



Deforestation study

Nigeria

Nigeria faces high rates of deforestation globally, driven by agricultural expansion, informal logging, and infrastructure development. Protected areas, while significant, are often insufficiently managed.

The risk of deforestation is concentrated in high forest zones (HFZs) and central regions, especially near cocoa and palm oil production zones.

Economic contribution of land use sectors

Agriculture including agro processing

GDP

24%

Export

Significant (e.g., cocoa, cassava)

Labour

70%

Major Value Chains

Cassava, cocoa, palm oil, cashew.

Key Actors

Smallholder farmers, cooperatives, agribusinesses, certification organizations.

Tourism

GDP

1.4%

Export

4.7%

Major Value Chains

National parks and eco-tourism (Yankari Game Reserve, Cross River National Park).

Key Actors

Park authorities, private investors, local communities, conservation NGOs.

Forestry

Major Value Chains

Timber production, charcoal, fuelwood, Gum Arabic.

Key Actors

Informal loggers, charcoal producers, private operators.

Aquaculture including fisheries

GDP

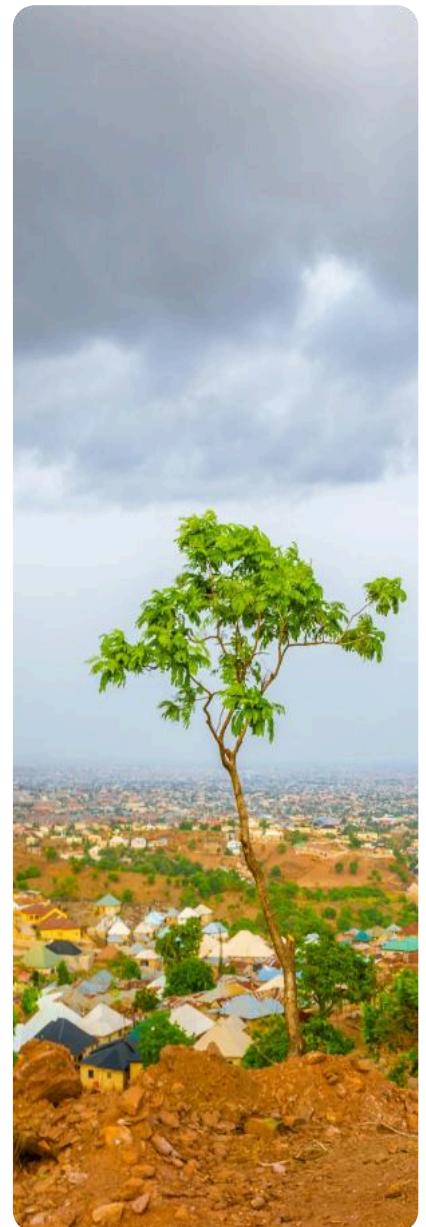
1.2%

Major Value Chains

Fish farming, integrated systems.

Key Actors

Artisanal fishers, aquaculture enterprises, feed manufacturers, processors.



Key biodiverse rich areas

Protected Area Forests

- **Categories:** National parks.
- **Examples:** Yankari Game Reserve, Gashaka Gumti National Park.

Forests in Unprotected Areas

- **Threats:** Illegal logging, conversion to agriculture.
- **Examples:** Over 400 forest reserves.

Other Biodiverse Rich Areas

- **Examples:** Niger Delta, mangrove forests, freshwater swamps.

Risks posed by land use sectors

Deforestation

- **Major Players:** Smallholder farmers, loggers.
- **Mitigation:** Sustainability standards compliance, selected projects, deforestation risk mapping, impact investment strategy, crop renewal, good agricultural practices, forest protection and monitoring, farmer certification programs, sector-specific risk awareness, collaboration with sustainability initiatives.

Land Degradation

- **Major Players:** Livestock herders, miners.

High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV)

- **Major Players:** Agribusiness, plantation developers.

General statement of country-level deforestation risk

Nigeria faces significant deforestation pressures from agricultural expansion, informal logging, and infrastructure development.

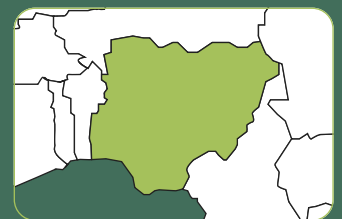
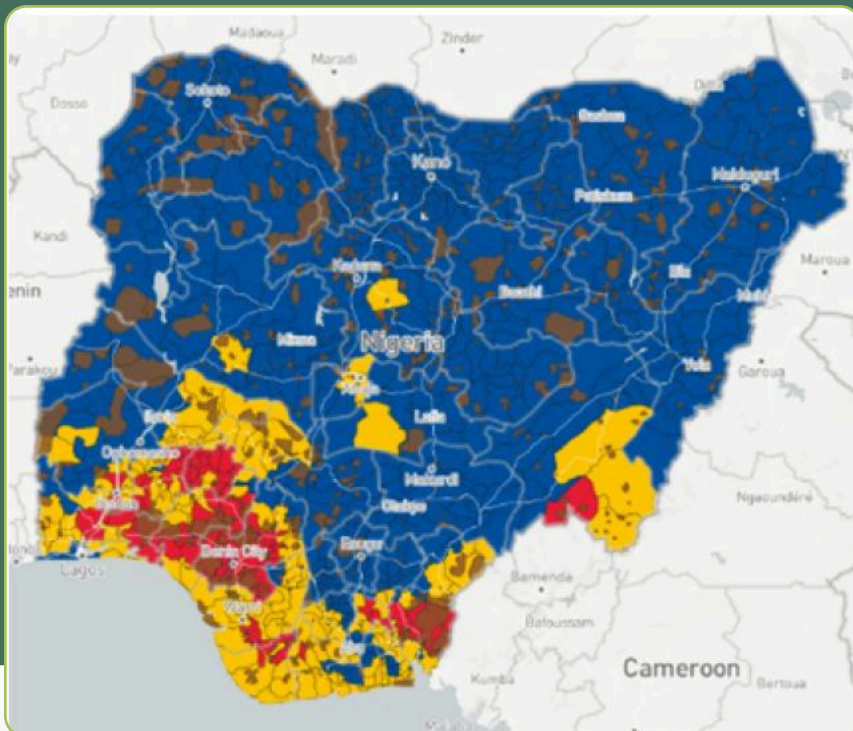
Protected areas are often insufficiently managed, with high deforestation risks concentrated in high forest zones and central regions.

Deforestation-risk methodology application to investment decisioning

Deforestation risk methodology for Nigeria supports investment decisions by evaluating environmental impacts through forest cover, deforestation trends, and land-use changes. Areas are classified into high, medium, and low-risk zones, guiding the level of environmental safeguards required.

- High-risk zones require strict mitigation, including certification (e.g., FSC, RSPO), reforestation, and biodiversity protection.
- Medium-risk zones need sustainable farming and land-use practices.
- Low-risk zones are suitable for afforestation and agroforestry projects.

This framework helps prioritize investment locations while ensuring economic development aligns with environmental sustainability and responsible land use.



Deforestation risk map

- Highest deforestation risk
- Medium risk
- Low risk
- Protected areas



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