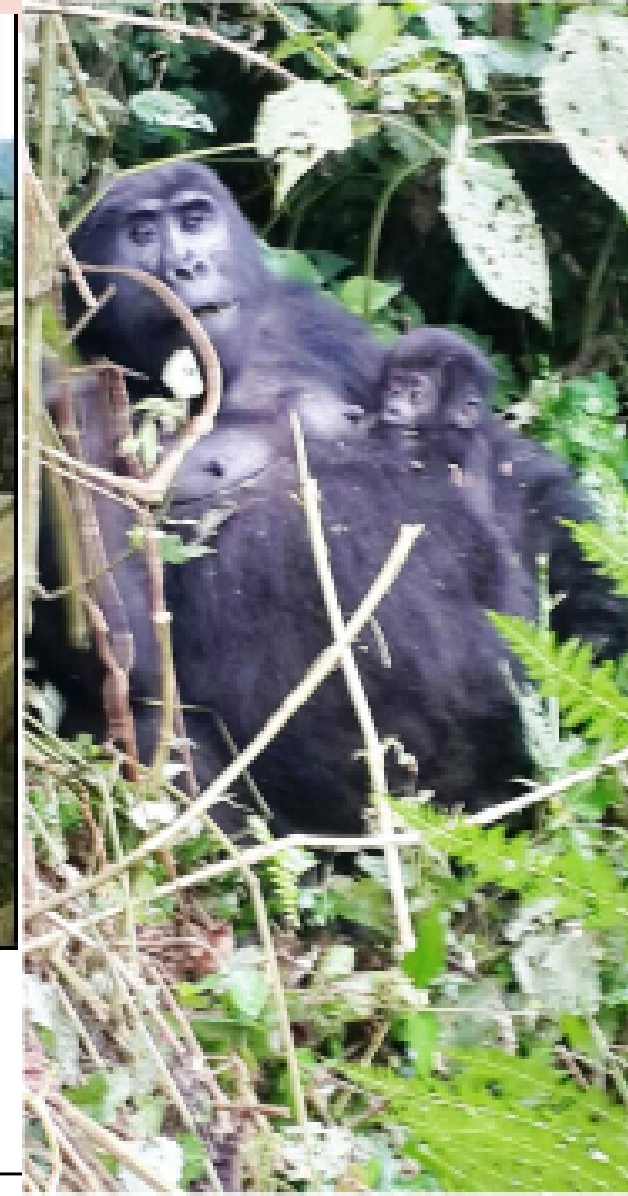




# Timber Trade in Africa: *an overview*



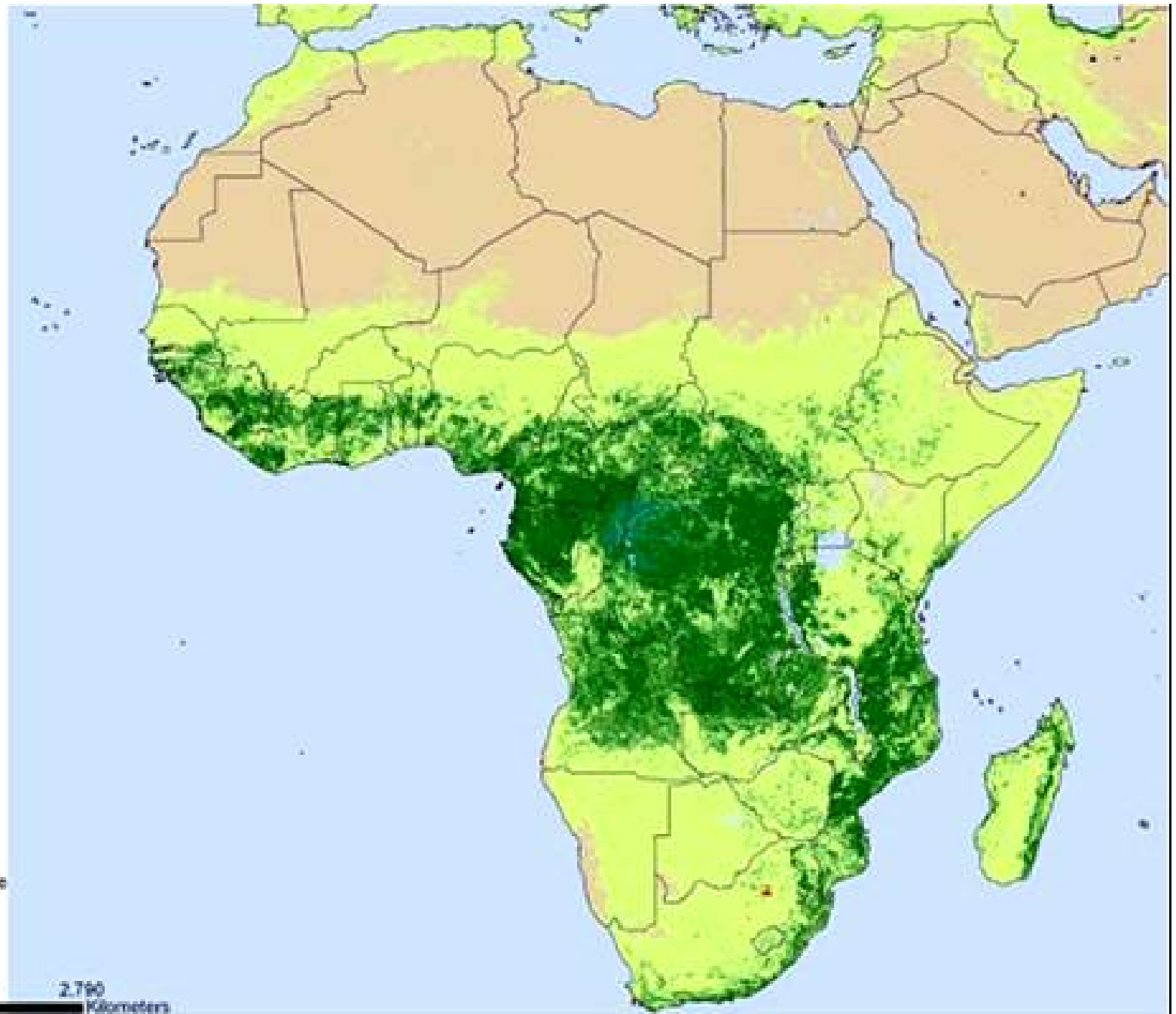
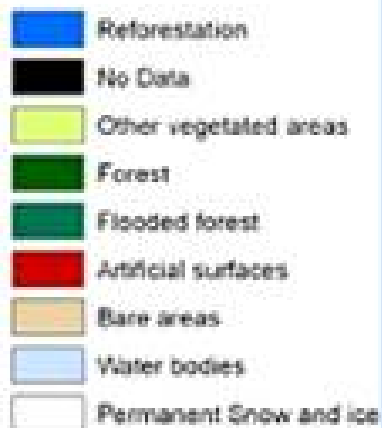
**Dr. Willy Kakuru**  
*ECOWAS Capacity Building Workshop*  
*Abuja, May 2016*



