

# A review of the status and trends of forest cover in Bangladesh and Philippines

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# Background

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- ❖ International forest principles were formulated during the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro 1992 (*Holvoet and Muys, 2004*).
- ❖ Statistically sound information of the current state of forest resources is considerably increasing (*Fischer et al., 2011*)
- ❖ Criteria and Indicators (C&I) were defined as the most popular method for the evaluation of sustainable forest management
- ❖ Forest cover has been a critical indicator and emotional barometer effective environmental management (ESSC, 2014)
- ❖ Considered as one of the national-level indicators for the evaluation of sustainability (*Lammerts van Beuren and Blom, 1997*).



## Bangladesh

- ❖ 160 M (2012)
- ❖ 14.4 M ha total area

## Philippines

- ❖ 95.77 M (2012)
- ❖ 30 M ha total area

# Background cont..

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- ❖ Bangladesh is rich in species diversity, about 5700 species of angiosperms and four species of gymnosperms (*Khan 1977; Troup 1975*).
- ❖ However, it is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change (*UNDP, 2014*).
- ❖ Philippines has one of the richest biodiversity resources in the world. One of the world's 17 megadiversity countries (*Brooks et al., 2006*).
- ❖ However, continues destruction of forest resources due to deforestation, shifting cultivation and climate change.
- ❖ Review of forest cover of both countries is of great importance in SFM

