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The Burning Issues of Urbanization and Shanty Towns in the Yaounde Metropolis, Cameroon

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Abstract:

The Yaounde metropolis is a vivid example of the rapidly expanding cities in sub-Saharan Africa. Such an expansion has however not been glamorous the way it is perceived. The city has faced an array of challenges. The objective of this research was to view one of the emerging challenges and a gamut of rippling effects in a third world urban setting. This had been indispensable since the challenges need to be scientifically studied for a holistic enabling urban environment.

With a designed methodology that entailed empirical and classical approaches with field observations, analyses of questionnaires, aerial photographs, as well as topographic sheets of the study zone, it was realized that, there exists an array of problems that are intricately tied to poverty in the metropolis. The problems of the prevalence of shanty towns has been used to depict the ills of poorly planned and managed urban expansion in the Less Developed Countries. This problem thus epitomizes the poor/unbearable social conditions that are plaguing the Yaounde city today.

These issues identified, necessitate reactive and proactive measures. The way forward entails measures to control the anarchical nature of settlement and recommendation regarding the amelioration of these shanty towns in the metropolis.

Keywords: Population explosion, urban expansion, shanty towns, poor sanitation, urban renewal, urban planning

1. Introduction

The rapid rate of urban expansion in areas of the less developed world today is becoming a lasting reality. Meanwhile, the urban challenges, social ills and a host of issues that come with this type of Third World urban expansion also begin to emerge. They include: noise (AUGEA INTERNATIONAL-IRIS CONSEIL, 2001); water crises (Nkwemoh & Lambi, 2012); generation and management of waste (CAVIE, 2001; Nkwemoh, 2011); increasing crime waves prostitution, stealing, Traffic Congestion, the prevalence of shanty towns and spontaneous markets (Mougoue, 1982 ; Youana , 1983; Durang, 1999 and GRET, 2001) and street begging (Osa-Edoh & Ayano, 2012). The streaming population that dwells in the cities is characterized by a blend of different classes of persons. Amongst these are those who are well-to-do and those who are wretched. The former tends to cope quite well. The latter finds it difficult to adapt. Most of the challenges in the cities are aggravated by this second set of people. They have no means to afford the socially required housing conditions. They are responsible for the prevalence of the shanty towns in the city. They cannot equally provide to feed, cloth, and house as well as provide for health care for themselves.

The ills of slums and high incidence of disease with low life expectancy had been noted earlier in cities in other areas over the globe. According to Daniel and Hopkinson (1981), "By 1840, the average life expectancy in the worst British Urban areas was twenty-five years compared to a national average of forty-one years".

This situation, identified by Daniel and Hopkinson constitutes the driving force behind the "new town movement" of the 18th Century. This concept was re-iterated by Robert Owen (1771-1858) in his writings that included the Village of Unity and Mutual Co-operation in which he proposed model villages of 800-1200 inhabitants. The proposal is not so different from that of James Silk Buckingham published in 1849. Unlike these two proposals, a practical Philanthropist Titus Salt employed 3000 people in his factory and lodged everybody on the site with all the necessary facilities, namely: Housing, water supply and Drainage, a chapel, church, club Library etc. What is evident from such gestures and undertakings is the fact that most planned cities of the 20th and 21st Centuries gained impetus and so moved higher up the ladder of urban expansion.

Parts of other cities in America like Chicago and Texas as well as France, Germany and the Netherlands have been well planned to avoid the appalling situations in unplanned and spontaneous settlements. The issue which this paper has identified and wants to focus on is that of the prevalence of slums, spontaneous settlements, in the Yaounde metropolis.

2. The Regional Setting

Yaounde metropolis (Figure 1) is found between latitudes 3° 45' 50" and 3° 59' 55" North of the Equator and Longitudes 11° 22' 40" and 11° 30' 25" East of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bordered to the north east by Mefou and Afamba Division, to the North West by Lekie Division and to the south by Mefou and Akono Division. Its surface area is 304 km² and this occupies the Mfoundi Division in the Centre Region.

