



# How much forest cover in Kenya?

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**A surprisingly difficult question to answer**

A presentation by the **United Nations Environment Programme**

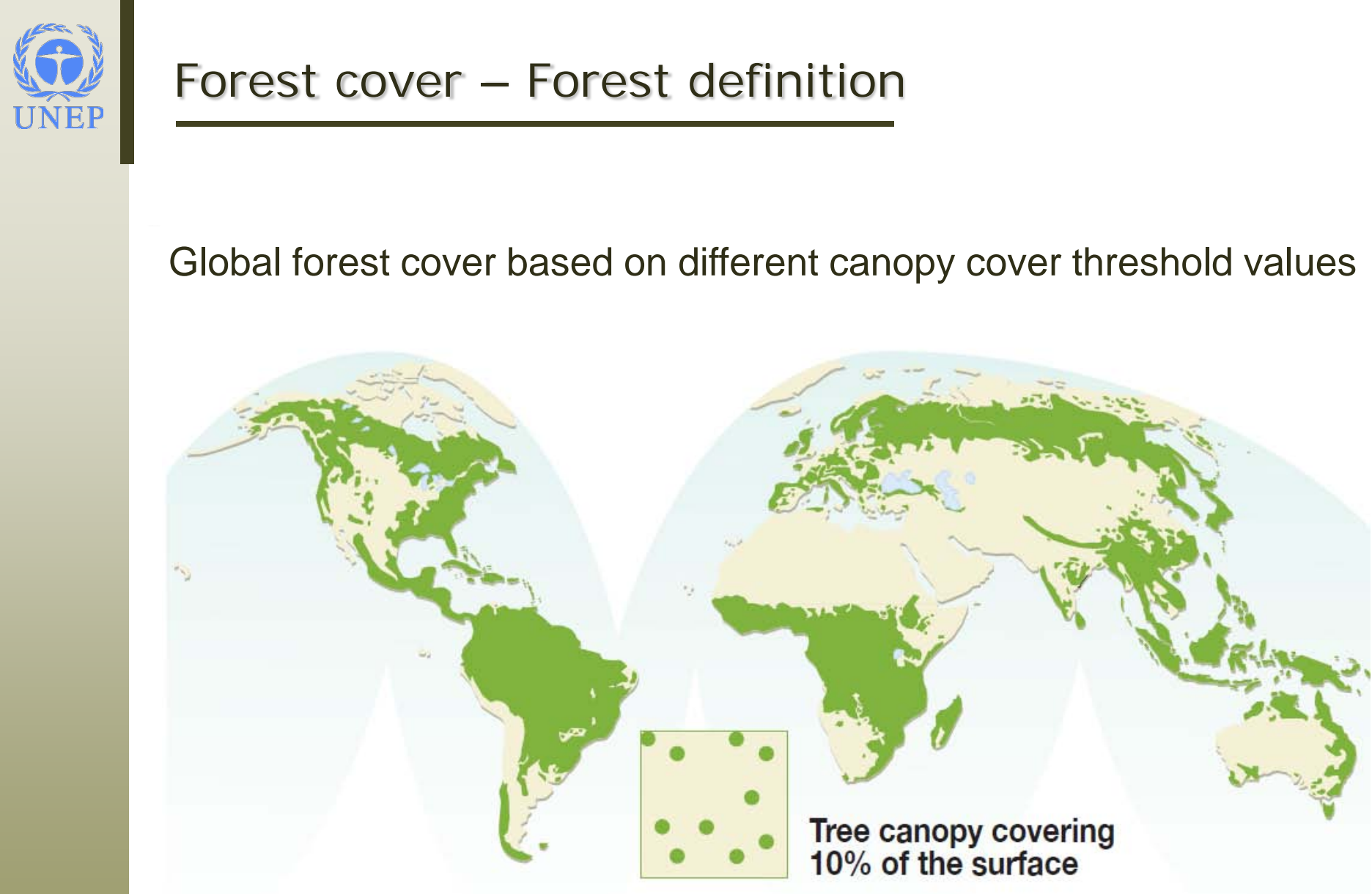


# Forest cover – Forest definition

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## **Forest cover varies depending on how it is defined**