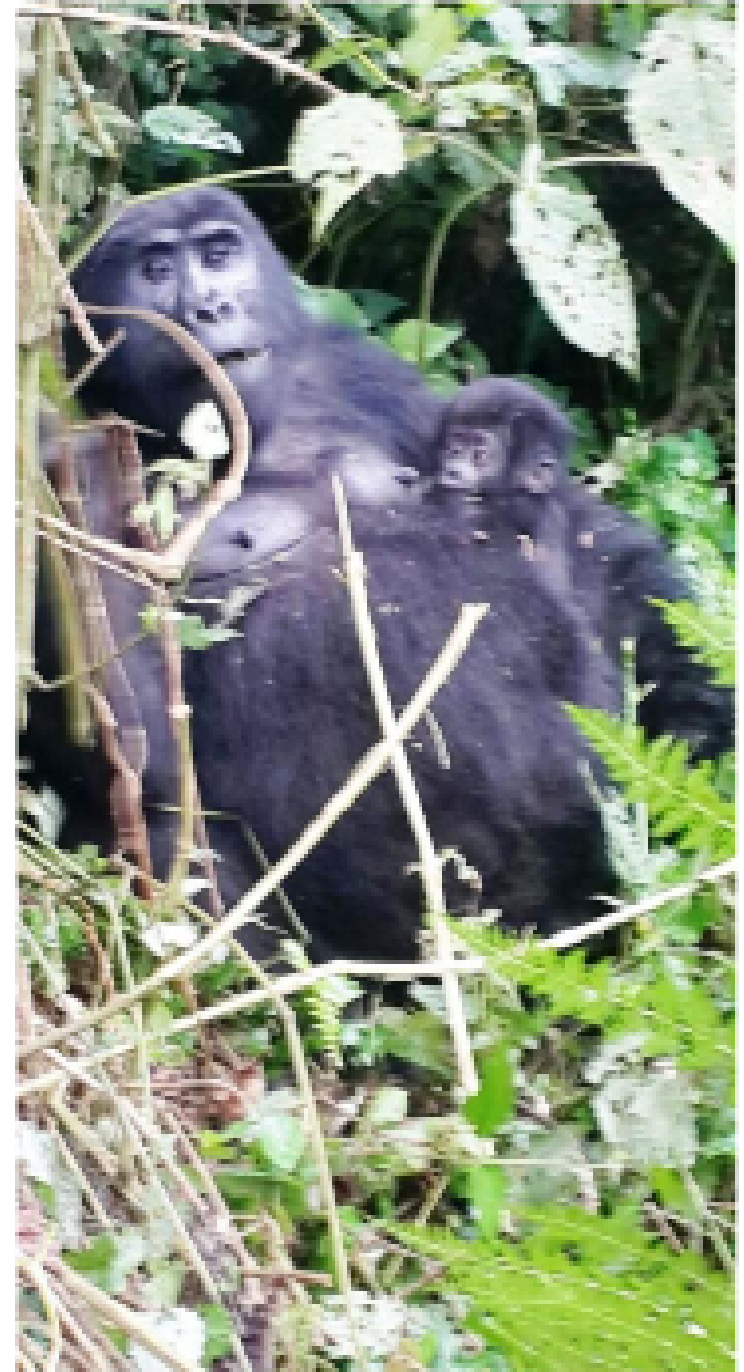
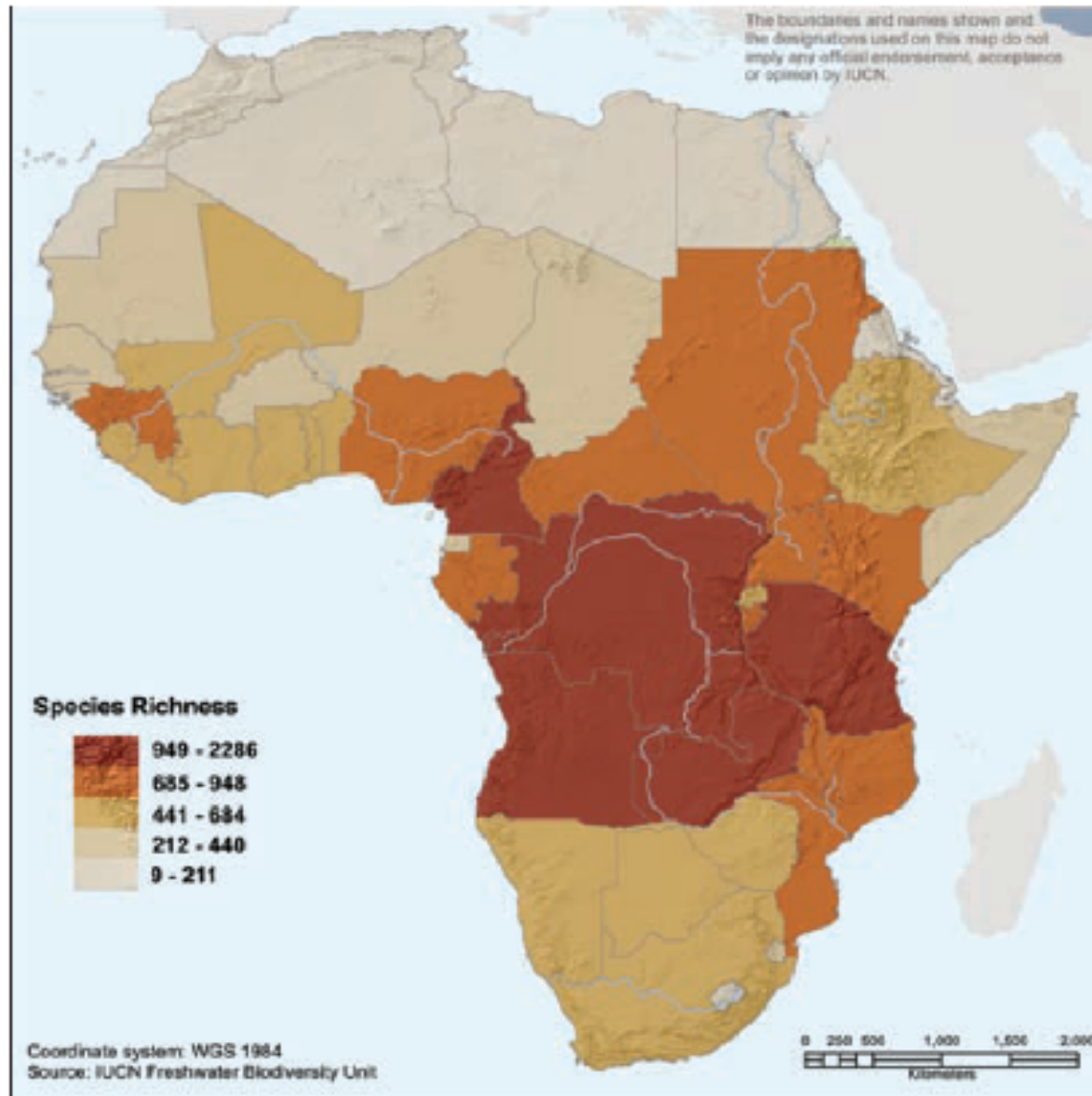
# Outline