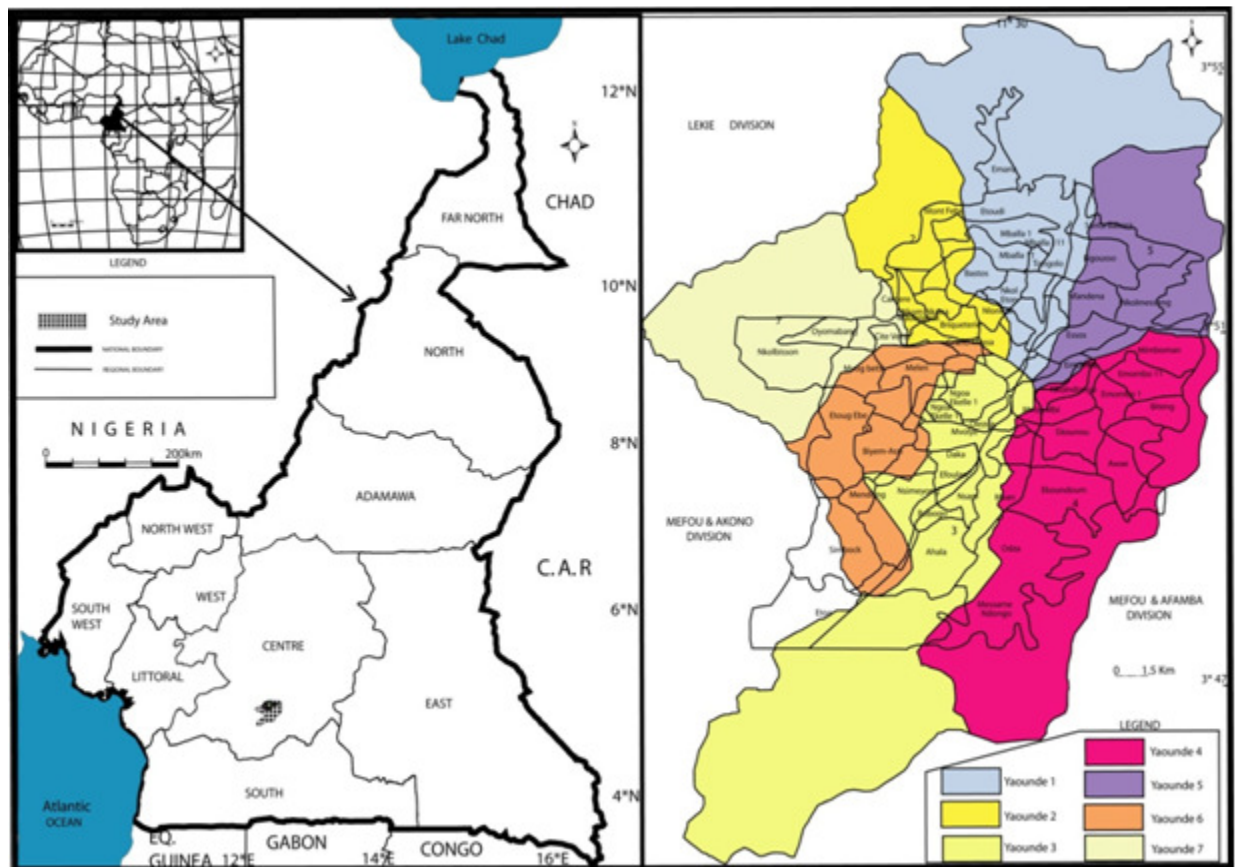


Figure 1: The Location of the Yaounde Metropolis

The Yaounde Metropolis is part of the western sector of the southern Cameroon Plateau. It is made up of gentle rolling chains of hills, and numerous valleys. These topographic elements depict a contrasted relief. With regards to the morphology, there is a contrast in the topographic lay out of the Yaounde Metropolis. This difference in the nature of the relief can be viewed from the local relief of the area. The Yaounde metropolis is characterized by interfluvial as part of the Southern Cameroon Plateau. The topographic map of Yaounde and field observation gives the impression that the Yaounde Metropolis is on a water divide. This water divide appears like a crest line according to Fritz and Kuete (1974) and Tchotsoua (1989).

The substratum of the Yaounde metropolis is characterized by the outcrop of the basement complex. This is basically made up of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Yaounde is of the bimodal system with four seasons (two dry and two rainy seasons). The temperature is highest in the months of December to February when maximum temperatures are of 27°C. During the short rainy season, the average temperatures drop to 24°C. Temperatures are low in the months of July to August during the short dry season when skies are overcast with clouds. During the long rainy season, from September to November the temperatures are not equally high.

A fair percentage of the populations who have moved in from the countryside into Yaounde are poor and have brought these rural aspects along with them. Poverty is a condition of having insufficient resources or income. In its most extreme form, poverty is a lack of basic human needs, such as adequate nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water, and health services. Extreme poverty can cause suffering and death, and even modest levels of poverty can prevent people from realizing many of their desires. The world's poorest people-many of whom live in developing areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe-struggle daily for food, shelter, and other necessities.

There is an array of facts and phenomena that clearly depict destitution or the inability of humans, including those in the present shanty areas to provide just the basics for survival. An example of shanty towns which epitomizes poverty in the Yaounde metropolis has been identified.

3. Materials and Methods

The methodology that has been employed to carry out this research entailed the use of aerial photographs and topographic sheets of Yaounde 3b, 3d and 4c (Oveng and Nkolbisson) of the scales 1:50,000. Satellite images with specific reference to LANDSAT and Google Earth Image of 2010. Data also came from main Libraries of the University of Yaounde 1, the Ministries of Environment, Town Planning and the Yaounde Urban Councils. Interviews were equally carried out on some city dwellers in the core of some shanty towns on their perception on related themes. Meanwhile internet sources have also provided updated data and other relevant material. The cartographic part of this work was achieved through the use of Computer Assisted Drawing and GIS programs such as

Adobe Illustrator and ArcGIS and Quantum GIS. The collected data were analysed using with the results presented in the forms of tables, figures, Graphs and synoptic charts

4. Results and Discussions

4.1. The Evolution of Urban space and the Prevalence of Shanty Towns

Shanty towns are a reality of most Third World cities. Although they serve an important function, they remain eye sores which call for urban upgrading and restructuring. The initial growth of Yaounde was noticed around the core in 1888 at the German military post. After this main core, emanated some early spontaneous settlements that looked like squatter clusters. A trend of the growth of the population can be traced from 1933 through 1957, 1963, 1976, 1987, 2000 to 2010

