



SUB-REGIONAL PLAN AS A VERITABLE TOOL FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF YEWA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OGUN STATE

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Abstract

The need to prepare and implement a Sub-Regional Plan for the study area is hinged on the underutilisation of the natural resources in the area, and their low income on cassava processing. Data on the land use/land cover of the study area sourced from secondary source of data, and it revealed that Agricultural land has a total of 381.764km², representing 58.14% of the total land area of the region which is 656.681 km². Data on soil suitability for cassava farming was collected, and the result shows that high production of cassava is expected as the land area is highly suitable. A stratified method of sampling was adopted in the selection of settlements for the purpose of empirical investigation. Two settlements which represent the two types of human settlements were selected, namely; Ilaro which represents the urban town and Itolu Village which represents the rural settlement. Fifty (50) respondents were purposively selected in Ilaro and their socio-economic data revealed that low income is generated from cassava processing, while the assessment of the tourism potential at Itolu Village revealed that the potential has not been annexed for regional development. It therefore recommended that a Sub-Regional Plan should be prepared and implemented in order to achieve a sustainable socio-economic development. Abstract

Keywords: Development, Plan, Rural, Sub-Region, Urban

Introduction

Development is multi-dimensional in nature, and its sustenance is paramount to the continuous existence of human settlement in fulfilling the desired goals within the context of political, environmental, physical, social, and economic development, while Vukovic and Kochetkov (2017) pointed out that regional economy should be a bridge between the macro and micro economics which needs to be translated into socio-economic development of the region. Sustainability can be described as the orderly arrangement of all resources in a way that the resulting heterogeneous system can be sustained in a state of both temporal and spatial equilibrium, and that the sustainable approach takes into cognisance of the people as both the instruments and beneficiaries, as well as victims of all development decisions or activities. Hence, the reviving of growth is considered as one of the major objectives of a sustainable development and this can only be achieved through a Sub-Regional Plan.

According to the Ogun State Urban and Regional Planning law (2005), the Sub-Regional Plan is defined as a developmental plan of statement of general policy and proposals for development of an area which covers more than one Local Government Area, with the goal of achieving growth in desirable directions. The importance of development plan in achieving a sustainable development cannot be over emphasized as the need to identify regional potential and annexed them is imperative for sustainable national development.

The goal of the Sub-Regional Plan is to improve the quality of lives of the inhabitants through optimal utilization of the potential of the sub-region. However, the regional prosperity is transferred beyond the limit of the region, particularly at the national scale, while the resources served as a basis for the regional growth and development. it is important to note that the need for the inhabitants of the region to approach development from a wider perspective has created more focus on a broad of developmental goals, rather than merely creating incentive for agricultural growth. Hence, the objectives of a sub-regional plan include;

- (i) The examination of the economic and socio-cultural activities of the inhabitants, so as to be able to prepare a desirable developmental plan that will conform to the socio-economic characteristics of the people.
- (ii) Identification and exploration of potential for growth and development, while the sub-regional problems are also identified and solved.
- (iii) Examination of the existing population and its projection.

- (iv) Identification and assessment of all the existing facilities within the sub-region. The assessment of these facilities are done out through a comparison with the planning standard.
- (v) Preparation and Implementation of various sub-regional plan proposals.
- (vi) Provision of technical and financial assistance for the purpose of effective implementation of the sub-regional plan proposal.

However, it is important to note that the problems of Yewa South Sub-Region include: low regional productivity which is evident in their low per capita income, lack of adequate infrastructural facilities, and poor condition of the existing facilities, and poor quality of life, which can be expressed as poor standard of living. Inadequate food supply has been identified as a major problem which the government needs to resolve within the context of insecurity. FAO (2015) noted that mass production of agricultural produce such as cassava will increase the per capita of individual and the national income owing to its multiple benefit of the product. Obayelu et. al., (2018) noted that Garri is the easiest product to be produced, followed by Lafun and Fufu respectively. It is important to note that Oduwole and Otti (2023) observed that the farmland in Yewa South Local Government Area is suitable for cassava production with favourable soil temperature of an average minimum of 29.55⁰ C and maximum of 33.93⁰ C and adequate amount of rainfall.

