THEME:
Combating Deforestation

Presentation on
Forest Land Degradation in Nigeria:
Causes and Solution

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Outlines

- Definitions
- State of Nigerian Forests
- Causes
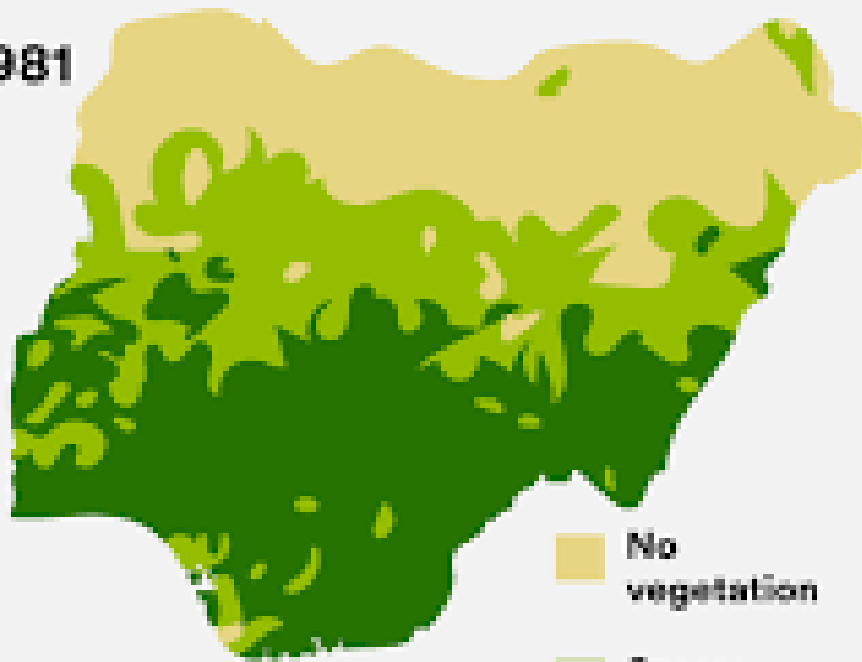- The resultant effects
- National Strategies to combat deforestation

Definitions

▶ Forest Degradation is land degradation that occurs in forest land

▶ Land degradation then means a negative trend in land condition, cause by direct and indirect human induced processes including anthropogenic climate change, expressed as long-term reduction or loss of at least one of the following: biological productivity, ecological integrity, or value to humans (IPCC)

▶ Deforestation is the conversion of land into other land use independently of whether human-induced or not. That is, deforestation is essentially referring to a change in land use not in tree cover (FAO)
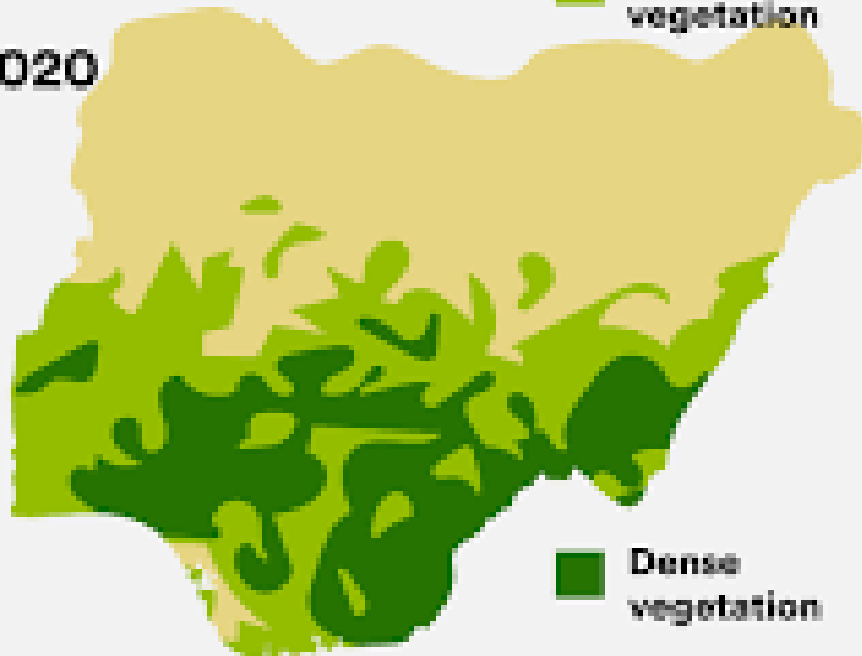
State of Nigerian Forests

▶ The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), between 2000 and 2005, Nigeria had the highest level of deforestation in the world, as 55.7% of the country's primary forests were lost. In 2020, the country lost 97.8 kilohectares of natural forest, which equated to 59.5 metric ton of CO2 emissions.

