

FOREST USE AND RESTORATION IN AFRICAN SAVANNA FROM FARMER'S VIEW ON AGRICULTURE, FOREST AND LAND

ARAKI Shigeru

ASAFAS, Kyoto University, 46, Shimoadachi-Cho, Yoshida, Sakyo-Ku, Kyoto, 606-8501, Japan

E-mail: araki@jambo.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Abstract

With purpose to clarify the characteristics of use and preservation of the savanna vegetation called *miombo* woodlands, three areas were selected in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the type of agriculture, land systems, and the rate of deforestation were investigated through field observation and satellite image analysis. The *miombo* woodlands are defined by the domination of leguminous species of genera *Brachistegia*, *Isoberlinia* and *Julbernardia* that belong to sub-family *Caesalpinioidea*, and their highest species diversity is placed in south-eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The woodlands have long been utilized by traditional method such as *chitemene* slash-and-burn agriculture, but they are now under threat due to several socio-economic policy changes over two decades. Population pressure on woodlands in certain communal areas of northern Zambia kept minimum during the last decade, mainly because of out-migration of rural population, but shortages of crop lands under the present extensive management systems shows that not only the efforts for intensification and conservation, but also un-equal distribution of state or private land vs. communal land should be taken into account in most of southern African countries.