

Understanding Deforestation Free in African Context

Background Paper for The Forest Dialogues,
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▶ Presentation Outlines

- Deforestation-Free: Global Context
- Central Africa at Cross Roads
- Gabon: Case study
- Key Questions

► Background

- Wide consensus about negative impact the expansion of agricultural production has had on tropical forests
- Development of a number of initiatives to eliminate deforestation in commodities supply chain
- Many tools, approaches, and methodologies have been created or adapted to help implement, monitor, verify, and report on progress
- The Application of initiatives and tools in highly forested region of Central Africa can clash with national economic development goals
- Needs for discussions among stakeholders to address challenges and co-design solutions taking into account national context.

► What is Deforestation-free?

Zero Gross Deforestation – no conversion of forestland. Questions arise such as: when does the baseline begin, what counts as forests (example: plantation, primary, secondary forests), and how should forests already degraded be treated.

Zero Net Deforestation – no change of total forest area within a given geography, allowing for new forests to offset forest loss. Questions arise such as: what quality or type of forest is required to compensate for the forest lost.

Zero Illegal Deforestation – no conversion of forest that violates relevant forest law. Questions arise such as: which laws are relevant.

Zero Deforestation (or deforestation-free) – this term is ambiguous as to which of the above definitions are included.

► History of Deforestation-free

2008 : WWF Campaign called for Zero net deforestation by 2020 (CDB COP 9)

2009: Consumer Goods Forum

2010: Consumer Goods Forum commitment to zero net deforestation by 2020 for palm oil, soy, beef and pulp supply chain

2012: The Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA2020) founded at Rio+20. In Support 7 African countries signed Marrakesh Declaration in 2016

2014: The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) at UN Climate Summit :
Aim: Cutting natural forest loss by 2020 and ending entirely by 2030

Sept 2014: 40 governments, 20 sub-governments, 57 multinational companies, 16 Indigenous groups and 57 NGOs endorsed.

2016 : 415 Companies have made public commitments

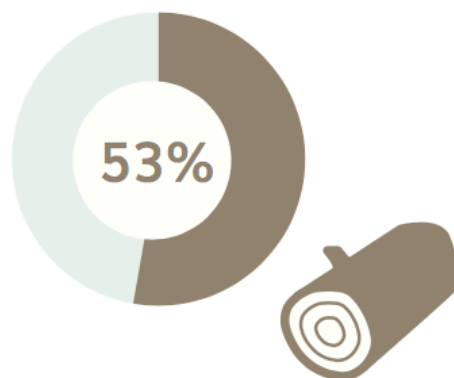
To date : 760 Commitments

Percentage of commitments to deforestation-free supply chains per commodity

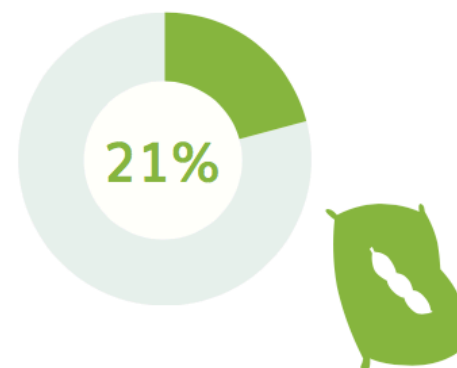
Palm oil



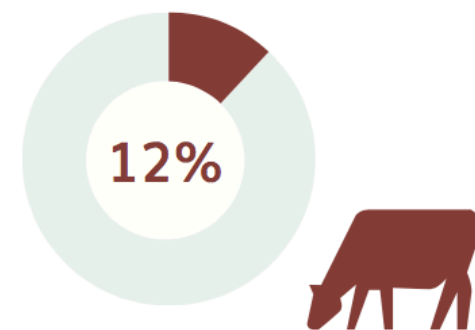
Timber/Pulp



Soy



Cattle



Source: Progress on the New York Declaration on Forests: Eliminating Deforestation from the Production of Agricultural Commodities – Goal 2 Assessment Report

► Deforestation-free : Certification Standards

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)	Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)	Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB)
Prohibits conversion of primary forests but not of other forest types	Prohibits conversion of both primary and secondary forests, using a narrow definition of forests	Prohibits forest conversion in all but exceptional cases	Endorses national standards that regulate forest conversion	Calls for the protection of native forests but does not issue certifications
3.4 million ha certified	0.3 million ha certified	185 million ha certified	263 million ha certified	not applicable to areas

