

Ethical dilemmas of protecting the forests in Central Africa

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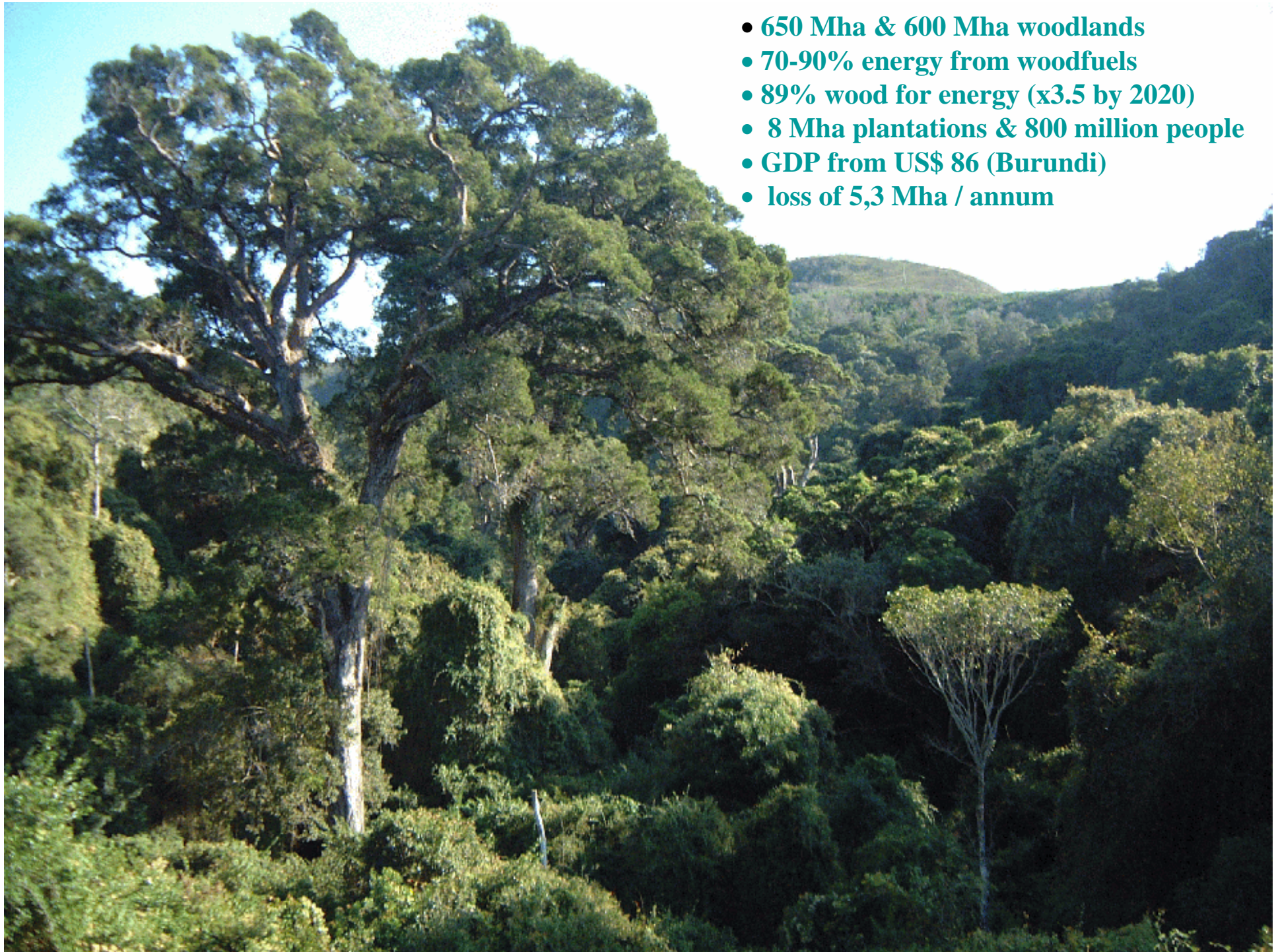
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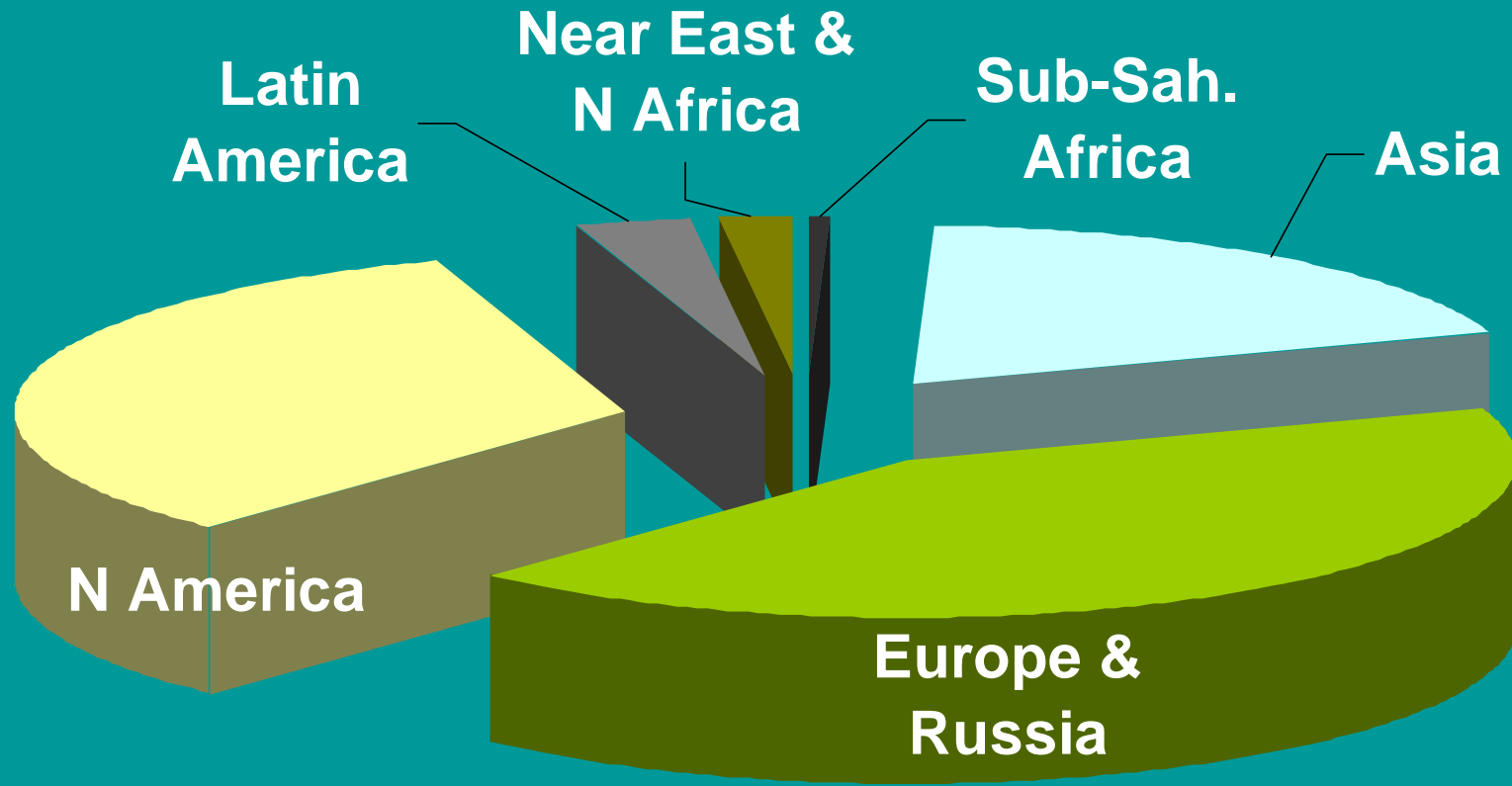