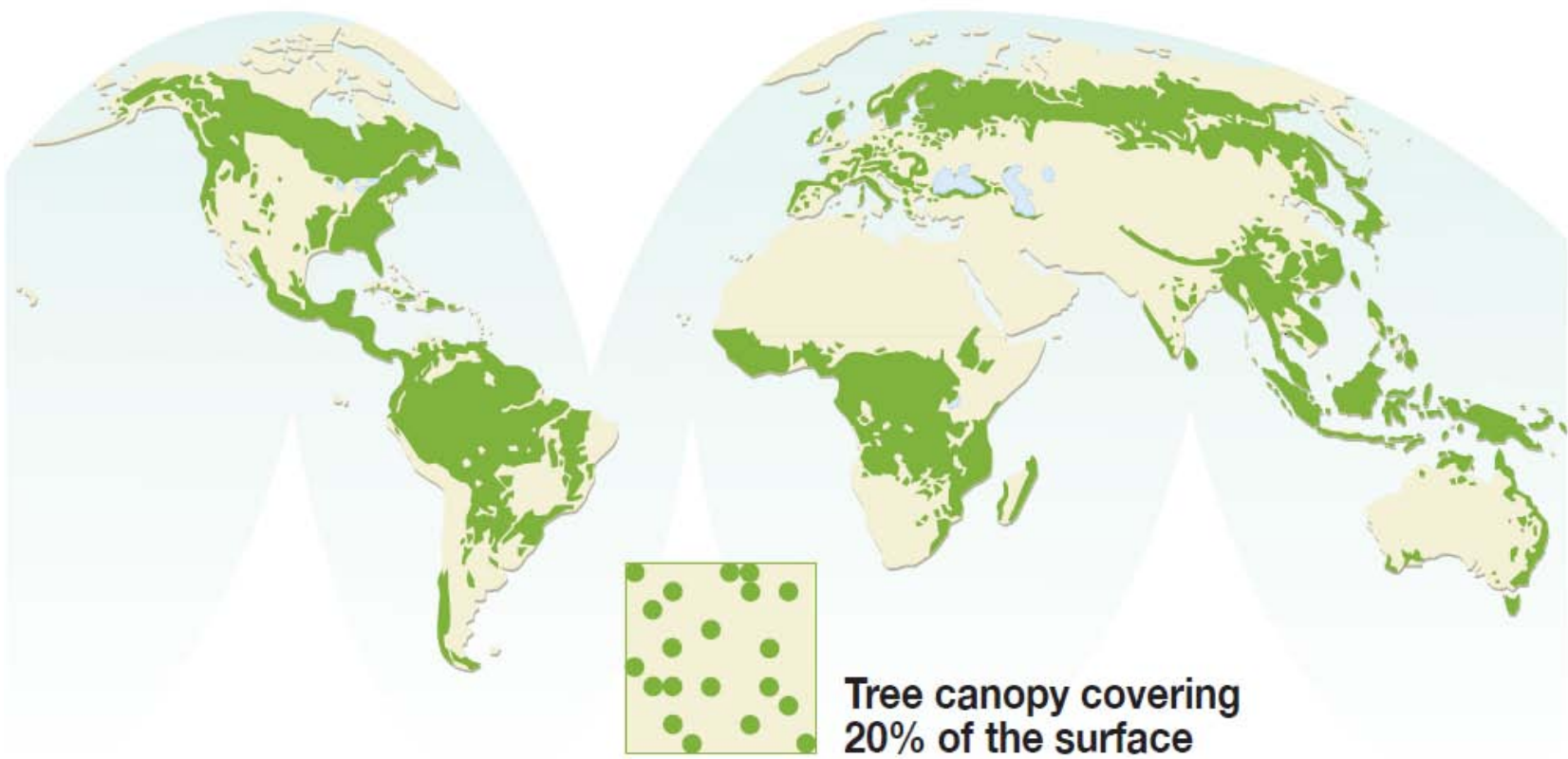
- ⇒ There are more than 800 different definitions for forests and wooded areas in use in the world.
- ⇒ Different definitions are required for different purposes and at different scales.
- ⇒ Definitions may be based on physical characteristics, such as canopy cover, or on botanical characteristics, such as variety of tree species.
- ⇒ Different people may define and value a forest in a very different way.



