

RUSIZI NATIONAL PARK

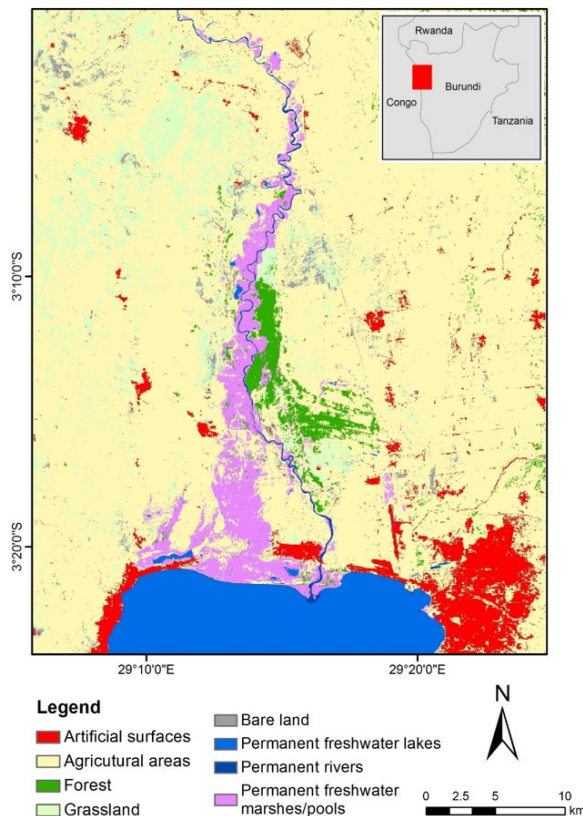
SPOTLIGHT

“Gustave is indisputably the biggest crocodile that anybody around the Rusizi River has ever seen or heard of, and he is unquestionably dangerous. However, Gustave might be blamed for deaths he had nothing to do with.”

| John Thorbjarnarson, 2003 [1] |

WETLAND HABITAT MAPPING PRODUCTS

Status Mapping | 2016



Description: Status map of land cover/use in and around the Rusizi National Park derived from two Sentinel-2A images acquired on 24 March 2016 and 22 July 2016, respectively.

FAST FACTS

- Rusizi National Park in Burundi (fr. Parc National de la Rusizi) is located next to the Rusizi River. It is 15 km north of the city of Bujumbura and is home to hippopotamuses and sitatungas. Gustave, a Nile crocodile rumored to have killed 300 people lives here.
- The park covers an area of 10,673 ha and consists a complex of permanent inland delta, freshwater lakes, rivers and marshes. It was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2002.
- The site is considered an "ornithological paradise" for its stopover and nesting places for migratory waterbirds, with over 120 breeding bird species and 90 migratory species identified.
- It supports 193 plant species, 90 fish species, and over 12 reptile species including the Nile crocodile.
- The main human activities include fishing, livestock, rice, sugar cane and cotton farming, and collection of non-timber forest products.
- The site is threatened by erosion, over-exploitation of natural resources, and the use of fertilizers and pesticides for agriculture [2].



Description: Hippos in the Rusizi National Park.

References

- [1] The New York Times
<https://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/19/world/rusizi-national-park-journal-a-crocodile-satisfies-a-ven-for-men-as-food-that-is.html>
- [2] Parc National de la Rusizi. Ramsar Sites Information Service. <https://rsis.ramsar.org/rsi/1180>

Acknowledgement and Authors

The product development and processing have been performed within the ESA project GlobWetland Africa.

Authors: Tiejun Wang, Yiwen Sun, and Zoltan Vekerdy
Contacts: t.wang@utwente.nl; z.vekerdy@utwente.nl