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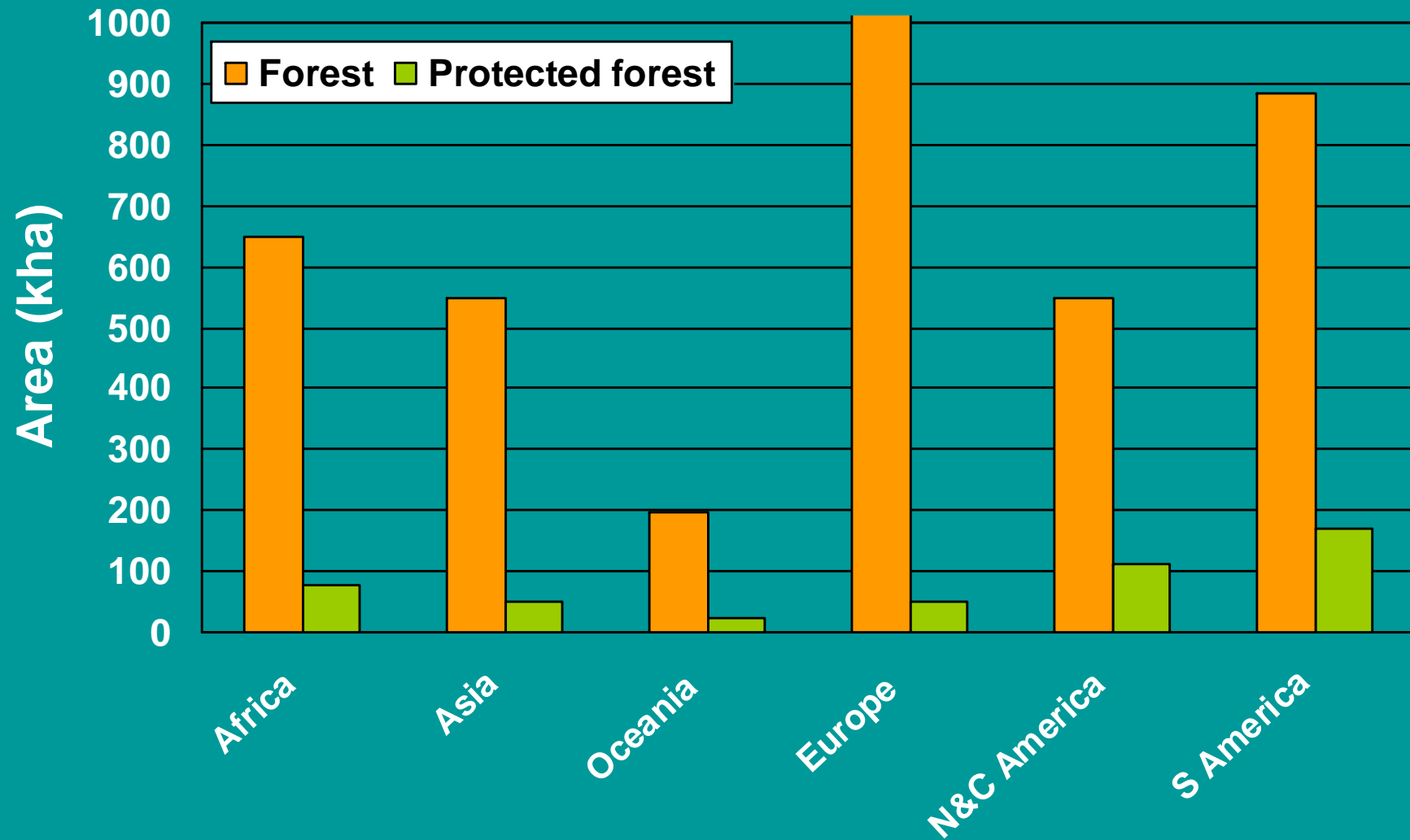


