

# Investigation Instruments: Tape Measure



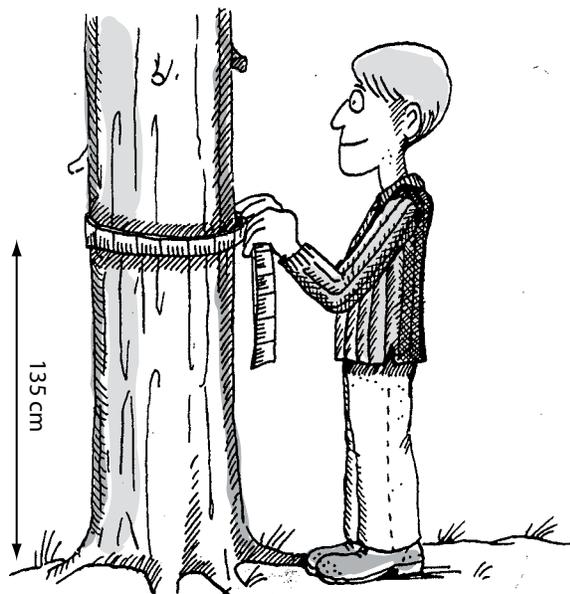
## Using a Tape Measure

You use a tape measure often when taking measurements at Land Cover Sample Sites. It is critical that you use the tape measure in the correct manner.

### **Directions for Reading a Tape Measure**

Always use a metric tape measure. Ensure that the tape measure is flat against the subject being measured (tree for circumference, the distance between an observer with a clinometer and a tree, the height of an observer's eye using a clinometer, the ground within a diagonal, etc. Even small twists in the tape measure can create errors in the data.

Figure BIO-TM-1: Measuring Tree Circumference



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why do we use the metric system?

The metric system is used for scientific investigations throughout the world.

### 2. What if we only have a tape measure in English units (feet and inches)?

If you only have a tape measure in English units, you must convert all your measurements into metric units before reporting your data.