▶ From 2001 to 2021, 14% of tree cover loss occurred in areas where the dominant drivers of loss resulted in deforestation

▶ From 2013 to 2021, The total loss within natural forest was equivalent to 461Mt of CO/$_2$e emissions.

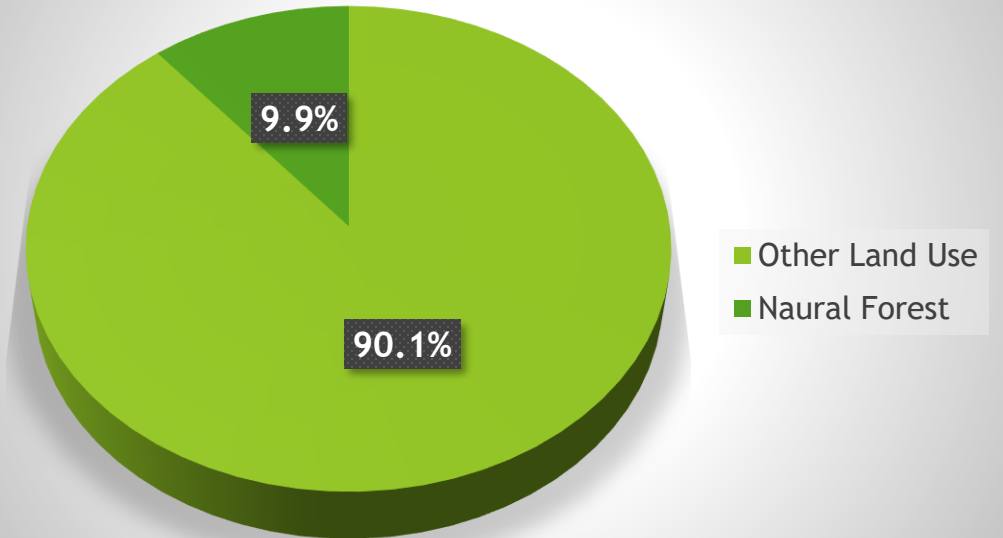▶ Currently less than 10% of the country is forested.

1981

No vegetation

Sparse vegetation

2020

Dense vegetation

Land mass

9.9%

90.1%

Other Land Use
Naural Forest

Osomari Forest, Anambra State 2000

Drivers of Deforestation in Nigeria

The key drivers of deforestation in Nigeria include:

► Agricultural expansion

► Rapid Urbanization (Population Growth)

► Cook fuel (firewood, and charcoal)

► Unregulated logging

► Erosion and Drought

► Poverty

Table showing drivers of deforestation rate in Nigeria betwwen 2015 - 2021

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Urbanization	4.96kha	7.01kha	20.1kha	13.6kha	7.25kha	11.5kha	9.89kha
Agriculture	35.2kha	63.7kha	149kha	105kha	79.0kha	86.6kha	86.2kha
Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commodity Drivers	688ha	1.23kha	1.99kha	1.21kha	585ha	843ha	826ha

Nigeria Drivers Deforestation Statistics by Global Forest Watch {GFW}

From 2010 to 2021, Nigeria lost 921.1kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 9.2% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 604Mt of CO_2e emissions.