- 650 Mha & 600 Mha woodlands
- 70-90% energy from woodfuels
- 89% wood for energy (x3.5 by 2020)
- 8 Mha plantations & 800 million people
- GDP from US\$ 86 (Burundi)
- loss of 5,3 Mha / annum

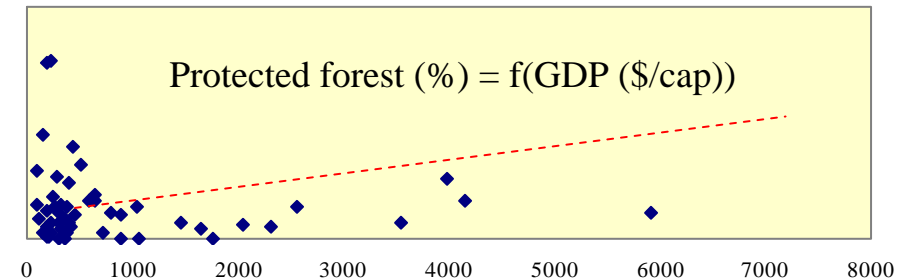
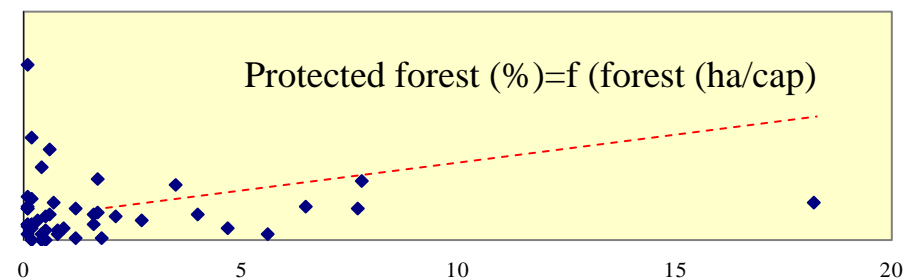
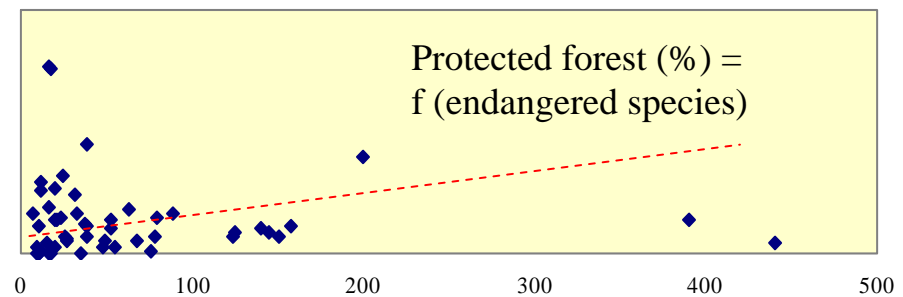
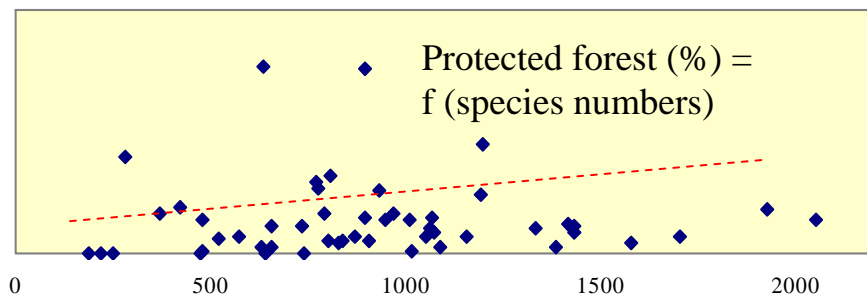
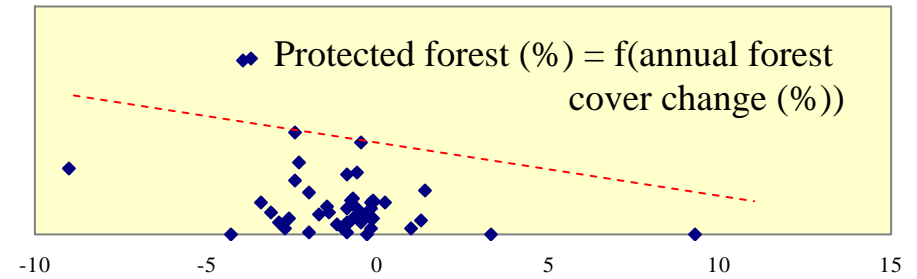
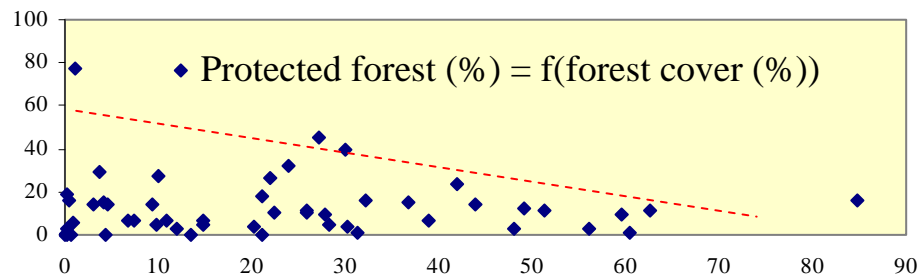


Number of scientific articles in 2000

Area of forests and protected forests in the world



Protected forests as a function of various conditions in African countries



Political processes

1992 Rio de Janeiro: Earth Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development

1996 Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC)

1 Yaounde Process: Declaration to conserve >10% of forests in C. Africa

2 Creation of Sangha Tri_National Park

3 Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)