- Context
- Forests coverage in Africa
- Ecosystem Services from African forests
- Timber Exports from Africa
- Illegal logging and trade and their impacts
- Responses to illegal logging and trade
- Recommended actions

# Forests and Woodland Ecosystems in Africa



# The Richness of Biodiversity in Africa at species and ecosystems



# Ecosystem Services according to the MEA

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

### Supporting Services

Nutrient cycling  
Soil formation  
Primary production

### Provisioning Services

Food (crops, livestock, wild foods, etc...)  
Fiber (timber, cotton/hemp/silk, wood fuel)  
Genetic resources  
Biochemicals, natural medicines, pharmaceuticals  
Fresh water

### Regulating Services

Air quality regulation  
Climate regulation (global, regional, and local)  
Water regulation  
Erosion regulation  
Water purification and waste treatment  
Disease regulation  
Pest regulation  
Pollination  
Natural hazard regulation

### Cultural Services

Aesthetic values  
Spiritual and religious values  
Recreation and ecotourism

# Forest Ecosystem Services

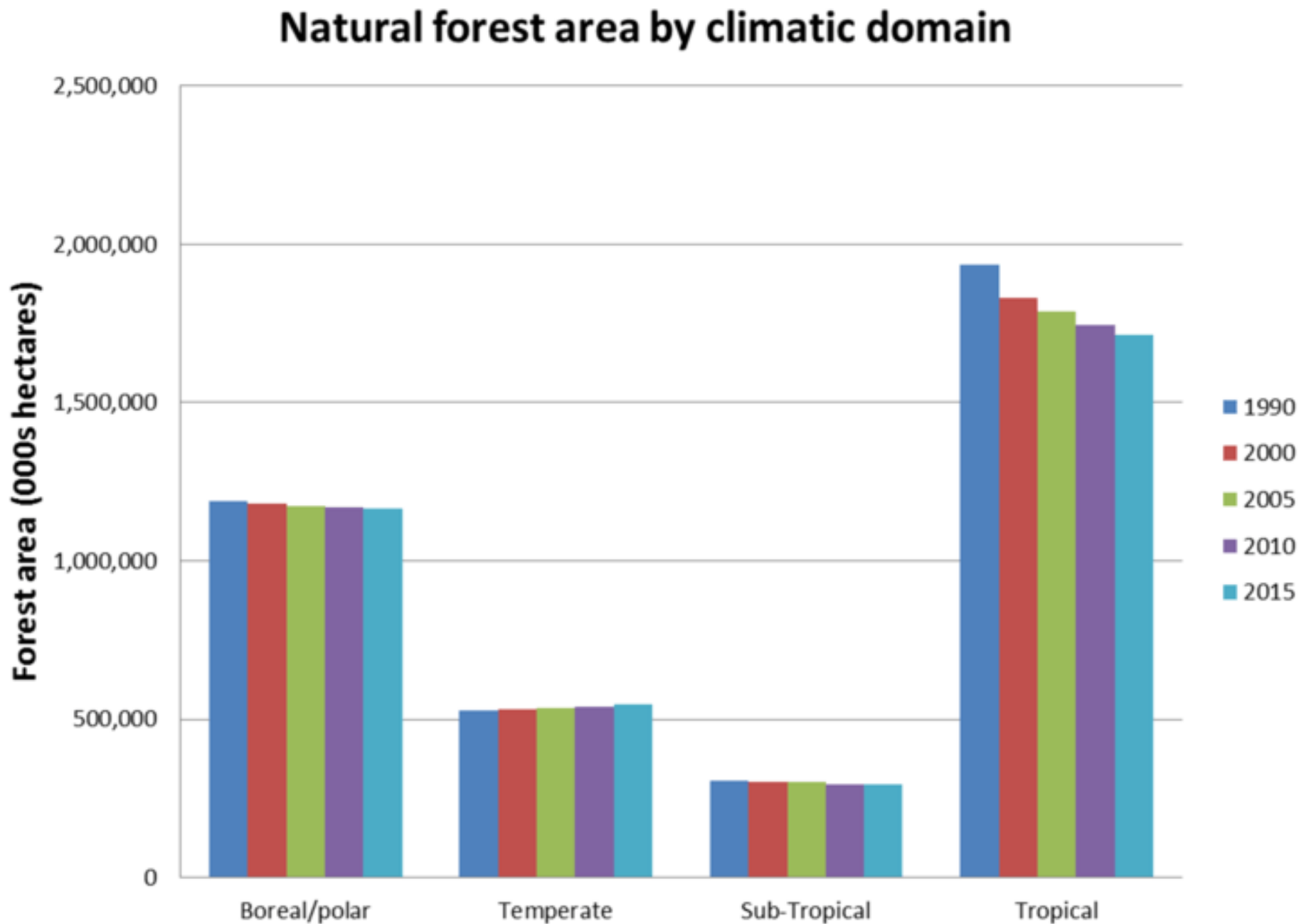
- Ecosystem services - the benefits that people, society and the economy receive from nature:
  - Food, fuel, fiber, and water
  - Some services not tangible such as water catchment and provision and purification, flood and storm control, carbon storage and climate regulation, food and materials provision, scientific knowledge, recreation and tourism
  - Often perceived to be free and limitless and end up being taken for granted as public benefits
- In most cases lack a formal market and are traditionally absent from society's balance sheet
- Their critical contributions are overlooked in public, corporate, and individual decision making and are overshadowed by *Timber!*
- Some of the ES are therefore at a risk of being lost unrecognized!!!!!!