Years	Kilohectares {kha}	Percentage {%}
2010	32.8	0.33
2011	53.9	0.54
2012	35.0	o.35
2013	43.4	0.43
2014	68.6	0.68
2015	40.9	0.41
2016	72.2	0.72
2017	171	1.7
2018	120	1.2
2019	86.9	0.86
2020	99.2	0.99
2021	97.2	0.97

Nigeria lost most of it´s forest cover between 2017 and 2018 and the loss of the forest cover lead to deforestation

Statistical data from Global Forest Watch

The Resultant Effect

▶ Loss of ecosystem

▶ Loss of Biodiversity

▶ Climate change

▶ Conflict

▶ Flooding

▶ Land Degradation

▶ Desertification

NIGERIA EFFORT IN COMBATING DEFORESTATION

❖ Nigeria has outlined several strategies such as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and Nigeria Vision 20: 2020, the NDC, to obtain goals that also include addressing problems associated with climate change.

❖ In 2021 Nigeria launched the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) strategy towards reducing the problem of deforestation in the country with the support of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank, the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) programme, as well as technical assistance from other bodies such as the FAO; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The strategy seeks to curb climate change by bringing an end to the destruction of forests while promoting sustainable forest management.

❖ REDD+ in particular provides opportunity for Nigeria to apply nature-based solution and the carbon income to the bouquet of policy instruments to mitigate forest loss and climate change and contribute to its national development agenda.

Strategic Actions Required: REDD+ Perspective

Nigeria anchors its National REDD+ Strategy on one general objective, which is,

- "To reduce the rate of carbon emissions and enhance removals from the forest sector while creating benefits for resilience building and green economic development".

- To make Nigeria One of the top three (3) most food-secure country in Africa and top 20 largest exporter of standard agricultural produce by 2030 through the use and application of digital technologies and innovations

- This will be by way of adopting ecologically friendly and climate-smart forest and forest-related investments especially in the agriculture and forest sectors.

- The aim is promote the conservation and rehabilitation of forest ecosystems as well as generate economic, social and environmental incentives.

Agriculture

▶ To make Nigeria One of the top three (3) most food-secure country in Africa and top 20 largest exporter of standard agricultural produce by 2030 through the use and application of digital technologies and innovations

The following objectives are set to accelerate achievement of the goals by 2030:

1. To increase Research and Development (R&D) and deployment of digital technologies and innovations across agriculture value chain for the purpose of:

a. improving agriculture productivity by 50%

b. reducing food wastage by 50%

c. reducing effect of climate change by 40% (yield; quality; cost reduction; appropriate use of water, chemicals, farm inputs etc.)

2. Support every agriculture programme:

a. with digital capabilities to create sustainable business models and opportunities;

b. to create a total of about 10 Million well-paying jobs across the agriculture value chain (production, harvesting storage, processing, marketing, traceability and consumption).

3. Ensure every farmer in Nigeria has:

a. access to quality inputs;

b. grow farm produce that of international standard and

c. equal access to market (local and international) for farm produce.

Agriculture

Charcoal and Firewood

▶ The Government's strategy to alleviate cooking problems is based on the provision of a large annual budgetary allocation intended to reduce the price of kerosene for cooking by the poor. However, in reality only a small portion of the subsidy ends up with the intended beneficiaries. As a result, some 90+ percent of the population continues to use woodfuels for most of their daily cooking.

The proposed strategy to modernize cooking energy in Nigeria comprises the following:

▶ PR campaign, informing the public about the strategy to quickly switch to LPG or clean woodstoves, announcing which type of support is available to realize this, and request collaboration to realize this switch quickly

▶ Immediately stop the kerosene subsidy, and instead use part of the money to

- facilitate the procurement of LPG bottles and stoves by private companies

- buy down the costs of clean and fuel-efficient woodstoves

▶ Improve the regulatory framework for LPG supply and use

▶ Launch a program to supply clean woodstoves

▶ Assist private LPG supply companies to set up a safe country-wide LPG supply infrastructure.

The Place of REDD+ Programme in Addressing Deforestation

▶ Institutional Strengthening of Government initiative in driving sustainable forest management initiatives through climate smart Agriculture.

▶ Connecting National, sub-national and communities with global financial investment opportunities that meets livelihoods needs, economic growth and emission reductions.

▶ Restoration of forest cover through afforestation, reforestation and Agro-forestry

Conclusion

As of 2005, the UNFAO graded Nigeria as having the highest deforestation rate in the world, with about 55.7% of the primary forests (natural forest) being lost and an annual deforestation rate of 3.5%. Nigeria can recover some of the lost forest areas with intentionality and prioritization.

Thank You for Listening