▶ Deforestation-free : Approaches (HCV & HCS)

▶ High Conservation Values (FSC 1999)

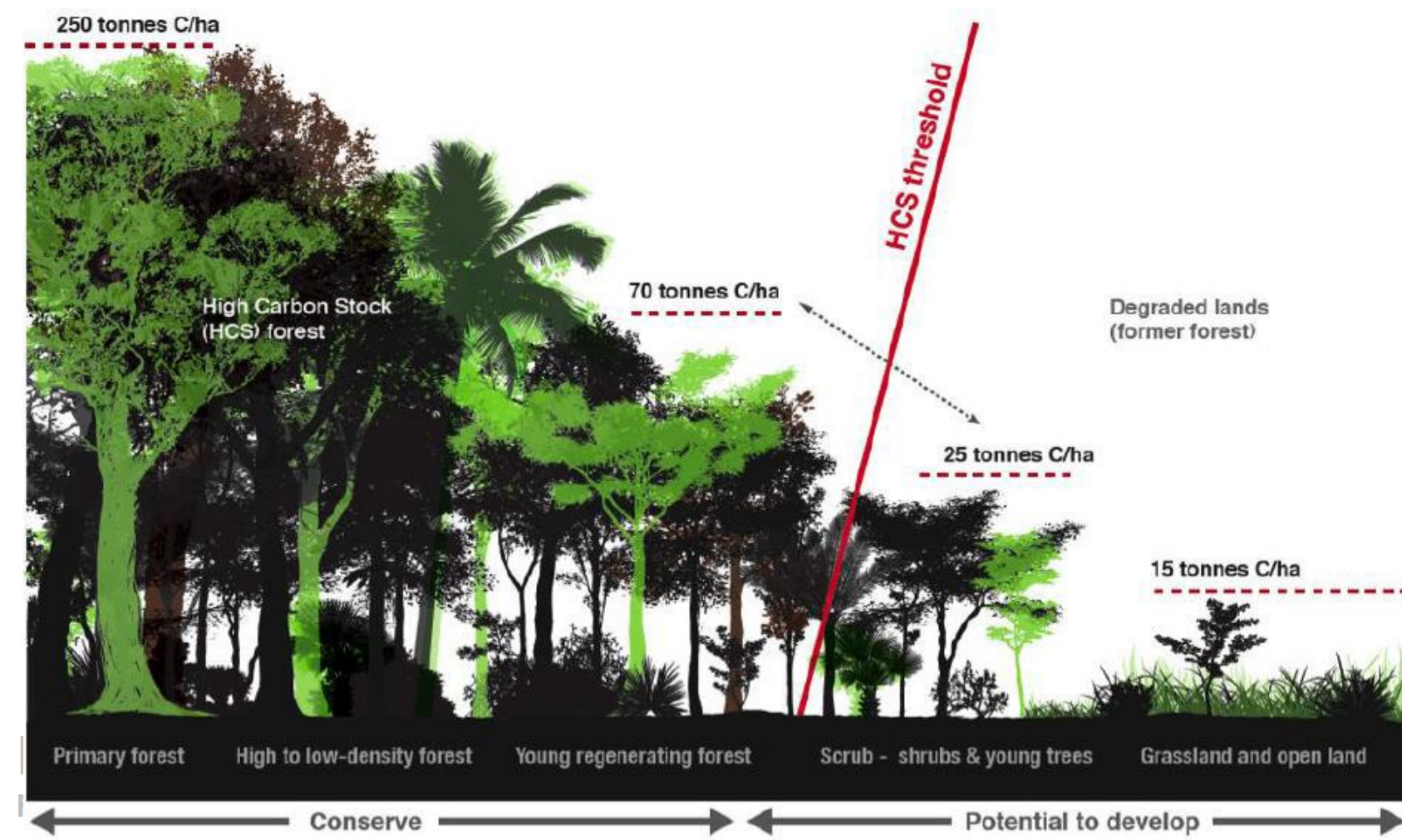
Aim: to identify areas within forests of exceptional value meriting conservation

The 6 High Conservation Values:

1. Species diversity
2. Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics
3. Ecosystems and habitats
4. Ecosystem services
5. Community needs
6. Cultural values