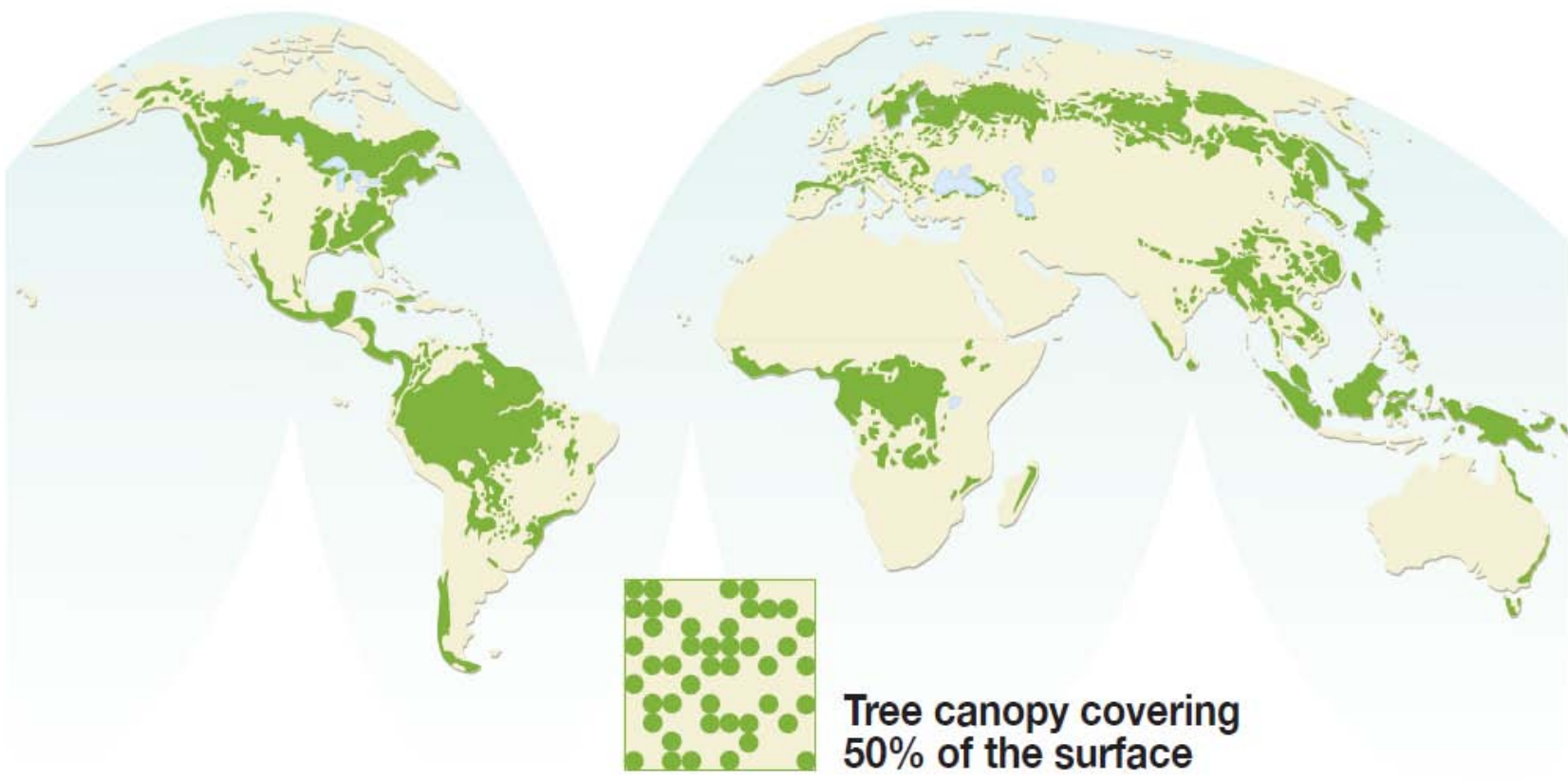
## Forest cover – Forest definition

Global forest cover based on different canopy