# Background cont..

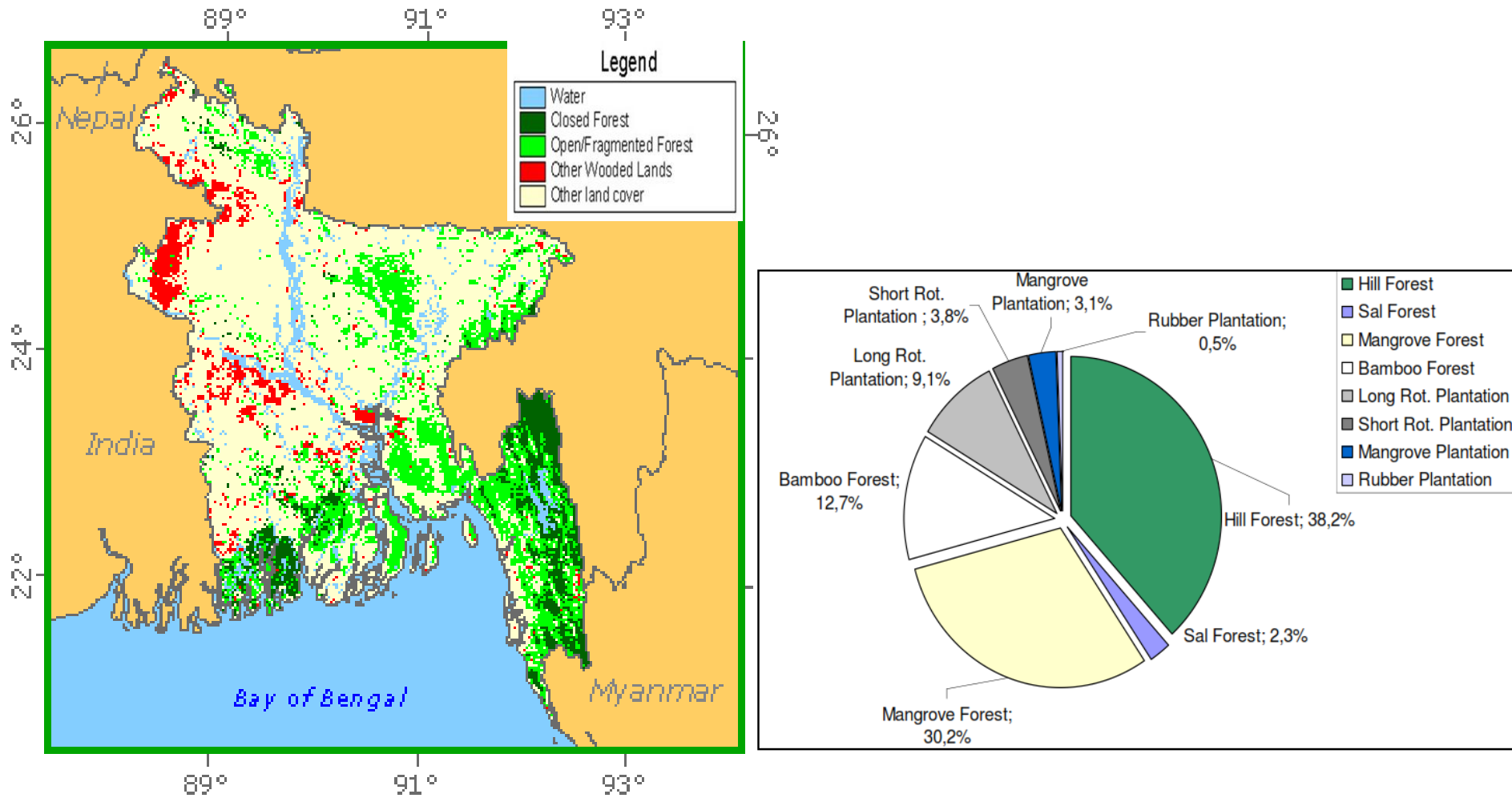


# Status of Forest Cover: Bangladesh

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- ❖ Follows the definition of “forest” from FAO
- ❖ Forestland estimated 2.5 M ha (17.08%) of the country’s total land area (*FAO, 2014*)
- ❖ Forest cover estimated 11% of countrys land area (*FAO-FRA, 2010*)
- ❖ Forests are grouped into three categories, e.g. mangroves, hill forests and plain land (Sal) forests. The world largest mangrove forests are located in the Sundarbans and along the coast.

# Status of Forest Cover: Bangladesh Cont..



**Figure 1. Forested areas of Bangladesh (FAO, 2014)**

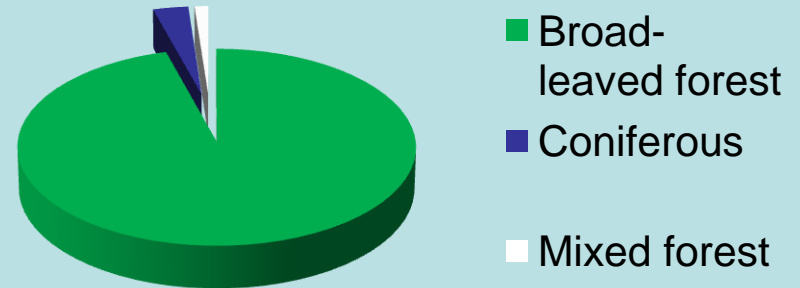
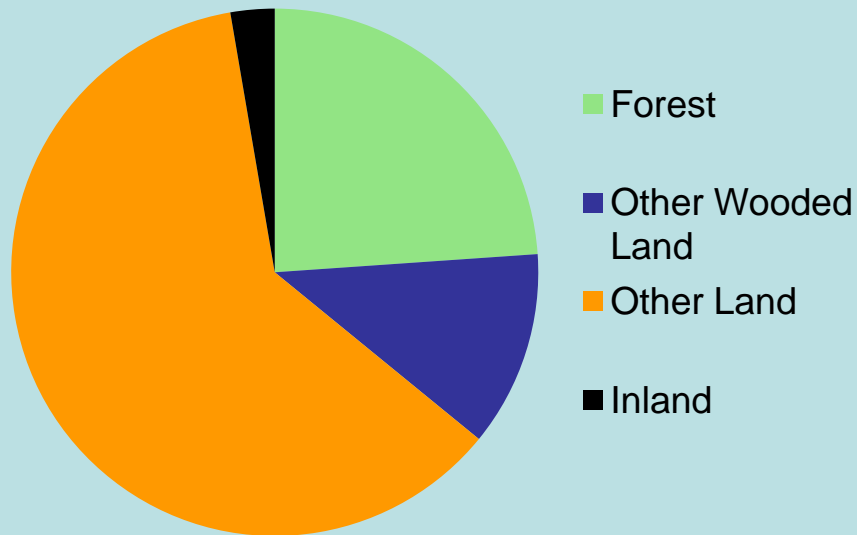
# Status of Forest Cover: Philippines

