



# Effects of urbanization changes on landuse in Yenagoa Metropolis, Bayelsa State, Nigeria (1986-2013)

Olatunde Sunday Eludoyin \*, Andrew Adesola Obafemi, Theophilus Hardy

*Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria*

## Abstract

This study investigated the impacts of urbanization on landuse change in Yenagoa Metropolis. Landsat imageries of 1986, 2009 and 2013 were acquired from the United States Geological Survey for the study. Supervised classification using the Maximum Likelihood Classification Algorithm was employed. The impact of urbanization on other landuse was determined by using Overlay (INTERSECT module). The areal extent captured by built-up area in each of the overlay analyses was calculated in squared kilometres. The probability landuse change of 5 years, 10 years and 20 years was predicted using Probability Markovian Algorithm. Percentage land consumption rate (PLCR) was also determined using a standard method. Descriptive statistics were employed to explain the landuse trend and magnitude of landuse change. Findings show that built-up area was 36.09km<sup>2</sup> in 1986, 83.27km<sup>2</sup> in 2009 and 102.25km<sup>2</sup> in 2013 while the percentage change of built-up area from 1986 to 2013 was 66.16 km<sup>2</sup>. Sparse vegetation had the highest probability of changing to built-up area in 2023 (39.81%), 2033 (46.27%) and 2043 (54.83%). The PLCR was 0.085%, 0.035% and 0.039% in 1986, 2009 and 2013 respectively. The study recommended that campaign against deforestation and sensitise people on the effects of improper landuse change should be encouraged.

**Keywords:** Urbanization; Landuse/Landcover; Landuse Change; Landsat; Yenagoa

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## **1. Introduction**

Urban population is experiencing rapid growth as a result of the influx of many people and the growing level of industrial activities which has affected environmental conservation management practices in Nigeria (Iyorakpo, 2015). The world's urbanization since 1850 partly reflects a corresponding acceleration of world population growth, but urbanization is not merely an increase in the average density of human settlement (Lowry, 1990). Thus, there is a global shift of world's urban population from developed to developing countries, which will account for about 80 percent of world's urbanites by 2030, doubling from 40 percent in 1950 (Soja and Kanai, 2007). Today's increasingly global and interconnected world, over half of the world's population (54%) lives in urban areas. The continuing urbanization and overall growth of the world's population is projected to add 2.5 billion people to the urban population by 2050, with nearly 90% of the concentrated in Asia and Africa (United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division (UNDESAPD, 2014).

However, landuse planning which aims at organizing various landuse to secure maximum economy and convenience for the populace is becoming a huge challenge in the developing world (Adeyemo and Arokoyu, 2002). The study of landuse/landcover change is very important to have proper planning and utilization of natural resources and their management. One of the critical concerns of the world today is on land use/land cover change because of the consequences they have on weather and climate, surface run-off in relation to erosion and flooding, ecological biodiversity, socio-economic and health (Lambin et al., 2003). This is largely because landuse/land cover change has considerable effects on bio-physical, bio-geophysical, bio-geochemical, hydro-meteorological processes (Abubakar et al., 2002; Ndabula et al., 2013).

Land use and land cover is driven by a variety of socio-economic, economic, political, cultural, technological and bio-physical factors (De Sherbinin, 2002). Land cover change is one of the most important variables of environmental change and represents the largest threat to ecological systems (Foody, 2002). The quest and strive toward industrialization, technological innovations and the drive to modernism have resulted to modification and change in landuse and landcover in a region. Geospatial technologies are have been used for advanced ecosystem management, landuse mapping and planning; and the collection of remotely-sensed data facilitates the synoptic analyses of earth-system functions, patterning, and change at local, regional as well as at global scales over time (Lambin, 2007). As a result of technological advancements, changes of the earth's surface have become visible by satellite imagery and at such remote sensing and geographic information systems have become the most effective tool for assessing and monitoring and detecting environmental changes (Anderson et al., 2001; Musaoglu et al., 2002; Tardie and Congalton, 2002). Yenagoa City is characterized by remarkable growth in population, expansion and developmental activities which have resulted in increased land consumption and alteration of the earth surface (land).The increasing concern for the management of natural resources in recent times has been necessitated by the increase in demographic pressure and its associated anthropogenic activities which have led to serious environmental stress and ecological instability. The outcome of the natural and socio-economic factors of landuse and land cover in Yenagoa calls for an accurate investigation in the causes, processes and rate of landuse and landcover change in the metropolis.

Several researches on landuse and land cover change in the Niger Delta have been reported in literature. For instance, Mmom (2008) investigated the impact of land use change on urban floodplains in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Chukwu-Okeah and Mmom (2012) studied the implication of landuse change on hydro-meteorological events in Port Harcourt. Kurotiminipre and Winston (2013) investigated land use and land cover changes between 1998 and 2008 in Yenagoa. None of these studies considered the influence of urbanization on landuse and land cover of any part in the Niger Delta especially Yenagoa City and majority of the studies made use of questionnaire as the instrument of investigation which is mere perception of landuse/ land cover change by the residents. The use of geospatial technologies to quantify and ascertain the past and present landuse in Yenagoa City was scanty. This suggests also that little is documented on the impact of urbanization on landuse in Yenagoa City. Against this background, the present study examined the current status of landuse and land cover of Yenagoa City with a view to determining the influence of urbanization on the landuse and land cover using satellite images of 1986, 2009 and 2013.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Study area

The study area is Yenagoa City in Yenagoa LGA of Bayelsa State. The study area lies along latitudes between 4° 48' 00" North and 5° 24' 10" East; and longitudes between 6° 12' 00" E and 6° 39' 30" E (Figure 1). It is bounded by Rivers State on the North and East, Delta State on the North West and West, Ogbia LGA on the South East and Southern Ijaw on the South west. Yenagoa LGA has a population of 352,285 by 1996 estimate (National Bureau of Statistics, 2006). The climate of Yenagoa LGA is an equatorial type of climate (Iyorakpo, 2015). Rainfall occurs generally every month of the year. The mean monthly temperature is 25°C to 31°C. The hottest months are December to April. The difference between the wet season and dry season on temperature is about 2°C. Relative humidity is high throughout the year and decreases slightly during the dry season. The study area is located within the lower delta plain believed to have been formed during the Holocene of the quaternary period by the accumulation of sedimentary deposits. Generally, Yenagoa is situated on lowland with the elevation between 3m and 7m above mean sea level and characterized by flood plains. It is drained by Epie Creek, Orashi River and Ekole Creek. The major soil types in the state are young, shallow and poorly drained soils. There are, however, variations; some soils occupy extensive areas whereas, some are of limited extent. The soil texture ranges from medium to fine grains. Like any other area in the Niger Delta; the vegetation is composed mangrove forests, freshwater swamp and lowland rain forests. The main occupations include farming and fishing.