The importance of a sub-regional plan in solving these problems cannot be overemphasised, as the non recognition of the development plan as a veritable tool is a major bane to the realisation of a goal of quality life for the inhabitants of the sub-region.

Methodology

The Study Area

Yewa South Local Government Area is the study area and the Local Government Area is located in Ogun State, with Ifo and Ewekoro Local Government Areas in the east, and westward is the Ipokia Local Government Area, while in the northward is Yewa North Local Government Area and in the south of the Local Government Area is Ado Odo Ota Local Government Area. it is geographically located at Latitude 6° 37' 46" ii - 6° 55' 42" ii and Longitude 2° 47' 24" ii - 3° 6' 48" ii. The Local Government Area has a total land area of 629 km² with ten (10) wards, namely; Ilaro 1, Ilaro II, Ilaro III, Iwoye, Idogo, Owode 1, Owode II, Ilobi/Erinja, Oke-Odan and Ajilete (en.m.wikipedia.org>wiki>Yewa)The study area has more than 20 settlements of either in rural or urban categories, among them are; Ilaro, Ifekowajo, Owode, Debo, Abule Ajayi Odi, Akegbo, Abule Abu, Ilobi, Iweke, Yakata, Erinja, Ajilete, and so on.

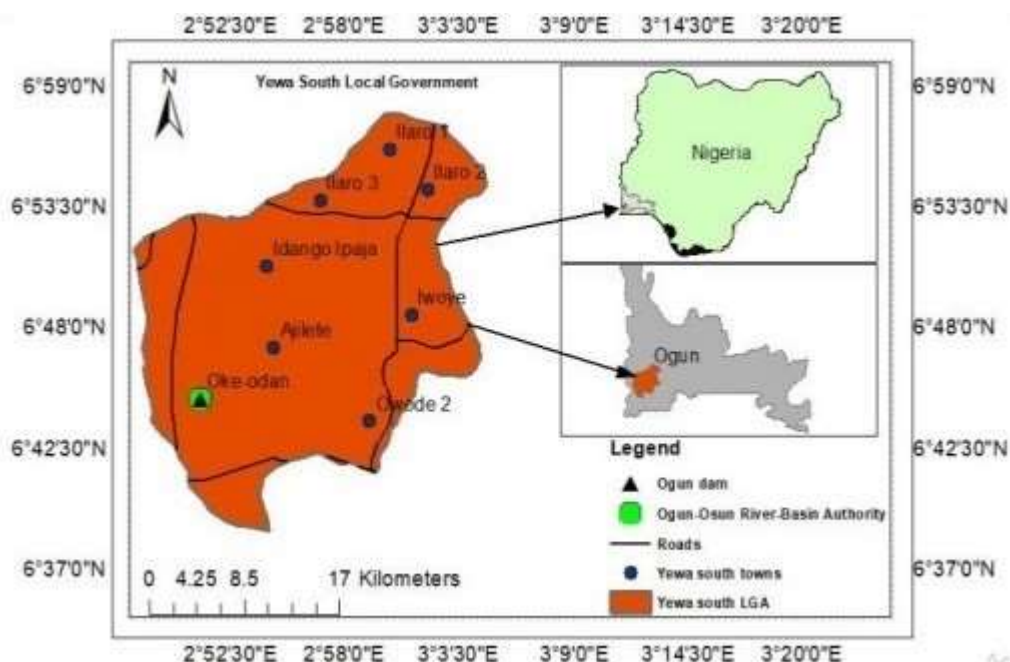


Fig 1: Map of Yewa South Local Government Area.



Source: Source: Ojo et al (2022)

Sample and Sampling Technique.