## Context



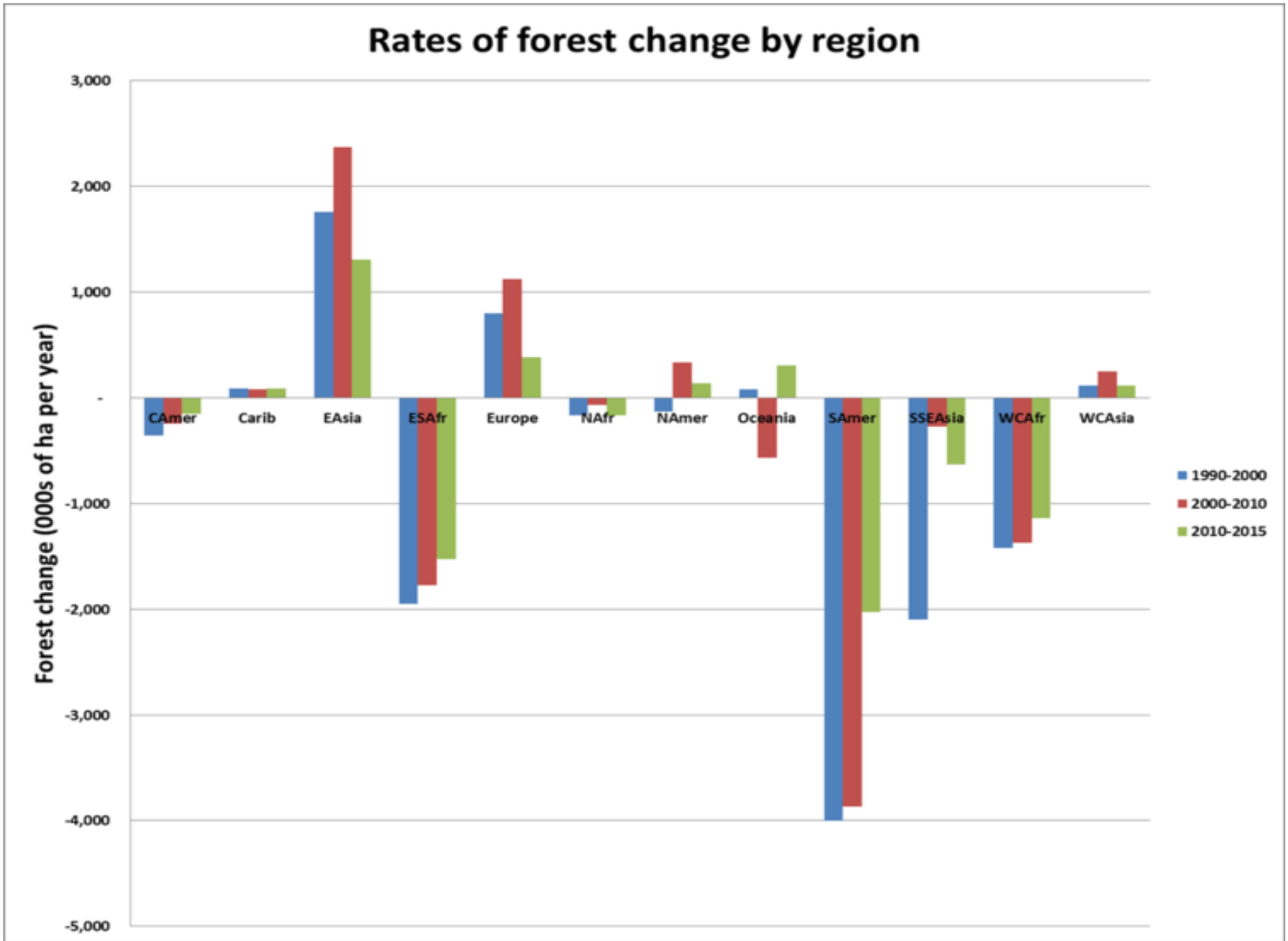
- According to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment/ FRA (2015) :
- Between 1990 and 2015, global forest area declined by 3%;
  - Most of the forest loss occurred in the tropics;
  - Tropical forests, while covering only 15% of the global land area, contain over 50% of land animals and plants;
  - Decline of forest cover in Africa attributed to:
    - Increased wood fuel collection;
    - Clearance for agriculture;
    - Illegal and poorly regulated timber extraction and trade;
    - Civil and political conflicts and

# Natural Forest Area by Climatic Domain





# Rate of forest change by region



# Traded forest Products in Africa

- Within Africa region, trade in timber and other forest products contribute a lot to the livelihoods of different communities:
  - by generating direct income
  - providing products used for fuel, fibre and food
  - Examples of peculiar forest products traded at national, regional and global levels include:
    - timber,
      - from valuable trees such as African Mahogany (*Entandrophragma* spp.), Mvule (*Milicia excelsa*) and African Teak (*Tectona grandis*).
    - charcoal and poles
    - Africa region is also a key sources of some locally and globally traded Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as Gum Arabic from *Acacia* spp., Flavours and fragrances, medicine e.g. from *Prunus africana* and *Warbugia* spp., wood carving and basketry products, Sandal wood, Khat (Miraa) and honey.