cover threshold values

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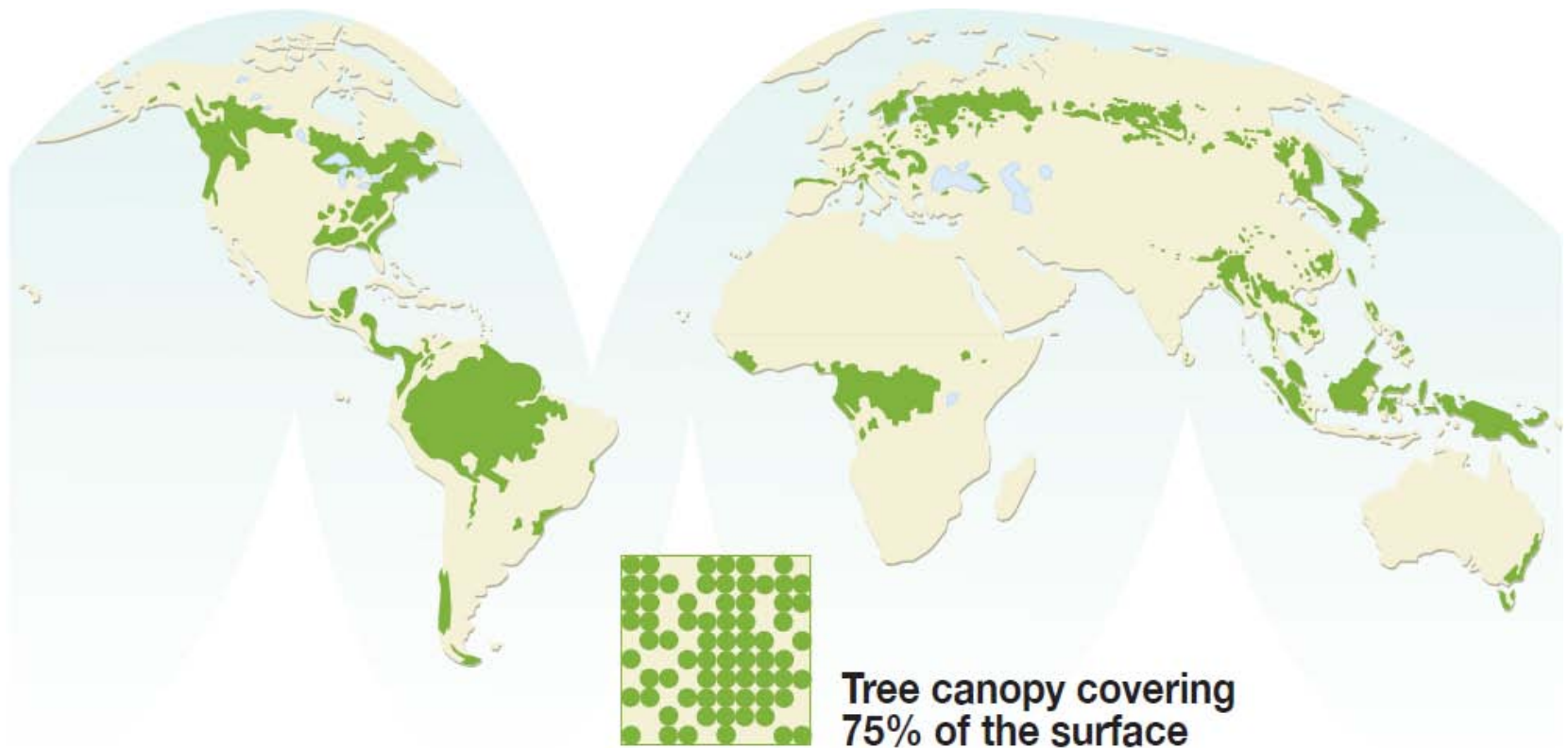