The major economic potentials of the study area was identified in relation to its natural resources, and examined for socio-economic development. Data on the land uses/land cover of the selected study area was collected from secondary sources while structured questionnaire was prepared to collected data on the level of productivity and income generated from a major agricultural produce of comparative advantage, while a tourism potential identified in a village within the study area was assessed.

A purposive sampling method was adopted in the selection of the settlements understudied. Ilaro which is an urban area within the sub region was selected, while Itolu village was selected as a rural settlement with the sub region. However, fifty (50) respondents were selected from Ilaro town. It is important to note that the respondents selected for this study at Ilaro were those that their livelihoods are directly dependent on the settlements natural resources (agricultural potentials).

Results

The Land use and Land cover of the Study Area.

Yewa South Local Government Area of Ogun State has a land area of approximately 657 km² with its headquarters at Ilaro, ([www.britannica.com>place>ilaro](http://www.britannica.com/place/ilaro)). The analysis in Table 1 revealed that the land area covered by the built up area is 67.834 km², representing 10.33% of the total land area of the study area, which is 656.681 km². However, the water bodies cover an area of 0.582 km², representing 0.09%, wetland covers 80.527 km², representing 12.26%, vegetation covers 125.974 km², representing 19.18%, while agricultural land covers 381.764 km², representing 58.14%.

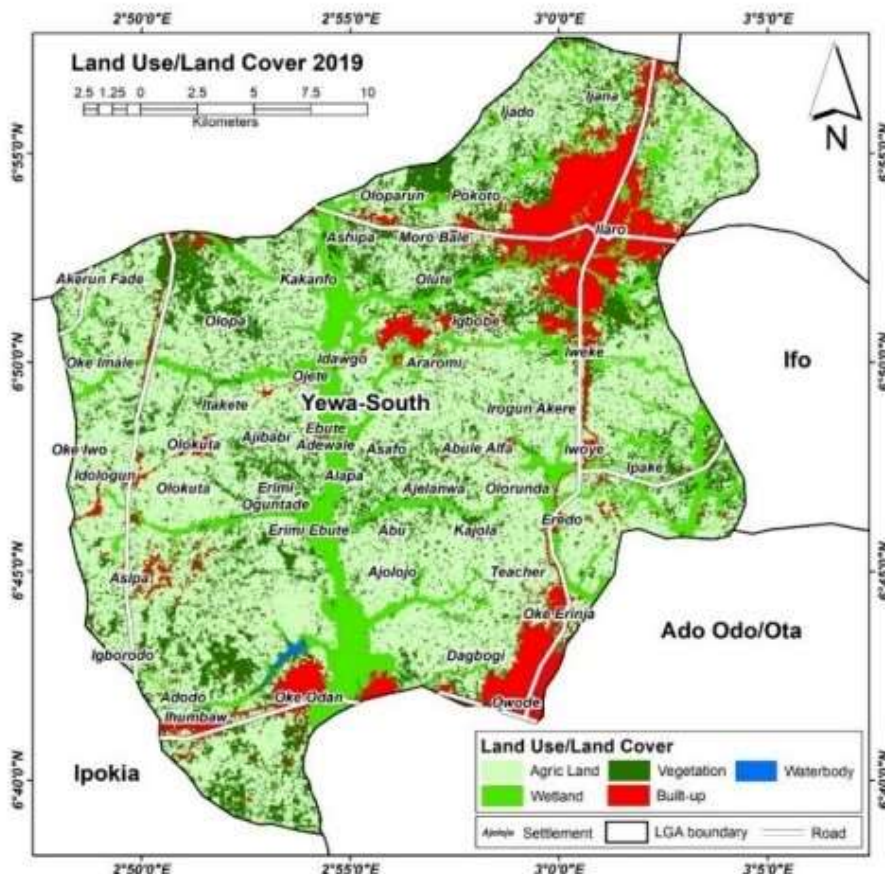




Fig 2: Land use and Land cover Map of Yewa South Local Government Area

Source: Ojo et al (2022)

