

Miombo Network meeting, Maputo, Mozambique 22-24 July 2013

Forests and woodland status report for Zambia

Dr Stephen Syampungani

School of Natural Resources, Copperbelt
University, Kitwe, Zambia
ssyampungani@yahoo.com

OUTLINE

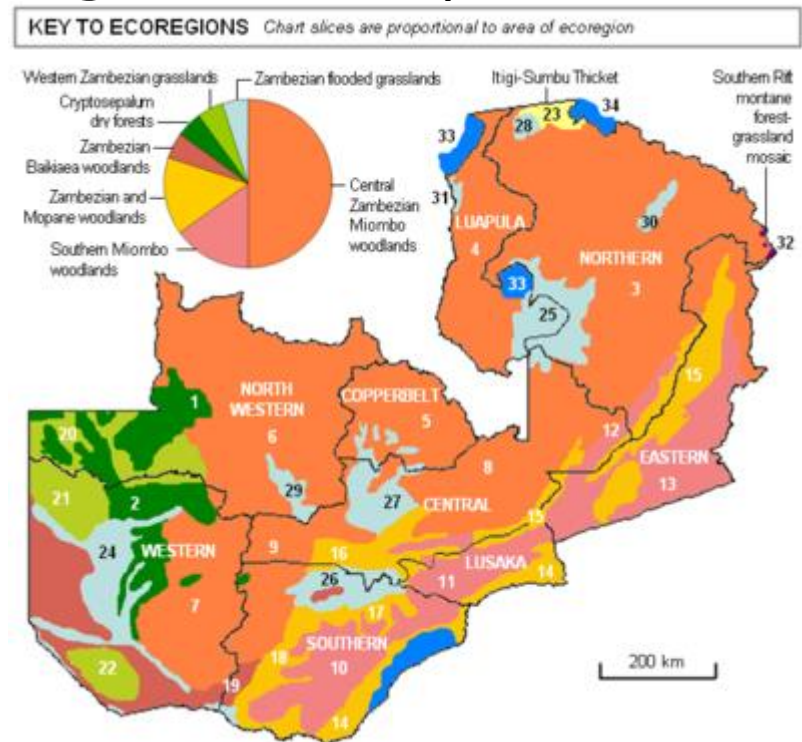
- Introduction
- Status of woodland
- Drivers of degradation
- National mitigation
- Local and international support
- Science and earth observation needs
- Conclusion

Introduction

Vegetation types

- Three major vegetation formations:
 - Closed forests
 - Woodlands (open forests)
 - Grassland

Vegetation map



Introduction...

VEGETATION TYPE	AREA (000 HA)	% COVERAGE
A. CLOSED FOREST		= 6%
Parinari	420	0.06
Marquesia	430	0.06
Lake basin	15560	2.07
Cryptosepalum	15 510	2.00
Baikiaea	6830	0.91
Itigi	1900	0.25
Montane	40	0.01
Swamp	1530	0.20
Riparian	810	0.11

Introduction...

VEGETATION TYPE	AREA (000 HA)	% COVERAGE
B. WOODLANDS		≈ 67%
Miombo	311460	41.41
Kalahari	85460	11.36
Mopane	38700	5.15
Munga	32 600	4.34
Terminalia	24260	3.23
C.GRASSLAND	206350	27.44%