2000 New York: Millennium Summit & Millennium Declaration

1 Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

2002 Johannesburg: Summit on Sustainable Livelihoods

1 New York: Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global Partnership for Development

The Congo Basin

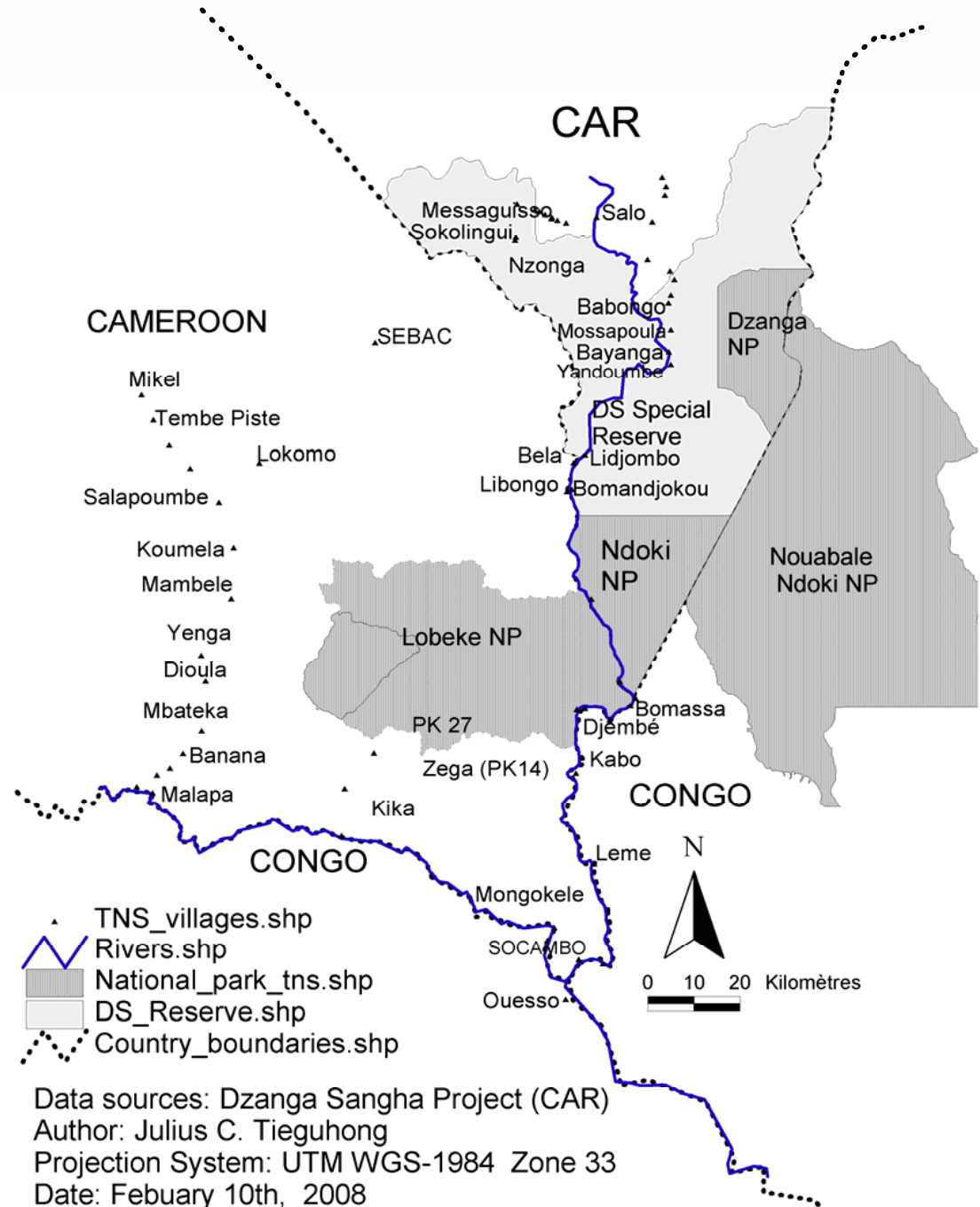


- **Countries:** Cameroon, CAR, Rep. Congo, DRC, Eq. Guinea, Gabon
- **Forest area:** 228 Mha (57.2%)
- **Rich biodiversity** (>11 000 spp)
- **78 M people; 2.5% growth/yr**
- **Forest area per capita: 2.9 ha**
- **GDP US\$411 (107-5915)**
- **Deforestation rate: 0.19%**
- **Protected areas (14.4%)**

