

Land Physical Asset Accounts for Uganda

Brief

Background

Uganda is implementing the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) Programme to mainstream natural capital into development planning policy dialogue and to inform the third National Development Plan (NDP III). The NCA Programme is implemented with technical and financial support from the World Bank led Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of the Ecosystems Services (WAVES) Program.

The Land Physical Accounts for Uganda were developed to contribute to the goal of the National Land Policy (2013). The goal of the policy is to ensure an efficient, effective and optimal utilization and management of land resources for poverty reduction, wealth creation and overall socioeconomic development. Land is a key strategic asset for Uganda as it contributes over half of the value of the asset basket of poor Ugandans (GoU 2017).

The priority accounts developed with the WAVES support are: The Land Physical Asset Accounts, the Forest Accounts (Central Framework), and Experimental Ecosystem Accounts for forests and wetlands. Three issues papers have also been prepared with WAVES support: on;

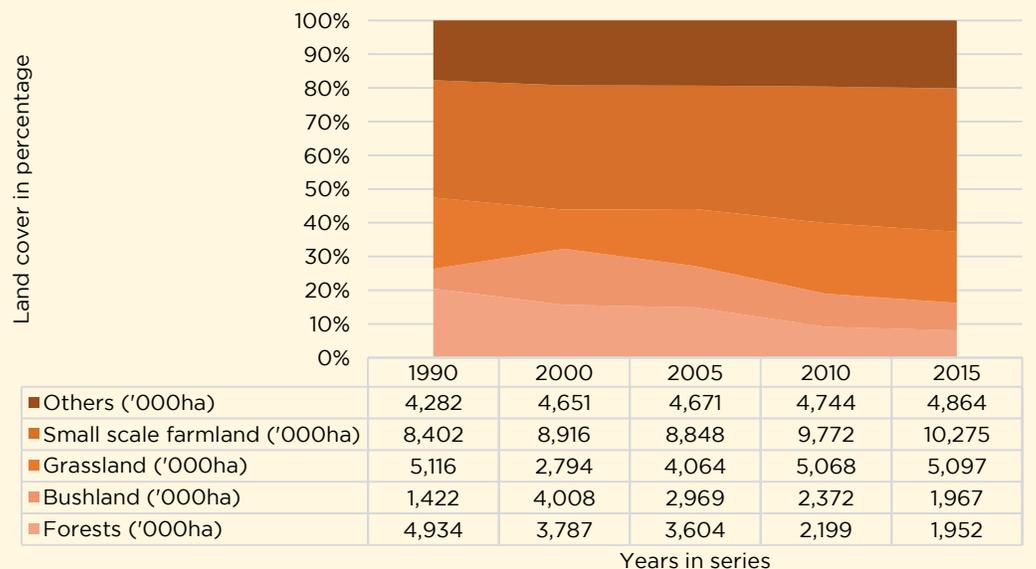
- Natural Capital and NDP III
- Adjusted macroeconomic indicators and total wealth for Uganda
- Overview of the woodfuel subsector

Findings from the Land Physical Asset Accounts

Uganda has an overall land cover of 24.155 million hectares (ha) under 13 land cover classes of Broad-leaved plantations, coniferous plantations, Tropical High Forest (THF) well stocked, THF low stocked, woodlands, bushlands, grasslands, wetlands, small scale farmlands and commercial farmlands, built up areas, open water and impediments.

Figure 1: Land cover trends for Uganda by percentage and hectares, 1990 to 2015

As shown in Figure 1, small scale farmlands were the dominant land cover in the country. Small scale farmlands increased from 8.4 million ha (or 34.8% of land cover) in 1990 to 10.3 million ha (42.5% of land cover) in 2015.



Forests had the largest decline of all land cover classes, reducing from 20.4% to 8.1% of total land cover while grasslands, bushlands and other land covers were generally stable between 1990 and 2015 (Figure 1).

Uganda’s land cover is also categorized as either protected area or non-protected area management. The protected areas comprise Local Forest Reserves (LFRs) under Local Governments, Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) under the National Forestry Authority (NFA), National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Community Wildlife Reserves, and Wildlife Sanctuaries under the management of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Dual Joint Management (DJM) zones jointly managed by UWA and NFA.