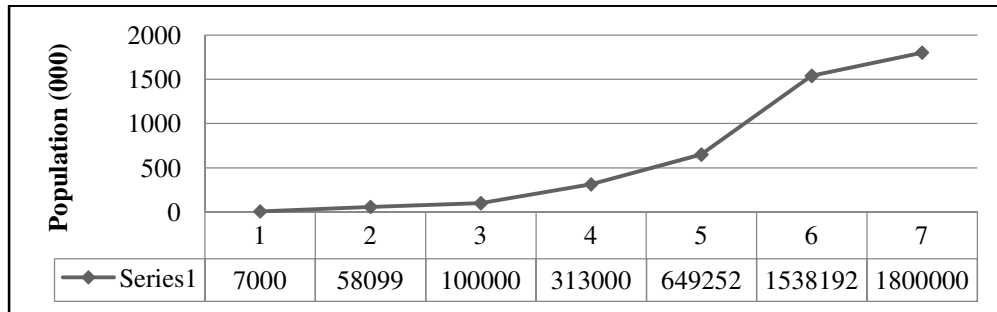


Figure 2: The evolution of the population of Yaounde
Source: BUCREP, 2010 and *Estimates

Figure 2 presents data on the evolution of population. The urban network of the Centre Region has Yaounde as the hub. At independence in 1960, the town was little more than a large agglomeration of 100.000 inhabitants. Between 1976 and 1987, it registered an urban growth rate of 6.86% as the administrative capital while Douala, the economic capital registered 5.32%. In this way, the town has grown into a Metropolis.

Figure 3 shows the evolutions of the extent and rate of urban expansion of the Yaounde metropolis from 1956 through 1964, 1968, 1974, 1981, 1990, 1992 to 2000.

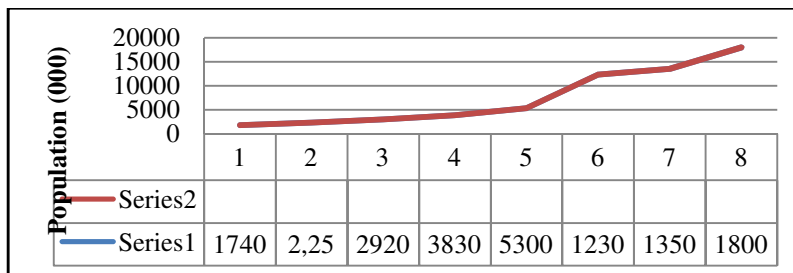


Figure 3: The expansion of Yaounde town from 1956 – 2010
Source : Augea International-Iris Conseil-Arcauplan in SDAU & PDL de Yaoundé,2001

This figure illustrates a great rise in the rate of urban expansion. The rate of sprawl during the period in percentages showed 1.29, 1.29, 1.30, 1.38, 1.32, 1.00 and 1.33. A treatment of Satellite images and aerial photographs in the 80s till present date have permitted to establish with certainty that the sprawling tendency of Yaounde is far from ever coming to an end. It can however be said that a threshold is being reached when judging from the administrative point of view. The Yaounde metropolis is already overlapping the Mfoundi Division. This is orchestrated by incessant sprawl that is greatly characterized by many unplanned and anarchical settlements. These spontaneous areas exist in specific parts of the city as shown in Figure 4. They include the clusters of Nkolndongo, Briqueterie, Mvog-Ada, Mokolo, Madagascar, Carriere, Etoa-Meki and Mvog-Mbi amongst others.

