



PRIMER EJERCICIO DE OPOSICIÓN DEL PROCESO SELECTIVO PARA INGRESO EN  
EL CUERPO DE INGENIEROS DE MONTES DE LA HACIENDA PÚBLICA  
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**PARTE B**

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS. Key findings.

Sustainable water management (SDG6\*).

Forests are integral to the water cycle. They also filter water, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, pump water into the atmosphere and provide much of the drinking water for over one-third of the world's largest cities. However, the water-related ecosystem services provided by forests are often undervalued, partly due to their complexity.

More information is needed on forest-water relationships for different ecosystems and at different scales (spatial and temporal) in the face of climate change. Understanding the impacts of forest management, including loss, restoration and afforestation, on water is necessary for developing forest-related measures that can contribute effectively to SDG6.

Sustainable tourism (SDG8).

There is potential for forest-based tourism to make an increasing contribution to SDG Target 8.9 (promoting sustainable tourism) and there are good examples of countries (such as Costa Rica) that have used their forests to enhance their appeal for tourists. Experts suggest that nature-based tourism accounts for approximately 20 percent of the global market, and that this sector is growing three times faster than the tourism industry as a whole.

Sustainable cities (SDG11).

The benefits of accessible green space and trees in urban areas are increasingly well-recognized. For example, children living in areas with good access to green spaces have been shown to have a lower prevalence of obesity compared to those with less access, and the presence of street trees has been associated with lower levels of crime. Urban forests and trees can also provide important aesthetic and biodiversity benefits. However, measuring and valuing such benefits remains challenging. Given the rapid rate of urbanization in many countries of the world, it is vital that the value of forests and trees as a key component of urban green spaces be fully integrated in urban planning at an early stage.

Climate change adaptation (SDG13).

Forests and trees can strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Forest-related measures identified in national climate change adaptation submissions (i.e. NAPAs, NAPs or NDCs) and national strategies for DRR include: reforestation and

**\*SDG: Sustainable development goal.**



rehabilitation of degraded forest areas to prevent erosion and landslides; afforestation to mitigate floods; agroforestry; conservation and restoration of mangrove forests in coastal zone areas to protect against storm surges, cyclones and tsunamis; and integrated fire and pest management. Such adaptive measures must be context-specific and there is a need for better understanding of the relationships between climate change and detrimental factors such as storms, fires, and pests and diseases.

Halting and reversing land degradation (SDG Target 15.3).

Tackling forest degradation can be important for addressing problems of land degradation, but it is difficult to measure forest degradation or detect it in a consistent manner through remote sensing. Despite these difficulties, the contribution to this SDG target of reducing forest degradation is reflected in the Bonn Challenge, which aims to restore 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

Halting biodiversity loss (SDG Targets 15.1, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9 and 15.a).

Although forests are among the most important habitats for terrestrial biological diversity, there are difficulties in quantifying this contribution. SDG Indicator 15.1.2 measures the proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by PAs, but the contribution of forests cannot be stated, as this indicator is not yet disaggregated by ecosystem type. Similarly, much of the biodiversity of mountain areas is found in their forests, but SDG Indicator 15.4.1 (on PAs for mountain biodiversity) does not yet have information by ecosystem type. As at least 50 percent of the world's species are thought to be hosted by tropical forests, it has been proposed that SDG Indicator 15.5.1 (the Red List index) should separately identify the extinction risk for forest-dependent species.