### 2.2. Landuse change detection and landuse percentage change

Landuse map of different periods in Yenagoa metropolis was acquired from the landsat imagery of 30m x 30m of 1986, 2009 and 2013 obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Composite analysis was done on the imageries in each period to produce a false composite imagery in ArcGIS 10.1. From the

ground-truthing of the land use types in the area derived through reconnaissance survey, four major landuse types were identified namely built-up area, sparse vegetation/farmland, thick vegetation and waterbodies. The built-up area landuse was chosen to represent urbanization (Mohapatra et al, 2014). The boundary of Yenagoa metropolis was derived from the topographic map and this was used to clip the imageries to maintain the boundary of the study area.

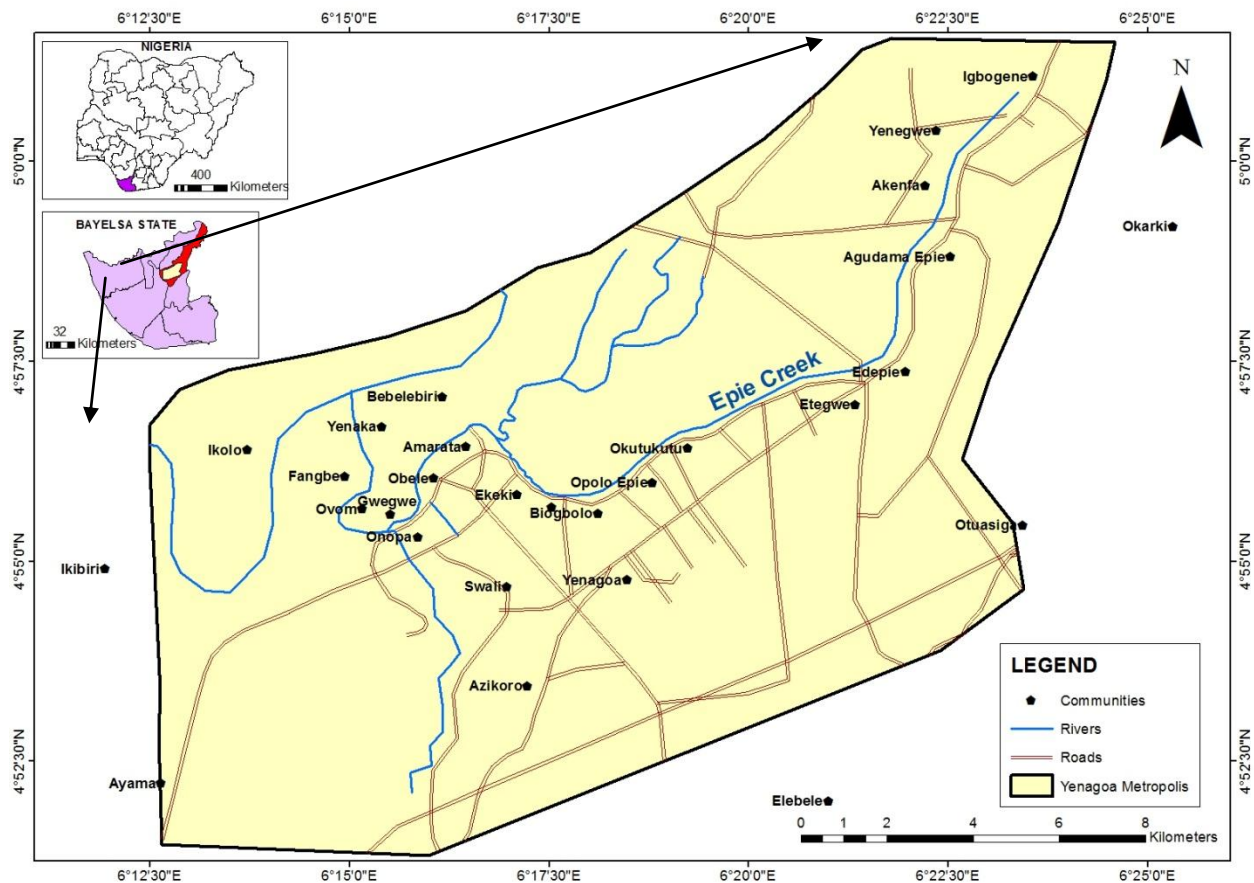


Figure 1. Yenagoa Metropolis

In Erdas Imagine 9.1, training sites were generated from the imagery to carry out supervised classification using the Maximum Likelihood Classification Algorithm. The landuse detected were subjected to accuracy test with the use of Kappa's index. The spatial coverage of each landuse type was determined in squared kilometers using the calculate geometry module of ArcGIS 10.1.

The area of landuse in each year was calculated and simple arithmetic was done by subtracting the area of landuse in initial year from the final year. The difference gave the landuse change in terms of spatial coverage and direction of change. The percentage change of each landuse was then computed to determine the percentage increase or decrease of each landuse using the formula in Eq. 1.

$$LU \text{ Final} - LU \text{ Initial} \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

### 2.3. Prediction landuse map and determination of the impact of urbanization on other landuse

The probability landuse change of 5 years, 10 years and 20 years was predicted using Probability Markovian Algorithm in Idrisi Selva. This gave room to determine the probability of built-up area changing to another landuse and vice versa in Yenagoa metropolis. The built-up area was considered the index of urbanization. The impact of urbanization on other landuse was determined by overlaying the landuse of previous year on the later year (1986 on 2009; 2009 on 2013) using INTERSECT module. The areal extent captured by built-up area in each of the overlay analyses was calculated in squared kilometres.

### 2.4. Land Absorption Rate (LAR)

LCR is a measure of detecting the rate at which land is being consumed by the residing population (Bankole and Bakare, 2011). Through this measure, a prediction of land that is expected to be consumed by the teeming resident population could be determined, which could also be used to determine the rate of urban expansion (Bankole and Bakare, 2011). It could therefore be concluded that LCR is a function of increase in urban land use (that is change in urban landuse) (Bankole and Bakare, 2011). Land consumption rate is the ratio of spatial coverage of built-up area and population in the recent year of consideration (Eq. 2).

$$L.C.R = A/P \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

where, A denotes areal extent of the city in squared kilometers, and P denotes population (Yeates and Garner, 1976).

Both the 2009, 2013, 2023, 2033, 2043 population figures were estimated from the 1991 and the estimated 2006 population figures of Yenagoa Metropolis (with 14 years interval each) using the recommended National Population Commission (NPC) 2.3% growth rate as obtained from the 1991/2006 censuses (Bankole and Bakare, 2011).

