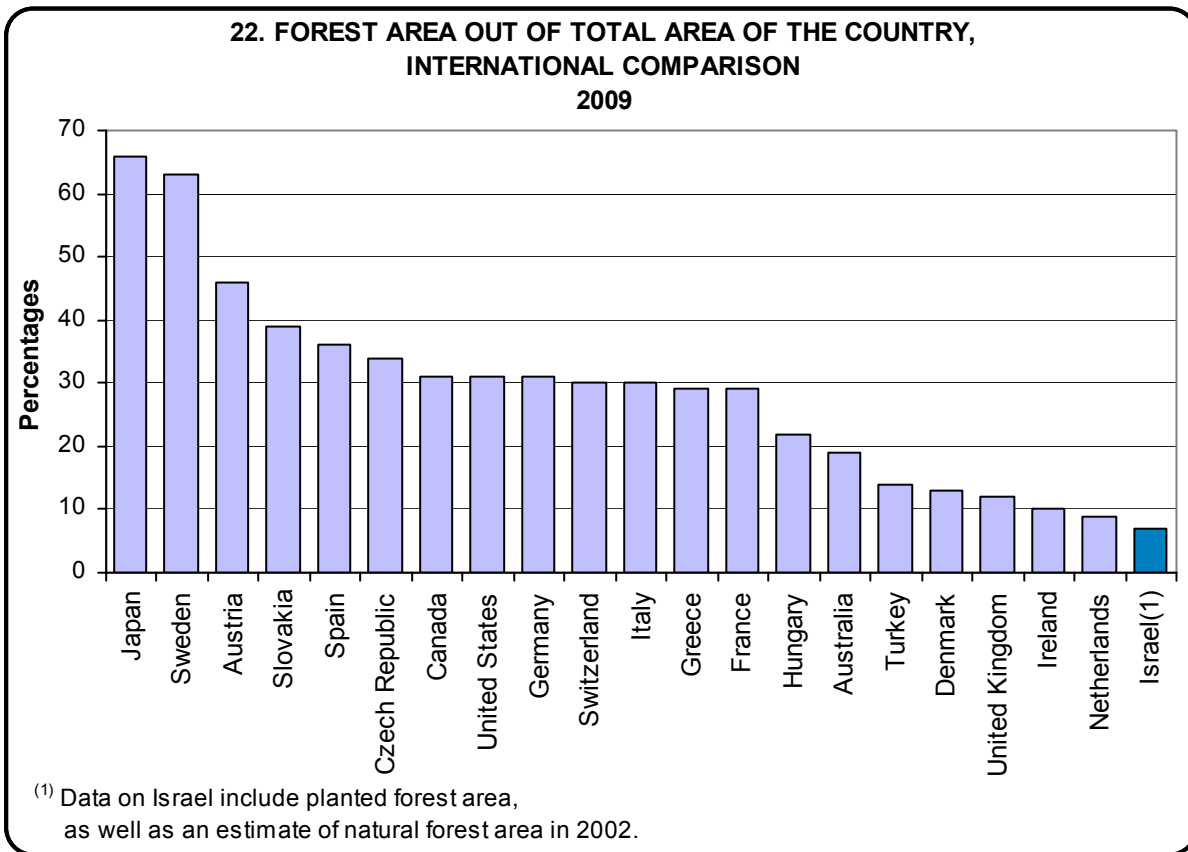
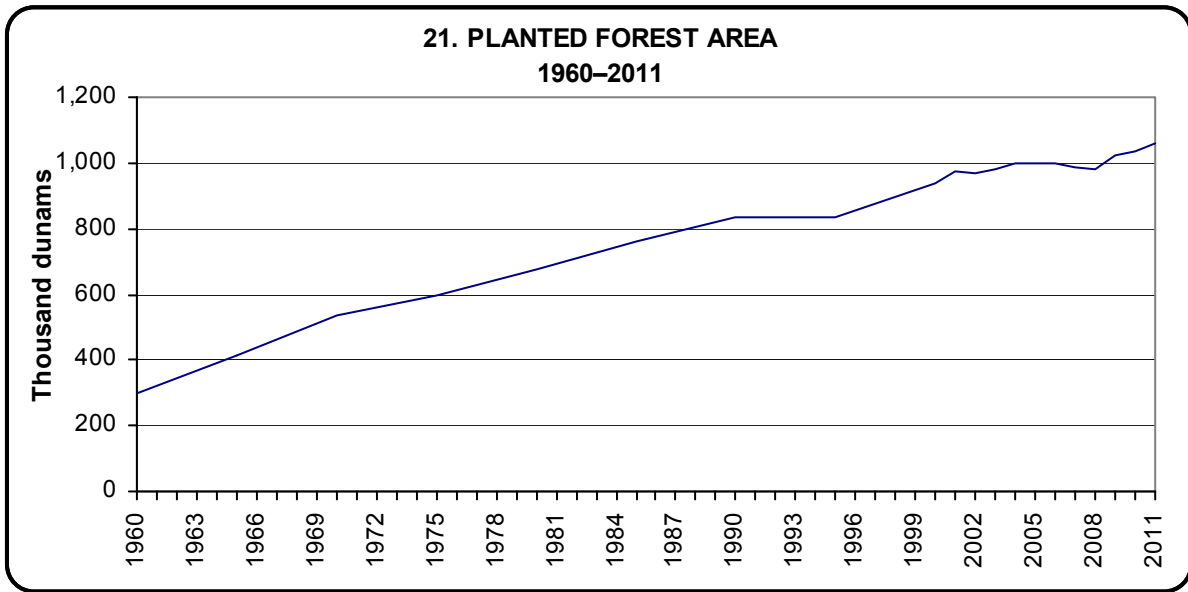


FOREST AREA



Description of the indicator

The indicator presents the changes in the forest areas in Israel over time.

Relevance of the indicator to sustainable development

Forests play an environmental, social, economic, and cultural role in many countries. They provide resources such as wood products, leisure time recreation opportunities, and habitats for animals. They also contribute substantially to the recycling of carbon and to the reduction of concentrations of greenhouse gases. An important objective of sustainable development is to confront deforestation, in order to preserve land, water and biodiversity. A rapid, ongoing decrease in the forest areas of a country can indicate non-sustainable practices in that country's forestry and agriculture industries.

Selected findings

Because the data on forest areas are not collected systematically, the findings include data on planted forest areas as well as an estimate of the natural forest areas.

- In 2011, the total forest area in Israel (planted forest and natural forest) was approximately 1.6 million dunams.
- Between 1960 and 2011, the planted forest area in Israel increased from 0.3 million dunams to 1.06 million dunams, the largest area since the establishment of the State of Israel.
- In 2010-2011, 60,000 dunams of forest were destroyed in 1,439 fires.
- Despite the increase in planted forest area, the percentage of forest area in Israel is still relatively small. In 2009, the total forest area constituted 7% of the area of the State of Israel. The percentage of forest area out of the total area of the country is the lowest of all OECD countries except Iceland (0.3% of the country's area).
- The per capita forest area in Israel is among the smallest in the world: 0.2 sq. km. per 1,000 persons.