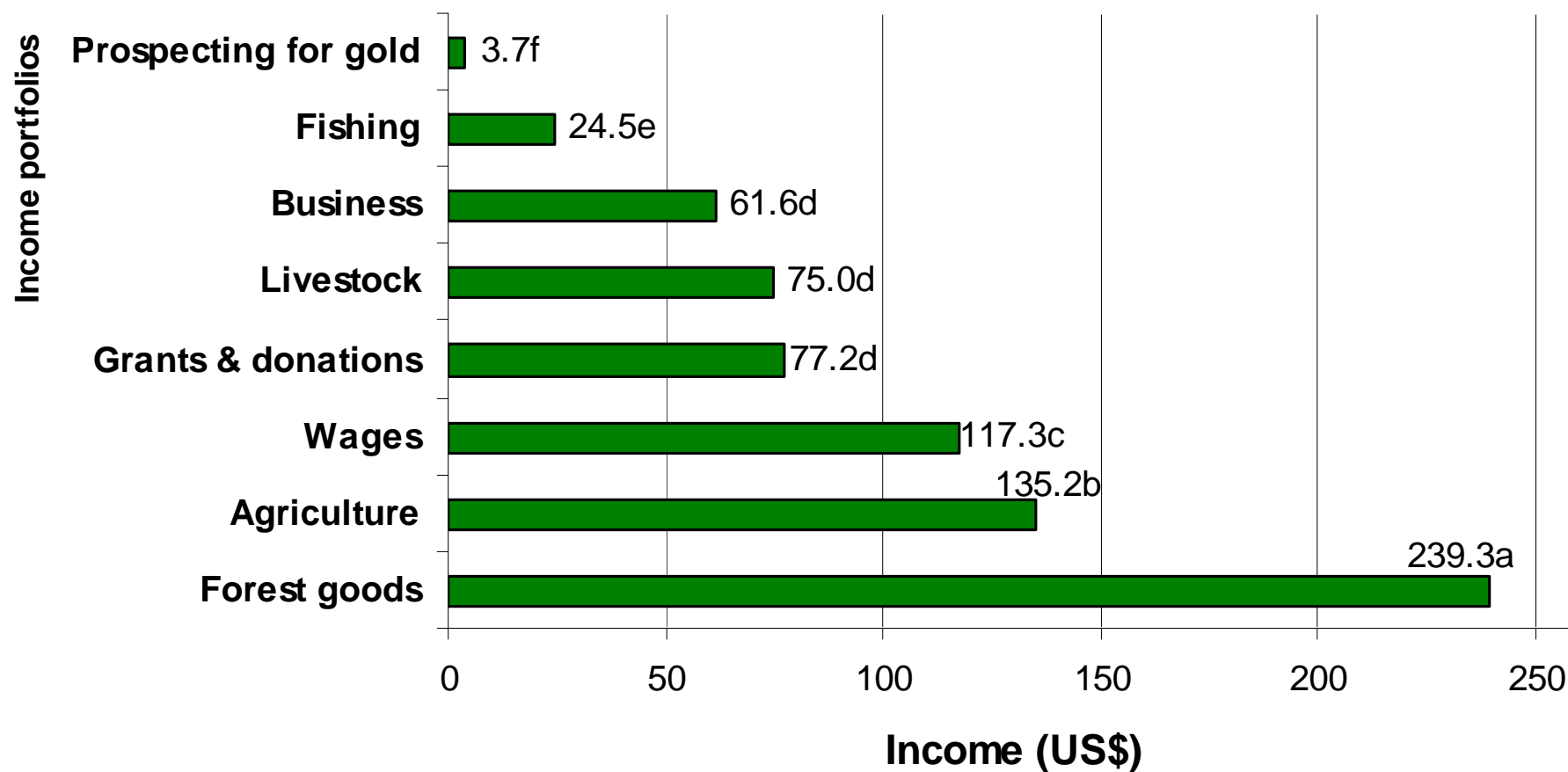
Country	Number of national parks		
	Before 1990	After 1990	Total
Cameroon	11	3	14
CAR	4	1	5
Congo	1	3	4
DRC	9	0	9
Eq, Guinea	0	3	3
Gabon	0	14	14

Methods

- Sangha Tri-National Park (TNS) of 28 000 km² (7500 km² core area)
- 5 out of 14 random villages (Koumela, Libongo, Mambele, Socambo and Zega) in Cameroon
- 22-23 random households in each (693 people)
- Questionnaires in native languages repeated quarterly for one year on social characteristics, cash and in-kind income
- Data input and analysis with: MS Access & Excel, STATA 8, SPSS 12
- Stastics: Kruskal-Wallis test & Games-Howell ranking
- Calculation of forest dependency as forest income/total income
- Logistic regression to explain forest dependency (>0.49)

