



Rural-Rural Mobility, Land and Labor Markets in Zambia

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Introduction

- In 2015, Africa is home to 1.2 billion people, 60% in rural areas, & majority being the youth (Losch 2012)
- Socio-economic challenges and opportunities likely to emerge
- Rural-rural migration (rural mobility) crucial in shaping agric. & economic development through:
 - 1) equilibrating population densities through migration from high to low density regions (downstream migration)
 - 2) through migration into higher density rural areas (upstream migration), with wage income opportunities

Introduction cont'd

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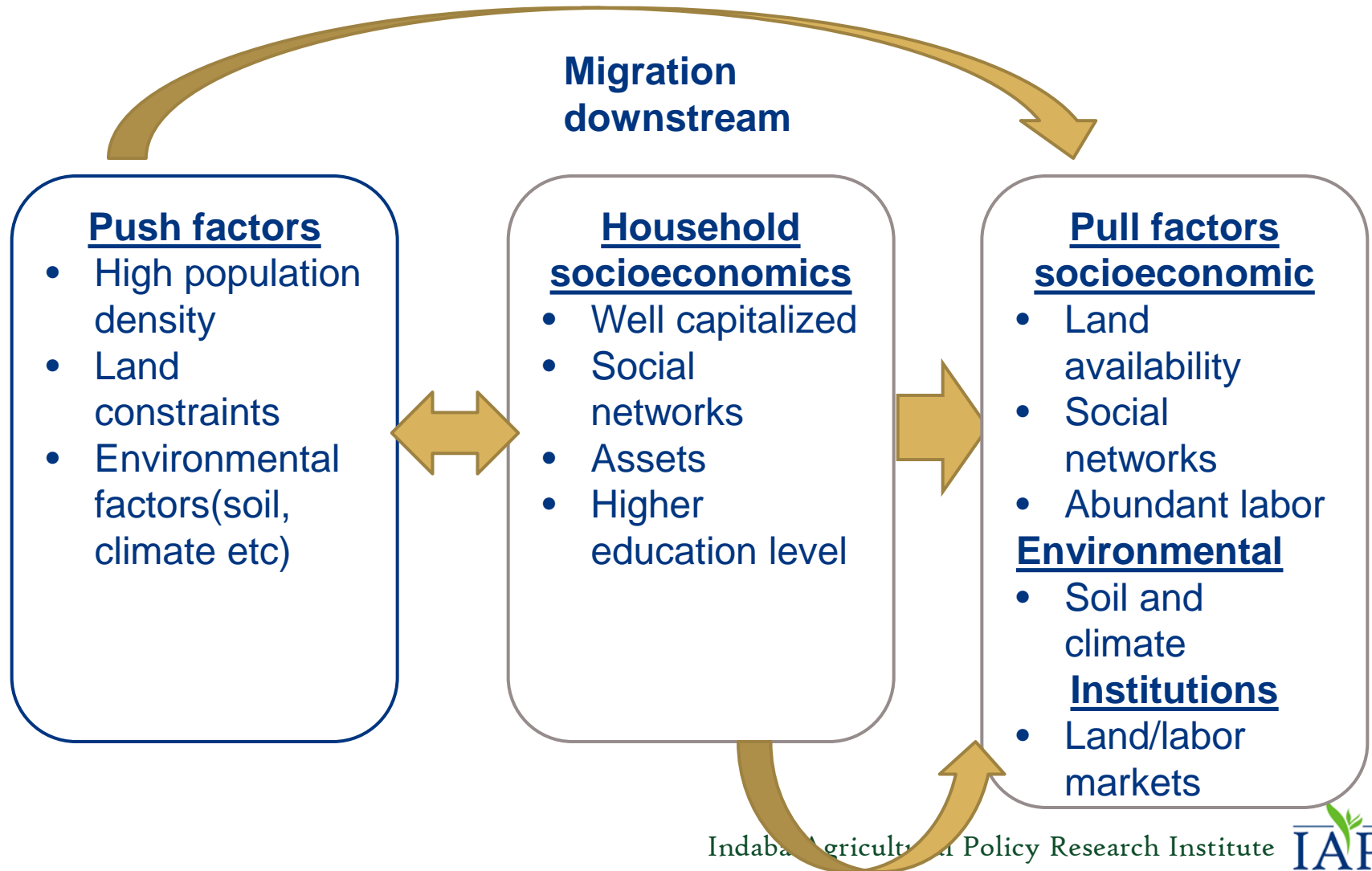
- Substantial research on migration in SSA, bulk of which has focused on rural-urban, & urban-rural movements (Potts 2010, de Bruin et al. 2001)
- Much less is known about rural-rural migration
- This research lacuna has been attributed to lack of data, as well as to “over-visibility of rural-urban migrants due to high rates of urban growth” (Sully and Ekoru unpublished, Lucas 1997).