# The key drivers for deforestation in Africa

- Intensification of agriculture;
- High demand for timber, charcoal and firewood in urban areas;
- Dependency of most people on use of charcoal and firewood for their energy demands;
- Natural population increase among the indigenous local population;
- Unemployed youth, who seek livelihood from natural resource use;
- Harvesting trees without replacement;
- Poverty among the local communities, who find themselves with no alternative ways of life but only to extract natural resources like forests;
- Limited guidance to the forest product resource users on best practices; and

● Weak laws by the government in terms of regulation of tree

# Timber exports from Africa

- Reports from the Global Timber Network ([globaltimber.org.uk](http://globaltimber.org.uk)):
- China is currently one of the principal destinations for tropical timber from Africa
- China's imports account for much of Africa region's exports
- Most of the exports are characterised by speculative behaviour, which has implications on governance in the industry
  - China is one of the leading donors to the region in areas related to political and military "aid",
  - This limits the strictness that can be imposed on likely illegalities that may be carried out during timber logging and trade

# Magnitude of Illegal Logging and Trade

- The scale of illegal logging and timber trade are difficult to assess with accuracy, given the shoddy ways through which the related operations are conducted.
- Studies carried out to evaluate the magnitude of illegal logging indicate that it accounts for 50–90 percent of the volume of all timber production in key producer tropical countries in the Amazon Basin, Central Africa, and Southeast Asia, and 15–30 per cent globally
- Detailed assessments of the economic impacts of illegal logging using Global Forest Products Model (GFPM) estimate that illegal forest products depresses world prices by 7% - 16%

# Magnitude of Illegal Logging & Timber Trade

- Illegal logging and tropical timber trade has contributed to high rates of tropical deforestation in Africa.
- The World Bank estimates annual loss from illegal logging at US\$10 billion;
