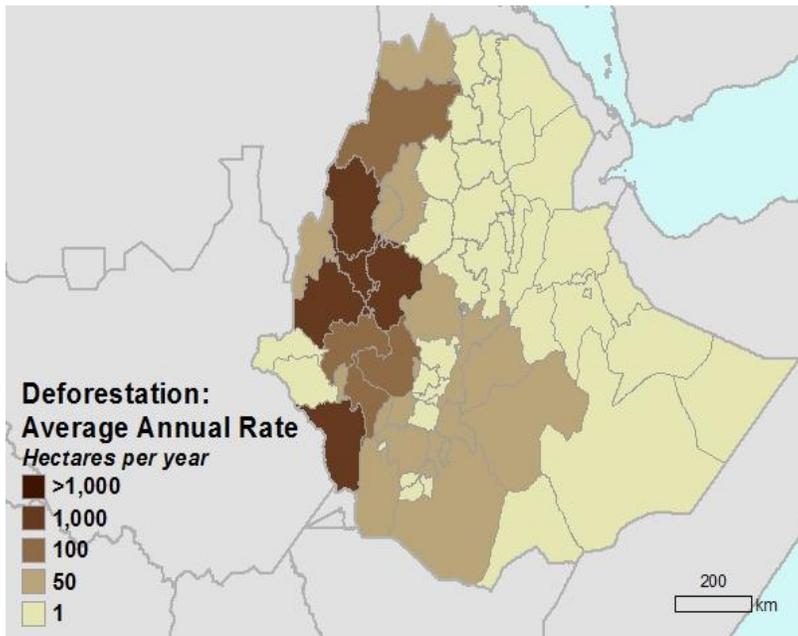


Ethiopia



National deforestation estimates in percent per year and agricultural statistics are from FAO (2010). Mapped sub-national estimates of the Deforestation Indicator in hectares are indicative only, given the resolution of the data source, and are from CI (2011), derived from the MODIS percent tree-cover change product for 2000 to 2005 (Hansen, et al 2009).

Deforestation¹

Forest area (2010): **11%**
 1990-2000: **-0.97 %y⁻¹**
 2000-2005: **-1.05 %y⁻¹**
 2005-2010: **-1.11 %y⁻¹**

Agriculture²

Agriculture as % of GDP (2011): **42%**
 Agricultural land (2009): **35%**
 Top 3 commodities, by footprint (2010):
Cereals: 2.73m ha
Maize: 1.77m ha
Wheat: 1.68m ha
 Employment in agriculture (2010): **n.d.**

*Rates at sub-national level are for indicative purposes only given use of relatively coarse MODIS data

Sub-national Region	Hectares per Year (indicative)
Metekel	493
Kemashi	346
Benchi Maji	222
West Wellega	172
East Wellega	108

Context

Political Context

In the face of diminishing forests, the Ethiopian government has made efforts to consolidate and mainstream environmental issues in the country's development process. These efforts are manifested in measures to scale up protection and conservation through community participation.³ Since the mid-1990s, the environmental policy of Ethiopia has ensured communities' decision-making power over land management issues. This "community based forest management" approach is preferred over centralized forest management in response to studies showing that local communities manage resources more sustainably than government agencies.⁴ These efforts along with campaigns for afforestation and soil conservation have been consistent, but no significant change in practices has ensued.⁵

Socio-economic Context

The population in Ethiopia is rapidly growing, adding approximately two million people per year.⁶ This population growth, coupled with continued extreme poverty, has reduced food security and accelerated land degradation since the 1980s.⁷ The majority of Ethiopia's population is rural (around 84%) and directly dependent on forests. Although Ethiopia has enormous potential for agricultural development, currently it is largely subsistence, rain-fed farming, which relies on few inputs and is often characterized by low productivity.⁸ The majority of farmers (nearly 13 million) is smallholder but combined produce 95% of the country's agricultural GDP.⁹

Deforestation Drivers

Much of the remaining forest in Ethiopia is confined to the southern part of the country. Drivers of deforestation are largely related to agricultural expansion and consumption of fuel wood as well as weak federal and regional institution capacity.¹⁰ Land in Ethiopia is publicly owned, and farmers operate agricultural sites with free access to any available land resource. With such unrestricted access, land users tend to maximize land productivity without implementing sustainable techniques to enhance future harvest opportunities.¹¹ Under these conditions, farmers abandon overharvested areas and seek to convert forests into new agricultural land. It is estimated that between 2000 and 2008, 80% of new agricultural land was converted from forests, woodlands or shrub lands.¹² Fuel wood is also largely free access and a major source for household energy in Ethiopia. It is estimated that 90% of the country's total energy for household cooking is derived from biomass fuels, of which 78% come from fire wood.¹³ Ethiopia's government has been largely ineffective at regulating around the use of common property which in turn continues to put pressure on forests, resulting in the severe degradation of land resources.¹⁴

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