- Development of forest Management Plans
- Remote sensing and GIS applications in natural resource assessments.
- Training in GIS application.

Users

NBC has an extensive local and international user base that includes:

- Government Ministries and Agencies e.g. the Proposed National Forest Authority, the National Environmental Management Authority, Wetlands Program, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Bureau of Statistics among others.
- International Organisations e.g. Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry, and World Bank,
- Research and Academic Institutions e.g. National Agriculture Research Organisation, Makerere University, State University of Indiana, USA etc
- Private Sector ranging from companies to Individuals.

The above list of users among many others, use the NBC products and services for environmental planning, research and others e.g. tourist purposes. Although the extent is not fully known, strong indications are that the use of NBC information has helped in the better use and management of forest resource in the country. For example, the present Forest Sector policy, legislation and the forest plan used NBC information on the current state of the forests in Uganda.

Looking Ahead.

The framework for the monitoring of land cover/ use and biomass over the years to come has been established by the NBC. As a cost centre within the proposed National Forest Authority, the Centre will maintain the flow of updated data and information to all stakeholders who are aspiring to have "A sufficiently forested, ecologically stable and economically prosperous Uganda" as stated in the 2001 Forest policy.

For More information contact

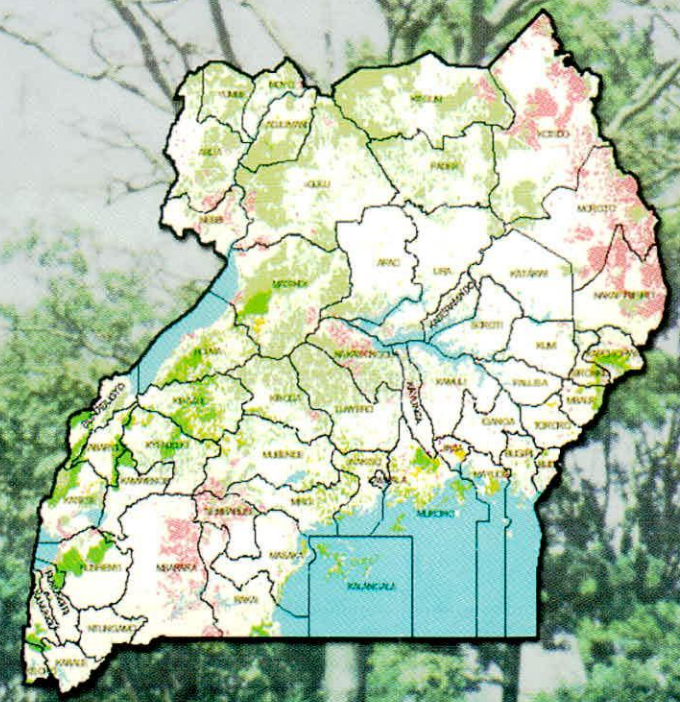
National Biomass Centre
P.O Box 1613, Kampala- Uganda
Tel: +256 - 41 - 251779
Fax: +256 - 41 - 251778
email:nbsfd@imul.com

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

FOREST DEPARTMENT

National Biomass Centre

NBC



Monitoring Uganda's Vegetation and Land cover for a better future

National Biomass Centre

Background

Land clearance for agricultural expansion and woodfuel scarcities in some densely populated areas has led to land degradation and deforestation in many parts of the country.



WOMEN TRANSPORTING FIREWOOD

In spite of these negative trends, empirical data and information for proper planning and management of the woodfuel resources were not available.

In 1989, the Forestry Department, under the then Ministry of Environment Protection (now Ministry of Water, Land and Environment) with technical support from Norwegian Forestry Society, launched the National Biomass Study project, now being transformed into National Biomass Centre (NBC). The Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation (NORAD) has been funding the project through a grant. Since then the project has been providing information on Uganda's Landcover/use and woody biomass resources.



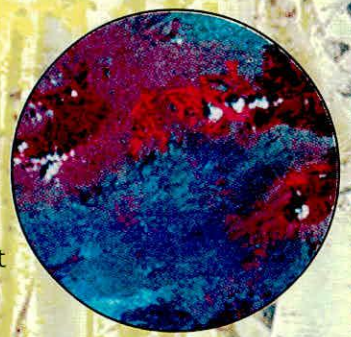
TRANSPORTATION OF CHARCOAL.

Goal and objectives

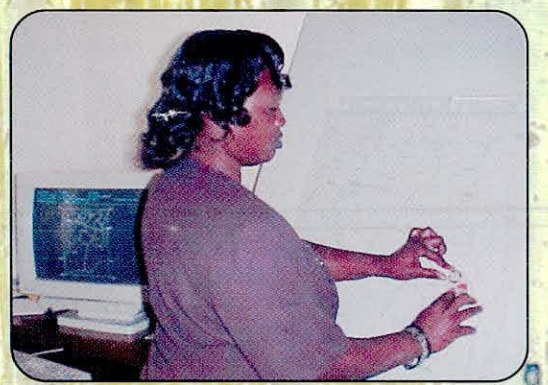
The goal and objectives of the National Biomass Centre is improved sustainable management of forest resources in Uganda by providing up to date information on land cover (use).

To achieve this, the NBC employs the latest state of the art technology in Remote sensing, geographical information system, GIS and global positioning system, GPS.

These latest techniques have several advantages over the traditional and out dated methods of mapping and resource assessment.



A SAMPLE OF SATELITE IMAGERY

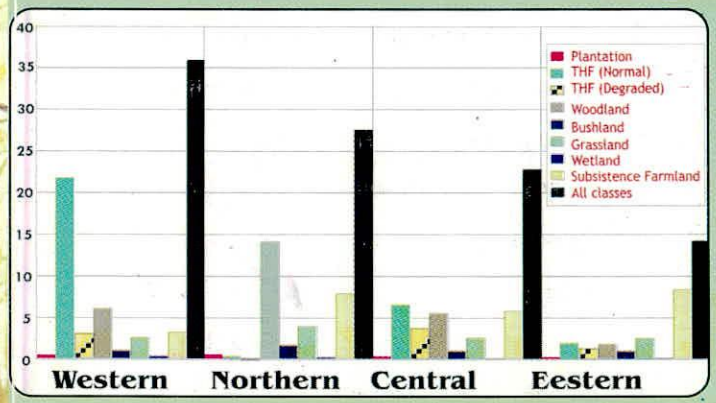


DATA CAPTURE

For instance reduced costs through time-savings, easy data storage, retrieval and analysis with better accuracy, easy to update etc

Products and Services

The major product of the NBC are land cover (use) maps and information on the standing stock trends of biomass at National, District, County, Sub-county and Parish levels



Both digital and hardcopies of these products are available.

Additional products and services include:

- Monitoring of land cover (use): Change and Biomass growth analysis
- Re-survey of forest reserve boundaries
- Data collection and Mapping using GPS
- Digital Terrain Modeling.
- User-defined Mapping in a wide range of formats