Population projection formula applied was arithmetic progression in nature. Projection equation is  $P_t = P_o (1 + r t)$ , where,

- $P_t$  = size of the population in year t (estimated population of 2009, 2013, 2023, 2033, 2043)
- $P_o$  = size of the population in the base year (1991 and 2006 population figures)
- r = average annual rate of growth (2.3%) (NPC, 1991; National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2012)
- t = length of the time interval,

and

- Population in 1991 = 105887 (NPC, 1991)
- Population in 2006 = 219199 (NBS, 2012)
- Population in 1986 = 42355 (Determined from 1991 population census as it was discovered that population have increased by 3.0% from 1963 to 1991 (Osungade, 1995).
- Population in 2009 (Projected from population of 2006)

- Population in 2013 (Projected from population of 2009)

## 2.5. Method data analysis

Descriptive statistics was employed in this study to explain the percentages of the area of landuse direction and magnitude of landuse change. Spearman's rank correlation statistics was used to test the relationship between population growth and vegetal cover in Yenagoa metropolis between 1986 and 2013 while analysis of variance was used to test the variation in the influence of urbanization (built-up area) on other landuse between 1986 and 2013.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Landuse pattern between 1986 and 2013

Table 1 shows the landuse pattern of Yenagoa City between 1986 and 2013. In 1986, it is revealed that the waterbodies had 8.34 km<sup>2</sup> (3.25%) of total areal of Yenagoa City, thick vegetation had 129.64 km<sup>2</sup> (50.46%), Sparse vegetation/farmland had 82.86 km<sup>2</sup> (32.25%) while built-up area had 36.09 km<sup>2</sup> (14.05%) (Figure 2; Figure 3). In 2009, the analysis reveals that waterbodies reduced to 8.30 km<sup>2</sup> (3.23%) while thick vegetation, sparse vegetation/farmland and built-up area had 114.93 km<sup>2</sup> (44.73%), 50.43 km<sup>2</sup> (19.63%) and 83.27 km<sup>2</sup> (32.41%) respectively (Figure 4; Figure 5). In 2013, waterbodies had 9.01 km<sup>2</sup> (3.51%), thick vegetation had 105.74 km<sup>2</sup> (41.15%), sparse vegetation/farmland had 39.94 km<sup>2</sup> (15.54%) while built-up area had 102.25 km<sup>2</sup> (39.80%) (Figure 6; Figure 7). From the analysis, it is shown that the extent of waterbodies was fluctuating from 1986 to 2013 while thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland continued to decrease. However, built-up area was increasing from 1986 to 2013.

**Table 1.** Landuse pattern of Yenagoa City between 1986 and 2013

Landuse	1986		2009		2013	
	Areal coverage (km <sup>2</sup> )	Percentage (%)	Areal coverage (km <sup>2</sup> )	Percentage (%)	Areal coverage (km <sup>2</sup> )	Percentage (%)
Waterbodies	8.34	3.25	8.30	3.23	9.01	3.51
Thick vegetation	129.64	50.46	114.93	44.73	105.74	41.15
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	82.86	32.25	50.43	19.63	39.94	15.54
Built-up Area	36.09	14.05	83.27	32.41	102.25	39.80
Total	256.94	100.00	256.94	100.00	256.94	100.00



