

Sustainable Forest Management

FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE

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EDITED BY JOHN L. INNES
AND ANNA V. TIKINA

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From Concept to Practice

Edited by John L. Innes and Anna V. Tikina

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Sustainable Forest Management

Sustainable Forest Management provides the necessary material to educate students about forestry and the contemporary role of forests in ecosystems and society. This comprehensive textbook on the concept and practice of sustainable forest management sets the standard for practice worldwide.

Early chapters concentrate on conceptual aspects, relating sustainable forestry management to international policy. In particular, they consider the concept of criteria and indicators and how this has determined the practice of forest management, taken here to be the management of forested lands and of all ecosystems present on such lands. Later chapters are more practical in focus, concentrating on the management of the many values associated with forests.

Overall the book provides a major new synthesis which will serve as a textbook for students of forestry as well as those from related disciplines such as ecology or geography who are taking a course in forests or natural resource management.

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Björn Hånell, *Professor of Silviculture,
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Preface

Forests cover a third of the land surface of the Earth, and we are losing them at an alarming rate. According to the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the rate of loss of the total forest area has declined in recent years, but the net figures for forest area conceal the fact that natural forests continue to be lost and are only partly being compensated by the development of planted forests. When we also consider the rate of forest degradation, which is many times greater than the rate of deforestation, but much less well-recognized, there are serious causes for concern.

In many instances, the blame for deforestation is placed on poor forest management. However, the situation is much more complex. Most deforestation is the result of a deliberate change of land use, generally from forest to range or agricultural land. Forestry may hasten the process by allowing access to previously inaccessible areas, and in some cases, the felling of forests for wood without any attempt to reforest has indeed resulted in deforestation. Generally, however, it is in the best interests of a forester to ensure that there is a future resource, and much forest management is based on the premise that if practiced correctly, forestry is sustainable.

This book is intended to provide guidance on what needs to be considered when managing a forest. It cannot be all-encompassing, and is intended to show the breadth of knowledge expected of a forester. The reader will, however, need to go into some of the further reading provided at the end of each chapter to obtain the depth of knowledge expected of a forest manager. Readers are expected to have a basic understanding of forestry, such as might have been gained in the initial years of an undergraduate forestry program and, as a result, important areas such as forest measurements and writing a forest management plan have not been included.

While a stand-alone volume, this book is also the text that can be used to accompany the online course ‘Sustainable Forest Management in a Changing World’, a project of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism, which is an organization set up under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet). Links to this course can be found on the APFNet website (<http://www.apfnet.cn>).

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