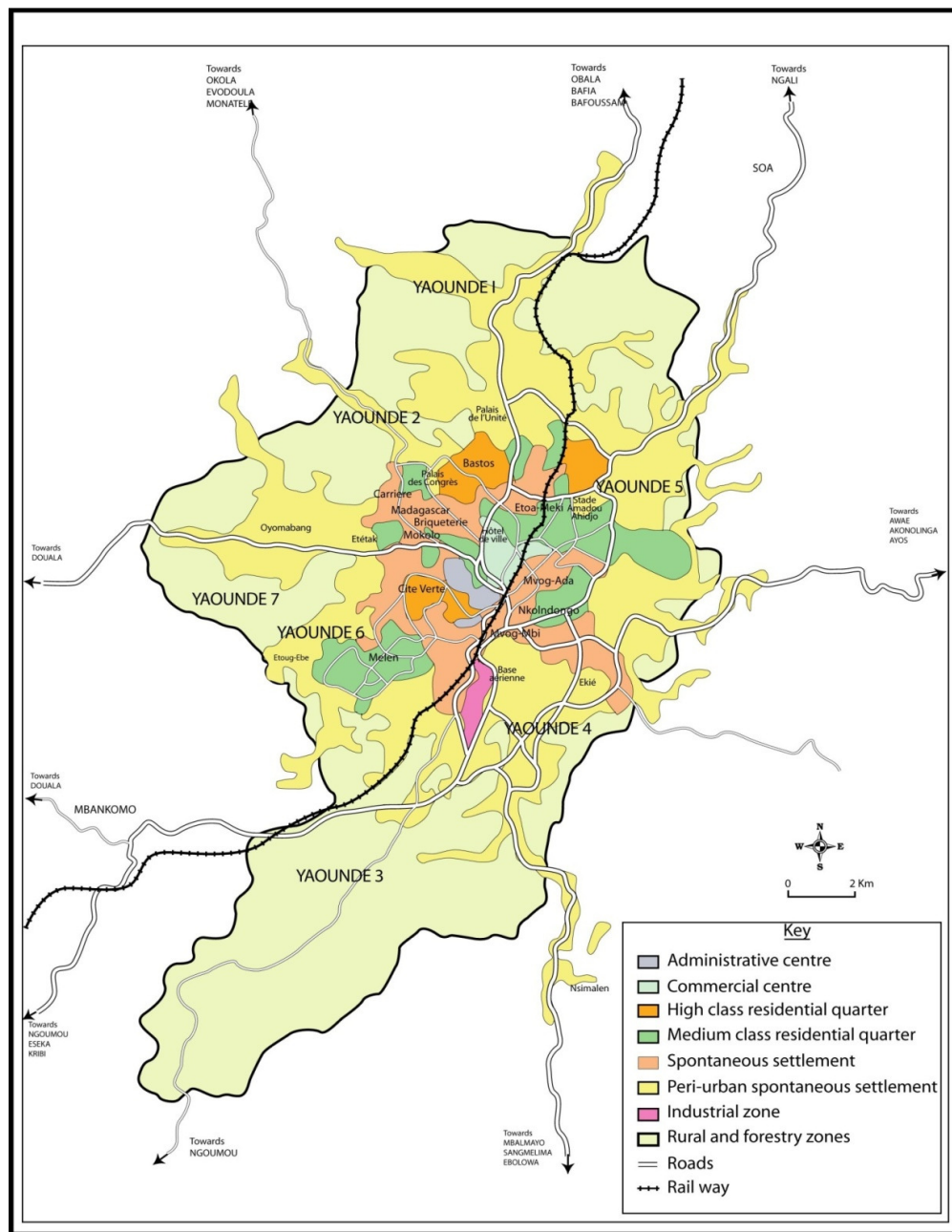


Figure 2: The Nature of evolution of the Settlements in the Metropolis
 Source: Nkwemoh C.A. (2011)

Most of these clusters were established according to some predominant tribal groups. The Briqueterie and Mokolo were mainly inhabited by the Hausas (Moslem community) or people from the Northern region of Cameroon. Madagascar, Carrière and Nkomkana were mostly inhabited by the Bamileke. The old clusters of Mvog-Ada and NKolndongo were mainly occupied by the Native population (Ewondo and/or Beti). Even those who tried to patch around the present day Administrative and Commercial Centres (Down Town Yaounde) were pushed to the aforementioned old cores. The evolution of the urban space has greatly had some traces of concepts of expansion that are exploited by urban planners.

This research has enabled us to realize that the model of expansion of the Yaounde metropolis roughly follows the main urban growth concept. With regards to land use or settlement/growth concept, the concentric zone model of Burgess (1925) has been utilized. This model was developed on the assumption that land value and by implication accessibility decline with equal regularity in all directions from a common point in the city. Since no account is taken of accessibility, land use patterns are assured to be arranged in regular concentric zones about the city centre. Burgess held that at any given moment in time, land uses within the city are organized in zones differing in age and character and located in a definite order from the city centre. In his example, five zones were identified; these were in order from the centre outwards: (1) an inner central zone which formed the “heart” of the city’s commercial, social, cultural and industrial life and which was the focus of urban transport, surrounded by (2) a transition zone of mixed land use in which deteriorating residential property predominates. Its unattractiveness is emphasized by the blighted conditions and slums intermixed

with light industries and other business uses which have spilled over from inner core. The concentric rings are established after a careful mastery of the bid rent curves. These bid rent curves are used to indicate land value in terms of rent. This model permits us to understand that land values around the inner city or core is higher than towards the urban fringes or peripheries as also noted by Garrison et al., 1959. This concept helps us to explain why it is difficult to find free land around the city Centre. Urbanites are thus hurrying to the outskirts where land value is not very high for those who can afford.

The Burgess model, however, has been distorted with the advent of the sector theory of Hoyt (1939) and the multiple nuclei model of Harris and Ullman (1945). In the above models however, zones can be found according to the various order. (1) the CBD (Central business district), (2) Wholesale light manufacture, (3) **Low class residential**, (4) Medium class residential, (5) High class residential, (6) Heavy manufacturing, (7) Outlying business (8) Residential suburbs, (9) Industrial suburbs and (10) Commuters' zone . The relevance of this to our study can be seen where Yaounde has different zones from the centre (CBD) towards the peripheries or suburbs. The concept can equally help to elucidate the core periphery concept. In this case while there is a high concentration of activities towards the core, the peripheries tend to be a bit airy with little concentration of economic activities.

4.2. Deplorable Nature of Shanty Towns

An analysis from the concepts of urban morphology permits us to hold that the development of the town is not well planned. That is why spontaneous clusters became the order of the day in the evolution of the metropolis. Today, these shanty towns appear as true slums and/or 'bidonvilles' with no evidence of urban planning. Only the new expansions have some semblance of a good outlook. Two examples to elucidate spontaneous settlements are Briqueterie and Mvog-Ada Yaounde (Figure 5). Briqueterie evidently consists of one of the oldest human foci in Yaounde. The area is the settlement that is found between Mokolo - Tsinga and Bastos and stretches through to the valley towards 'carrefour Warda'.