Introduction cont'd

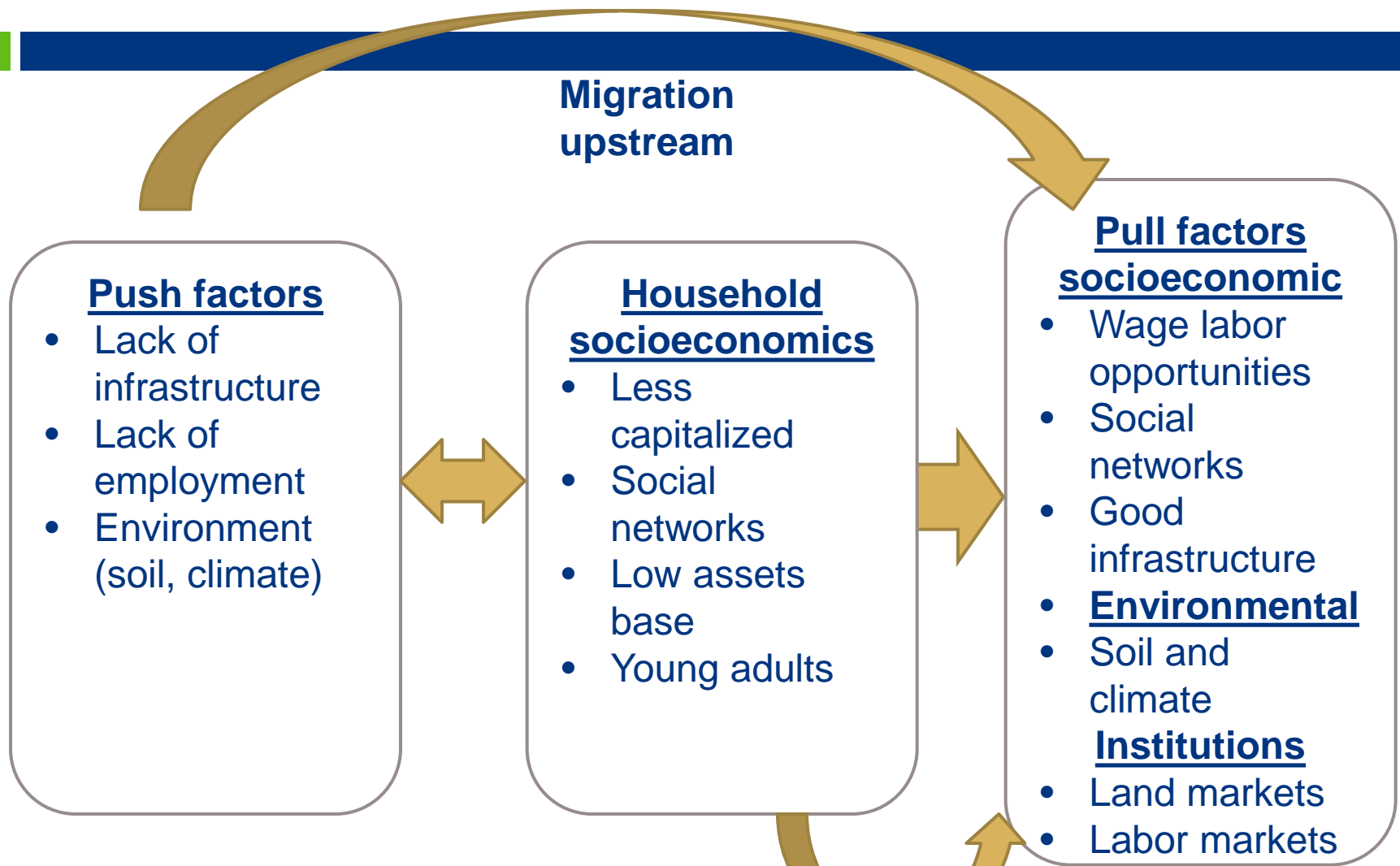
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- Rural-rural migration is perceived to be insignificant both in terms of magnitude and its effect on rural economic development
- *We find migration rates of 11-50% depending on definition*
- Our work utilizes nationally representative household and community data to;
 - determine and assess the main drivers, patterns, & implications of rural mobility on smallholder agriculture development in Africa through a case study analysis of Zambia

Conceptual framework



Conceptual framework



Main findings

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Employment and land are the main economic drivers of migration

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	Wage-income areas	Land-abundant areas
<i>% reporting main reason for migration</i>		
Employment	47.8	38.4
Land availability	15.3	12.7
Displacement	0.7	8.4
Land dispute in previous location	1.3	3.6
Better infrastructure access	3.2	1.6
Improved farming opportunities	0.5	6.1

Source: Authors' computations from RALS 2012.

