

About OFESA

OFESA provides a platform for sharing, exchanging, and accessing data and information related to East and Southern Africa's forests.

About CIFOR-ICRAF

CIFOR-ICRAF harnesses the power of trees, forests, and agroforestry landscapes to address the most pressing global challenges of our time - biodiversity loss, climate change, food security, livelihoods, and inequity.

About RCMRD

RCMRD is a Premier Centre of Excellence in the provision of geo-information and allied technologies such as cartography & GIS, photogrammetry & remote sensing, land surveying, for sustainable development in member states and for other stakeholders.



OFESA Geoportal: A platform to foster regional data-sharing



Contact

OFESA is jointly led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). This initiative is funded by the European Union.

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East and Southern Africa Forest Observatory:

Fostering regional data-sharing to protect East and Southern Africa's forests



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The objective of the observatory is to produce a comprehensive and harmonized regional dataset on the latest trends and threats to forests and to make information useful and easily accessible to policymakers, funders, forestry practitioners, and citizens.

By informing decision-making, OFESA supports five countries in the region – Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda – to meet their climate and environment targets.

Specifically:

- OFESA provides streamlined country-level information on forest cover as a percentage of total land area, total forest land, forest types, and distribution of the various forest types.
- Existing forest definitions vary by country and are based on different criteria such as the area covered with trees, percentage of crown cover, or tree height. OFESA explains these definitions to promote a common regional understanding.
- OFESA addresses the current absence of regionally comparable datasets by providing key indicators for various hotspot areas to streamline and pilot data collection in the region.
- OFESA's database contains trends in forest cover change between 1990 and 2010 for Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and Tanzania. These trends will be updated progressively as data becomes available at the country-level.
- OFESA provides information on country-specific drivers of deforestation includes how the indicators are monitored, and who is doing the monitoring.

Flagship Publication: State of the Forests

One of the key expected outputs of OFESA is the State of the Forests report, a publication to be developed in collaboration with partner countries. The State of the Forests will be the first of its kind to present comparable multi-country information on priority themes aimed at providing a regional overview of the current situation of forests.

The following priority themes have been identified and will be discussed with partners to feed into the State of the Forests report:



Forest restoration



Forest Governance



Forest Monitoring



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)



Biodiversity conservation in protected areas