



IMPACT OF LAND TENURE ON FOREST CONSERVATION IN UGANDA

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Forestry Sector- Background

- The Forestry Sector is governed through The Uganda Forestry Policy(2001); the National Forestry Plan (Revised 2011) and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003.
- Sector Vision *is sufficiently forested , Economically prosperous and Ecologically stable Uganda*



Uganda Forest Cover

- Uganda Land Area - 20,448,616 Ha
- The total protected area is 3,106,364Ha (18%)
- Protected Area (PA) forest cover is 1,300,994Ha (35%)
- Forest cover outside protected areas is 2,293,468 Ha (64%)
- Area Managed by NFA- 1,262,090 Ha
- Rate of deforestation -92,000 Ha p.a (2.5%)

(Source: National *Biomass report 2009*)



RELEVANT LAWS

- ❖ Article 237 of the Constitution (1995)- The government or local government shall hold in trust for the people and protect natural lakes, rivers, wetlands, forest reserves, game reserves, national parks and any land to be reserved for ecological and touristic purposes for the common good of all citizens.

RELEVANT LAWS

- ❖ The Land Act (1998) Section 3 – all land in Uganda shall vest in the citizens of Uganda and shall be owned in accordance with the following land tenure systems:
 1. Customary
 2. freehold
 3. Mailo
 4. leasehold

RELEVANT LAWS- contd

- ❖ The Land Act section 44- a person who owns or occupies land shall utilize the land in accordance with the forest Act or any other law.
- ❖ The National Forestry and tree planting Act , (2003)Section 21- a person may register with the DLB a natural forest situated on land owned in accordance with the Land Act 1998



RELEVANT LAWS- Contd

- ❖ The forest produce from registered natural forest above belongs to the owner and can be used in any manner but in accordance with management plan and regulations made under this act.



Land tenure system and Forest Conservation

- Customary tenure is characterized by Land Fragmentation which affects tree cover and conservation.
- Areas of customary land ownership are hereditary mainly support peasantry which does not allow for retention of large areas of land necessary for natural forest conservation. However, customary system may favor conservation of some tree species.

Contd

- Mailo land system involves large tracts of land which may allow for reserving some areas for natural forest cover.
- Freehold and leasehold equally hold larger areas some of which could be available for forest conservation. However these types of land ownership tend to favour activities of shorter and higher economic returns as opposed to forest conservation.

DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST DEFORESTATION

Source: National *Biomass report 2009*

District Name	Ha (1990)	Ha (2005)	Loss	% Loss
KIBAALE	114,102.66	58,268.06	-55,834.60	48.93365
MUKONO	100,626.65	63,977.12	-36,649.53	36.4213
WAKISO	28,461.12	3,781.68	-24,679.44	86.71282
HOIMA	75,143.95	58,889.27	-16,254.68	21.63139
MAYUGE	15,162.05	0	-15,162.05	100
MUBENDE	18,618.86	3,906.65	-14,712.22	79.01783
MPIGI	40,300.64	27,169.67	-13,130.98	32.58256
MITYANA	10,247.86	4,137.66	-6,110.20	59.62416
MASINDI	36,373.82	31,933.49	-4,440.34	12.20752



OBSERVATIONS

- Forest conservation requires connectivity of protected areas and areas on private land. This provides well for plant genetic dispersal as well as migration of wildlife.
- The current population trends indicate high rate of population growth as well as unplanned migration which has distorted stable forest conservation systems especially mailo and customary tenure areas.



Observations -Contd

- The Districts that had the highest natural forest cover by 1990 like Kibale , Mukono , Hoima, Kyenjojo and Mpigi show that other factors rather than the land tenure significantly affected the forest cover and conservation. These areas represent all the land tenure systems but have lost most of the forest cover.

Observations -Contd

- The districts in Northern and Eastern Uganda have dominant customary tenure system. Forest cover on customary land has been decimated except in areas that had long term insecurity or the land generally not suitable for farming or under long term fallow. The areas of Tororo, Teso, West Nile and in some areas CFR s stand as islands of natural vegetation.

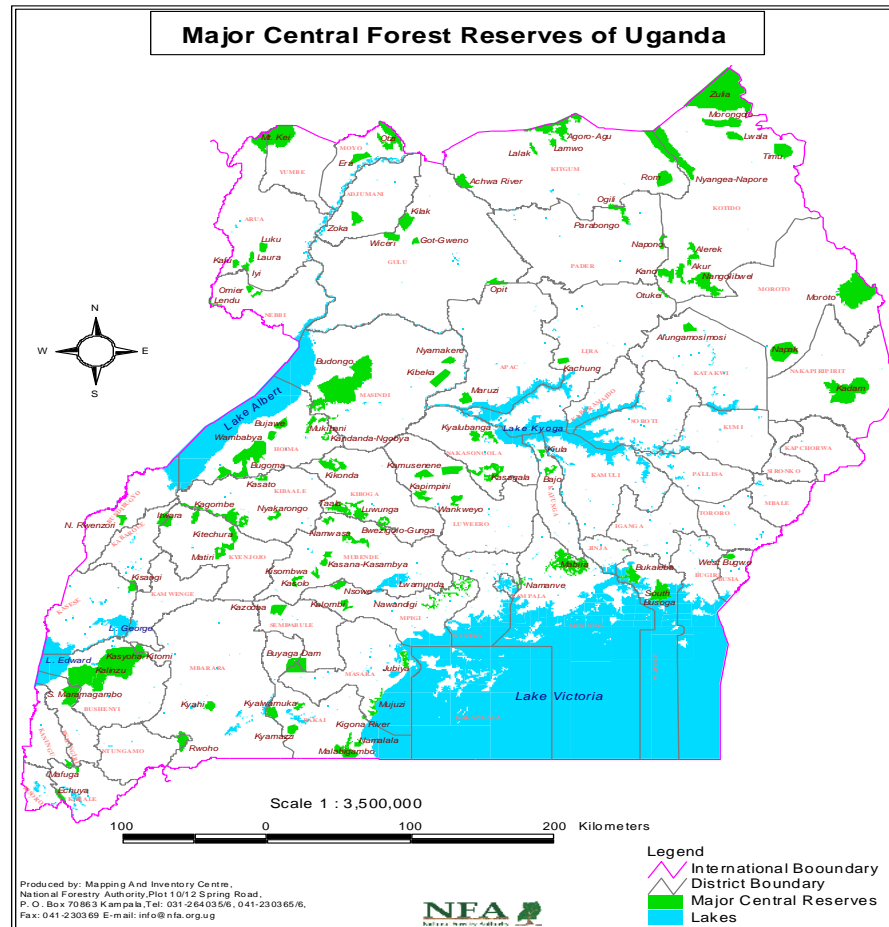
CONCLUSION

- The land tenure systems of Mailo, Freehold and Leasehold provide better conditions for forest Conservation provided there are **incentives** to retain forests on these lands.
- Customary tenure can contribute to conservation of some species like Shea butter tree and other trees considered important for domestic , medicinal or cultural values.

Conclusion-Contd

- There is need to carryout research on this subject but also to address issues that undermine forest conservation irrespective of which tenure system including issues to do with population dynamics, market forces, lack of alternatives to natural forest products among others.
- The long term strategy for ensuring forest conservation is by maintaining protected areas as a Permanent Forest Estate. (PFE)

Uganda Forest Reserves



Budongo Forest- Tropical High Forest 820Km²



END

GREEN IS LIFE

Thank You