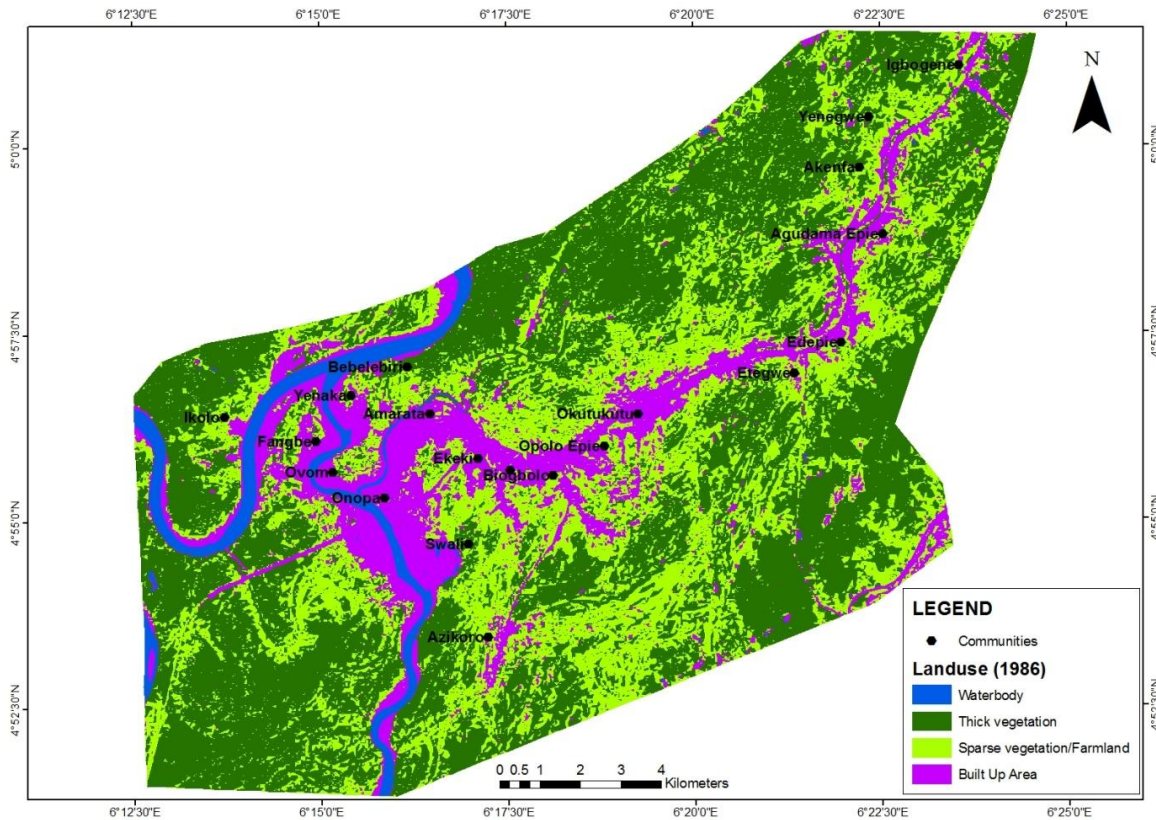


Figure 2. Landuse pattern of Yenagoa City in 1986

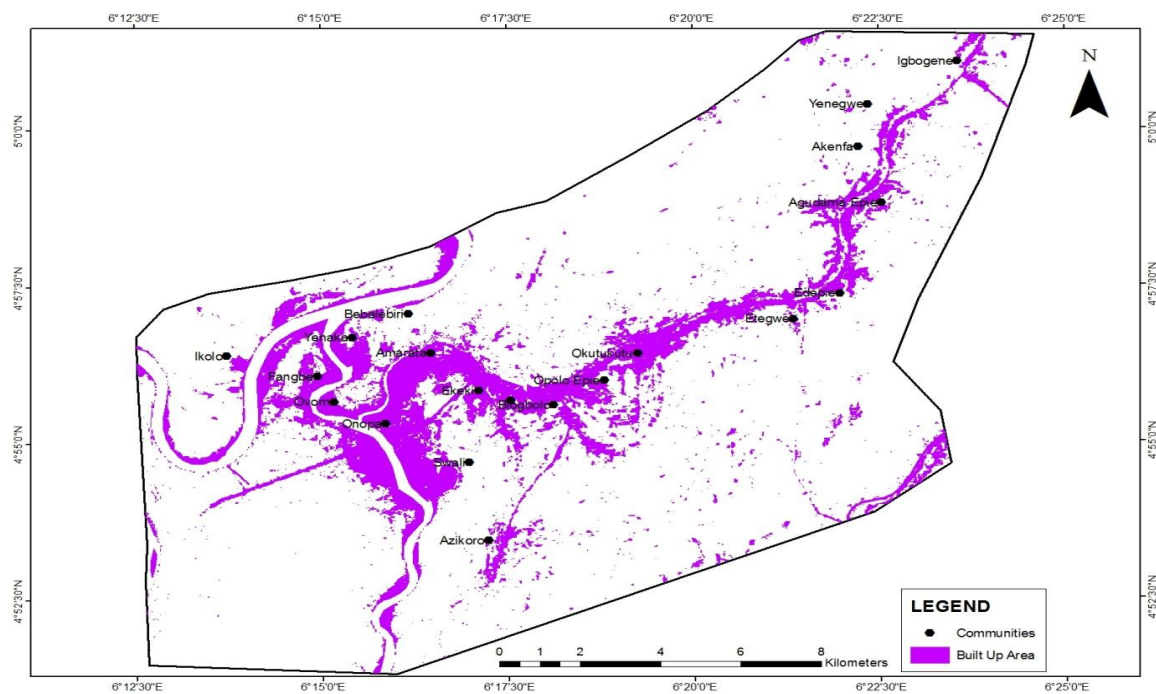


Figure 3. Built-up Area Landuse in 1986

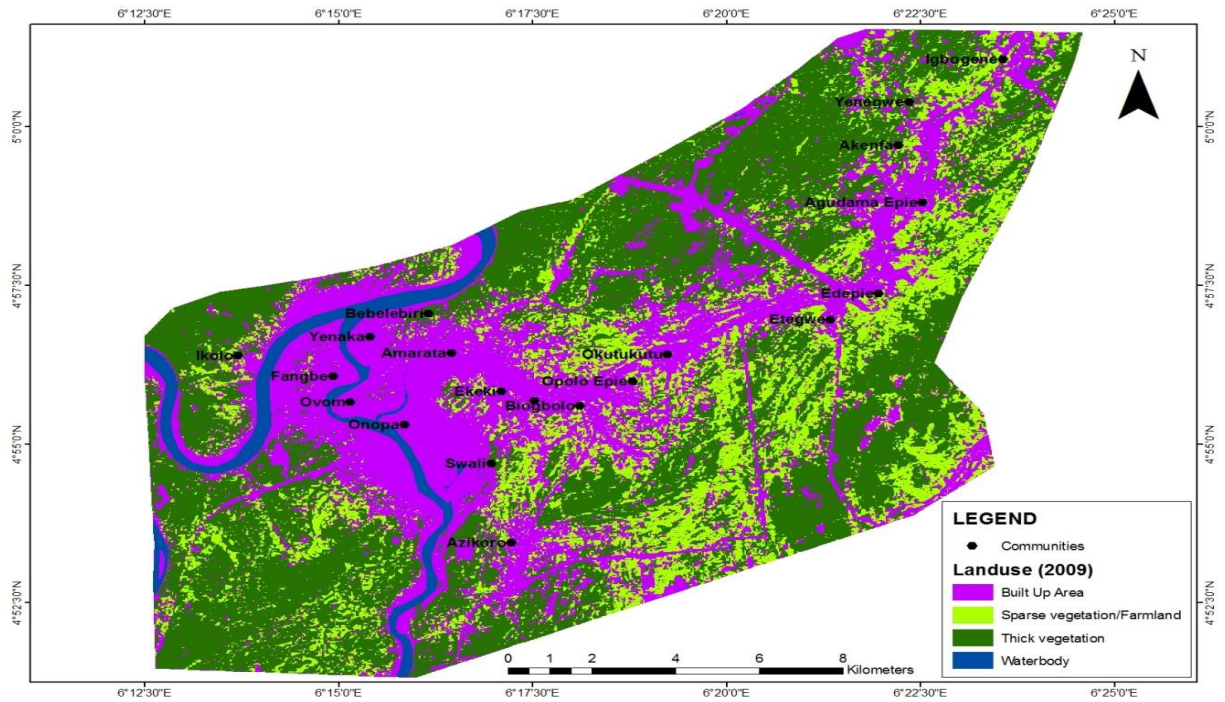


Figure 4. Landuse use pattern of Yenagoa City in 2009

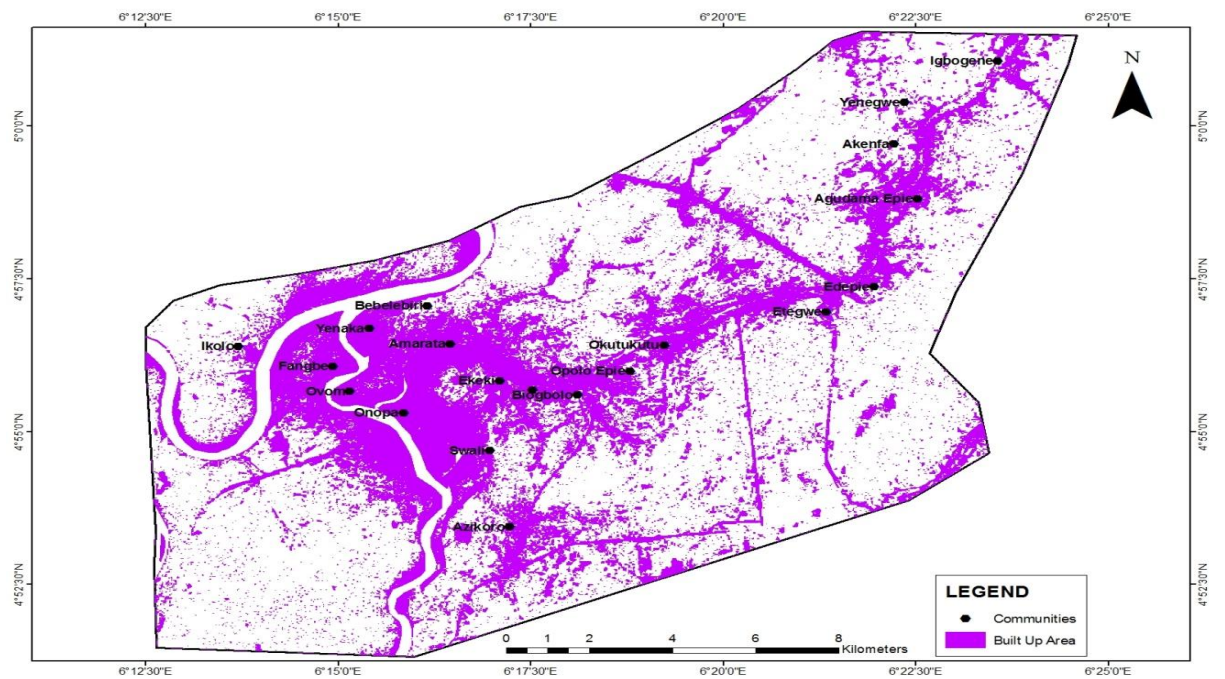


Figure 5. Built-up Area in 2009



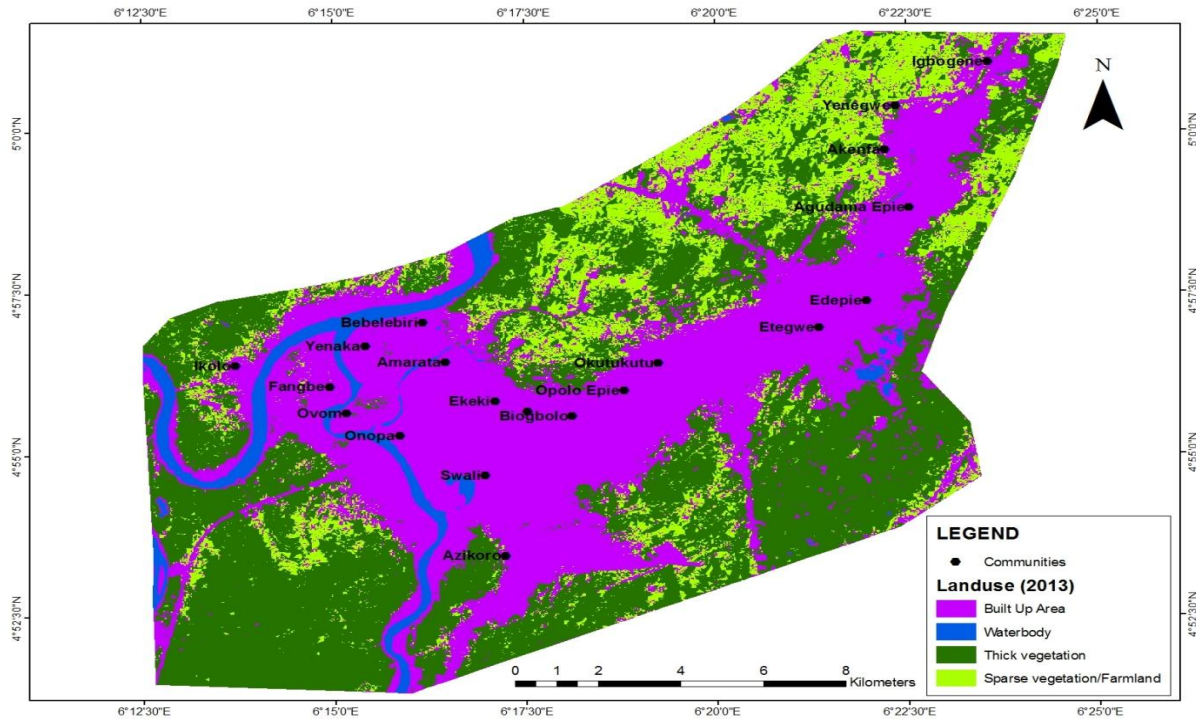


Figure 6. Landuse pattern of Yenagoa City in 2013

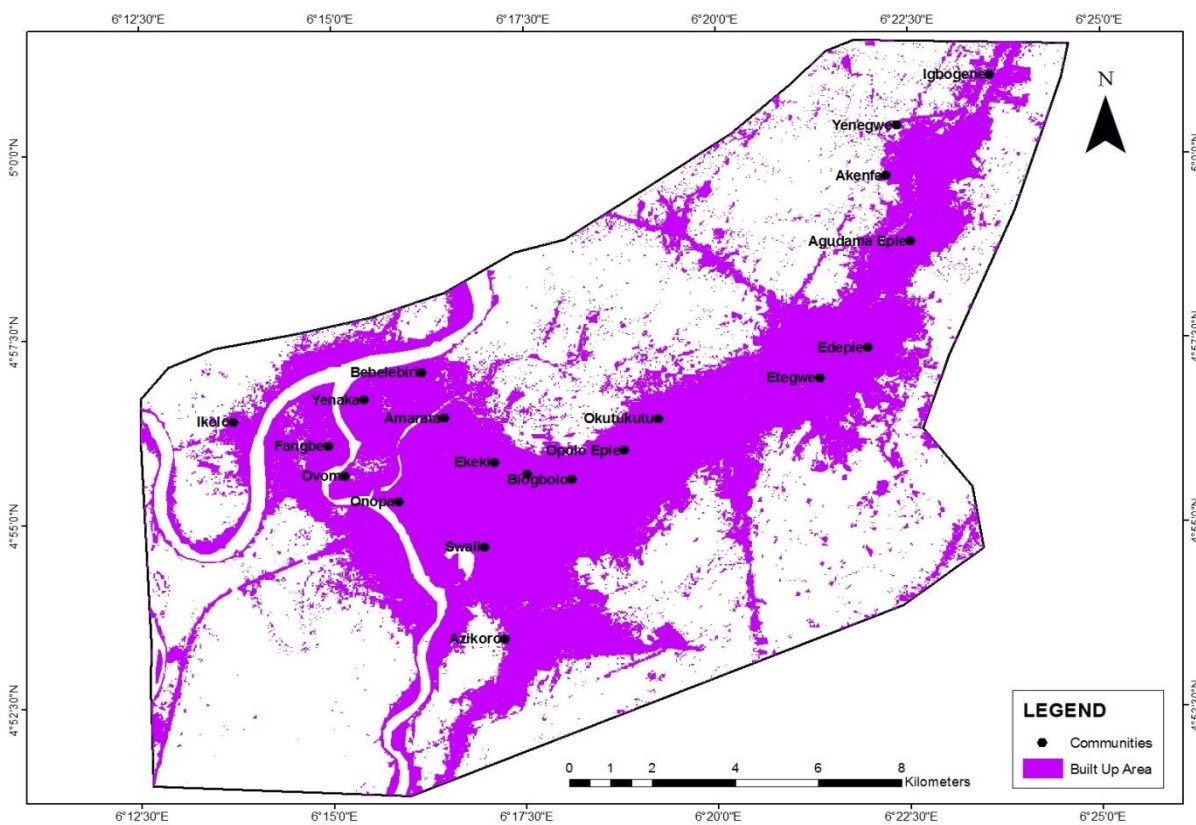


Figure 7. Built-up Area in 2013

### 3.2. Landuse change and percentage change

The landuse change and percentage change is presented in Table 2. Waterbodies decreased between 1986 and 2009 by 0.04 km<sup>2</sup> (0.48%) while thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland also decreased 14.71 km<sup>2</sup> (11.35%) and 32.43 km<sup>2</sup> (39.14%) respectively during these periods. However, built-up area increased between 1986 and 2009 by 47.18 (130.73%). Between 2009 and 2013, waterbodies increased by 0.71 km<sup>2</sup> (8.55%), thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland decreased by 9.19 km<sup>2</sup> (8.00%) and 10.49 km<sup>2</sup> (20.80%). Meanwhile, built-up area increased by 18.98 km<sup>2</sup> (22.79%).

