

Cultivated areas

1. Areas that had been cleared for cultivation were mapped off the 1996 set of 1:20000 aerial photographs. This covered all of eastern Caprivi. For the western area (west of the Kwando River), areas cleared for cultivation were mapped off the 1:80 000 surveyor-general's 1996 aerial photographs. These data are available in fields\fields.shp. The attribute data in \fields.dbf gives the area (m²) and perimeter (m) of the fields.
2. No attempt was made to distinguish between areas that were actively cultivated and those that were fallow or abandoned. Cleared areas were obvious in woodland habitats, but in floodplain areas the mapped units probably represent only more recently cultivated areas. This is because old fields are probably obliterated by good floods.
3. To compare areas cleared in 1996 with those in 1943 and 1972, prints were obtained for five sample areas representing different landscapes. The areas are shown in the Profile publication and are available as shape files (sample.shp). The size of each area (m²) is given in sample.dbf. Photographs taken in 1943 were at a scale of 1:36 000 and those in 1972 at 1:70 000. Cultivated areas in the eastern floodplains were not compared because older fields were no longer visible after flooding.
4. Georeferencing of the 1943 and 1972 prints was done by adjusting the scale and rotation of the digitised maps to align with prominent features on other digital maps, e.g. roads and rivers.
5. Cultivated areas from 1943 and 1972 are in the data sets fields43.shp and fields72.shp, respectively. The area of each field (m²) and the sample block from which it comes is given in the dBase files.