# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 1 Why are Forests of Global Concern? Part B**

## **Transcripts Duration: 00:08:41**

### Slide/Screen 1:

[Module 1: Lecture 1 Part B]

### Slide/Screen 2

So, second half of this lecture is about the state of the world’s forests. Most of the information we get about world’s forests come from the publications by the United Nations of Food and Agriculture Organizations, forestry department, which produce major report called “Global Forest Resources Assessment” every five years, the last one was 2010, next one will be 2015. In the meantime, same organization produces the “state of World’s Forests” every two years, and here we will be talking about the 2014 publication. It’s not only the UN, there are so many universities, so many institutions around the world, so many NGOs, so many individuals try to estimate to look at the forest resources in the world, especially the forest cover and deforestation. It’s becoming a universal business now that so many people try to estimate using some remote sensing, and there are so many maps as you will see in this presentation about the state of the world’s forests.

### Slide/Screen 3

This is the map of the world with the distribution of forests, you will notice that the forests are mostly the humid, boreal and temperate forests, in North and very much South, and the cold wet area. And then you will see also a very extensive forest in the tropics, on both sides of the equator. And there is an area, a very large area in the North, the extreme North and extreme South where nothing grows there, so tundra. And in some of the dry parts of Asia, Africa, Australia, South America and North America, the brown areas. These are classified as the dark green as forests, which is there are so many definitions, but the one mostly accepted is that an area larger than half hectare with trees higher than 5 m and crown density is more than 10%. This is the generally accepted definition of forest. Other than that if you have a tree, so on the landscape they call them, or they are called other wooded land. This is the light green on the map and the brown is other land, and of course, the blue is the water.

### Slide/Screen 4

Now if you look at the same map and where the forests are distributed by country, we find that there are 5 countries in the world own more than 50% of the total forest areas. These countries they are led by, in terms of area, by the Russian Federation, which according to the 2010 estimates, Russian Federation owns about 22% of the forest area in the world. Four other countries with substantial forest areas, these are Canada, US, Brazil and China. You will learn this in the map that there are huge areas of forest in Africa. And the reason they are not included in this world’s forests by country because in this area you will find at least 15-20 countries, so as a region, it’s a huge area especially the tropical Africa, but as an area per country, it is very small, because there are so many countries in the region.

### Slide/Screen 5

This is another presentation of the forests, a more recent one, by a publisher called Hansen and a few other researchers, and they choose mainly the forest cover in green, the forest loss which is deforestation that I am going to talk about pretty soon, and the forest gain, the area to replant it with forests, very small areas in Peru, you don’t see very much here. But the areas in purple are both loss and gain of forests when there are sub-regions, there is deforestation and replanting. And the areas in grey are the water.

### Slide/Screen 6

Now in terms of the statistics, the total forest cover of the world is about 4.1 billion hectares, that is 4000 million hectares, and this covers about 1/3 of the total land area, exactly about 31%. So our planet aside from the water, the dry part of the earth, 1/3 of the terrestrial land area of world is about our forests. And if look closely into these areas, you find about that 90% of the forests are naturally regenerated, which means that if the trees are cut in this area, but not cut in extensive way, or die or age or knocked down by storms or landslides whatever, the forest regenerates itself naturally, that’s 90% of the area. Little over 1/3 of the forest area or the forest cover in the world, are what we call “primary forests”. They are mainly native species, with no significant human activities. About 1/3 of the forest in the world are almost untouched by humans, what are aside from surveys, walking and extracting something you know there, but essentially remain intact without too much interference from human beings.

### Slide/Screen 7

But it’s not only that if we look at the forest areas and the amount of deforestation estimated in the last decade to be about 13 million hectares per year. In other words, the world loses some 13 million hectares of forests, mainly in the tropics annually, which is a very large area. But against with this, there are about 3 million hectares annually reforested or allowed to help it to regenerate. So the net forest loss would be about 7 million hectares per year. So the world loses 13 million hectares due to deforestation, especially in the tropics, and gains about 6 due to planting more trees, planting forests, regenerating the forests, so the net loss is about 7 million. And most of the losses I mentioned occurred in tropics, for many reasons. And most of the gain, which could be natural regeneration, afforestation which is planting trees in an area which has not been planted before, it has not been a forest before, or reforestation when you plant trees in an area that used to be forests but was changed for some ways disordered. And most of these happen in temperate and boreal zones. There are just tree planting areas in a country is held by China in the last 5-10 years or so. On average China planted 1.2 million hectares annually, that’s a lot. If you think that the total area in the world planted forests, regeneration supported areas. Regeneration areas are simply new forests. It’s about 6 million in the world, and China plants about 1.2 million annually.

### Slide/Screen 8

[End of Module 1, Lecture 1, Part B. Thank you for watching.]