Deforestation-Free : Global Context

- ▶ High Carbon Stock Approach (Golden Agri Resources (GAR), Greenpeace, and The Forest Trust (TFT))



Vegetation above a certain carbon stock threshold is off-limits

► Deforestation-free : Monitoring Approaches

- Scorecards (WWF)
- Remote Sensing Tools :
 - Global Forest Watch (WRI)
- Accountability Framework
 - Address the 'implementation gap'

AFI Principles: for topics that should be addressed in supply chain commitments:

1. Scope and specification of commitments
2. Business and supply chain management systems
3. Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems
4. Protection of land rights, labor rights and other human rights
5. Responsible land use planning and management
6. Monitoring, verification, reporting and claims
7. Remediation and access to remedy
8. Stakeholder engagement and external relations

▶ Main Design Challenges

1. Agreement on clear common definitions, monitoring tools, and outcome reporting metrics
 - a. what is a forest?
 - b. what is deforestation?
 - c. what are acceptable credible and coherent standards for use across different commodities.

► Central African Context

► Central Africa at Glance

1. Second largest tropical forest in the world
2. Biodiversity hotspot
3. 39 billion tons of carbon
4. ~100 M People

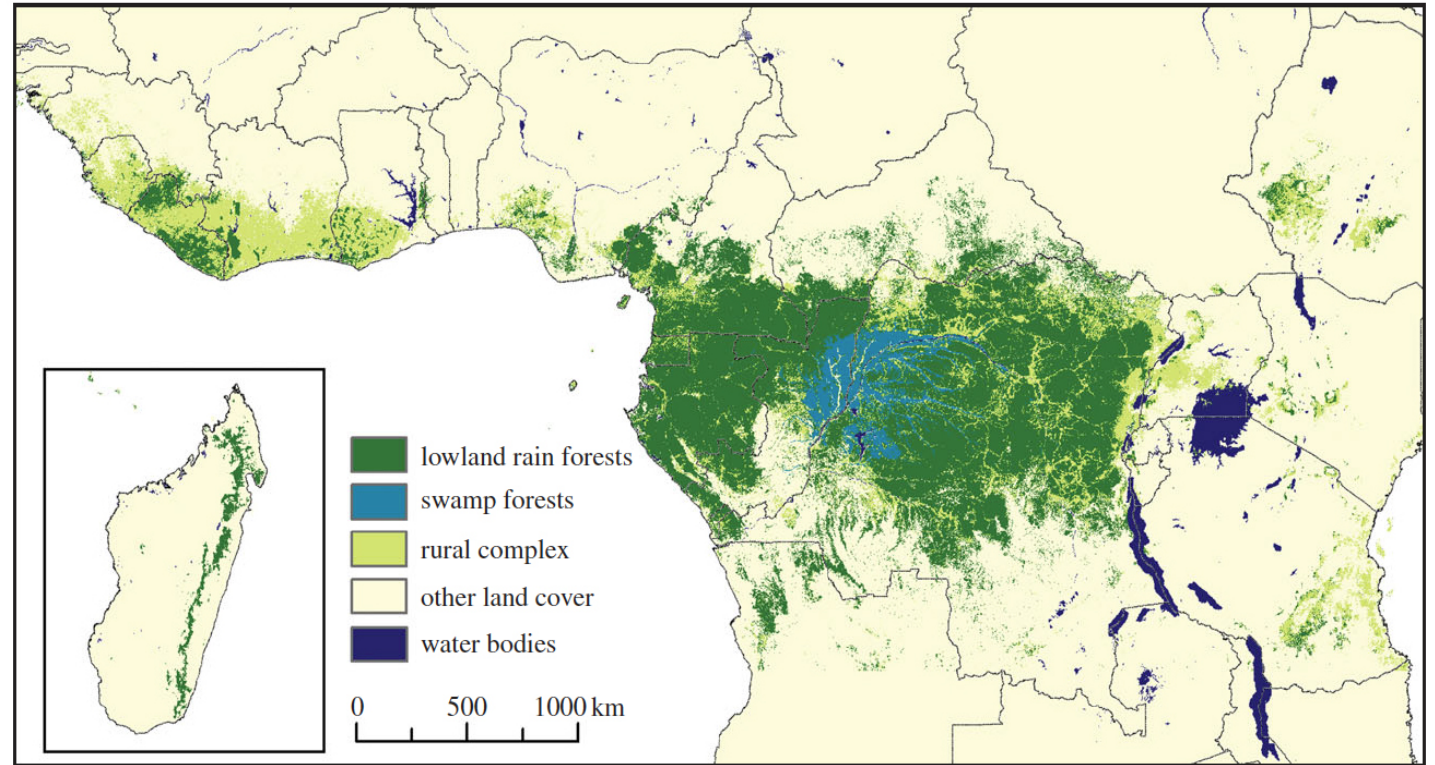


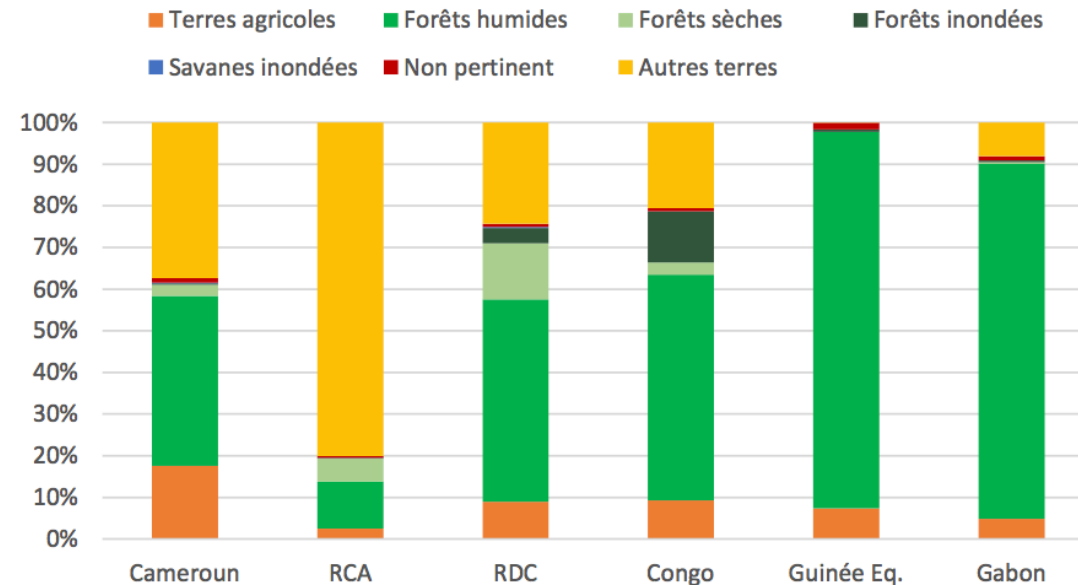
Figure 1. Spatial distribution of the African rainforests derived from MODIS data.

► Central Africa Context

► Forest and Agriculture land

1. ~400 M ha of forests
2. 35 M ha of agriculture land

	Terres agricoles/ Mosaïque	Total forêts	Forêts humides	Forêts sèches	Forêts inondées	Savanes inondées	Non pertinent	Autres terres	Total
Cameroun	8.1	20.2	18.9	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	17.3	46.3
RCA	1.6	10.5	7.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	49.6	61.9
RDC	20.6	150.1	111.0	30.9	8.3	0.6	1.6	55.7	228.6
Congo	3.2	23.6	18.4	1.0	4.2	0.0	0.2	7.0	34.0
Guinée Eq.	0.2	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6
Gabon	1.3	22.4	22.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.1	26.0