The non-protected areas herein referred to as private land were the largest form of administration system in the country with nearly 83% of all the land in the country. National Parks and Wildlife Reserves occupy about 12% of the land cover, CFRs occupy about 5%, while DJMs and LFRs occupy less than 0.5%.

Many of the land cover changes occur on private land, although encroachment and degradation in protected areas also affect the integrity of protected areas (MWE 2016).

The Land Physical Asset Accounts were developed at national, regional, sub-regional and district levels. At national level the accounts covered the national aggregate, water management zones, forest landscapes, agro-ecological zones and climate zones. At regional level the four regions of the country central, eastern, northern and western were cover while at sub-regional level 11 sub-regions (Acholi, Lango, West Nile, Karamoja, Central North, Central South, East Central, Elgon, Teso, and western and southwestern) (UBOS/UNHS 2009/10) were covered. Land Physical Assets were also developed for Districts.

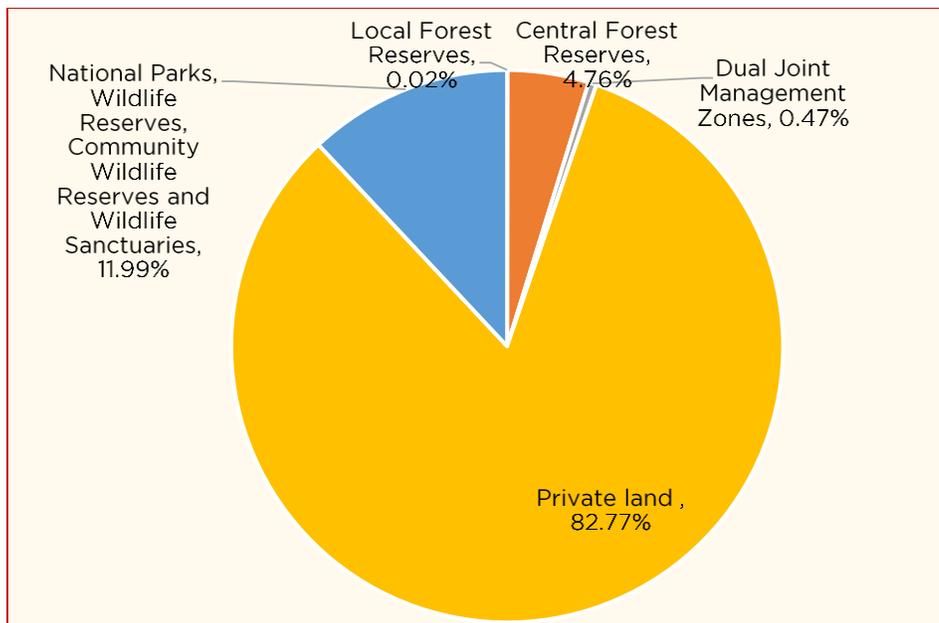


Figure 2: Percentage land cover by administrative zone

Land cover: Land use cover 1995 and 2015

The major changes in land cover comprise an increase in small scale farmlands, and an increase in the combined grassland and bushlands, from 27% of land cover in 1990, to 29% in 2015 (Figure 4). Forest area declined from 20.4% to 8.1% over the same timeline, while the wetlands generally increased from 2.0 to 3.0% of total land cover even though the area fluctuated between 3.1 and 3.5% of total land cover between 2000 and 2010.

