

Indicator theme (old)	D Biodiversity
Component (FDES)	1: Environmental Conditions and Quality
Sub-component (FDES)	1.2: Land Cover, Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Indicator topic (FDES)	1.2.3: Forests

Indicator D-3.8 Forest fires

ID and name in indicator guidelines **D3** Forests and other wooded land

First publication **10/4/2021** Latest update

Indicator definition The indicator measures the area burnt by forest fires in each country, per year.

Unit of measure Hectares

Coverage Areas burnt by forest fires

Spatial aggregation National territory

Reference period End of each calendar year or nearest date within that calendar year

Update frequency Annual

Purpose This indicator shows trends in the area affected by forest fires. Forest fires have recently affected regions in northern Eurasia not typically prone to fires, as well as the Mediterranean region, often related to droughts and heatwaves. Because of climate change, more areas within the UNECE region are likely to become exposed to significant and increasing fire risks in the future. The indicator allows to verify and follow such trends.

Policy context Forests are among the most diverse and widespread ecosystems on earth. They have strong intrinsic values, provide multiple ecosystem services (provision of timber and other products, recreation, regulatory ecosystem services related to soil and water) to human societies, and thereby support sustainable development and human wellbeing on Earth. They also enable nature-based solutions to a wide range of challenges to Society (e. g. carbon sequestration, flood protection). Forest fires are an important pressure and risk to forests and other wooded lands, besides overexploitation, fragmentation, environmental degradation and conversion into other types of land use. This indicator is relevant to 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”).

Link with SDG indicators

SDG indicators	Comments
15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	
15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management	

Policy references

Title and weblink	Comments
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) https://www.cbd.int/	
United Nations Convention on Biological Biodiversity: First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/914a/eca3/24ad42235033f031badf61b1/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf	

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Bringing nature back into our lives.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1590574123338&uri=CELEX:52020DC0380>

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0572>

Methodology for indicator calculation Burnt area is documented in hectares (ha) based on national reporting or the European Forest Fire Information System supported by ground surveys or remote sensing data.

Methodology references

Data and statistics needed to compile the indicator

ID	Data item	FDES topic
232	Burnt area	2.3.2: Use of forest land

Comments