

SDG Goal 15

Life on land

SDG Target 15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

SDG Indicator 15.1.1

Forest area as a proportion of total land area

Time series

Forest area as a proportion of total land area

1. General information on the time series

- Date of national metadata: 7 June 2023
- National data: <http://sdg-indicators.de/15-1-1/>
- Definition: The time series measures a percentage measure of the relative extent of forest areas in Germany.
- Disaggregation: Not available.

2. Comparability with the UN metadata

- Date of UN metadata: December 2023
- UN metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-15-01-01.pdf>
- The time series is compliant with the UN metadata.

3. Data description

- The data is gained as part of the area survey of the Federal Statistical Office, which categorizes the surface by land cover or land use. The main categories are settlement, transportation, vegetation and water surfaces, which are further subdivided into different subtypes. The area survey as a total calculation is based on administrative data of the Official Real Estate Cadastre of the Länder (federal states).

Until 2015, the data was derived from the old Automated Real Estate Books (ALB). Since 2016 the Authoritative Real Estate Cadastre Information System (ALKIS) is used nation-wide in all Länder. With that semantic change a new land use type catalogue was applied. Therefore, a data comparison between the reference year 2016 and earlier years leads partly to inconsistencies. From 2016 on the time line is consistent again.

4. Access to data source

- Soil area (actual use): types of use – GENESIS online 33111-0001:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=33111-0001&bypass=true&language=en>
- Soil area (actual use): reference date (until 2015-12-31), types of use – GENESIS online 33111-0003:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=33111-0003&bypass=true&language=en>

5. Metadata on source data

- Quality Report – Area survey by Type of Actual Use (only available in German):
<https://www.destatis.de/DE/Methoden/Qualitaet/Qualitaetsberichte/Land-Forstwirtschaft-Fischerei/flaechenerhebung.pdf>

6. Timeliness and frequency

- Timeliness: t + 11 months
- Frequency: Annual

7. Calculation method

- Unit of measurement: Percentage
- Calculation:

Total land area = Total surface area [ha] - Water surface [ha]

$$\text{Forest area} = \frac{\text{Forest area [ha]}}{\text{Total land area [ha]}} \cdot 100 [\%]$$