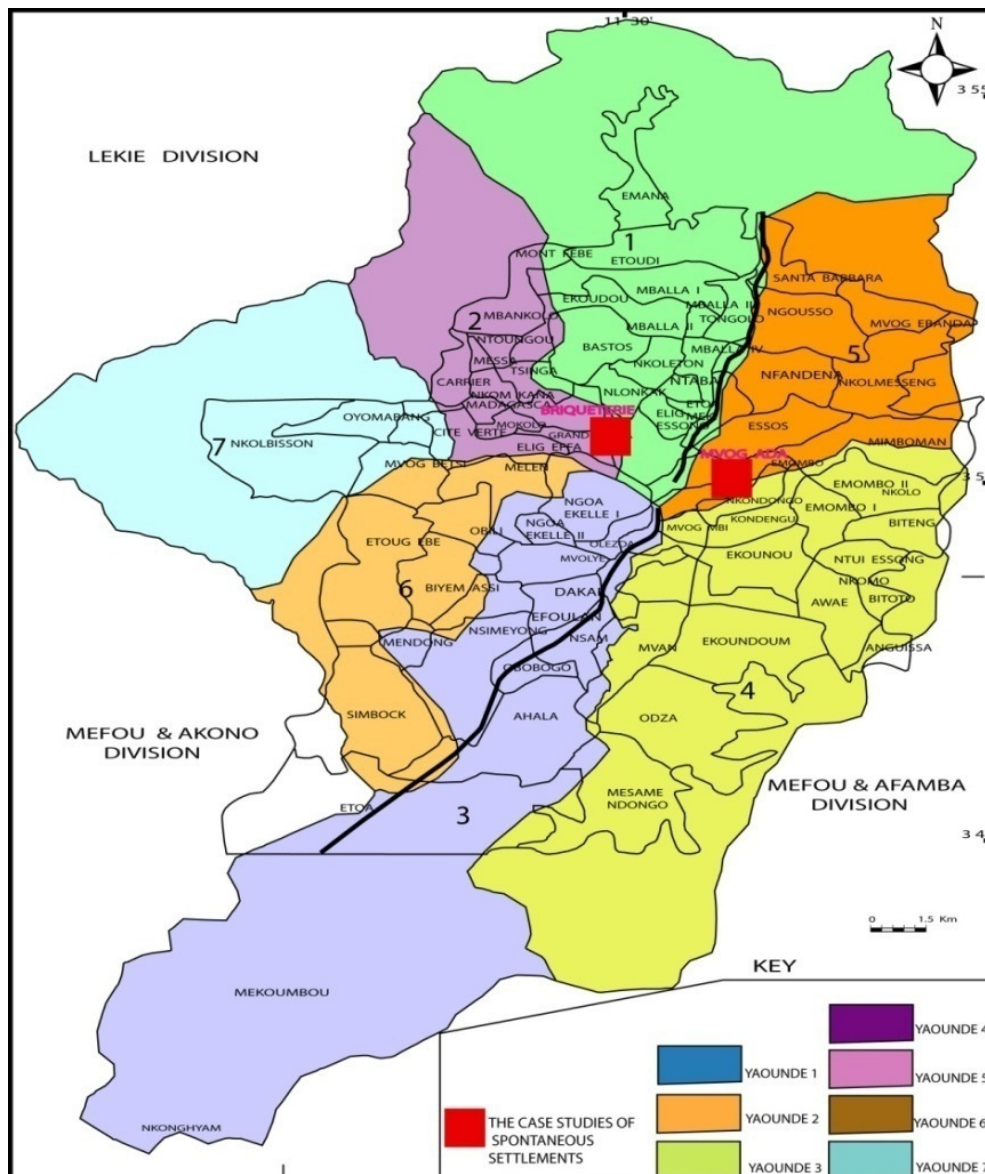


Figure 3: Examples of shanty towns and quarters in the Metropolis

The inhabitants are mainly the low class and poor when compared with the affluent settlers of the Bastos neighbourhood. Results from the analyses of questionnaire permit to hold that 80% of the dwellers in Briqueterie are those who moved to the city with great expectations of getting employed so as to live a good life. But things had not always been the best, as the hope of a better tomorrow remained an all-time dream. Examining the per house carrying Capacity there is a clear indication that there is a high number of inhabitants per house. It was indeed realized that there were about 2-4 persons in a room. Meanwhile some family houses of a 2-3 rooms accommodated 6-10 persons. This shows that the physical structures are overcrowded, given the population number occupying them. This area, just like some that are spotted in the city, is characterized by spontaneous constructions that have no plan. Aerial photographs and Satellite images of Briqueterie and Mvog Ada show this clearly (Figures 4A & 4B).