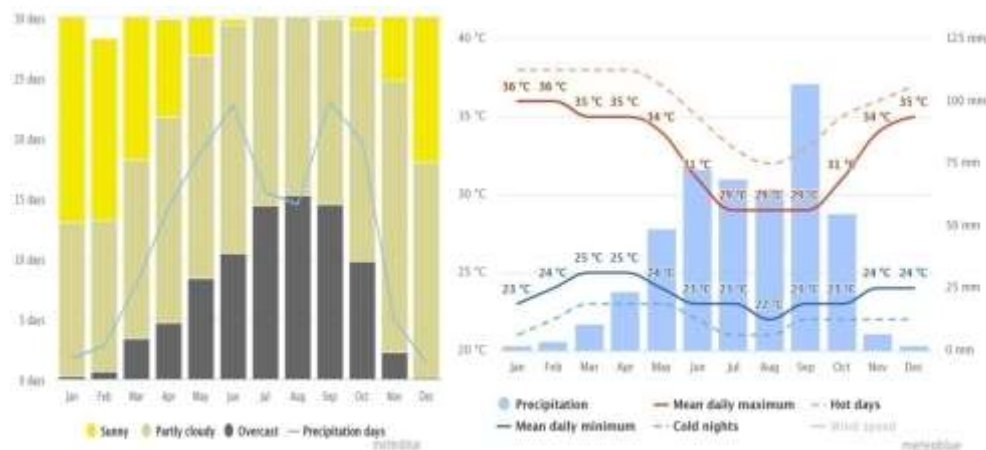
Table 1: The land use/land covers Analysis of Yewa South Local Government Area.

Land cover	Area in km ²	(%)
Water body	0.582	0.09
wetland	80.527	12.26
Vegetation	125.974	19.18
Built up	67.834	10.33
Agric land	381.764	58.14
Total	656.681	100

Source: Ojo et al (2022)

The Climatic and Edaphic Characteristics of the Study Area

The hot season lasts for 3.1 months, from January 9 to April 14, with an average daily temperature above 91°F. The hottest day of the year is February 20, with an average high of 93°F and low of 76°F. The cool season lasts for 3.1 months, from June 21 to September 25, with an average daily high temperature below 85°F. The coldest day of the year is December 30, with an average low of 72°F and high of 91°F. Monthly precipitations above 150mm are mostly wet, below 30mm mostly dry. Note: Simulated precipitation amounts in tropical regions and complex terrain tend to be lower than local measurements.