More economic opportunities & land constraints in upstream destinations

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Characteristics	Land abundant destinations	Wage income abundant destinations	National
<i>Geographical context</i>			
Rural population density	13.4	20.1	16.6
Distance to nearest district town	13.2	9.6	11.5
<i>Land access & institutions</i>			
% titled land	5.2	19.6	8.4
% renting in	1.4	5.6	2.9
% reporting perceptions of land constraints	47.3	61.7	45.7
<i>Labor markets</i>			
% with off-farm income	71.1	75.2	72.4
% share of income from off-farm sources	27	36	30
<i>Poverty & wellbeing</i>			
% below poverty line	89.3	80.7	86.7

Source: Authors' computations from RALS 2012.

Immigrants are more capitalized, productive, & economically active

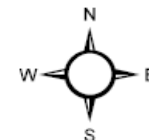
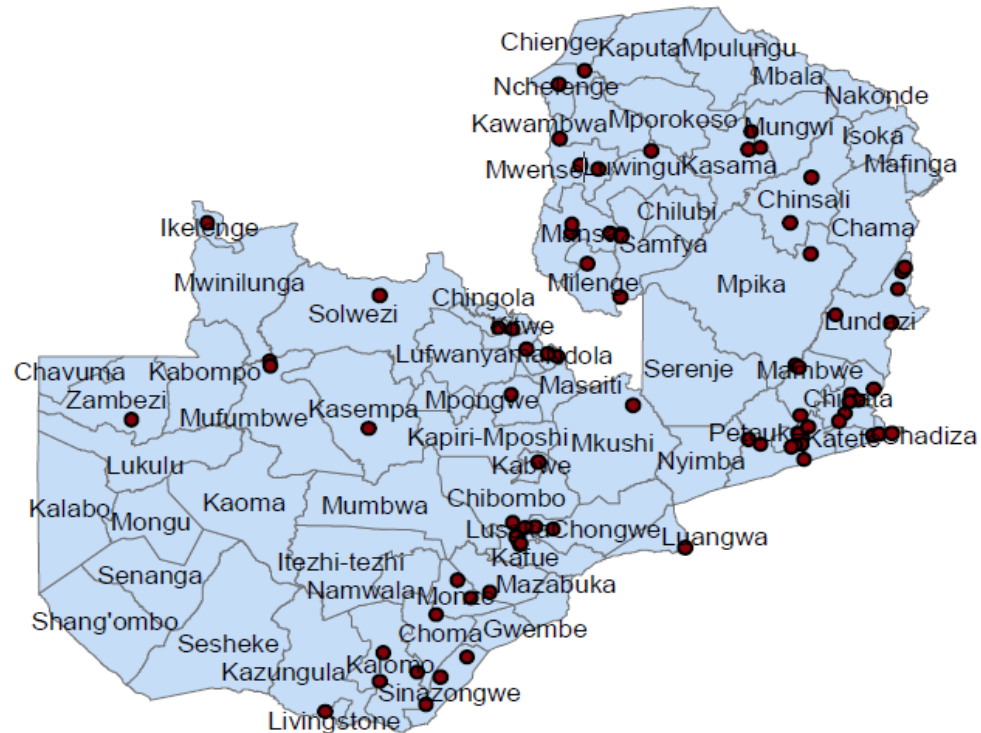
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Attribute	National			Wage-income areas		
	<i>Immigrants</i>	<i>Non-immigrants</i>	<i>t-test</i>	<i>Immigrants</i>	<i>Non-immigrants</i>	<i>t-test</i>
Age	44.2	45.7	***	43.4	46	***
Years of education	7.7	6	***	9	7	***
% Non-agricultural wages	18	5	***	30	14	***
Total land owned (ha)	2.9	3.9	***	2.4	3.7	**
Value of assets (ZMW)	2500	1540	***	3400	2260	***
Maize yields (kg/ha)	2460	2264	***	2707	2360	**
HCI	0.39	0.33	***	0.36	0.35	
%Access to credit	18	16		16	21	**
%Hire labor	31	27	**	38	30	***
%Purchase fertilizer	33	26	***	39	33	**
% titled	16	10	***	29	22	***
% renting in	8	3	***	11	5	***