Global forest cover based on different canopy cover threshold values



## Forest cover – Forest definition

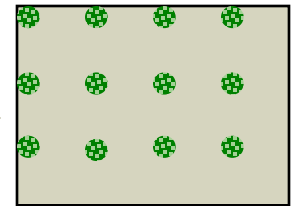
Global forest cover based on different canopy cover threshold values



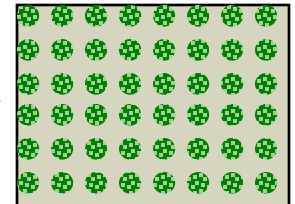
# Forest cover – Forest definition

## Major common definitions

**FAO:** land with a tree canopy of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 ha



**UNEP:** land with a forest cover of trees with their crown interlocking and a canopy density of 40 percent or above

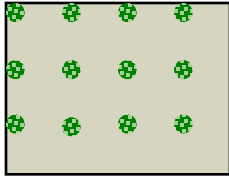


**Kyoto Protocol:** land with a minimum crown cover of 10-30 percent, a minimum area of 0.01 – 1 hectares, a minimum tree height of 2-5 metres



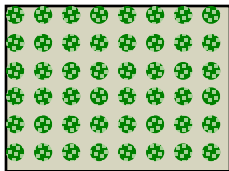


# How much forest in Kenya?



**3.47 million ha** (6 % of the total land area)

*Source: FAO (2010): Forest Resources Assessment Report.*



**0.98 million ha** (1.7 % of the total land area)

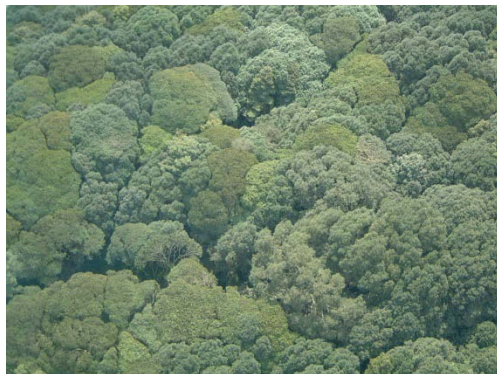
*Source: UNEP (2001): An Assessment of the Status of the World's Remaining Closed Forests.*

**KIFCON**



**1.24 million ha** (2.17 % of the total land area)

*Source: Wass, P. (1995): Kenya's Indigenous forests: Status, Management and Conservation. IUCN – The World Conservation Union.*





# Forest definitions in Kenya?

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## **Forest Act 2005**

## **Forest Policy 2007**

- ⇒ Distinctions made between plantation forest / indigenous forest / State forest / private forest / local authority forest.
- ⇒ Distinctions refer to different management regimes.
- ⇒ No technical definitions based upon which the forest cover extent can be assessed.

# Forest assessments in Kenya

Year	Scope	Executing agency (Sponsor)
1963-67	Timber volume in indigenous forest	(Canada)
1981	Forest cover in the entire country based on Landsat	DRSRS
1986-90	Forest cover in the entire country based on Spot	DRSRS (France)
1991-94	Forest area and timber volume in protected forests	KIFCON (UK ODA)
1991-92	Timber volume in plantation forests	FD (FAO / New Zealand)
2000	Forest cover in the entire country based on Landsat	DRSRS / FAO-Africover

## Closed forest cover in Kenya

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Year	Source	Ha
1994	KFMP (KIFCON)	1,240,000
1995	UNEP (2001)	980,000
2000	DRSRS / FAO-Africover	1,185,189