  - more than six times the total amount of development assistance towards sustainable forest management.
- Processes aimed at addressing illegal logging and trade have been initiated at international, regional and national levels; which can contribute a lot to forest management, if well implemented.
- FLEGT actors, such as AFF, need to design guidelines and policies that govern the process at

# Impacts of timber production in Africa

- Illegal logging and tropical timber trade are considered as some of the key factors underlying tropical deforestation in Africa
- Needs for foreign exchange encourage many developing countries to cut timber faster than forests can regenerate
- The overharvesting has led to strong social, economic and environmental impacts:
  - depletes the resource that underpins the world timber trade,
  - causes loss of forest-based livelihoods,
  - increases soil erosion and downstream flooding,
  - accelerates the loss of species and genetic resources.
- In essence, the international trade patterns have encouraged unsustainable development policies and practices that have steadily degraded croplands and rangelands
- People who used to get forest resources from crop lands and rangelands therefore have to displace their demands to the natural forests

## Illegal Logging and Trade(Cont'd)

- It is estimated that the monetary value of major environmental crimes, including logging, poaching and trafficking of a wide range of animals, illegal fisheries, illegal mining and dumping of toxic waste ranges between \$70 and \$213 billion each year
- INTERPOL estimates that the percentage of timber marketed worldwide of illegal origin stands at between 20% and 50% of all marketed timber products
- The World Bank estimates the economic loss from illegal trade to be approximately \$10 billion annually, and losses due to tax evasion and royalties on legally sanctioned logging to be approximately\$ 5 billion
- Among the environmental crimes, illegal logging and forest crime has a big share estimated to be about \$30 to \$100 billion annually, which is about 15 to 30% of the total global timber trade.



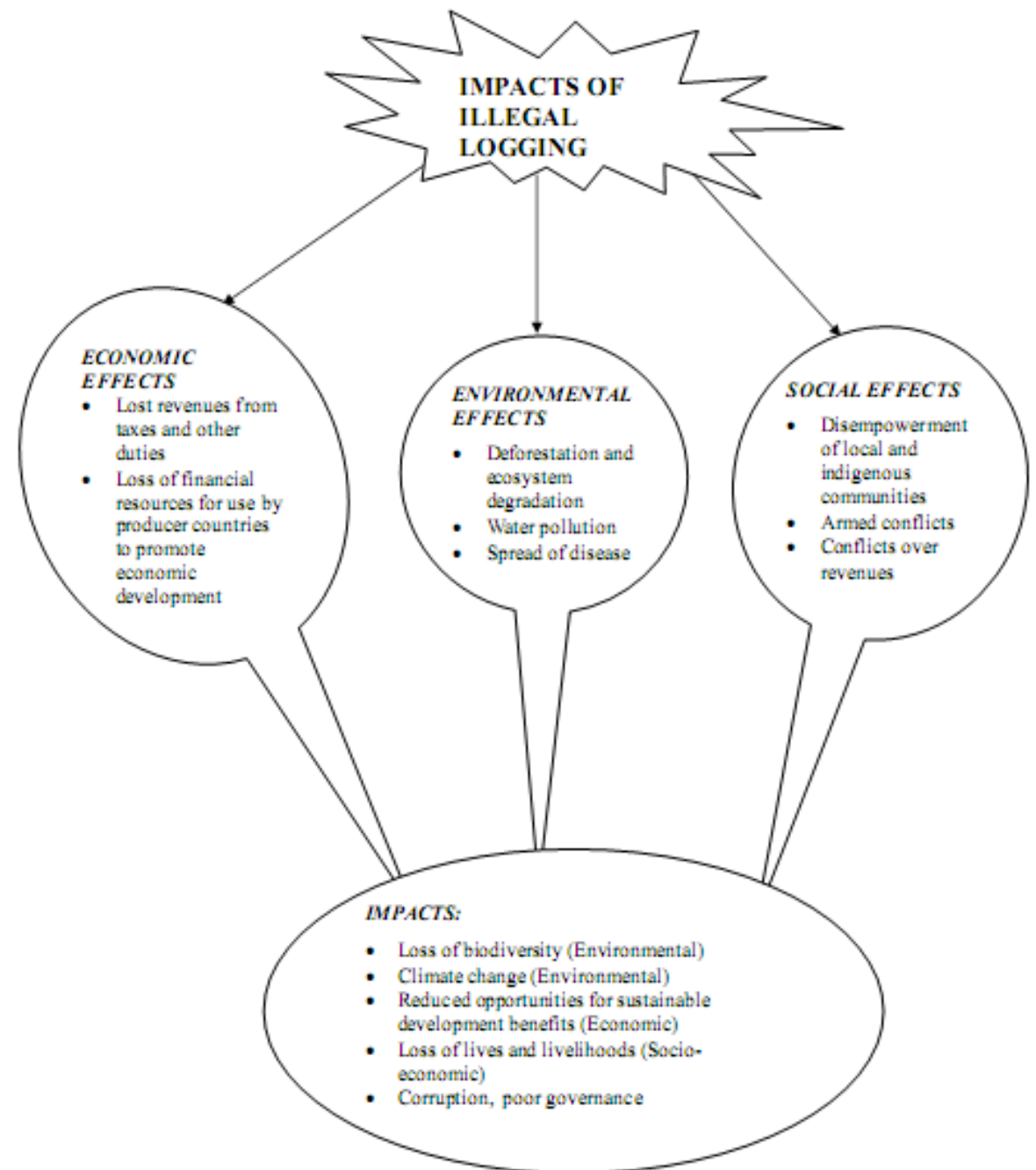
# Negative impacts of illegal forest trade