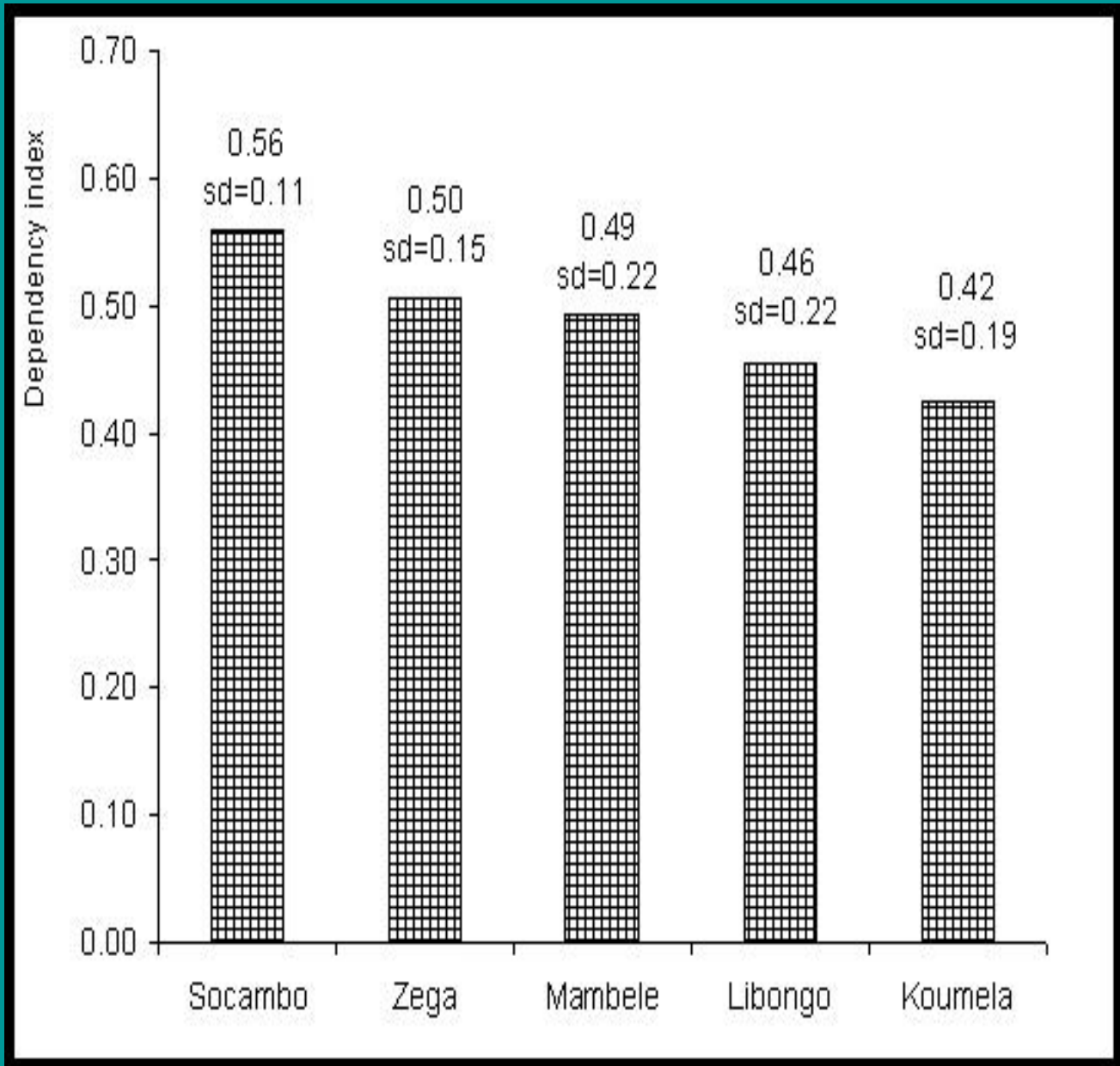


Sources of mean annual household income of forest dwellers in Cameroon



Forest dependency indices

- Forest dependency index = forest-derived values /total values derived by households from all sources.
- Household forest dependency varied from 0.1 to 0.82 with a mean of 0.49 (SD= 0.18).
- Can forest-dependent households abandon harvesting forests products?



