

# **Policy options for addressing land use relevant to migratory landbirds in West Africa**

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1. Why is land use change important?
2. How is land use changing?
3. What are the drivers of change in land use?
4. Proposed next steps for AEMLAP on land use?
5. Discussion questions

# 1. Why are changes in land use important?

## For migratory landbirds

*AEMLAP, 'urges Parties... to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats within the wider environment'*



## **For other bird species**

AEWA and Raptors MOU both highlight land use change as a concern, particularly agricultural and infrastructure development

A photograph of a gorilla sitting in a forest, looking towards the camera. The gorilla is the central focus, with its face and upper body visible. The background is a blurred forest scene with green foliage and a tree trunk on the right side. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## **For other species**

Recent EU and IUCN reports note agricultural expansion and logging as having key negative impacts in terms of land use change

The background image shows a dry, eroded landscape with a blue sky and scattered trees. The foreground is dominated by a large, eroded sandstone cliff face with a complex network of cracks and ledges. The ground is sandy and brown, with some sparse, dry vegetation. In the background, there are several trees, some with green leaves and some that are bare, under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

## **For people (negative)**

Land use change can negatively affect people, through: loss of ecosystem services; climate change; and heightened social inequality

A woman with braided hair, wearing a vibrant blue and yellow patterned dress, is smiling while working in a field of lettuce. She is surrounded by rows of green lettuce plants growing in dark soil. The background shows more of the field and some trees in the distance.

## **For people (positive)**

Positive impacts of land use change on people should not be ignored, for example, irrigation for sustainable food production

## 2. How is land use changing?

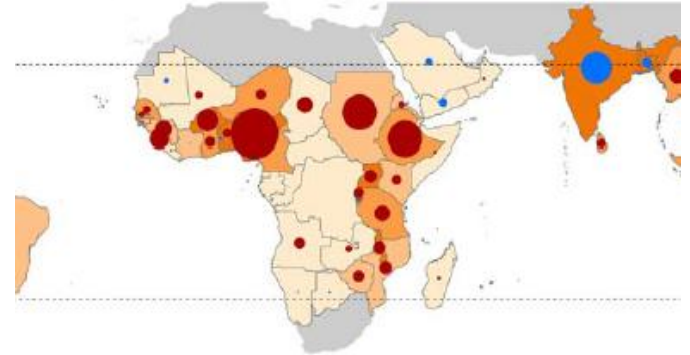
1975 – 2000

- 24% ↓ natural habitat
- 16% ↑ agriculture

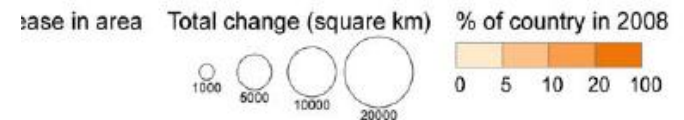
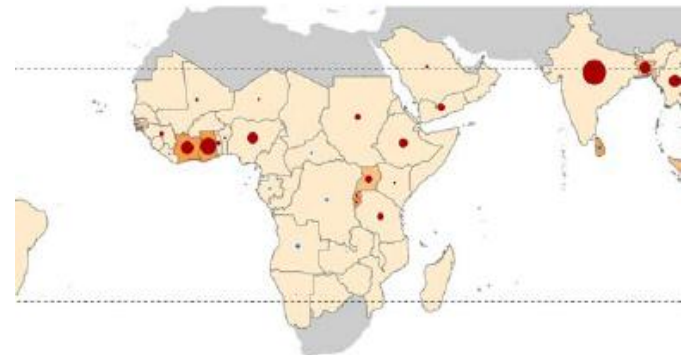
1999 – 2008