► Central Africa Context

► Causes of Deforestation

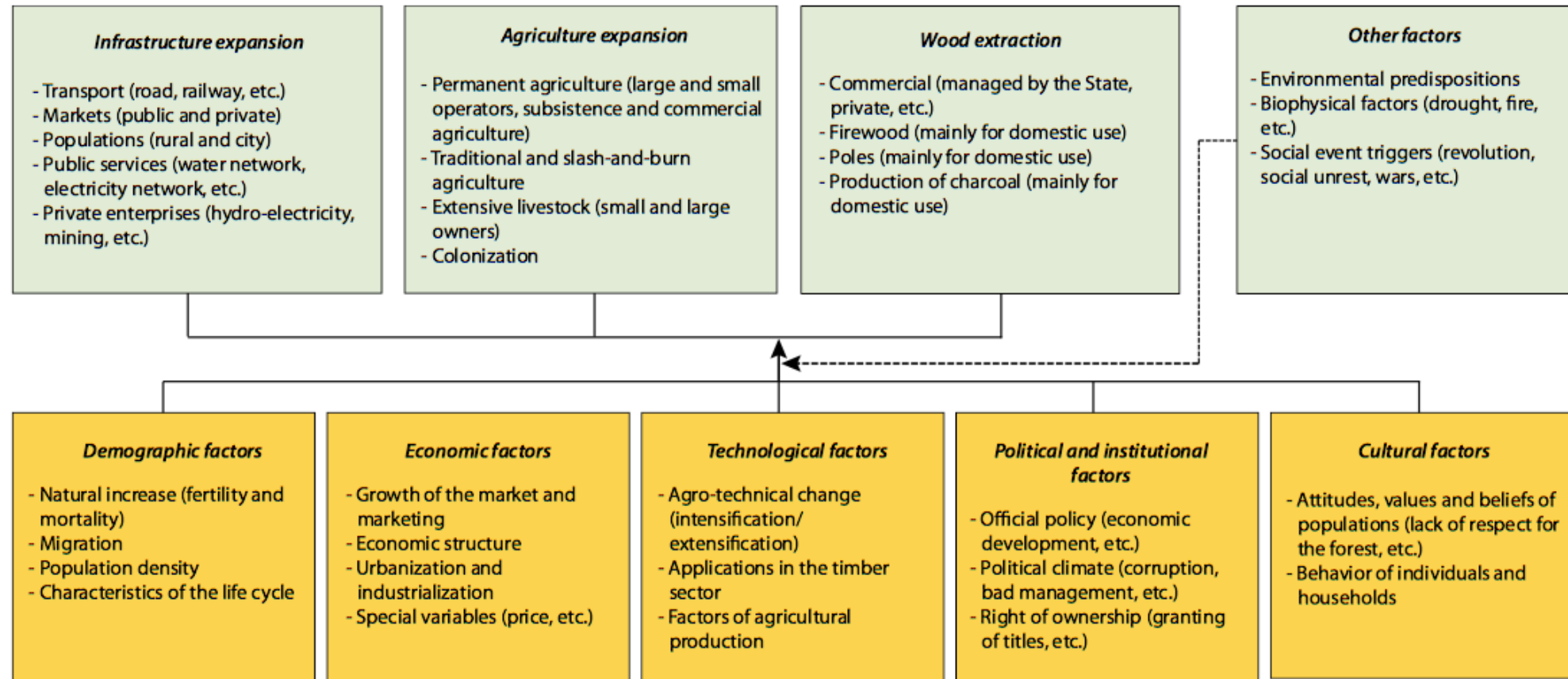


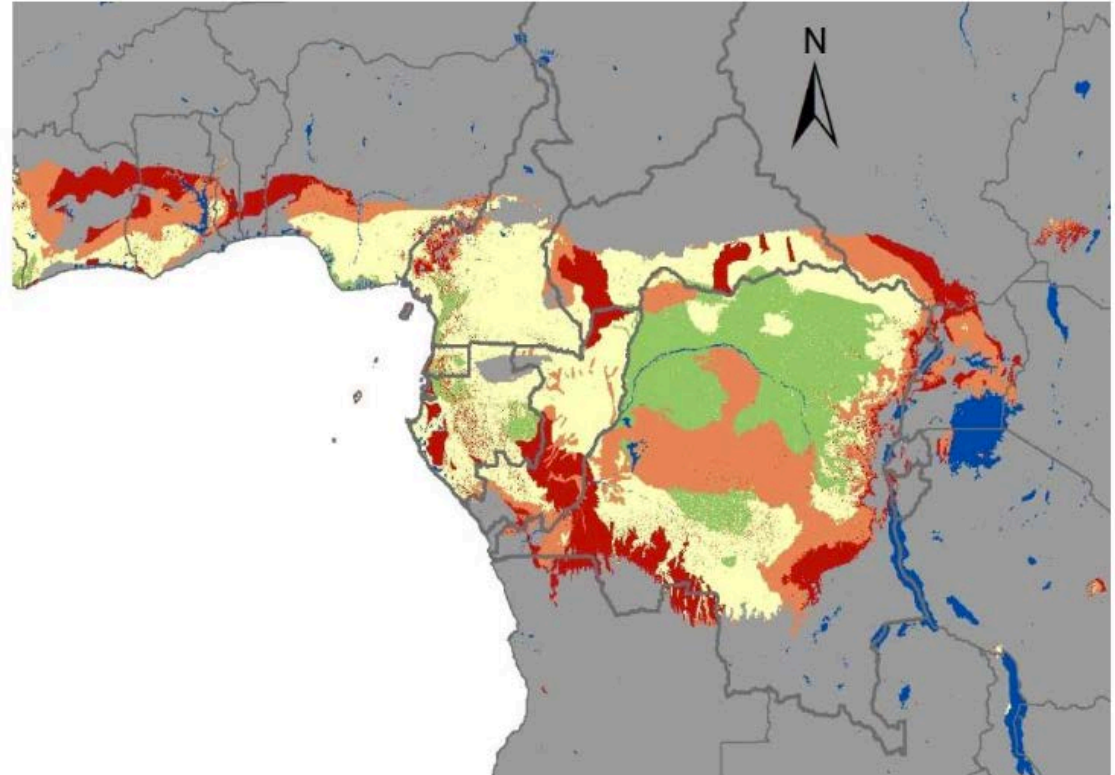
Figure 1. Causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

