



## Land Use, Land Cover and Trends in Nigeria

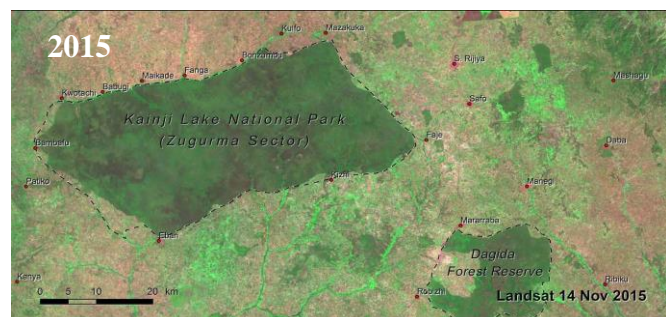
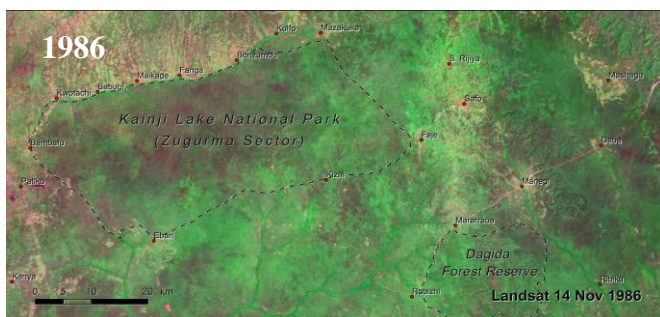
The Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile Ife, and the Federal University of Technology in Minna worked in collaboration with teams from the AGRHYMET Regional Center, a specialized institution under Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center, to analyze changes in land use and land cover in Nigeria. The aim is to better understand trends over the past 40 years with the goal of improving decision-making in land management.

A series of activities were conducted which included:

- Training in image processing and interpretation for 6 senior scientists
- Field work and product validation
- An awareness workshop was organized for more than 80 managers and decision makers
- Mapping Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) and associated trends from 1975 to 2013
- Promoting successes in natural resource management (NRM) through local studies across the country: i) Tropical forest threatened by human activities in the Okomu Forest Reserve, ii) Progressive expansion of agriculture in Niger State, Nigeria, iii) Urban sprawl of Ibadan into savanna and forest habitat

Nigeria is the most populous country in West Africa, and currently the seventh most populous in the world. Rapid growth in both population and the economy exerts a strong pressure on Nigeria's diverse natural resources, from the tropical coastal plains in the south to the Sahelian savannas in the north. Oil spills, deforestation, desertification and loss of natural habitat all constitute some of Nigeria's greatest environmental challenges.

### Progressive expansion of agriculture in Niger State, Nigeria



The three Landsat images from 1972, 1986 and 2015 show the dramatic transformation in the area surrounding these two protected areas. In 1972, the darker green of the mostly unbroken wooded savanna had only scattered plots of shifting cultivation (lighter green areas). By 1986 the area north of the Zugurma Sector and areas surrounding some of the villages were converted into farmland (light tan, light green and pink areas). By 2015 the transformation of the area to farmland was almost complete, with islands of wooded savanna inside the protected areas.

For more information contact :

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