- Use of accruing money to finance political upheavals and terrorist groups.
- Wildlife and forest crime play a serious role in threat finance to organized crime and non-State armed groups, including terrorist organizations.
  - For example, ivory is suspected to provide substantial income to militia groups in the DRC and the CAR.
  - Reports indicate that one terrorist group operating in Eastern Africa is estimated to make between \$38 and \$56 million per year from the illegal trade in charcoal alone.
- The joint UN and INTERPOL report of 2013 re-echoed worries that illegal trade in wildlife and timber products finances criminal and militia groups, threatening security, human rights and sustainable development.
  - In particular, it was noted that environmental crime in some countries in Africa is helping finance criminal, militia and terrorist groups and threatening the security and

# Impacts of Illegal Logging and Timber Trade

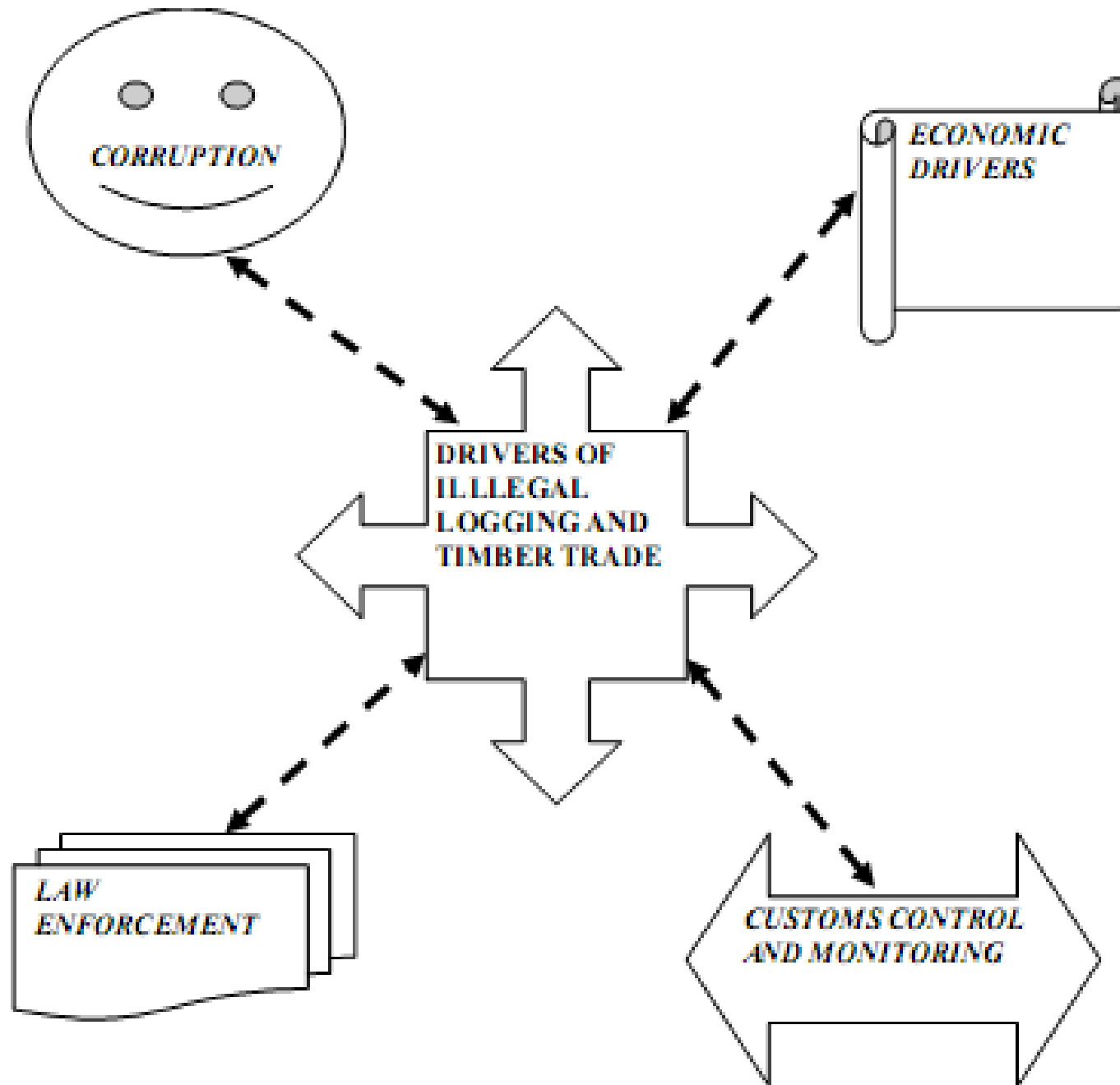
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, about 50 to 90% of the wood is suspected to come from illegal sources.
- With 17% of the world's forests, Africa accounts for over 1/2 of global deforestation
- Economically, illegal timber trade contributes to loss of revenues from taxes and other duties by producer countries;
  - affecting revenue sources for economic development.
- Illegal logging has led to deforestation and ecosystem degradation and contributes to soil erosion and silting and pollution of downstream water resources and has climate change effects.
- Socially, communities are disempowered; while some of the armed conflicts, militia and terrorist groups are sponsored using incomes from illegal logging.