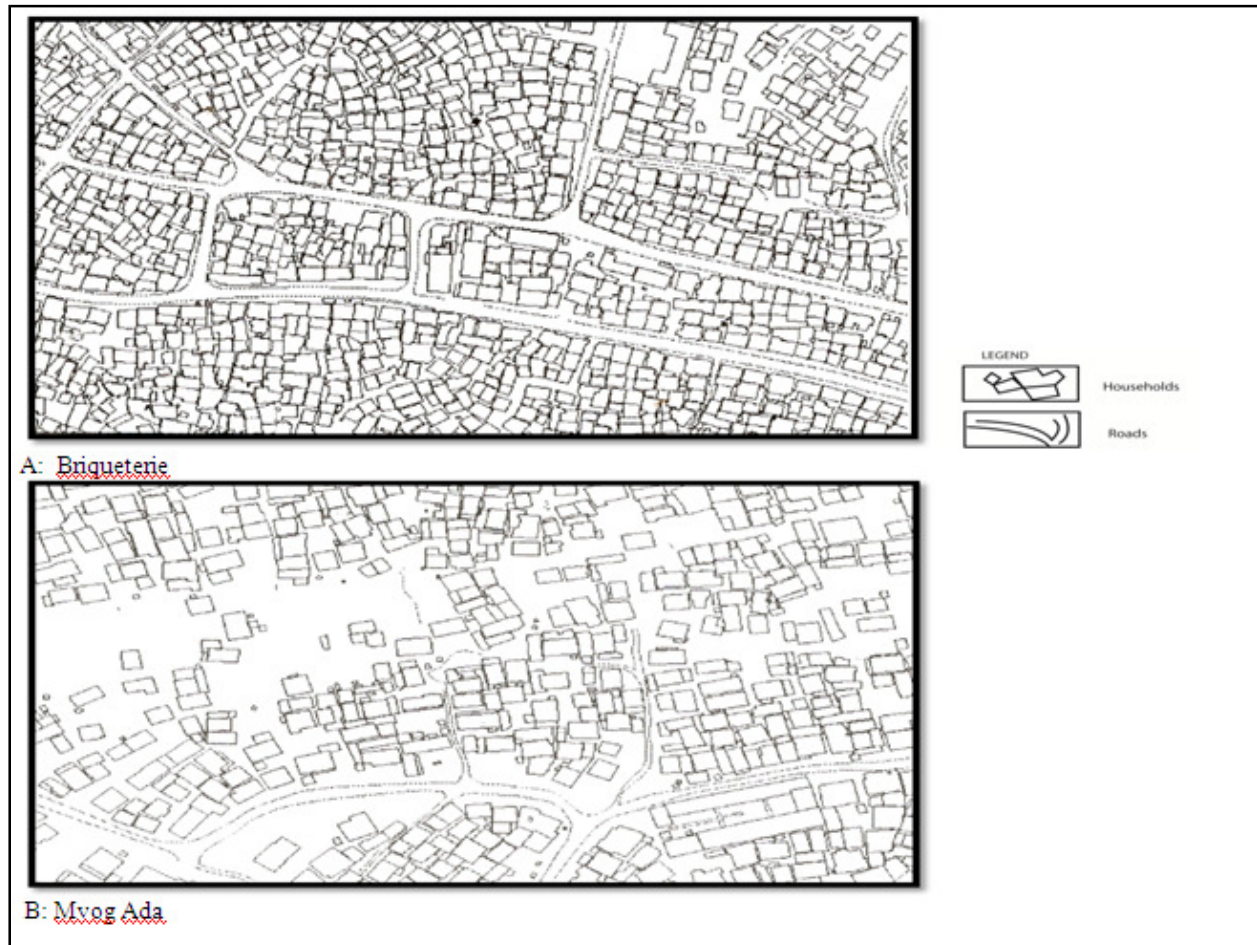


Figure 4: Good Examples of Shanty Towns
Source: Modified from Durang X. (1999) and Google Earth (2010)

The materials that are used for the construction of initial houses are mud and bamboos. These are roofed with corrugated iron sheets. This has no doubt replaced those thatched with palm fronds in the typical village setting. Because of the continuous effect of urbanization, this settlement is spotted with houses made of mud brick, cement blocks and mixed concrete. The area faces the problem of dilapidating and unsanitary housing. The settlement was not initially planned such that access to some areas is not the best. Garbage is piled around heaps or sometimes thrown to block stream courses. This improper method of handling waste has brought about serious pollution problems. The garbage and pools or stagnant water on the other hand, constitute real breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Meanwhile, Mosquitoes carry malaria, a debilitating disease that is common in the area and to be found around puddles or trapped dirty water. Therefore, inadequate sanitation and unhygienic practices among the poor lead to rampant illness. Meanwhile all of these are no doubt glaring traces of a region with a very low standard of living.

Inadequate sanitation almost always accompanies inadequate shelter. Because this area has few running water and sewage facilities, the people also rely on wells and springs for water. Most homes do not have potable water. So they may from time to time buy or fetch water from public taps or fountains. Hard earned water from such sources is mainly for drinking, while that coming from wells and springs is used for laundry and other household chores. The water from the streams and wells sometimes has taste, smell and colour. These are qualities of bad water. When comparing the physico-chemical properties of the water as in table 1, the results are quite impressive.

