

The Forest Landscape Integrity Index

What is the Forest Landscape Integrity Index?

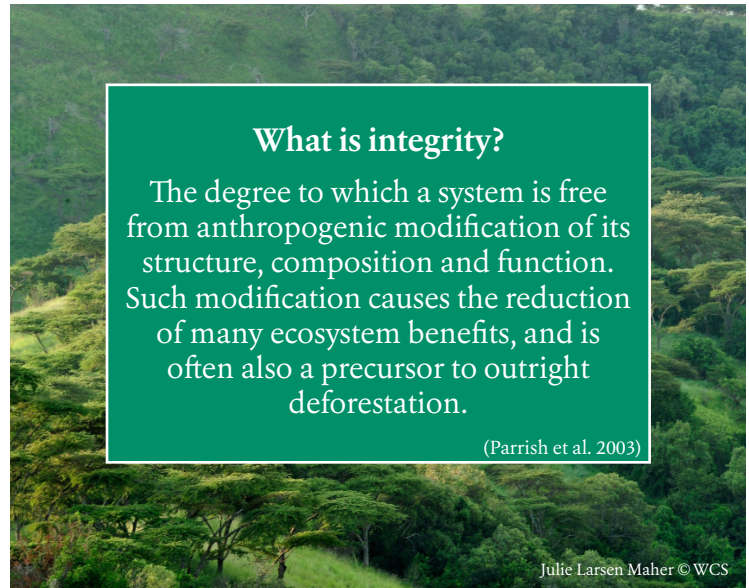
- The FLII is the first measure of ecological integrity for all the world's forests. This index integrates data on observed and inferred forest pressures and lost forest connectivity to generate the first globally-consistent, continuous index of forest integrity as determined by degree of anthropogenic modification.
- The study brought together 47 forest experts from academia, government, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations across the world to apply recent developments in cloud computing and large new datasets.

How does the index work?

- The web app (<https://www.forestlandscapeintegrity.com>) allows the user to zoom in at a fine scale to different locations across the world.
- There is the option to choose either the continuous index (which provides the most detailed information) or a simpler classified one that divides the world's forests into illustrative categories of low, medium and high health.
- The Google Earth Engine web tool allows for the overlay of other related datasets.

What can we learn from this?

- The Forest Landscape Integrity Index shows that globally, only 17.4 million km² of forest (40%) can be considered to have high integrity and only 27% of this area is found in nationally-designated protected areas.
- Of all the world's forests found within protected areas, only 56% can be considered to have high integrity.





In what other ways can the index be used?

Using this index:

- Stakeholders from all sectors can understand the state of forests within their area of interest and set ambitious goals to improve the integrity of the world's forests, and monitor their progress towards those goals.
- Decision-makers can identify and protect the last surviving intact, or high integrity, forests in every region, as well as identify areas in need of restoration.
- Scientists and researchers can develop additional tools to assess and compare the outcomes of different land use and development scenarios.

Governments and policymakers can use the study and the FLII to:

- Inform the development and implementation of forest-relevant goals, targets and indicators under global and regional policy frameworks. This includes the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is in need of goals and targets that emphasize protection of our remaining intact, or high integrity, forests, and indicators to measure our progress. It also includes other policy fora relevant to forest landscapes, such as the UNESCO-World Heritage Convention and other site-based multilateral designations, the UN Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030, and programs under the Paris Agreement to measure emissions from land use change.
- National or subnational governments can use the FLII and other spatial data on water, productive forests, etc. to guide spatial planning, land management and policy decisions. This is also critical for downstream impacts on marine environments.
- Policymakers working towards forest landscape restoration under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration or the Bonn Challenge can use the FLII to identify those areas most appropriate for ensuring increased integrity of wider forest ecosystems.
- Governments can use the FLII in their implementation of the mitigation hierarchy and decision-making regarding permits for infrastructure and development projects that will impact forests

How will this be useful for the private sector?

- As the first global measure of ecological integrity, this index can provide multilateral and bilateral donors and other funders with new information about where forests with the highest integrity exist as well as where there are opportunities for enhanced restoration. This information can guide funding decisions in order to better invest in the world's most critical ecosystems.