- ↑ annual and perennial crops

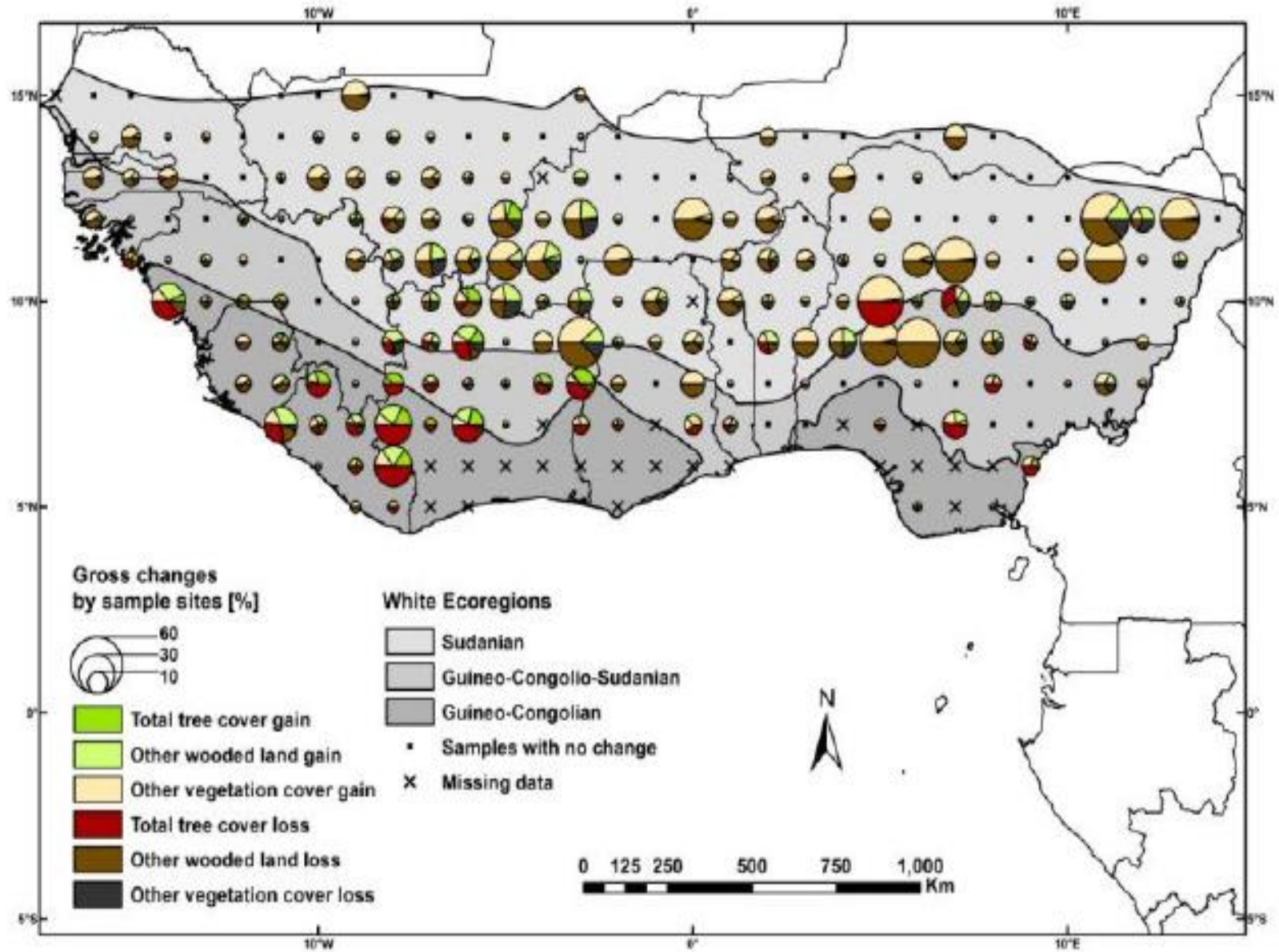
Change in area of annual crops, 1999-2008



Change in area of perennial crops, 1999-2008









- West Africa has 155 large dams, and 39 planned or under construction
- ECOWAS is aiming for 21 large scale hydropower plants (7,893 MW)
- ECOWAS is aiming for 2449 MW from small scale

# 3. What are the drivers of land use change?

## Agriculture

- ↓ / ↑ rural household wealth
- ↑ rural pop., urban wealth and economic activity
- NGO, Government and donor agricultural policies
  - CAADP
  - West African RAIP
  - National NAIPs

## Wood extraction

- Overall tropical deforestation: agricultural expansion, wood extraction and infrastructure expansion, and underlying economic, technological and demographic factors
  - ↑ agriculture
  - ↑ fuelwood and timber demand (domestic, regional and urban)
- Policy weak, but growing