**Table 2.** Landuse change and percentage change between 1986 and 2009

<b>Landuse</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Change (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Percentage Change (%)</b>
Waterbodies	8.34	8.30	-0.04	-0.48
Thick vegetation	129.64	114.93	-14.71	-11.35
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	82.86	50.43	-32.43	-39.14
Built-up Area	36.09	83.27	+47.18	+130.73
Total	256.94	256.94		
<b>Landuse</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Change (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Percentage Change (%)</b>
Waterbodies	8.30	9.01	+0.71	+8.55
Thick vegetation	114.93	105.74	-9.19	-8.00
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	50.43	39.94	-10.49	-20.80
Built-up Area	83.27	102.25	18.98	+22.79
Total	256.94	256.94		
<b>Landuse</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Change (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Percentage Change (%)</b>
Waterbodies	8.34	9.01	+0.67	+8.03
Thick vegetation	129.64	105.74	-23.90	-18.44
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	82.86	39.94	-42.92	-51.80
Built-up Area	36.09	102.25	+66.16	+183.32
Total	256.94	256.94		

Generally, between 1986 and 2013, waterbodies increased by 0.67 km<sup>2</sup> (8.03%), thick vegetation decreased by 23.90 km<sup>2</sup> (18.44%), sparse vegetation/farmland decreased by 42.92 km<sup>2</sup> (51.80%) while built-up area

increased by 66.16 km<sup>2</sup> (183.32%). It is therefore revealed from the analysis of percentage change that waterbodies and built-up area increased in terms of areal extent while thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland continued to decrease between 1986 and 2013.

### 3.3. Impacts of urbanization on other Landuse in Yenagoa Metropolis

Table 3, Figure 8 and Figure 9 presents the spatial extent of other landuse captured by built-up area in Yenagoa metropolis between 1986 and 2013. It was discovered that between 1986 and 2009, built-up area captured 0.55 km<sup>2</sup> (1.11%) of waterbodies, 16.95 km<sup>2</sup> (34.13%) of thick vegetation and 32.16 km<sup>2</sup> (64.76%) were lost to built-up area. However, 1.41 km<sup>2</sup> (3.31%) of waterbodies, 19.75 km<sup>2</sup> (46.44%) and 21.37 km<sup>2</sup> (50.25%) were lost to built-up area between 2009 and 2013. Thus, the total spatial extent of other landuse lost to built-up area (urbanization) between 1986 and 2009 was 49.66 km<sup>2</sup> while it was 42.53% km<sup>2</sup> between 2009 and 2013.

### 3.4. Probability of Landuse change in Yenagoa Metropolis

Tables 4, 5 and 6 show the probabilities of landuse to change to another in Yenagoa Metropolis in 2023, 2033 and 2043 respectively. By 2023, waterbodies has a chance of 0.0819 (8.19%) of changing to built-up area while thick vegetation has a chance of 0.0021 (0.21%) of changing to waterbodies, 0.1993 (19.93%) of changing to sparse vegetation/farmland and 0.0478 (4.78%) of changing to built-up area. However, sparse vegetation/farmland has chance of 0.3265 (32.65%) of changing to thick vegetation and 0.3981 (39.81%) of changing to built-up area. Built-up area has a chance of 0.0141 (1.41%), 0.0197 (1.97%) and 0.0149 (1.49%) of changing to waterbodies, thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland respectively.

By 2023, waterbodies has a chance of 0.0014 (0.14%) and 0.1478 (14.78%) of changing to thick vegetation and built-up area while thick vegetation has a chance of 0.0046 (0.46%), 0.1877 (18.77%) and 0.1451 (14.51%) of changing to waterbodies, sparse vegetation/farmland and built-up area respectively. Moreover, sparse vegetation/farmland has a chance of 0.3164 (31.64%) and 0.4627 (46.27%) of changing to thick vegetation and built-up area respectively while built-up area has a chance of 0.0246 (2.46%), 0.0347 (3.47%) and 0.0201 (2.01%) of changing to waterbodies, thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland respectively.

**Table 3.** Urbanization impacts on landuse

Landuse	1986-2009		2009-2013		Change
	Spatial Coverage (km <sup>2</sup> )	Percentage (%)	Spatial Coverage (km <sup>2</sup> )	Percentage (%)	
Waterbodies	0.55	1.11	1.41	3.31	+0.86
Thick vegetation	16.95	34.13	19.75	46.44	+2.8
Sparse vegetation	32.16	64.76	21.37	50.25	-10.79
Total	49.66	100.00	42.53	100.00	-7.13



