

**FEATURES OF SUSTAINABLY MANAGED BIO-CULTURAL
LANDSCAPES IN AFRICA AND THEIR BENEFITS FOR
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND HUMAN WELL BEING**

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Outline

- Introduction
- Features of African bio-cultural landscapes
- Benefits to the people
- Challenges/threats to landscapes
- Overcoming the threats

Africa's Vegetation



Introduction

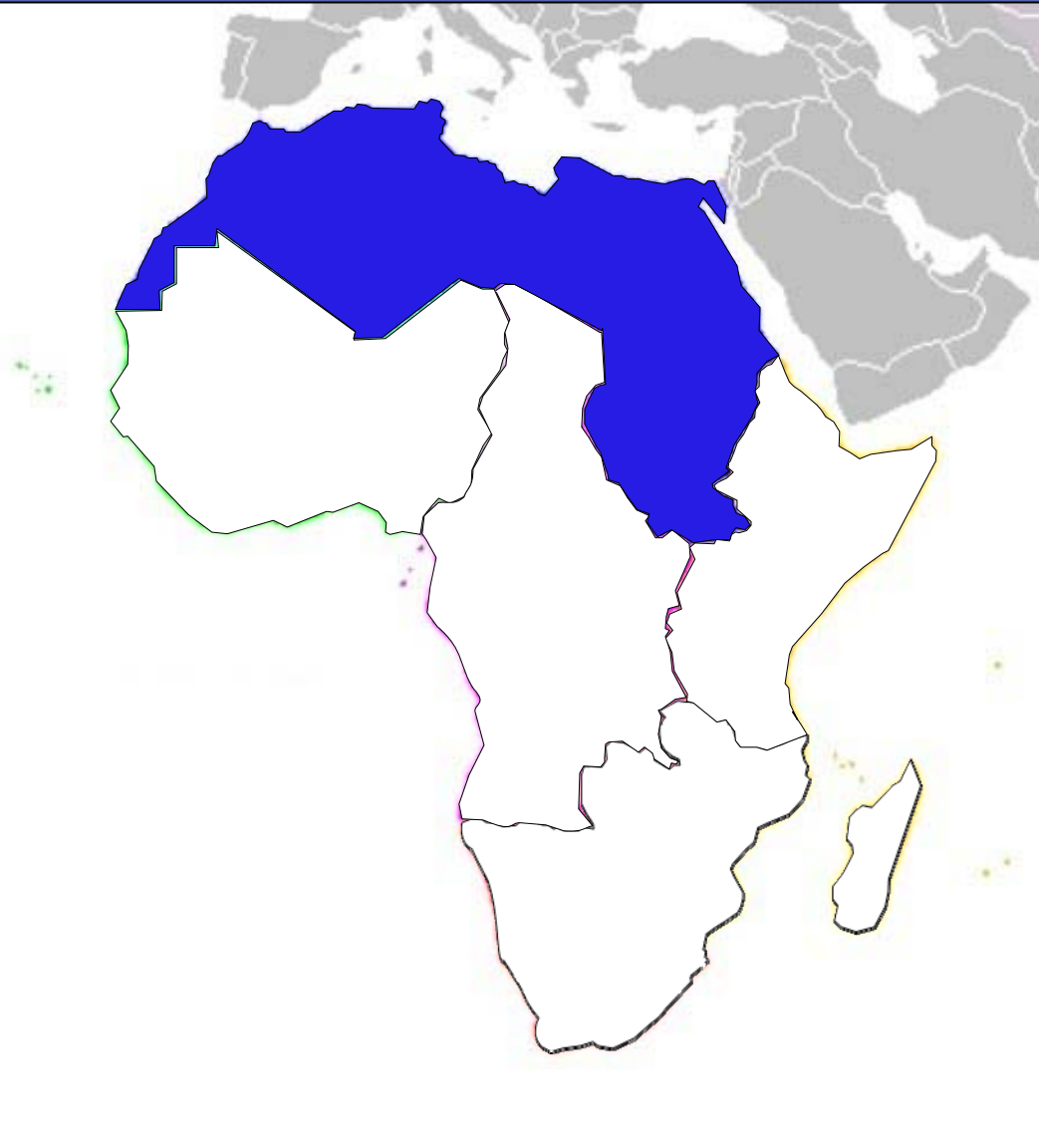
West & Central Africa

- Vegetation mostly savanna and forest

East and Southern Africa

- Vegetation mostly savanna, thorn bush and miombo forests

 Northern Africa



Vegetation

Desert, Sahel
and sudan
savanna

Cultural Activity

- Pastoral herding
- Hunter-gatherers

 Western Africa



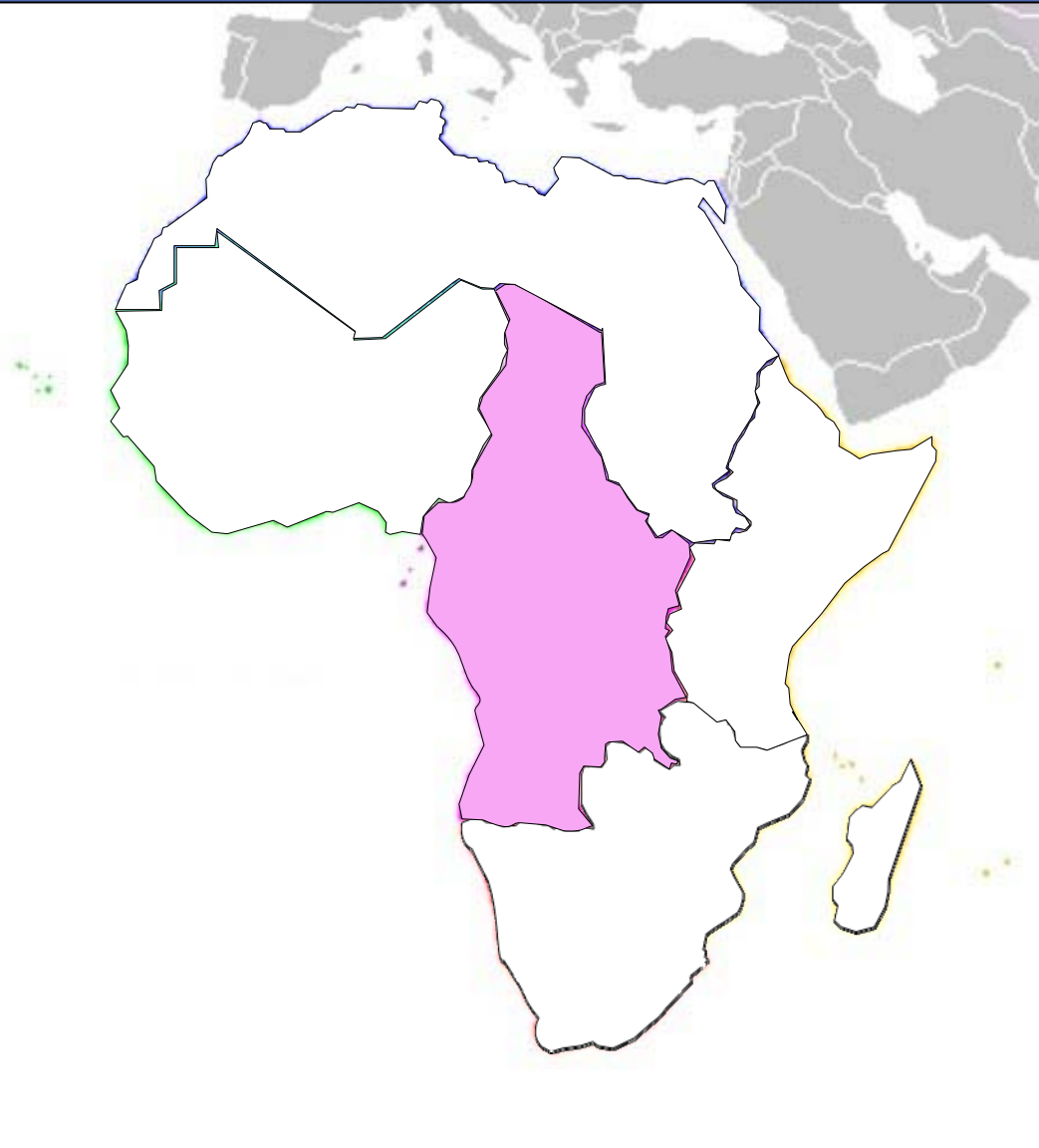
Vegetation

- Forest
- Mangrove
- Savanna
- Flood Plain

Cultural Activity

- Agriculture
- Fishery
- Pastoral herding
- Hunter-gatherers

Central Africa



Vegetation

- Forest (mostly)
- Mangrove
- Savanna
- Flood Plain

Cultural Activity

- Agriculture
- Fishery
- Pastoral herding
- Hunter-gatherers

 Eastern Africa



Vegetation

- Forest + miombo
- Thorn bush
- Savanna
- Flood Plain

Cultural Activity

- Agriculture
- Fishery
- Pastoral herding
- Hunter-gatherers

 Southern Africa



Vegetation

- Forest, miombo
- Medit. Veg.
- Thorn bush