Source: Geist and Lambin (2001).

► Central Africa Context

► Agribusiness : current and Future trends

1. High Economic Growth
2. Source of massive employment
3. Poverty Reduction
4. *National Priority*

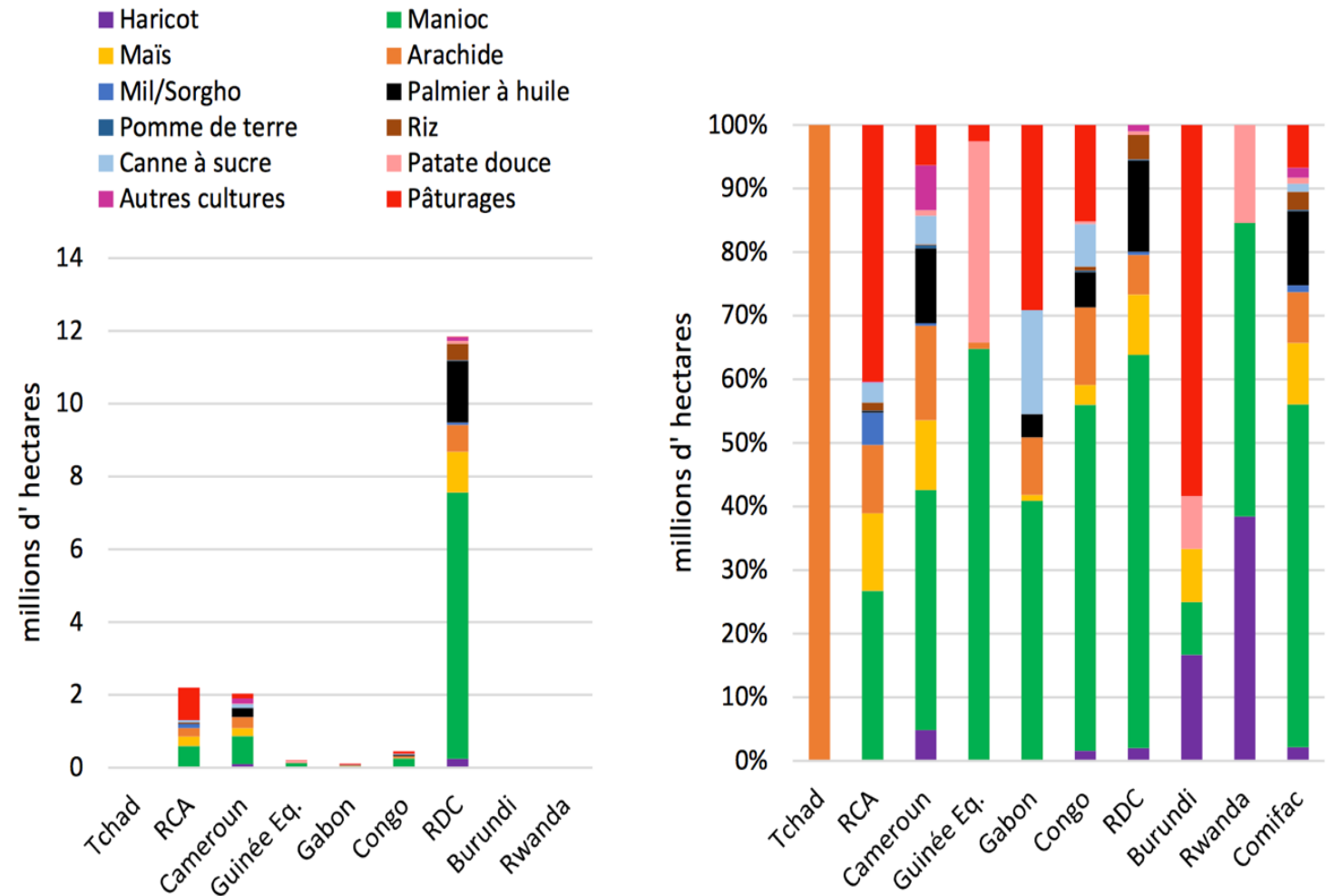


Source: Pirker et Mosnier (2015)

▶ Central Africa Context

▶ Agribusiness : current and Future trends

- Population increase
- Foods consumption and cultivated lands
- ~17 M ha expected by 2030 (6% of total forest)
- 15 % of deforestation associated with palm oil expansion



Source: Mosnier et al. 2017.

▶ Central Africa Context

▶ Key Challenges Achieving Deforestation-free in the region

- Harmonized definitions of key terms in deforestation-free commitments and metrics
 - Taking into account region's specific context
- Governance system
 - Participatory Land Use Planning
 - ineffective systems of land use, access rights, and property rights
 - Weak institutions
 - Poor coordination between government agencies
- Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) approaches
 - Limited Technical expertise
 - Lack of Appropriate tools , methodologies and approaches
 - Absence of data to allow better analysis of grievances
 - Transparency and accountability

▶ Gabon: A case Study

LHFLD country, small and least populous and most highly-forested

Recently embarked on a strategy of oil palm and agri-development

Land tenure and capacity issues with big ambition for economic development

With current development and experience in palm oil: a good case to assess if poverty reduction and economic growth can be reconciled with sustainable management and forests protection

▶ Gabon: A case Study

▶ Opportunities

- Political Vision and Engagement
- Strong Synergy towards achieving sustainable agri-business
 - Civil Society
 - Research Institutions
 - Government institutions
 - Private sector
- Companies' current commitments to sustainability and transparency
 - RSPO
 - HCV
 - HCS
 - FPIC

▶ Gabon: A case Study

▶ Challenges

- Are industrial plantations sustainable within the national context ? Some Advocacy groups and NGOs have campaigned against (Mighty Earth)
- A lack of detailed and explicit legislation to clarify the rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups, and the state
- Absence of National Land use Planning : Overlap, Conflict and Dispute