Status of forests/woodlands by Province

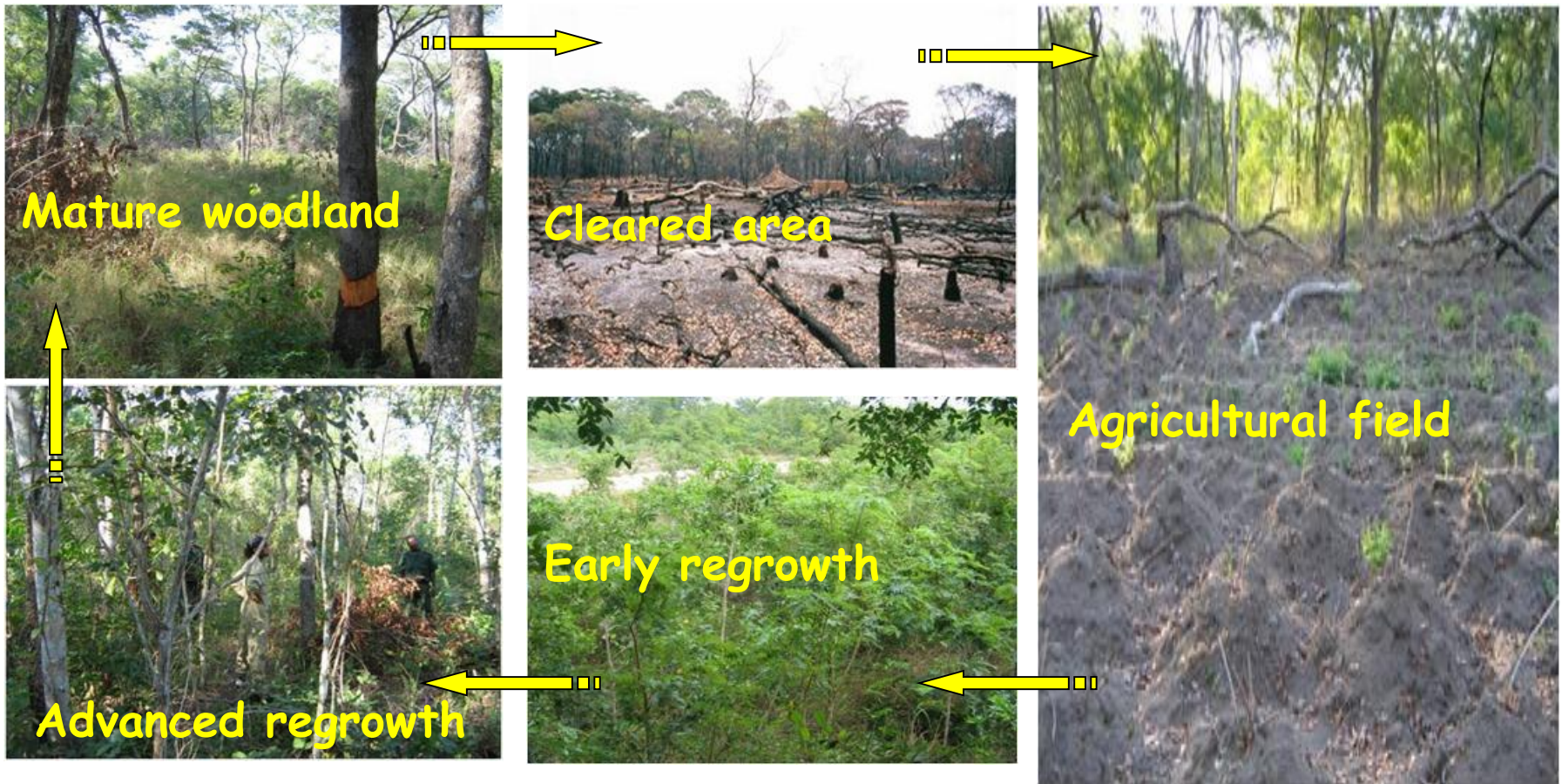
Province	Annual deforestation %
Central/Lusaka	-0.65
Copperbelt	-0.84
Eastern	-0.85
Luapula	-2.47
Northern	-0.47
Northwestern	-0.77
Southern	-0.20
Western	-0.20

Status of forests/woodlands by Province

- At national level the annual deforestation increased at varying levels

Period	Annual hectarage Decline (ha)	% decline
1965-1996	-157,300	-0.34
1996-2005	-307,900	-0.66

Current status: Zambia



- **Miombo regrows rapidly when Slash & Burn and charcoal production sites abandoned**

In abandoned and mature woodlands: root stocks & cut stems=recovery



*Pterocarpus
angolensis*

Drivers of degradation

- Two major factors
 - Proximate factors
 - Underlying factors

Causes of degradation

- **Proximate factors**
 - Agricultural expansion
 - Infrastructure development
 - Wood extraction
 - Fires (especially Baikiaea forest)

Causes of degradation

- **Underlying causes**

- **Policy and legal framework:** lack of political will & inconsistencies in policies and legislation; resulting in sectoral organization
- **Socio-economic:** poverty & rural livelihoods=wood extraction, agricultural expansion
- **Institutional:** inadequate staffing, institutions governing natural resources management operating independently eg FD & Land resettlement
- **Environmental:** making the area prone to degradation

National mitigation

- Community participation in forest management
- Working with other organisation eg CIFOR
- REDD+ programme-UNDP-Forest Department
- National tree planting funded by Copper Mines

Local and international support

- Forest restoration research: Swedish Science Council
- Systematic review of Carbon stocks and fluxes for miombo ecoregion- CIFOR
- SASCAL project
- Trial plots-Mwekera trial sites

Science and Earth Observation needs

- Capacity building-manpower development
- Infrastructure

CONCLUSION

- Woodlands and forests=important for livelihood in Zambia
- Forest & woodland utilization= varying impacts
- Impacts need to be understood in the context of:
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Carbon sequestration & climate change