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- ❖ One the world's biggest exporters of tropical hardwoods in the 1960s has become the net importer of wood (*Pulhin and Lasco, 2006*).
- ❖ The destruction of forest in the country resulted in the decline of around 13.9 M ha of forest cover for one century alone from 1900 to 2002 (*FMB, 2005*).
- ❖ Forest cover estimated around 23.90% while 76.1% were other uses.
- ❖ Of this 23.90% forest cover, 95.70% are broad leaved forest and the rest are coniferous and mixed forest.



# Status of Forest Cover: Philippines cont..



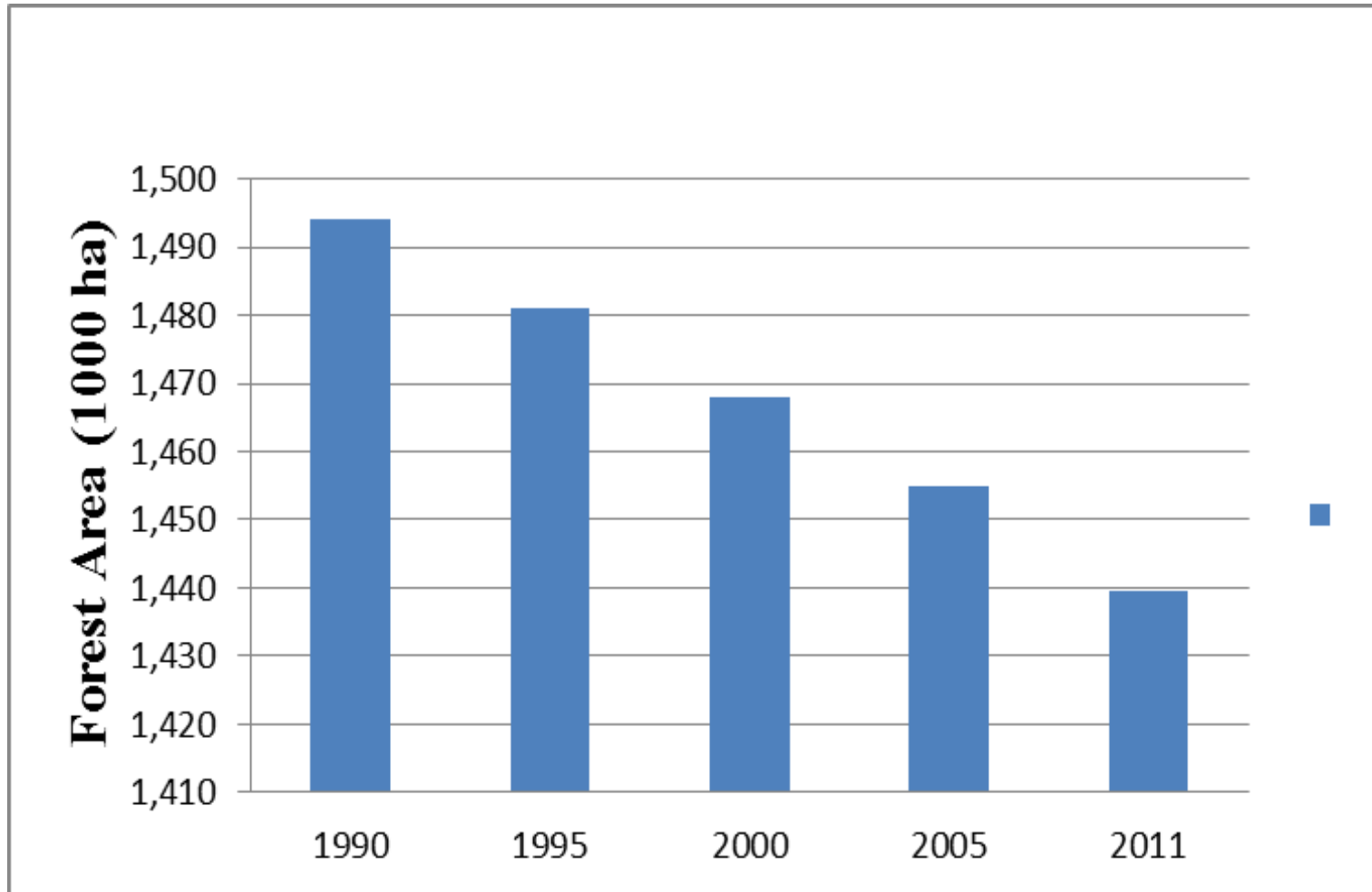
**Figure 2.** Land use and forest cover in Philippines (Data from FAO - Forest Resource Assessment, Philippines Country Report, 2005)