- The needs, challenges, and aspirations of smallholders, communities and indigenous require a neutral platform for discussions
- The challenge of managing smallholder farming while preventing uncontrolled expansion into forests and local deforestation—with more labor in plantations

► Key Messages

- How to develop common terminology and methodologies to define what qualifies as deforestation-free production in Gabon, and other Central African countries?
- Where on the landscape should forests be protected and restored? What types of forests should be given priority for protection? What approach should we use to figure this out?
- How can agriculture sector ambitions in national development plans be reconciled with market demands for deforestation-free commodities in Central Africa and where on the landscape should commodities and food be produced to meet future demands?
- What existing voluntary sectoral and production-level approaches, tools, and methodologies might be used to implement deforestation-free commitments here? In what ways do they need to be customized? Are there models from other regions that might work here?

▶ Key Messages

- How to ascertain and respect the needs, wants, and aspirations of local communities and indigenous peoples with respect to forests and land-use? What existing laws protect forests, what is the governance structure, and how well are they working?
- How do we address the increase of subsistence agriculture and leakages as workforce occupies forested areas and demand for foods increases?
- What existing monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) approaches and tools might be used to measure progress on commitments here? In what ways do they need to be customized?

▶ Key Messages

▶ Elements of a successful strategy will include:

- A shared vision for the place of agriculture in the national economic development plan
- Alignment of shared norms for good practice in agri development (e.g. RSPO and other standards)
- Land use planning and rural tenure reform in key areas
- Effective mechanisms to ensure long-term protection of important forests and natural ecosystems,
- Alignment of laws with emergent threats and opportunities (i.e. agribusiness expansion)
- Capacity building at all levels
- Smallholder programmes to address livelihoods, poverty, unsustainable agriculture practices
- Incentives for good corporate performance on environmental and social outcomes