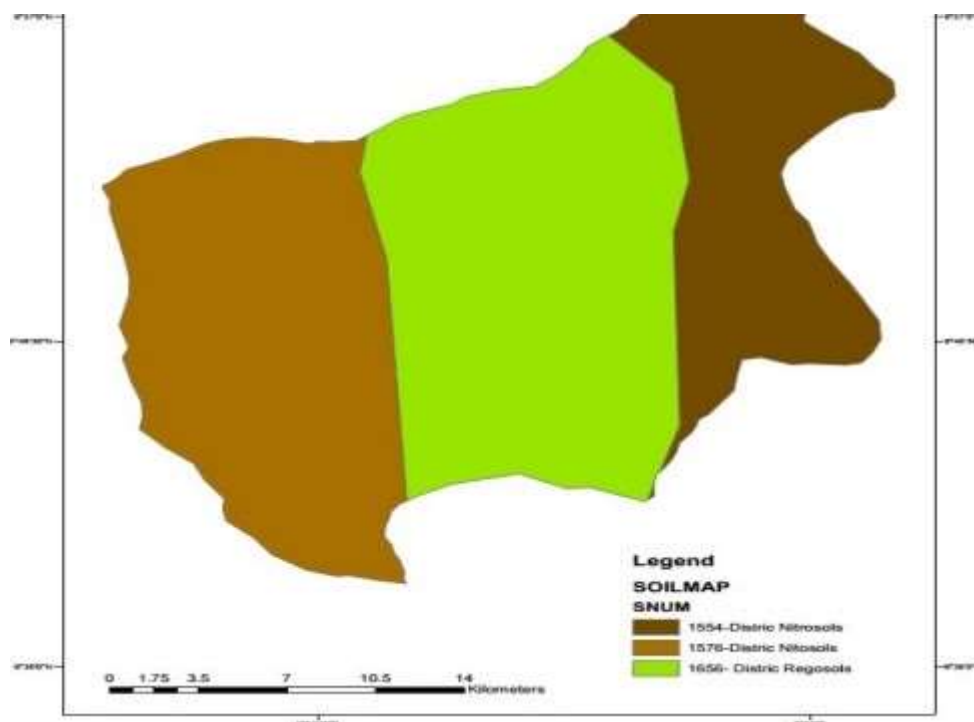
Cloudy, Sunny and Precipitation

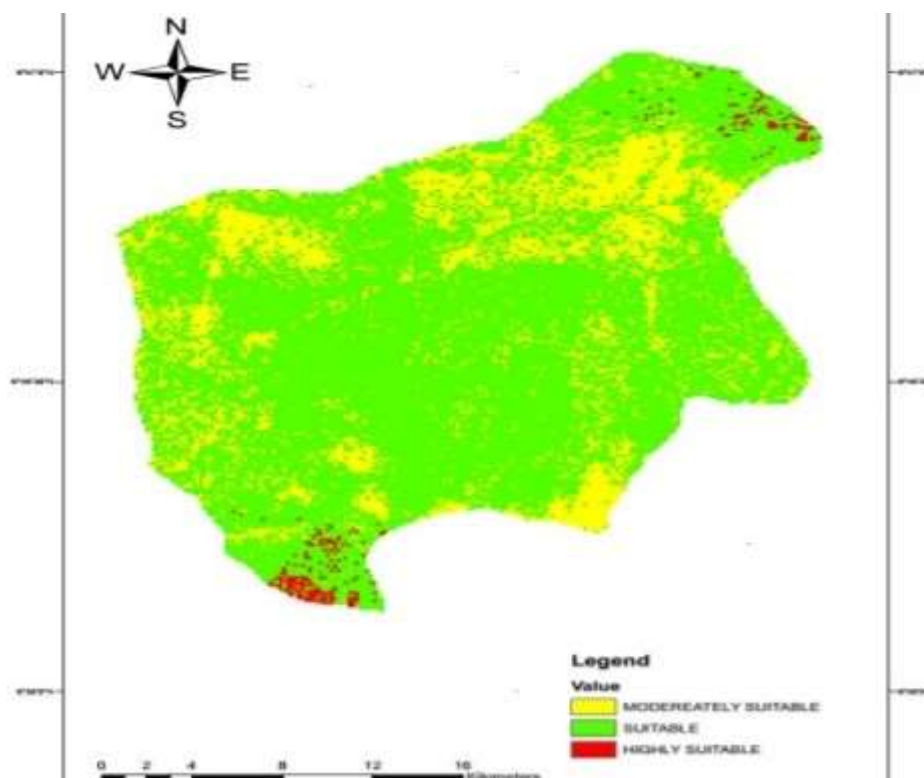
Temperature

Fig 7: Temperature Distribution of Yewa South Local Government Area

Source: Metoblue, 2020

The "mean daily maximum" (solid red line) shows the maximum temperature of an average day for every month for Ilaro. Likewise, "mean daily minimum" (solid blue line) shows the average minimum temperature. Hot days and cold nights (dashed red and blue lines) show the average of the hottest day and coldest night of each month of the last 30 years. For vacation planning, you can expect the mean temperatures, and be prepared for hotter and colder days.





Source: Oduwale and Otti (2023)

Levels of Productivity and Income from Cassava Processors

The Local Government Area is blessed with loamy and humus soil which are rich in manure for the growth of various agricultural plantation, particularly, cassava plantation. Local Fufu and Gari processing industries are major agro based industries from the cassava plantation. However, the existing thick forest in the study area serves as another source for timber industry for the production of planks and plywood for both the local consumption and exportation, while mineral deposit such as Phosphate and limestone are discovered to be in existence in some settlement such as Ilaro.