# Forest Cover Trends: Bangladesh

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- ❖ Forest cover is declining from 1990 to 2011 (*FAO, 2014*)
- ❖ During the British colonial era (1757–1947), forests exploitation was carried out by supply of raw materials of different forms, which continued into the current period of independent Bangladesh sovereignty (*Iftekhar, 2006*)
- ❖ In 1994, the Government has shifted its policy and placed emphasis on participatory and social forestry and sustainable development.
- ❖ Large-scale afforestation has been initiated through this program, however forest area still decreasing (*FAO, 2005*).

# Forest Cover Trends: Bangladesh cont..



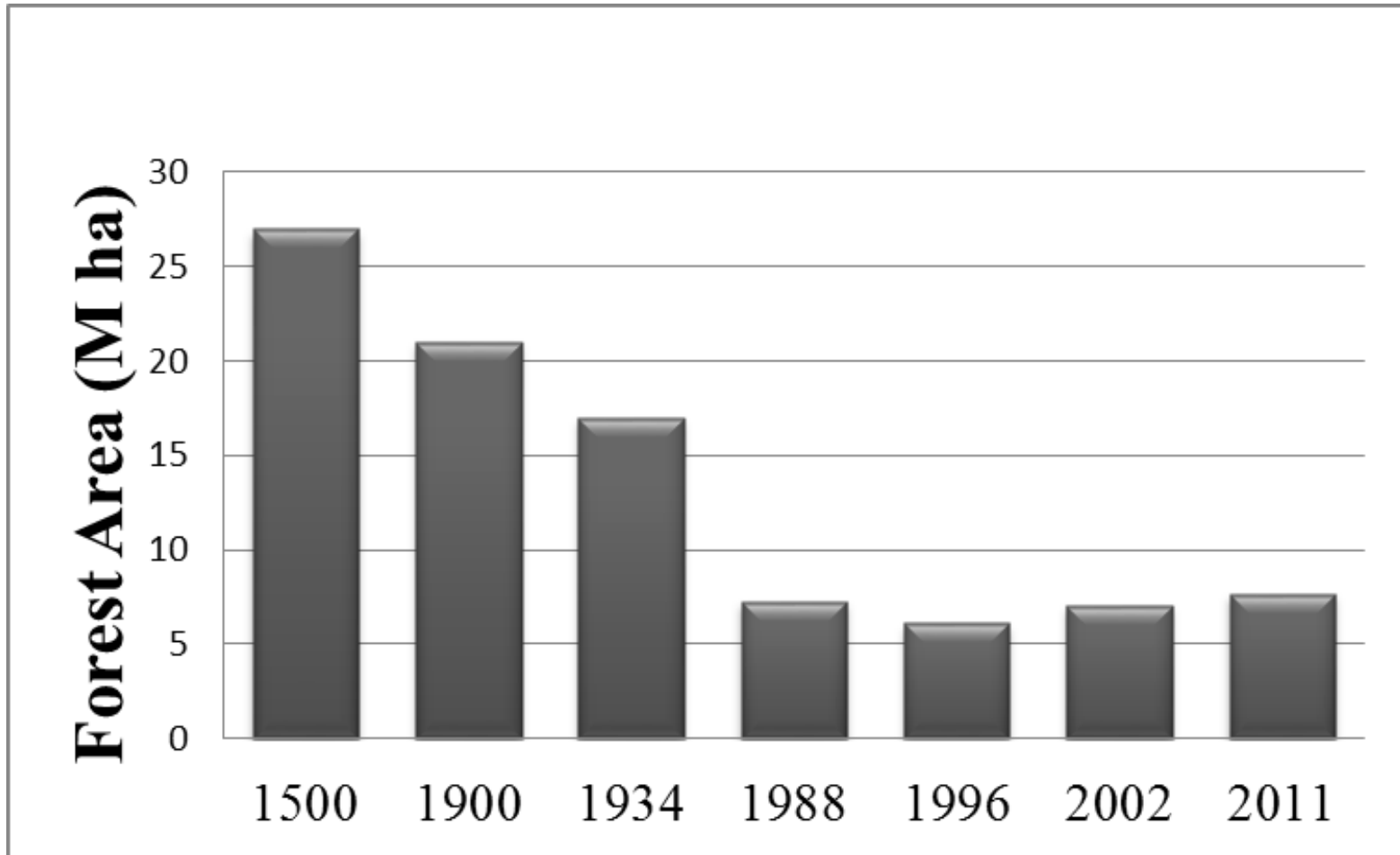
**Figure 3.** Trends of total forest area, 1990-2011 (FAOSTAT, 2014)