# Impacts of Illegal logging



- Existence of illegal logging and forest trade poses a huge global challenge that can only be well tackled by addressing the root causes
- Major factors attributed to illegal logging and timber trade in sub-Saharan Africa include:
  - Limited producer and consumer awareness of timber trade policies;
  - Weak political institutions;
  - Poverty and corruption;
  - Weak enforcement of laws and

# Drivers of illegal logging and timber trade



# Historical trends of Forest Products in Africa and call for Action

Period	Timber	Remarks
Up to 1970s	Abundant supplies with well managed central forests reserves and some forests on private land	Forests still intact in both forest reserves and some on private land
1970s-2000	Increased degradation, especially on private forests	Slash and burn systems used to clear forests for agriculture
2001 - 2010	Increased demand for timber, charcoal and firewood in most countries	High demand for crop and livestock farming; leading to clearing of forest cover
2010 to Current	Reduced supplies of trees on private lands; increased degradation of forests in PAs	All available trees on private land converted into charcoal and timber, which have a lot of market
Projected Future	No trees for timber from private forests and likely increased pressure on forests in PAs	Most forests on private land in Africa may have been cleared by 2020

# Response to illegal logging and forest trade through EU FLEGT Action Plan

- Incentives that have made illegal logging and timber trade persist include huge difference in returns from legitimate, legally procured timber and illegal timber
- Over time, awareness on impacts of illegal logging on environment and the development of affected countries has been appreciated and a number of actors contacted to jointly address the problem
- This include designing and implementing policy measures aimed at improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) and countering illegal trade in timber and other forest products
- FLEGT is intended to reduce forest loss, address illegal logging and unsustainable practices, while creating a framework for sustainable forest management and improved benefits at all level
- Fora aimed at formulating interventions to address illegal

# Recommended Action for trade in forest products and services

- Explore ways of adding value to forest products by processing the raw materials within the Africa Region.
- Mechanisms should be put in place for regional cooperation and collaboration using the existing AFLEGT arrangements.
- Governments should review and harmonise conflicting forest management and trade laws, policies and laws for forest products using the AFLEGT arrangements.
- There is urgent need to develop deliberate domestication programmes for Africa commercial tree species.
- Mechanisms for promoting marketable NTFPs should be put in place to create economic incentives for



## General recommendations for timber trade

- Regional governments should update inventories of their forest resources to assess the current potential against ongoing extraction rates of timber, logs and fuel wood, as well as other key forest products.
- International Funding agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations should lobby governments to provide support to Eastern Africa countries to develop forestry data bases, including biomass and management capacities.
- Support the FLEGT initiative to improve the capacity of forestry management institutions to create commitment to enforcement of forestry management standards.

# Way Forward – *ABUJA CALL OF ACTION???*

*Move from Blame Game to Collective Responsibility!!!*

- ✓ *Building on the good will demonstrated by the RECs e.g. ECOWAS*
- ✓ *And the inputs from Non-Govt. Actors such as AFF*
- ✓ *And bringing on board the resource users and abusers as managers*



**Thank you for listening  
Merci Beaucoup!!!!  
Asante sana!!!**