Table 2: Socio- Economic Characteristics of Respondents (Cassava Processors) in Ilaro.

S/N	Category	Classification	Number	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	17	34
		Female	33	66
		Total	50	100
2	Age	18yrs – 25 yrs	7	14
		26 yrs – 33 yrs	12	24
		34 yrs – 41 yrs	25	50
		42 yrs – 49 yrs	4	8
		50 yrs and above	2	4
3	Educational Background	Total	50	100
		Non Formal Education.	11	22
		Primary School Leaving Cert.	18	36
		Secondary School	16	22



		Cert. Education	
		Modern / Tech. Education	5
			10
5	Income Level per month	Total	50
		Less than N50,000	38
		N50,001 – N80,000	11
		N81,000 – N100,000	- 1
		N100,001 – N130,000	- -
		Above N130,000	- -
		Total	50
			100

Source: Author's Field Survey May 2023

The Tourism Potential of Itolu Village

It is an ancient community in the study area, and it is very close to Ilaro. It is a village acclaimed to be a forebear to Ilaro, boast of 201 Yoruba deities, while its Odua shrine remains central to the crowing of any Olu of Ilaro. The settlement has a water body which is unique both in spiritual significance and as tourism potential as the Yewa River which is warm and the Osun River which is cold offer a unique feature meet at Erifun River.



Plate 1: Core Area Of The Study Area (Itolu Orile)

Plate 2: Erifun River

Discussions.

The Sub-Regional Plan is a veritable tool for achieving a sustainable socio-economic development of a Sub-Region, and the need for proper sub-regional analysis of the potentials of the sub-region, particularly that of the natural resources of area that are agrarian in nature, such as that of the study area, where 58.14% is devoted for agricultural land use, (Table 1). It is important to note that the Plan is made up of many components, and these are stated in the objectives of the Plan. Hence, the non implementation of the 2009 Sub-Regional Plan of Yewa South Local Government Area has contributed to the under utilisation of the sub-regional potential for growth and development.

Sub- Regional Analysis of the Local Government Area understudied has revealed the need for the integration of the agricultural development strategy, industrial development strategy and the infrastructural development strategy to form an integration development strategy becomes imperative. The major components of the agricultural development strategy are; mechanised agricultural technique, technology in the storage of agricultural produce, technology in the processing of agricultural produce, and marketing strategies for agricultural produce while that of the industrial development strategy involves the processing of agricultural produce to different finish products. However, the infrastructural development strategy involves the provision and maintenance of adequate infrastructural facilities. The land use /land cover analysis in Table 2 has clearly revealed that the study area is in its natural state with lots of natural resources that are not fully tapped into for growth and development.



However, the analysis of the level of cassava production in Table 2 has revealed that the resource base potential of this agricultural produce has been undermined, while the low income generated by the respondents indicated the high level of challenges faced in the chain of distribution of the agricultural produce.

The tourism potential of Itolu village is of great significance to the socio-economic growth and development of the study area, and the need to annex this potential becomes imperative. This tourism potential is dual in nature owing to the fact that the tradition significance of the historical buildings and other cultural elements in the village are tourism attraction, and likewise the unique physical feature of the existing water bodies in the village.

Conclusion

The need for sub- regional plan of Yewa South Local Government Area is imperative in order to annex the potentials of the region for regional development and national development at a larger scale. The sub-regional economies are expressed as comparative advantages of the sub-regional agricultural produce and the existing physical features of unique characteristics.

A sub-regional plan for the local Government Area is recommended and this Plan should be implemented immediately after its approval by the state government. However, inhabitants of the region should be involved in both the preparation of the plan and its implementation. It should be noted that the plan should be subjected into periodical review as indicated in the report of the sub-regional plan.

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