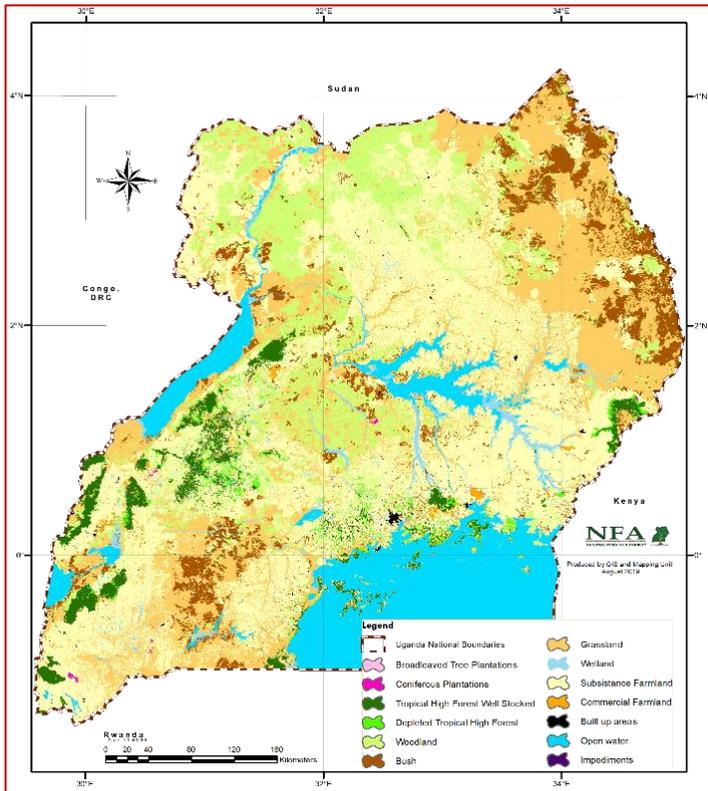


Figure 3: Land use cover 1990

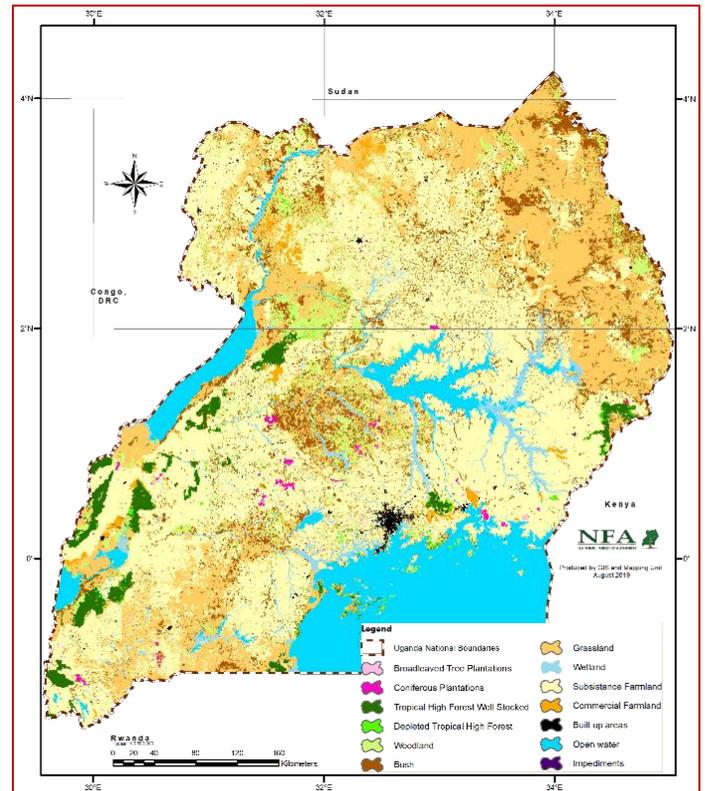


Figure 4: Land use cover 2015

Emerging Issues

- The largest decline for a single land cover class was for woodlands and the largest expansion for single land cover class was for small scale farmlands.
- Land use planning and enhanced land use efficiency are important for managing land fragmentation linked to growing population/reduced productivity. Strategic land use planning needs to incorporate internal and external factors that drive land use change.
- Without necessary leading to land use/

land cover change, there is need to explore increasing factor productivity of grasslands and woodlands. Even for areas with a better distribution of open water, there is a need to improve productivity in resource rich zone.

- There is a need for policy instruments and market incentives for agro-forestry in the small-scale farmlands to reduce the pressure on woodlands for wood fuel and THF for other wood needs, and to streamline the timber value chain.

The physical land accounts are presented at several scales. Sub-national users of these accounts may seek to revise existing spatial distribution of land use to boost livelihoods, economic performance and social equity. At the national and international level, these accounts will support review and/or evaluation of the targets of the National Development Plans and the long-term development strategic frameworks such as Vision 2040 and Uganda's attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, among others.



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References

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