MEASURED PARAMETERS	Rainy Season	Dry Season	Max Admissible Value (V.M.A)
Temperature	22	25.3	25
Colour (ppm.pt)	<20	20	20
Turbidity (NTU2)	10.1	0.36	10
pH at25°C	6.4	6.2	6.5-8.5
Conductivity at...25°C(μ.s/cm)	754	737	400
Calcic hardness	84	82.40	NA
Total hardness	112	123.56	NA
Simple alcalimetric title (TA)	0	0	NA
Complete alcalimetric title (TAC)	150.8	0.32	50
Free carbon anhydride (mg/l)	62.7	124.76	NA
TDS (mg/l)		1235	
Chlorine (mg/l Cl)	2	0.00	250
Sulphates (mg/l SO ₄ ⁻)	1	0	250
Hydrogeno carbonates (mg/l HCO ₃)	150.8	64.07	305
Carbonates (mg/l CO ₃ ⁻)	Nil	Absence	30
Nitrates (mg/l NO ₃ ⁻)	2	0.56	50
Nitrates (mg/l NO ₂ ⁻)	Nil	Absence	0.1
Amonium (mg/NH ₄ ⁺)	Nil	<0.01	0.5
Sodium (mg/l Na ⁺)	4	2	175
Potassium (mg/l K ⁺)	11	5	12
Calcium (mg/l Ca ⁺)	34	33	100
Magnesium (mg/l mg ⁺⁺)	6	10	30
Manganese (mg/l Mn)	Nil	<0.01	0.1
Iron (mg/l Fe)	1	0	0.2
Salinity (mg/l)	211.8	104.63	NA

Table 1: Results of analysis of water samples taken from Briqueterie ground and surface water source in Yaounde Source: Field work 2011. Laboratory analysis. Laboratory of Ministry of Mines, Water and Energy resources, 2012.

According to table 1 the problems are glaring with the high temperature of the water during the dry season. This is followed by a high level of turbidity during the rainy season and then by very high levels of conductivity in both seasons. There are clear indications that a bacteriological analysis of this well water will produce very bad results. This is attributed to the poor sanitary conditions due to solid and liquid waste disposal basically from toilets.

Toilet conditions are also poor, being shallow and not well constructed. Excrement and garbage accumulate quickly and become breeding ground for diseases. In areas similar to ghettos and shanty towns like this, that harbour the poor, overcrowding can lead to high transmission rates of air borne diseases such as tuberculosis. The poor are also largely uneducated and this accounts for the spread of diseases.

Towards the southern sector of this settlement around Carrefour Warda, is found a few squatters who occupy the flood prone area. The shelters are often constructed with plank and can be reached only through bridges composed of planks. Some of the inhabitants even tend to rear pigs where they stay making the condition worse. When it rains, it is not rare to find faeces floating towards downstream. Human fecal matter is combined with other solid waste to worsen the pollution of the area. This situation holds true for the Briqueterie but the situation is not very different in the other spontaneous clusters in the metropolis that were cited earlier.

Unlike the Briqueterie cluster that was initiated by in-migrants, the Mvo-Ada cluster was initiated by the indigenes of Yaounde. The cluster constituted the quarter that was headed by the Family head. With the influx of more city dwellers, his area became a site for the construction of unplanned households. As can be seen in Figure 4 B the houses do not obey specific pattern that portrays planning. It is not surprising to find the main tracks that serve the inner quarter; passing in between a family parlour and the Kitchen. The average population per households ranges from 2-8 persons. It was indeed realized that there were about 1-3 persons in a room. Meanwhile some family houses of a 2-3 rooms accommodated 2-8 persons. This shows that the physical structures are overcrowded, given the population number occupying them. Even though the density of persons per household is not like that of Briqueterie, it is still deplorable. That sanitary condition in this cluster is not very different from that of the Briqueterie neighbourhood. The area is thus characterised by poor toilet systems, garbage heaps that have become ubiquitous and blocks to drainage all aggravated by plastic containers and nylon bags amongst others.

The state of the poorly organized residential wards of Briqueterie, Mokolo, Carrière, Nkolndongo, Mvog-Ada, and Madagascar amongst others are not as precarious as other spontaneous and unplanned settlements over the globe. The "Ghetto" of South Africa, the "Ranchos" in Venezuela, "Callampas" in Chile, "Barriadas" in Peru, "Favelas" in Brazil, and the "Villas misarias" in Argentina, "Colonial letarias" in Mexico, "Barong" in the Philippines, "Kevettits" in Burma, "Bustee" in India and the "Gecekodu" in Turkey have more deplorable conditions. All the same, the impact of urbanization in the metropolis has not been glamorous because of the impact of the fast increasing population and the already known shortcomings of poor facilities of spontaneous settlements.

No area that wants to develop in modern times would see the ills from the above nature of settlement and yet remain indifferent. Perhaps it was with the concern of housing problems that the Government created the SIC (Société Immobilière du Cameroun) in 1952. In like manner, the MAETUR (Mission d'Aménagement et d'Équipement des Terrains Urbains et Ruraux) came in 1977. The Ministries of Housing and Town Planning had equally been created with this view in mind. Attempts had been made, such as creating the FEICOM (Fonds d'Équipement et d'Investissement Communal) which is in charge of subvention and financing municipal equipment as well as the treatment of institutions of urbanization responsible for urban policies. Despite the existence of the above institutions, the major problems of planning and housing still persist. The urgency of more competent institutions, similar to the above, in solving the problem, need not be overemphasized.

The old cores were established when there had been no sense of urban planning. So these settlements have no logical plans. Even the recent clusters like Biyem Assi, Etoug-Ebe, Essos have only a faint notion of planning. The spicing of some of these areas with well-planned housing units by the SIC and MAETUR has still not done much good since the impact is too insignificant. It is obvious that it is also because of the ills and poor nature of the above spontaneous settlements that most recent clusters are coming up with well-planned units. These include the clusters of Messame-Ndogo, Odza and Santa Barbara amongst others.