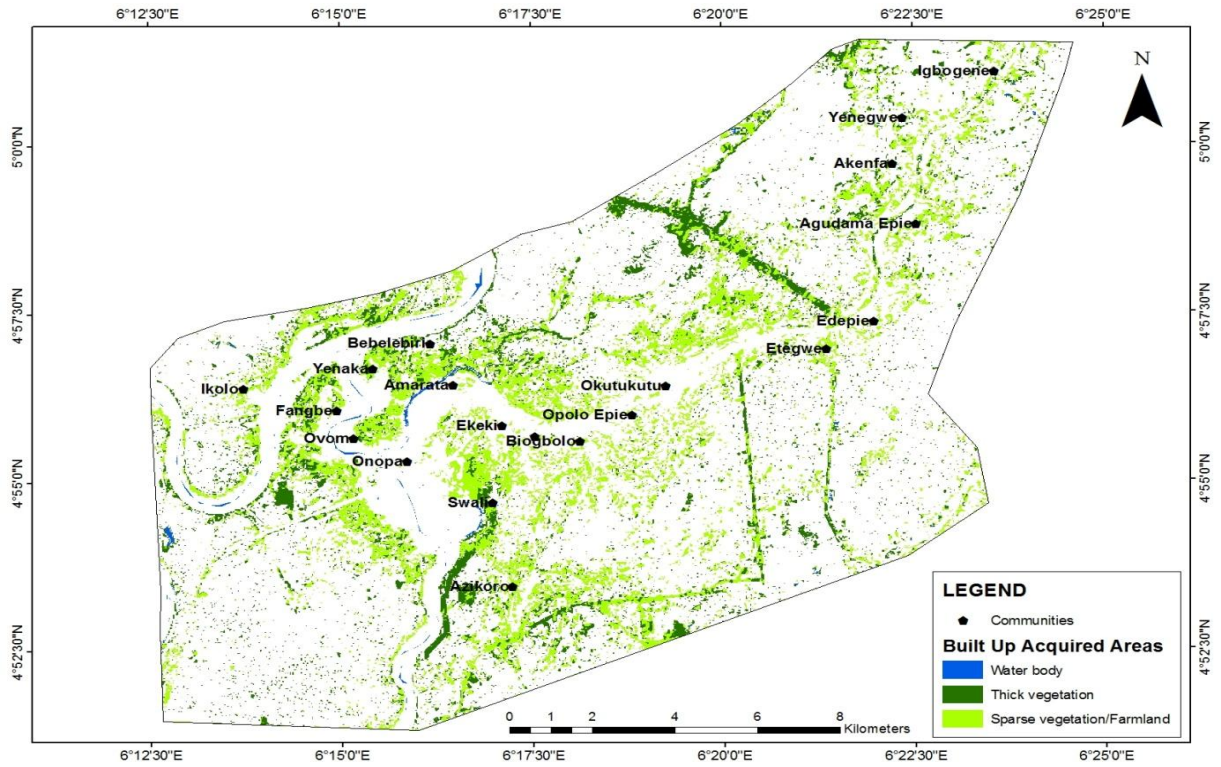


Figure 8. Urbanization impacts on landuse between 1986 and 2009

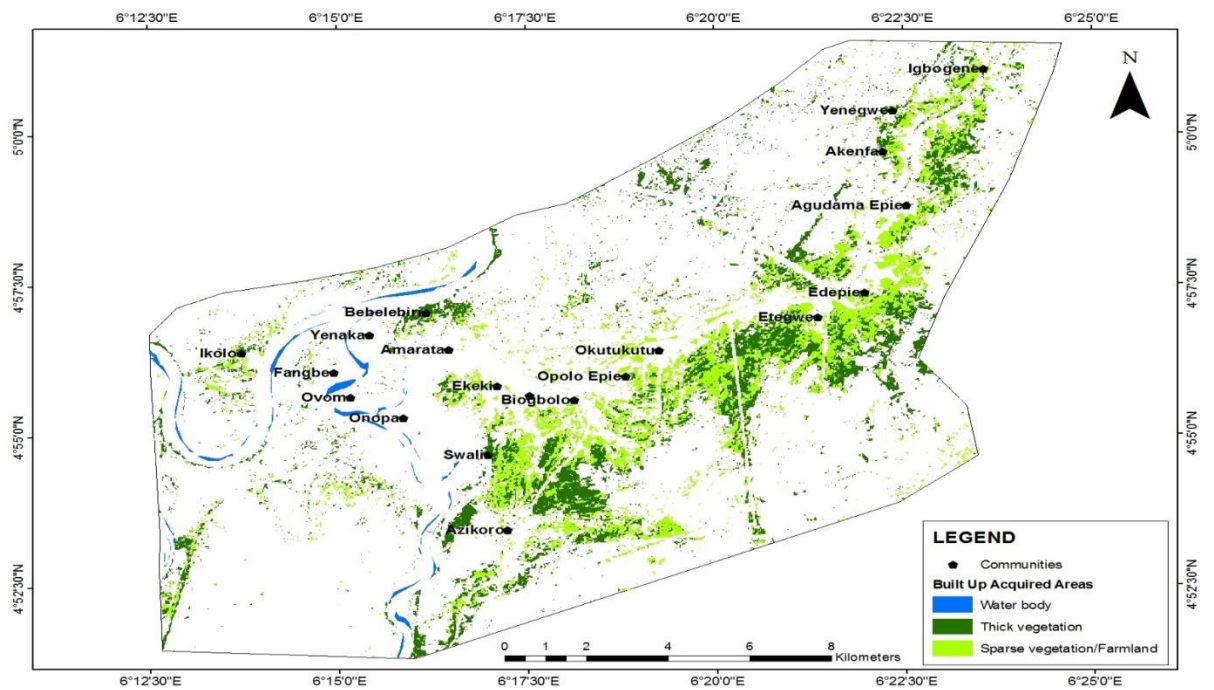


Figure 9. Urbanization impacts on landuse between 2009 and 2013



By 2033, waterbodies has a chance of 0.0022 (0.22%) and 0.2160 (21.60%) of changing to thick vegetation and built-up area respectively while thick vegetation has a chance of 0.0055 (0.55%), 0.1852 (18.52%) and 0.2505 (25.05%) of changing to waterbodies, sparse vegetation/farmland and built-up area. Meanwhile, sparse vegetation/farmland has a chance of 0.0028 (0.28%), 0.3197 (31.97%) and 0.5483 (54.83%) of changing to waterbodies, thick vegetation and built-up area. Finally, built-up area has a chance of 0.0358 (3.58%), 0.0516 (5.16%) and 0.0264 (2.64%) of changing to waterbodies, thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland.

This analysis reveals that built-up area would continue to have serious impact on all other landuse types in Yenagoa metropolis but greater influence would be experienced in thick vegetation and sparse vegetation/farmland. It became obvious that sparse vegetation/farmland would lose most of its area coverage to built-up area. This may be due to easy accessibility for building and constructions.

**Table 4.** Probability of landuse change in 10 years (2023)

Landuse	Waterbodies	Thick vegetation	Sparse vegetation/Farmland	Built-up Area
Waterbodies	0.9181	0.0000	0.0000	0.0819
Thick vegetation	0.0021	0.7508	0.1993	0.0478
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	0.0000	0.3265	0.2754	0.3981
Built-up Area	0.0141	0.0197	0.0149	0.9513

**Table 5.** Probability of landuse change in 20 years (2033)

Landuse	Waterbodies	Thick vegetation	Sparse vegetation/Farmland	Built-up Area
Waterbodies	0.8509	0.0014	0.0000	0.1478
Thick vegetation	0.0046	0.6627	0.1877	0.1451
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	0.0000	0.3164	0.2209	0.4627
Built-up Area	0.0246	0.0347	0.0201	0.9206

**Table 6.** Probability of landuse change in 30 years (2043)

Landuse	Waterbodies	Thick vegetation	Sparse vegetation/Farmland	Built-up Area
Waterbodies	0.7818	0.0022	0.0000	0.2160
Thick vegetation	0.0055	0.5587	0.1852	0.2505
Sparse vegetation/Farmland	0.0028	0.3197	0.1292	0.5483
Built-up Area	0.0358	0.0516	0.0264	0.8863

### 3.5. Land Consumption Rate (LCR) in Yenagoa Metropolis

According to Table 7, the LCR was 0.085% in 1986, it drastically dropped to 0.035% in year 2009 and it increased to 0.039% in 2013. This shows that LCR between 1986 and 2013 was fluctuating with the increase in population within this period.

