

**Indicator 66. Capacity To Conduct and Apply Research and Development Aimed at Improving Forest Management and Enhancement of the Ability To Predict Impacts of Human Intervention on Forests**

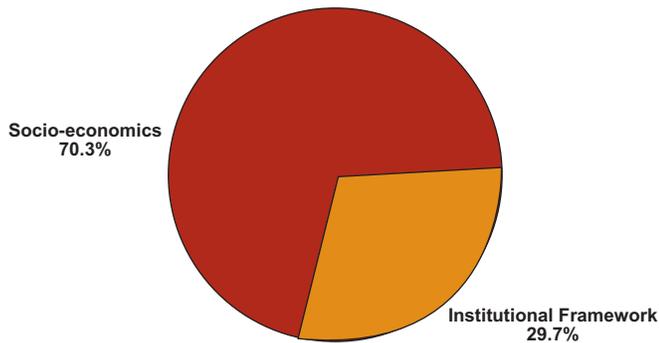


Figure 66-1. Total research and development capacity by criterion

**What Is the Indicator and Why Is It Important?**

This indicator is a measure of the capacity to predict effects of human intervention on forests. This understanding is essential to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

**What Does the Indicator Show?**

Data in the review of capacity to conduct and apply research and development contained in the Data Report was used to estimate the capacity for development of scientific understanding of ecosystems. Of the 559 full-time equivalents reported to be working in teaching, research, and extension for criteria 6 and 7, about 70 percent were in the socioeconomics area and 30 percent were in the institutional framework area. The data includes estimates for the USDA Forest Service, forestry schools, and forest industry, and thus are not inclusive of all teaching, research, and extension efforts.

Until goals or other direction on desired distribution of capacity are in place, little basis will exist for judging the adequacy of the current distribution of effort. Until consistent trend-line information is available over time, little basis will exist for judging what has been happening to the allocation of teaching, research, and extension effort over time.