5. Proposed Solutions to Spontaneous Settlements in the Metropolis

One of the best approaches as a way forward towards improving the living standards would have been to carry out pro-poor slum upgrading or even renewal as noted variously by Burra, (2005); Ribeiro and Srisuwan, (2005) and Sule, (2007). The precarious situation of shanty towns in the metropolis has been aggravated by enormous inner City decay. Some old buildings in the city centre are already dilapidated. Such old structures need restructuring and/or repairs. All of these have come only to throw more light on the need for proper planning and refurbishment of the city in the future. Yaounde, just like a few growing Third World towns can choose to grow on its own and at its own pace. This makes the metropolis to be more economically successful, environmentally sound and nicer to live in than if it were to be with sprawl without limits. Some strategies have been proposed in the points that follow as a method to control sprawl. They include:

5.1. Land Use Planning

A well adaptable land use planning should be adopted by the Ministry of Urban Development together with the Yaounde city council. Such a planning would design areas for private use as well as public utilities. Planning would help the Yaounde community to grow efficiently by encouraging development where infrastructure like roads, schools and water treatment facilities already exists. This type of planning would help keep the city centers alive and established communities vital. The best planning efforts also steer development away from wildlife habitat, wetlands and other crucial natural resources.

5.2. Regional Planning

The planning advocated here has a broader scope than land-use planning. This deals with the planning especially around the outskirts or growth fronts of the city. Like a ballet without choreography, growth without planning is an accident waiting to happen (Encarta Encyclopedia, 2009). Though individual communities may try to control sprawl, many problems related to unplanned growth extend beyond city borders. Regional planning is an ideal solution to this dilemma, but it requires an organization with power and authority to coordinate development on a larger scale. In our opinion, the Yaounde authorities possess the might and capacity to realize this. They should start by setting out plans to delineate plots or blocks well before the population approaches. In this way they would have had time to judge measures that would guarantee a city that is bound to be ecologically sound.

5.3. Housing Strategy

Another way that the government can solve the problem of anarchical growth concerns what is partially being practiced. This is by funding and ensuring the construction of multiple housing structures. The type of housing structure recommended here includes, single and double room complexes. These should be in blocks of about 4-5 storey. This measure therefore supposes more of vertical construction.

In this way, the use of 1 ha or 10,000m² land, for instance, to produce 150 ground apartments, would end up having 900 apartments with a 5-storey complex. This is achieved considering the fact that there is enough space for parking, adequate space for outdoor activities. This would end up taking the extra pressure that would have been exerted on land and particularly forest if horizontal construction was adopted.

It is therefore realized that the extra 750 apartments would have saved more than 40,000 m² (4ha) of land resources while assuring order in the City. This is somehow similar to what is already being realized by the MAETUR-SIC housing companies. The apartments should be given out at a greatly subsidized rate so that even the urban underprivileged can afford. In addition to these housing strategies, there should be an expansion of roads, the use of common transport buses and the establishment of commuters' zones or residential quarters.

5.4. Community Revitalization

Community revitalization within this context entails some sort of housing refurbishment and arrangement within the city. For a region to successfully manage its growth, it must work to make city centres and existing communities safe, lively and healthy places to live in. Basic studies carried out during this research reveals that Yaounde metropolis is lacking in this domain. To put a halt to

unauthorized careless expansion, the State must invest in the down town and inner suburbs. It is going to be quite profitable if the Yaounde city council, the Delegation of Housing and Delegations of forest and fauna can understand that this is part of the equation. Revitalizing older neighbourhoods is the perfect antidote to sprawl. This is exactly what current- acting Mayor for the Yaounde City Council is trying to do. It consists of maintaining some structures that up-hold old value, while breaking down anarchical structures especially those occupied by clandestine commercial activities, while setting up more orderly structures in their place. For instance in some cities of the Developed World, older neighbourhoods were designed for pedestrians' safety and have a scale and style that allows people to meet their everyday needs by walking. Experience indicates that these areas that cherish the resources they have, also value the historic preservation. In pursuit of improving on the inner sector of the metropolis, decision makers or the Yaounde city Council can copy the example of the Developed Countries.

6. Conclusion

The present study of urban expansion of the Yaounde Metropolis and the socio-economic problems in the city permit one to confirm that the astronomical rate of urbanization has equally been accompanied by a host of challenges in the city. The study enables one to establish that many unplanned settled wards that characterize some parts of the city remain a major problem owing to the deplorable social conditions that are associated. It is in such zones that are found the most unhygienic conditions to be imagined in modern cities. Even the populations that live there too, are, basically of the low class city dwellers. Some who cannot even provide for themselves have no choice but to take to the street during the day to beg, a situation that greatly cuts back on human dignity.

The Yaounde city mayor is presently doing a commendable job. The piece of land around the main roundabout leading to Nkolbisson, the stretch of land from Carrefour Warda to Nouvelle Route Bastos are some of the few areas that have been arranged to make them become beautiful parts of the town. This is a clear indication that the status of the other shanty towns of the metropolis can be uplifted too. It is against this backdrop that tacit measures are proposed to control and/or revamp new and existing shanty towns, spontaneous settlements. Such undertakings would improve on the living standards of the low class population, improving on the urban environment and breaching the gap between the rich and the poor city dwellers. The Mayors of the Yaounde Metropolis in combination with the Government Ministries can do this. The Government Ministries are particularly imbued with real experts who need just a bit of brainstorming in order to realize very good results.

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