

Conservation and Production



Target 6: At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity

Land in production (or 'production lands') covers a substantial portion – about a third – of the earth's surface. Agricultural landscapes can be found almost everywhere.

Sustainable management of production land can be defined as the use of the resources, such as soils, water and plants, for the production of goods (food, timber, fodder etc.) to meet human needs, while assuring the long-term productive potential of these resources.

Increasingly, production methods that address sustainability are being applied in agriculture. These include organic production, integrated pest management and conservation agriculture. Similarly, sustainable forest management practices are being more broadly applied. However, there are questions concerning the extent to which specific plant diversity conservation strategies are incorporated into such schemes.

What qualifies as production lands

For the purposes of this target, production lands are areas where the primary purpose is agriculture, horticulture, grazing or forestry.



Lena Pourzenic

Some definitions

Organic production

Organic farming excludes or strictly limits the use of manufactured fertilizers, pesticides (which include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides), and plant growth regulators such as hormones.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense

practices. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.

Conservation agriculture

aims to achieve sustainable and profitable agriculture through the application of the three principles: minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and crop rotations.



Rita Juliana

"There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed."

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Figure 1: Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2009

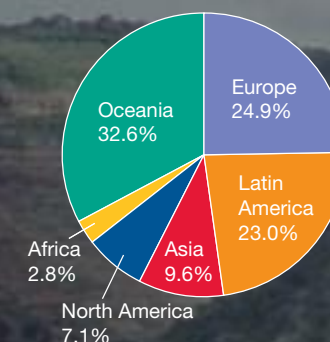
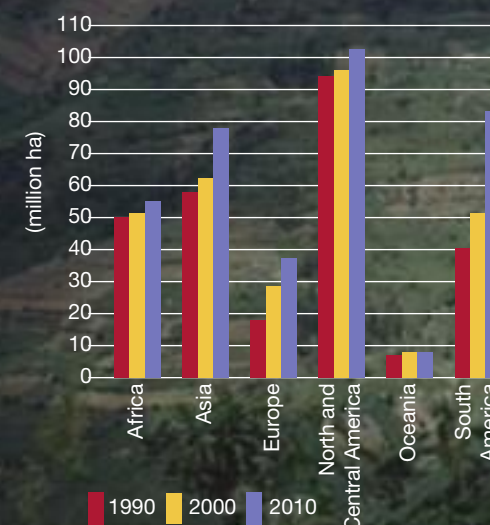


Figure 2: Trends in area of forest designated for conservation of biodiversity by region, 1990-2010



South Africa's Biodiversity and Wine Initiative

Nearly 95 per cent of South Africa's wine-growing takes place in the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK), the richest and also the smallest plant kingdom on the planet. Recognized both as a global biodiversity hotspot and a World Heritage site, it has nevertheless come under increasing threat from

agriculture, urban development and invasive alien species. A pioneering partnership between the country's wine industry and conservation sector, the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative is not confined to protecting natural habitat, but also encourages wine producers to farm sustainably and express the advantages of the Cape's abundant diversity in their wines.



Some studies have shown that to produce a given amount of food, it is better for biodiversity to farm existing arable land as intensively as possible, and allow more natural habitat to be protected or restored. However, others argue that the 'land sharing' approach, where a greater amount of land is farmed, but in a wildlife-friendly way, is the better option.

Where are we now?

A 2010 survey by IFAOM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) identified 0.9 per cent of the world's agricultural land as organic), while according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 12 per cent of the world's forests are managed sustainably. Figure 1 above, taken from *The World of Organic Agriculture* (FiBL & IFAOM) provides a breakdown of organic land by region, while Figure 2 from FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 shows the regional situation for sustainable forests.

Land sharing or land sparing?

This target is central to the question of how we feed a global population of some 7 billion (set to reach 9 billion by 2050) without losing biodiversity. Do we squeeze ever more production from our existing arable land, or do we need to find a way of increasing agricultural land area while protecting the wildlife on that land?



National Tropical Botanic Garden

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