

Murchison Falls, UGA

Forest Loss 2001–2025

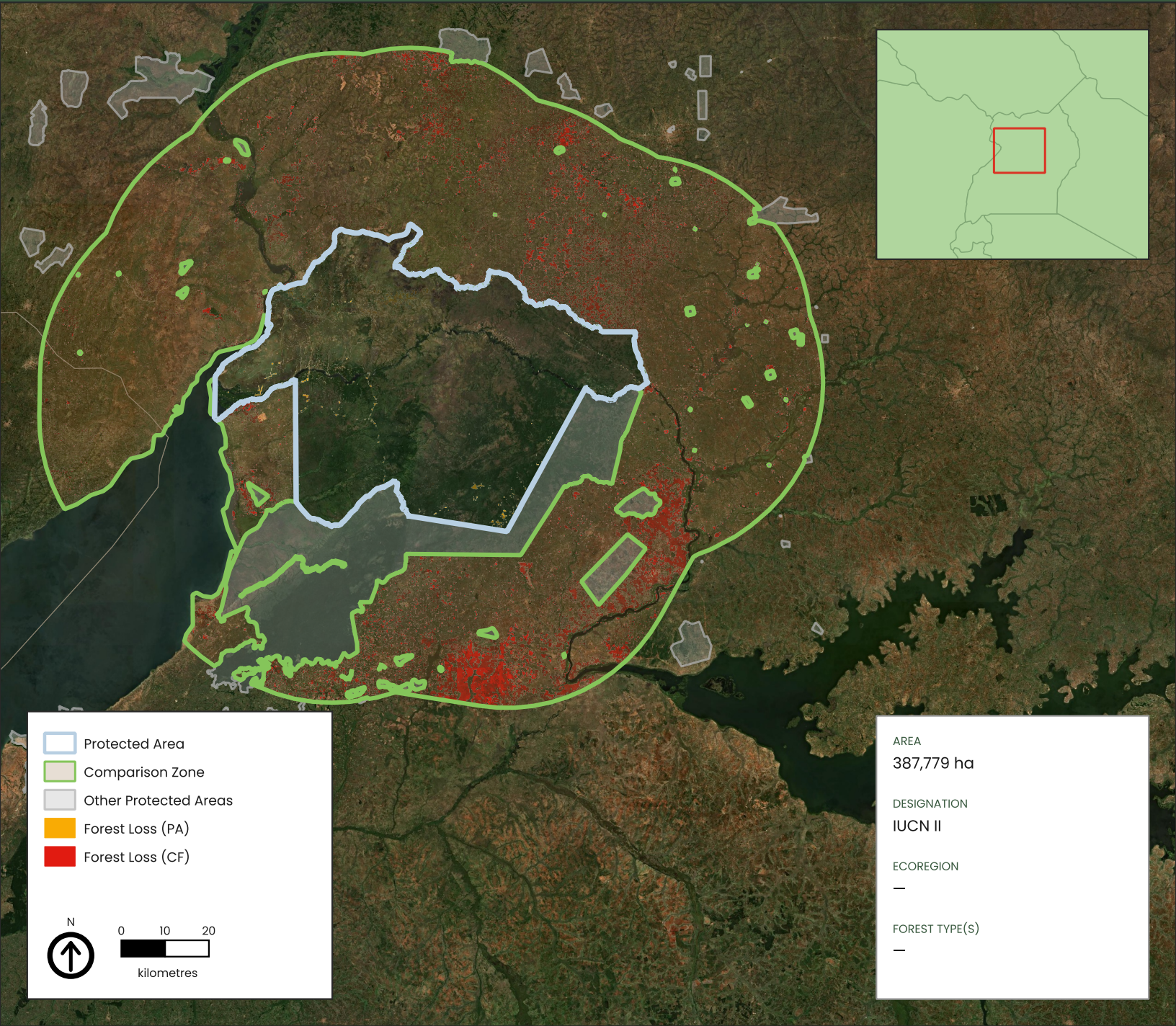
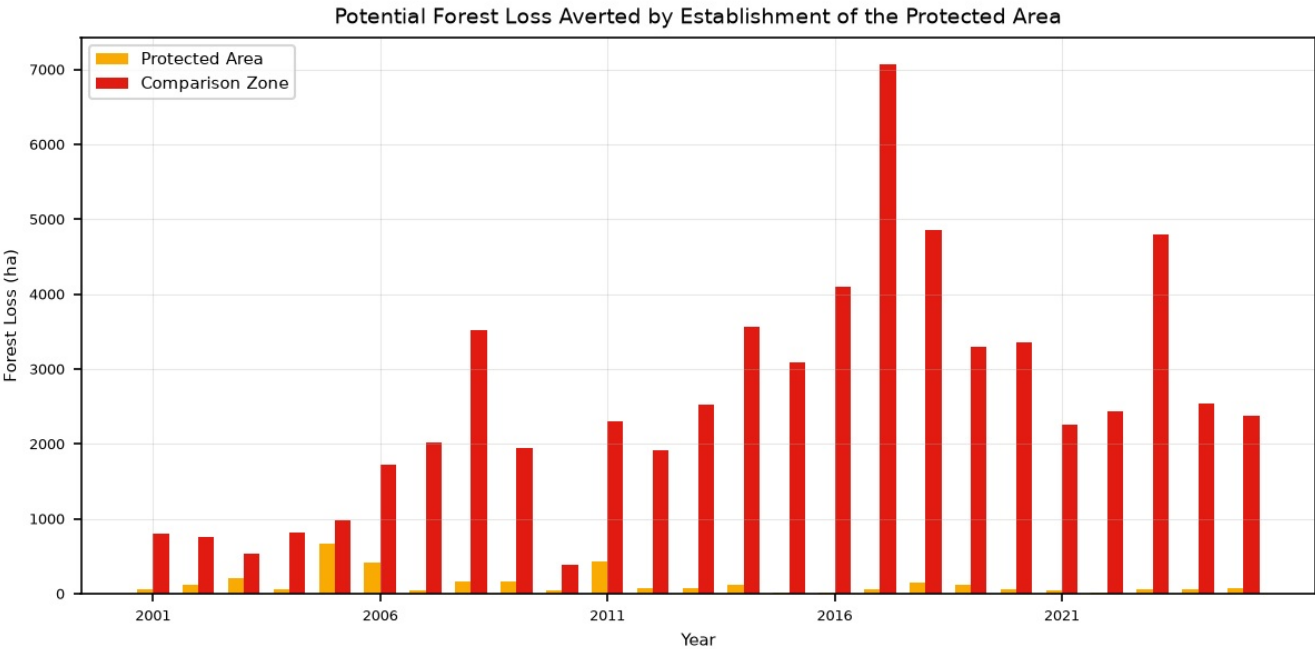