Another deduction made from the analysis was the change in population density of the city as it grows. Accordingly, the population density was 164.84 per km<sup>2</sup> in 1986; it increased to 911.98 per km<sup>2</sup> in 2009 while it was 995.98 km<sup>2</sup> in 2013. The population density shows the rate at which urban land is expanding as a result of increase in the population of the city. The LCR may continue to increase if the population increases.

**Table 7.** LCR and Population density of Yenagoa City between 1986 and 2013

Year	Built-up Extent	Population	LCR	Percentage (%) LCR	Population Density (Km <sup>2</sup> )
1986	36.09	42355	0.00085	0.085	164.84
2009	83.27	234324	0.00035	0.035	911.98
2013	102.25	255882	0.00039	0.039	995.98

*Source: Researcher's analysis, 2015*

## 4. Discussion of findings

Findings show that the spatial extent of built-up area increased with time from 1986 to 2013 as the spatial extent of the former was 36.09km<sup>2</sup> and the latter was 102.25km<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, thick vegetation and sparse vegetation were decreasing. The increase in the built-up area and decrease in vegetation with time is similar to the studies of Zubair (2006) and Suleiman et al. (2014). The cause may be likened to urban land that is constantly and rapidly changing due to various human development activities and natural conditions (Suleiman et al., 2014). Many people migrate into Yenagoa City to find better livelihood due to urbanization being experienced in the area. Fabiyi (2002) and Eludoyin (2011) supported the fact that urbanization has been a driving force towards the rate at which a particular land use or land cover changes over time. People migrating into the city had taken over the vegetal cover to build houses, factories, industries, roads and so on. According to Lambin and Geist (2006), humans are increasingly being recognized as a dominant force in global environmental change. In addition, Moorman et al. (2007) cited in Swangjang and Iamaram (2011) viewed that people transform natural habitats into man-made landscapes of residential, commercial, institutional and industrial areas as well as supporting infrastructure. In a deeper sense, the encroachment on the natural habitat is a reflection of poor landuse planning and policy implementation. It seemed the landuse change in Yenagoa City has adopted the transition concept as confirmed in Raskin et al. (2005) that landuse change is associated with societal and biophysical changes through a series of transitions. No wonder, Xiao and Weng (2007) affirmed that poor landuse planning is a contributing factor to uncontrolled

expansion of the urban area. Eludoyin (2011) agreed that the decrease in the spatial extent of mangrove, primary forest, and sparse vegetation is mainly due to encroachment into these landuse types largely due to constructions. Thus, the outcome of the encroachment into the vegetal cover of Yenagoa City would have resulted into serious environmental degradation. Pellika et al. (2004) believed that the outcome of the pressure are numerous and they included intensified agriculture, decreasing amount of forestland, loss of biodiversity, intensified land degradation and soil erosion.

The LCR increased in 1986 and dropped in 2009 and started increasing in 2013. This is similar to Zubair (2006) whereby the progressive spatial expansion of Ilorin in 1972/1986 dropped between 1986 and 2001. The rising population are the basis of the growth the city is experiencing, though the population are unevenly distributed but their aggregate impact on the development of the city may be tremendous which if not properly controlled may be hazardous to the city (Bankole and Bakare, 2011).

The sparse vegetation/farmland decreased from 1986 to 2013. This is contrary to the study of Abubakar et al. (2002) which reported that agricultural land increased from 117.00 km<sup>2</sup> to 158.50 km<sup>2</sup> in Talata Mafara Area, Northern Nigeria. The sparse vegetated areas can be occupied easily by human activities especially constructions while the decrease in the farmlands could be due to other means of livelihood aside farming in the area especially crude oil exploration and exploitation. Though, Lambin et al. (2003) asserted that historically humans have increased agricultural output mainly by bringing more land into production.

The crude oil production in Yenagoa City and its environs have made many people abandon farming for oil work. This has been the tradition of many Niger Delta urban cities since the discovery of oil in 1957. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2006) affirmed that recently, the Niger Delta environment has changed and continues to change rapidly. The human population has grown at a high rate. Industrialization, urban development, and oil and gas exploration and exploitation have infringed on the people and their environment, leading to the opening up of previously pristine ecosystems. This has resulted in the alteration of habitats, biodiversity loss, deforestation and pollution. It is even more risky in future for the sparse vegetation/farmland because the landuse projected analysis has revealed that built-up area had greater chance of occupying sparse vegetation/farmland in the next 10 years, 20 years and 30 years. This may bring food security under threat in which many people may lack adequate meal per day.

In addition waterbodies did not have a pattern between 1986 and 2013 but the projection analysis reveals that built-up area would continue to occupy more of the spatial extent of waterbodies as 8.19%, 14.78% and 21.60% would be captured by built-up area in the next 10 years, 20 years and 30 years respectively. Built-up area would occupy the thick vegetation but the greater impacts would be felt in 30 years' time. This is a sign of great depletion of forest in Yenagoa metropolis in future and as a result, global warming phenomenon is very imminent. Effiong (2011) noted that forest reduced overtime in Calabar River Catchment and propounded that if current rate of reduction in the high forest area is allowed to continue, there may be no high forest again in the area in the next 50 years, jeopardizing the need of the future generation and causing greater harm to the environment. Generally, the landuse change projection analysis gives the residents of Yenagoa the doom expected on different landuse with respect to urbanization which may generally cause

environmental problems in Yenagoa metropolis. Bello and Arowosegbe (2014) concluded that landuse change and environmental degradation have made too much damage in the world's natural resources.

Finding also shows that the impact of urbanization was much on sparse vegetation/farmland and thick vegetation within the years considered for this study. The percentage loss to built up area was still highest despite the large spatial extent occupied by sparse vegetation/farmland landuse between 2009 and 2013. Also, within this period, the spatial extent covered by urbanization into the waterbodies and thick vegetation became higher than 1986-2009 period. The increase in the spatial area coverage into waterbodies could be due to the sandfilling activities of some swampy, river beds and creeks in the area. As the sandfilling is done, vegetation must be cut to have access, thus, thick vegetation becomes reduced.

## 5. Conclusion and recommendations

Urbanization has impacted other landuse type namely thick vegetation, sparse vegetation/farmland and waterbodies between 1986 and 2013 using geo-information technologies. The rate at which development is occurring in Yenagoa City though moderately but the residents need to be cautious so that the fragile environment can be protected. It is therefore recommended that government should enact and implement policies restraining individuals of illegal construction; educate individuals on illegal acquisition of virgin land; campaign against deforestation; sensitize people on the effects of improper landuse change; and encourage to assess landuse change periodically to discover the trend of change and to foresee the possible landuse change in future.

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