# Forest Cover Trends: Philippines

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- ❖ 27 M ha or 90 percent of the country was previously covered with lush tropical rainforest (*Lasco et al. 2001*)
- ❖ Decreased to 21 M ha (70%) two years after the American period.
- ❖ Lumber “Philippine mahogany” was introduced to the world market. Logging was a profitable business at the end of 1980s
- ❖ Further decreased of forest cover from 21 M ha (70%) in 1900 down to 7.3 M ha (24%) of forest remains in 1988.
- ❖ Later on 2002, forest cover estimates 7.1M ha and 2011 FAO estimates 7.7 M ha (*FAO; FMB-DENR*)

# Forest Cover Trends: Philippines cont..



**Figure 4.** Forest area in the Philippines from 1500 to 2011 (Adapted from Garrity et al. 1993; Liu et al. 1993, FAO, 2011).

# Forest Conservation at glance

*Table 1. Comparison of Bangladesh and Philippines in forest conservation (FAO, 2011; Chowdhury, 2003; FMB; Pulhin et al., 2007.)*

	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>Forest Cover</b>	11% (14.67 M ha total land area)	23.6% (2005) 25.6% (2011) (30 M ha total land area)
<b>Forest degradation and Deforestation</b>	2.1% from 1960-1980 and 0.2 % from 1990-2010	300,000 ha (1%) of forest land lost every year from 1934 to 1980. 100,000 ha per year from 1985-1990
<b>Drivers of degradation and Deforestation</b>	Population pressure, unplanned logging, lack of monitoring, accountability, land litigation, and corruption.	Illegal and legal logging, shifting cultivation ‘kaingin’, poverty and population growth
<b>Management options /approaches for SFM</b>	People oriented SF, logging bans since 1989, community based Co-management and possibility of UN-REDD program.	NIPAS Law, various CBFM programs; general log bans since 1983; UDP; NGP ; REDD+ pilot project

# Conclusion

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- ❖ Population pressure and logging are common in both countries which considered being the drivers of forest destruction.
- ❖ In Bangladesh, forest cover is continually decreasing early 1990s despite various programs were implemented to combat forest degradation through community-based projects and ban of commercial logging of natural forests.

# Conclusion cont..

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- ❖ In case of Philippines, 13.9 M ha of forest was lost from 1934 due to commercial logging and shifting cultivation.
- ❖ Late 2000 forest has already been increasing. This was the result of various laws and programs like ISFP, NIPAS act, CBFM, upland development program, national greening program and total log ban.





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“If there is a continuous decreased of forest land how are we supposed to live in the future”?

-Anonymous

**Thank you!**  
**Terima kasih!**  
**Maraming salamat!**

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