Image of protected area and/or unique wildlife

Overview of site (≈200 words)

Murchison Falls lies in Uganda, covering 387,779 hectares and designated IUCN II. The surrounding comparison area — a 40 km terrestrial buffer excluding other protected areas — spans 13,091 km².



Interpretation of Results (≈200 words)

Over the 2001–2025 study period, Murchison Falls lost 40.1% of its forest cover on a normalized mean-loss-year basis, compared to 63.5% for the 40 km comparison zone, yielding a treatment effect of roughly 23.4% increased loss inside the protected area (equal to approximately 5.9 years of forest life lost). A canopy-height similarity of 44.4% indicates the comparison area is structurally well-matched to the protected forest.

Key Results

Protected Area Loss	40.1%
Comparison Zone Loss	63.5%
Treatment Effect	23.4%
Canopy Similarity	44.4%
Years Saved (est.)	5.9

Conclusion (≈100 words)

Protection status in Murchison Falls appears to have been ineffective at limiting deforestation within site boundaries. The protected area experienced 40.1% forest loss compared to 63.5% in the comparison area over the 2001–2025 study period.

Data Sources / Credits

- WDPA: World Database on Protected Areas — PA boundaries
- GFW/UMD: Hansen Global Forest Change v1.13 — tree cover loss (30 m)
- NASA FIRMS: MODIS TERRA/AQUA fire detections
- GSHHG v2.3.7: coastline mask for terrestrial clipping
- Natural Earth: basemap for geographic context