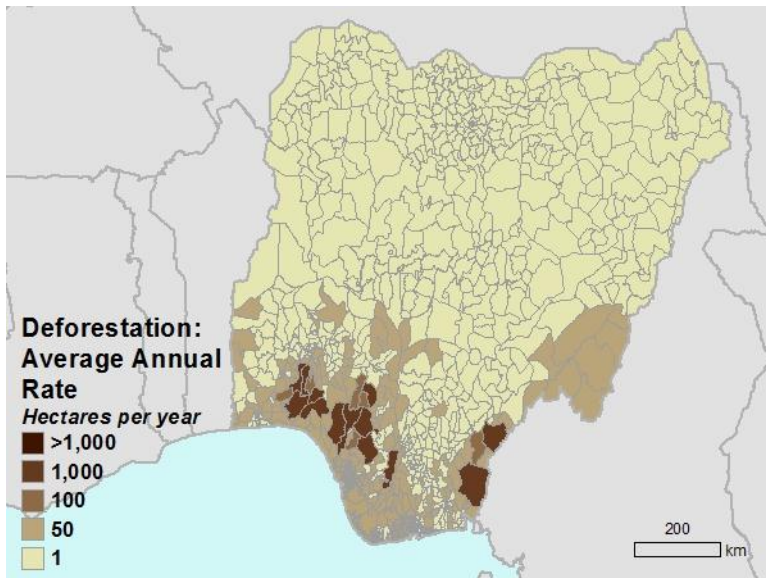


Nigeria



Deforestation¹

Forest area (2010): **10%**
 Primary forest area (2005): **0.5%**
 1990-2000: **-2.68 %y⁻¹**
 2000-2005: **-3.33 %y⁻¹**
 2005-2010: **-4.00 %y⁻¹**

Agriculture²

Agriculture as % of GDP (2010): **n.d.**
 Agricultural land (2010): **81.8%**
 Top 3 commodities, by footprint (2010):
Sorghum: 4.7m ha
Millet: 3.7m ha
Maize: 3.3m ha
 Employment in agriculture (2009): **n.d.**

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

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).

Sub-national Region	Hectares per Year (indicative)
Akamkpa	569
Ijebu East	550
Ovia South-West	389
Uhunmwonde	274
Ovia Nort	248

Context

Political Context

After almost four decades of war and internal conflict, in 1999 Nigeria implemented an economic reform agenda that has improved the development of the country;³ but forests remain negatively impacted⁴. In response to forest loss, Nigeria's government established protected forest reserves in 2008 and declared a moratorium on timber in its most forested state, the Cross River State⁵. Despite these efforts, Nigeria continues to lose its forest cover at an annual rate of 3.5%⁶. Further efforts to protect Nigeria's forest resources, by alleviating poverty, for instance, have been augmented by partnering with the United Nations REDD+ program.

Socio-economic Context

Nigeria is one of the most populated countries in Africa, with a total population of 162.5 million people, half of whom live in rural areas and nearly two thirds living in poverty⁷. The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors contribute 35.2% of the total annual GDP⁸, account for over 70% of non-oil exports and provide over 80% of the food needs of the country⁹. Over 60% of Nigeria's population engages in agriculture¹⁰.

Deforestation Drivers

In 2010 Nigeria had 9 million hectares of forest, 336,000 hectares of which were primary forest¹¹. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world, having lost around 410,100 hectare per year over the period 2005 to 2010¹². The main drivers of deforestation in the country are agriculture, logging and mining. Studies in the southern region have cited rapid population growth, agricultural expansion (e.g. cocoa belt of southwest Nigeria), use of fuel wood and logging as major drivers of deforestation in the country¹³. Many communities depend on traditional methods of farming and are facing land use constraints. Population growth stimulates agricultural expansion, thereby diminishing arable land and encouraging forest clearing. Rising prices of petroleum products, especially cooking gas and kerosene, have encouraged both rural and urban households to rely on fuel wood and charcoal as their main sources of energy.¹⁴ This has led to further deforestation. While logging operations practice a selective system in allocated forested areas, clear felling is common in some forest reserves. The removal of timber in Nigeria is occurring at an uncontrolled rate, without strict adherence to laws or payment of appropriate fees and levies¹⁵, contributing to increasing rates of forest loss.

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