## Hydrodams

- **↑** demand for public water supply, electricity and irrigation
  - 35% lack access to drinking water
  - 195m lack access to electricity
  - 12% of irrigable land is irrigated
  - West African pop to grow 27% by 2020 to 400m
  - Only 16% of potential hydropower is being exploited
- ECOWAS' *Revised Master Plan* (large) and *Renewable Energy Policy* (small) forecast **↑** hydropower capacity

**Development policy:** national and international priority – poverty alleviation through economic growth; SDGs

**Land policy:** African and sub-regional priority – land rights and tenure security (agricultural productivity)

**Environmental policy:** MEAs – mainstreaming

# 4. Proposed next steps for AEMLAP on land use?

## Workshop

- A West African land use workshop, to:
  - refine land use priorities under AEMLAP;
  - examine how they can be achieved;
  - identify project proposals to deliver the concluded priority actions; and
  - Identify a group to steer the implementation of actions on land use;
- Attendees: expertise in West African land use policy
- Location: West Africa

## Funding

- Identify funding to support action on land use, including the workshop



## A Resolution for CMS COP12

- Draft a resolution to CMS COP12 in 2017 calling for adoption of a joint work plan (CMS/AEWA/Raptors MoU/FAO/UNDP etc.) to encourage migrant bird friendly land use in West Africa.
- Consider getting this adopted subsequently by other frameworks e.g. UNCCD.

# 5. Discussion questions

**Question 1:** does the Working Group agree that:

- Addressing land use change in the non-breeding areas should be the priority focus of AEMLAP implementation during the period up to COP13;
- The focus of the work should be in West Africa during at least the current triennium; and that
- The proposal presented above would effectively progress this work?

**Outcome of WG discussion:** The WG agreed, but with the caveat that land use change in breeding and passage areas is also a very significant issue, and that in future triennia land use change in North Africa and South West Europe should also be a focus of the WG (where the WG can add value to existing efforts, e.g. on the EU Common Agricultural Policy). [Next slide]

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It was agreed that the first opportunity to progress this work beyond West Africa could be a conference in Morocco in October 2016, for which Franz Bairlein has proposed a symposium on AEMLAP.

The WG noted that we should finesse the anticipated outcomes of the workshop, thus:

- ~~r~~define land use priorities under AEMLAP;
- **define effective responses to those land use priorities** ~~examine how they can achieved;~~
- **identify recommendations for action, including** ~~identify~~ project proposals ~~to deliver the concluded priority actions;~~ and
- Identify a group to steer the implementation of ~~actions on land use~~ **the recommendations.**

**Question 2:** does the Working Group agree with the assessment of the land use changes affecting migratory landbirds (UNEP/CMS/Landbirds/WG2/7b, Section 2)? How does their importance vary across the sub-region?

**Outcome of WG discussion:** (first aspect) the Working Group agreed; (second aspect) it was agreed that their importance does vary across the sub-region, and that a method of identifying priorities amongst these, at sub-regional and national levels, should be developed in advance of/ for the workshop on land use, possibly via a literature review as a first step.

**Question 3:** which of the main national and sub-regional drivers of the land use change does the Working Group think should be explored at the proposed workshop?

**Outcome of WG discussion:** the Working Group felt that the complete list of drivers threatening landbirds should be considered in the development of the workshop, namely: agricultural expansion and intensification (including growth of irrigated crops), fuelwood collection (including for charcoal), timber extraction, conversion of floodplain woodlands to plantations of non-native species, changes in grazing regimes, and damming (including by hydropower)) (Zwarts et al., 2009; Vickery et al., 2014). It was noted that we should also consider the impact of transport infrastructure.

**Question 4:** who do the Working Group think the key stakeholders would be for the proposed workshop?

**Outcome of WG discussion:** the WG noted that a number of key organisations (e.g. UNEP, UNCCD, FAO etc.) have already been flagged in this meeting, and suggested that a draft list of attendees, including these organisations, government representatives of each country, the Regional Economic Commission should be circulated to the WG for further comment.

**Question 5:** do Working Group members have suggestions for the location and timing of the workshop (in 2016)?

**Outcome of WG discussion:** Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire were all put forward as potential hosts; the Secretariat noted that if the Swiss Government were able to put forward funds for AEMLAP implementation in 2016 – 2017, that these funds could be used to support the workshop. The WG agreed that a budget table should be developed, including the relative costs of different venues.