- Desert, semi-desert

Cultural Activity

- Agriculture
- Fishery
- Pastoral herding
- Hunter-gatherers

A. Features of the Landscape

- The land-use systems
- Application of ecological knowledge
- Social behaviour mechanisms and application of cultural dimensions
- Economic considerations

The land-use systems in all landscapes

- Grazing/pastoral lands
- Agro-forestry (tree/ shrub) management
- Sacred groves
- Traditional reserves (forest, grassland, mangroves)
- Agricultural crop fields and intensive farming

Application of ecological knowledge

- Swidden agriculture (slash and burn)
- Crop rotation
- Dynamic zoning of landscapes near villages to allow for different land uses
- Complementary and mutually beneficial resource exploitation strategies between the various user groups
- Grazing rotational systems (small eg. Sahelian or large eg. Maasai herders)

and application of cultural dimensions

- Dynamic maintenance of resilience of both ecosystem and social system
- Strong political system with or without hierarchy, centred on the authority of chief/elder
- taboos and regulations,
- spiritual and religious needs and sanctions
- folklores,
- intergenerational cultural education,
- customary laws

Economic considerations

- Land rights
- Flexible or permanent land tenure
- Existence of proper rights of access to key resources, especially during the dry season.
- Effective conflict resolution system
- NTFPs and timber available for exploitation

Benefits of the bio-cultural landscapes

- Ecosystem services available
- Biodiversity resources available
- Health products easily available
- Food security assured
- Wildlife, agriculture and humans in harmony

Challenges/threats to the landscapes

- Direct (Pressures): Land-use changes, unsustainable resource extraction, invasive alien species,
- Indirect: rapid population increases, social/cultural behavioral changes, new political processes, new economic orders and/or interest in natural resources, extensive health risks to locals because of alienation/destruction of the bio-cultural landscapes (forests etc.) they depended upon

Overcoming Challenges/threats to the landscapes

- Undertake socio-cultural renaissance
- Use local/district cultural festivals to send sustainable use messages
- Governments to divulge authority to local political hierarchy
- Demand Impact assessment of all projects (SEAs and EIAs)
- Introduce local concepts into the Ecosystem approach
- Enhance ecosystem services

Bibliography (Sources of information)

- List of sources of information available in print.

These reflect bio-cultural landscape utilization that are sustainable within the Sub-Saharan Africa

Thank you very much