Forest conservation management

- Parks are miss-managed and under-funded
- Entry fee raising policy is inadequate
- Central budgeting prevents re-investments
- Corrupt practices at any level
- Infrastructure is not present or neglected
- Shortage of qualified staff
- Income from tourism negligible
- Participatory forest management absent

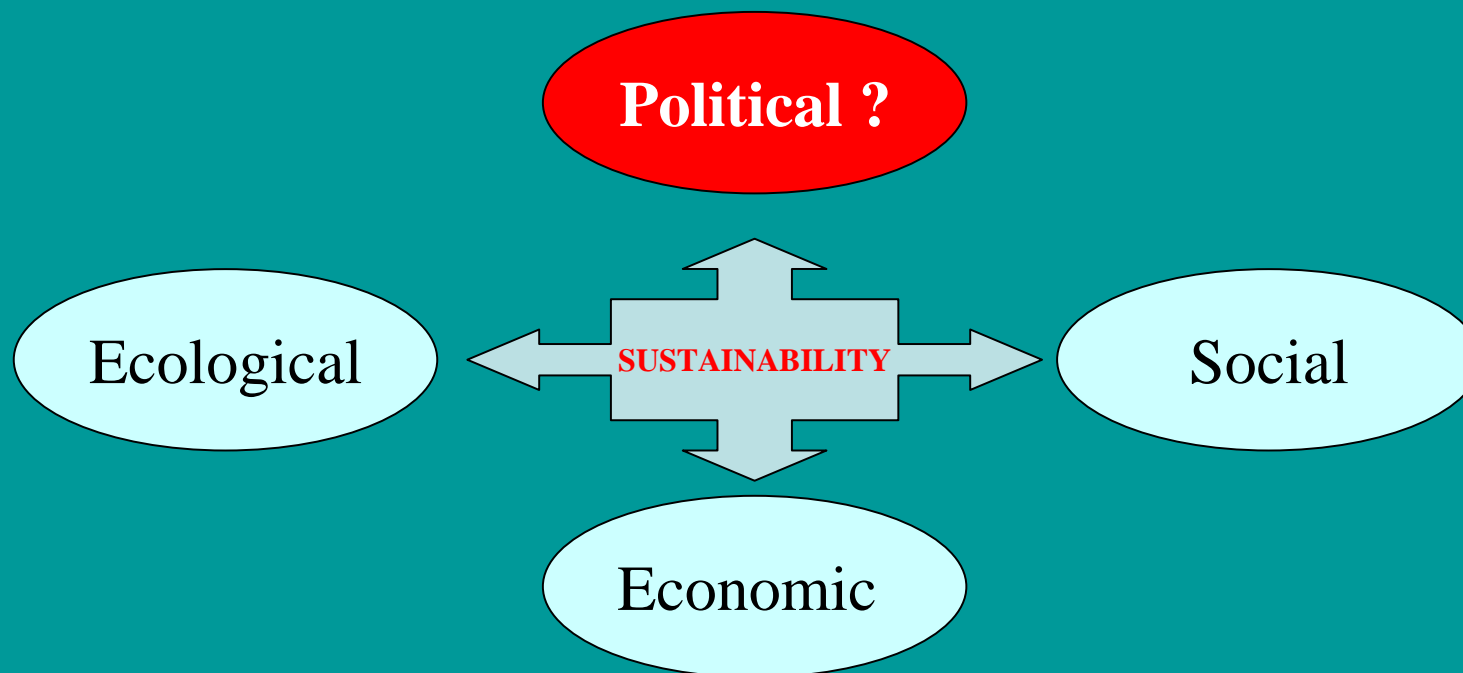


Affected peoples

- Forest structure affected by sapling harvests
- Poaching incl. protected animals flourishes
- Influx of people uncontrolled
- Pygmies' groups left vulnerable
- Poverty grows with limited access to forests and lack of other opportunities

Political processes & sustainability

- “Paper parks” may result from international pressures on politicians
- Political mechanism may be disconnected from the needs of affected peoples
- Political processes need to be scrutinized within the sustainability concept
- The well-being of people is central to ethical forest management & conservation



Conclusions

- ❖ Forests contribute an unaccounted additional US\$ 2 602 million to the livelihoods of the rural poor in the Congo Basin
- ❖ “Paper parks” may result from unqualified pressures from conservation lobbies and they are affected by the unintended depletion of forest resources
- ❖ Effective forest conservation must include, and contribute to, achieving the Millennium Goals by creating alternative opportunities and stimulating rural growth and prosperity
- ❖ Politics must moderate sustainable development and guard against unethical practices
- ❖ Forestry lobbies (e.g. UN Forum on Forests, EFI, Forest Technology Platform) must strengthen efforts in preventing destructive unprofessional practices
- ❖ Funding agencies (e.g. the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank) should consider budget lines including measures against poverty of forest-dependent peoples.

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Thank you

