area_sqkm,
                    SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
                              ROUND(
                                        cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                                        AS NUMERIC),2
                               ) AS prcnt_area

                              FROM land_table l
                              INNER JOIN forest_table f
                              ON f.country_name = l.country_name
                              INNER JOIN regions r
                              ON r.country_code = f.country_code
                              GROUP BY 1
                              ORDER BY 4 DESC
                              )
```

```
SELECT *, COUNT(*)

FROM(SELECT *,
                        CASE
                        WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 75 THEN 4
                        WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 50 AND t1.prcnt_area <= 75 THEN 3
                        WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 25 AND t1.prcnt_area <= 50 THEN 2
                        ELSE 1
            END AS quartile

            FROM t1) AS t2
WHERE t2.quartile = 4
GROUP BY 1,2,3,4,5
```

e.

```
WITH land_table AS (SELECT *
                            FROM land_area
                            WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
land_area.total_area_sq_mi IS NOT NULL),
        forest_table AS (SELECT *
                                FROM forest_area
                                WHERE year = '2016' and country_name != 'World' AND
forest_area.forest_area_sqkm IS NOT NULL),
        t1 AS (SELECT     f.country_name,
                                SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59) total_area_sqkm,
                        SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm) total_forest_area_sqkm,
                                ROUND(
                                        cast((SUM(f.forest_area_sqkm)/
(SUM(l.total_area_sq_mi*2.59)))*100
                                        AS NUMERIC),2
                                 ) AS prcnt_area

                                FROM land_table l
                                INNER JOIN forest_table f
                                ON f.country_name = l.country_name
                                INNER JOIN regions r
                                ON r.country_code = f.country_code
                                GROUP BY 1
                                ORDER BY 4 DESC
```

```
                                )

SELECT COUNT(*)

FROM(SELECT *,
                        CASE
                        WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 75 THEN 4
                        WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 50 AND t1.prcnt_area <= 75 THEN 3
                        WHEN t1.prcnt_area > 25 AND t1.prcnt_area <= 50 THEN 2
                        ELSE 1
            END AS quartile

            FROM t1) As t2
WHERE t2.prcnt_area > (
                                    SELECT  prcnt_area
                                    FROM    t1
                                    WHERE   country_name = 'United States'
                                    )
```