Source: Authors' computations from RALS 2012. Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute

Wage labor destinations

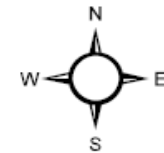
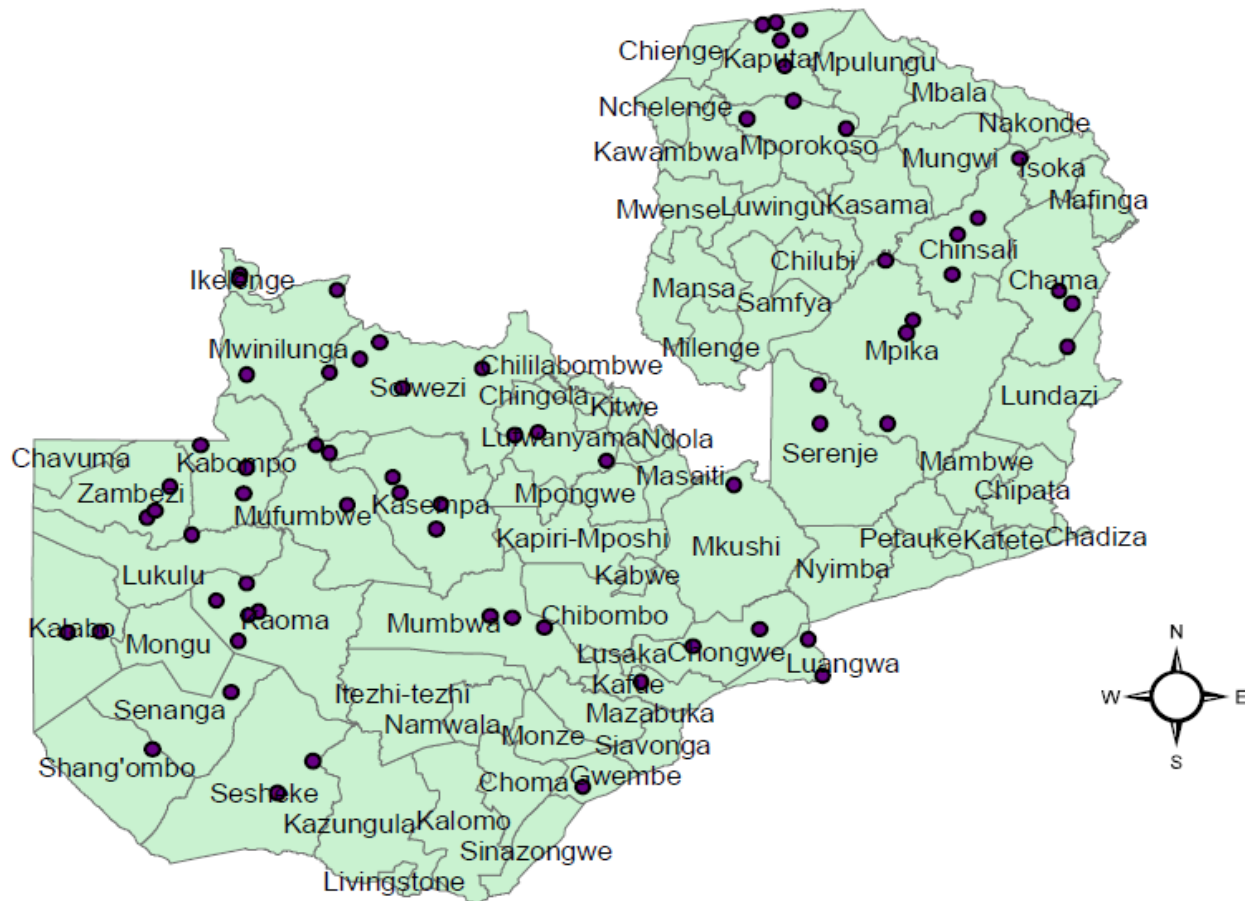
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Land abundant destinations

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139% Find



Conclusions

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- Rural mobility occurring significantly 11-50%
- Mostly driven by land and labor markets
- Highest flow is towards wage labor destinations, hence less into forest frontiers (contributing less to deforestation contrary to rural mobility literature)
- Migrants in both channels more engaged in land, labor, input, and output markets than non-migrants
- Hence rural mobility appears to be a positive force in the development trajectory of rural Zambia

Thank you for your attention

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