

Environmental Management and Sustainable Development of Cities

A Case Study of Ibadan, Nigeria

By

Soji Oyeranmi

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Table of Contents

Abbreviations	vii
Preface.....	xi
Dedication	xv
Chapter One: General Introduction	1
Chapter Two: The Conceptual Framework and Literature Review	34
Chapter Three: Environmental Challenges in Cities from Global and African Perspectives	86
Chapter Four: Ibadan and its Environment in the Pre-Colonial Era	138
Chapter Five: The Impact of Colonial Environmental Policies on Sustainable Development of Ibadan.....	177
Chapter Six: Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in Postcolonial Ibadan	246
Chapter Seven: Evaluating the Existing Post-Colonial Environmental Management Strategies in Ibadan	284
Chapter Eight: Examining Some New Paradigms Towards Achieving Sustainable Development and Environmental Regeneration in Ibadan	311
Bibliography	338

Abbreviations

AG	Associated Gas
CASSAD	Centre for African Settlement Studies and Development
CBA	Cost-Benefit Analysis
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organisations
CFC _s	Chlorofluorocarbons
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DFID	Department For International Development
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EDC	Economically Developed Countries
EMAS	European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
ESEH	European Society For Environmental History
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment

FRIN	Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria
GETI	Global Education and Training Institute
IAAE	International Conference of Agricultural Economists
IDRC	International Research Development Centre
IFRA	Institut Francais de Recherche en Afrique
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INC	International Corporations
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International Standards Organisation
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MNC	Multinational Corporations
MNOC	Multinational Oil Corporations
N ₂ O	Nitrous oxide
NAI	National Archive Ibadan
NEST	Nigerian Environmental study /Action Team
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
NIHORT	National Horticultural Research Institute

NISER	Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research
NNPC	Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PZ	Patterson and Zochonis
RA	Resilience Alliance
SCP	Sustainable City Project
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIP	Sustainable Ibadan Project
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TNC	Transnational Companies
UAC	United African Company
UCH	University College Hospital
UEM	Urban Environmental Management
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNCHE	United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment
UNO	United Nations Organisation
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNU	United Nations University
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

Preface

Primarily, this is a study in Environmental history of Nigeria from the pre-colonial to postcolonial era with a focus on the impact of urban environmental management on sustainable development of African Cities with Ibadan, Nigeria as a case study. Obviously, environmental unsustainability threatens all humanity's futures, but the threat appears to differ from place to place. In reality, it is the billion of world's poor (especially in Sub-Saharan Africa) that will bear the greatest loss. More so, the industrialized nations have been taking steps to implement sustainable development strategies and the poor ones (particularly those in Africa) are yet to have effective programmes or national action plans either to solve the existing environmental crises or avert the impending ecological cataclysm. Due to the complexities of the challenges, all the stakeholders need to fashion more collaborative ventures to respond to the virulent global/national environmental crises. This is one of the primary focuses of Environmental history which reflects its multidisciplinary and the unbreakable link with the concept of sustainable development.

Environmental historians seek an understanding of the range of human interactions with the physical environment in the past, how this has shaped the present and what are possible implications for the future. But in performing this complex and arduous task; they must look beyond the discipline of history. Hence, as a pioneer study in Environmental history (urban environmental history) in Nigeria, this research work becomes unavoidably multidisciplinary. Consequently, it engaged and interacted with Scholars/disciplines such as: Economics, Geography, Development Studies, Urban Planning, Archeology, Anthropology, Agricultural Studies, Sociology and Natural sciences, such as biology and Ecology, to name a few.

Environmental history is a recent trend in historical research. It explores the long term interactions of man and environment. It started in the USA around 1970s and later spread to other parts of the World through Europe

(Worster, 1989). Environmental history also concerns how economy, technology, politics, social structures and value systems have affected the natural environment, the use of natural resources, and how the changes in natural environment have affected the communities. Most significantly, it is a problem solving field of study, which focuses on finding solution to practical problems such as soil erosion, air and water pollution, waste management, urban planning, sanitation and many more. But the history of cities, towns and industrial communities in sub-Saharan Africa (Nigeria especially) and the need to make their development plans sustainable by combining them with adequate environmental management strategies has not received much attention. This study is an effort at addressing this.

This study contends that adequate urban environmental management strategies are conterminous with sustainable development of cities in any country. Contrary to hitherto widely held belief, it demonstrates that cities as drivers of sustainable development could be positive forces in support of social equality, cultural vitality, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. With a primary focus on Ibadan, the study laments that most cities in sub-Saharan Africa have become cynosure of disgrace and centres of filth: partly because the leaders and planners are yet to fully grasp the meaning of the concept of sustainable development and positions of cities as drivers of the concept; and majorly due to their utter failure to combine their bids to achieve economic development with qualitative urban environmental management strategies. Hence, development in Ibadan from pre-colonial to post-colonial eras has become convoluted and certainly unsustainable.

As a study of 'cautious optimism' it believes that Ibadan is still redeemable. While it is impossible to rebuild the city from the scratch, reformation and transformation are still very possible. Therefore, in order to transform Ibadan into a globally competitive and sustainable city, the study suggests the following: adoption of UN's Whole-Society and Urban Ecosystem Approaches by the city planners by revitalising the Sustainable Ibadan Project (SIP); revolutionising urban governance in Ibadan; establishing constructive and unbreakable mutually beneficial relationships among all the stakeholders in the management of Ibadan

environment; making Ibadan economy sustainable by prioritising and combining the welfare of the poor people and care for the environment with economic development programmes; entrenching environmental education and traditional environmental ethics into the Oyo State educational Curricular from primary to tertiary levels; proper revising the exiting environmental laws and introducing new ones to take care of the new and emerging environmental challenges; properly enforcing these laws; encouraging attitudinal changes in the people towards jettisoning their cultural practices that are inimical to environmental sustainability; inaugurating and coordinating street by street associations towards enhancing community driven care for the environment. In addition to the adoption of multidisciplinary approach in carrying out the research, the study makes use of the Participant-Observation method together with the use primary and secondary sources.

To further enunciate and expatiate the above suggestions, the study is divided into eight chapters. Chapter one provides a general overview for the study by discussing: background to the study, statement of the Problem, objectives, clarification of key terms, significance of the study, methodology, and brief history and relevance of the study area-Ibadan. Several literatures (with different philosophical postulations) have been advanced on environmental studies, particularly since the 1970s when environmental issues gained more global preponderance. It is based on this assertion that the conceptual framework and some relevant works were reviewed in chapter two. Chapter three essentially discussed: relationship between globalization and the environment, an overview of global environmental challenges, African Environmental Crisis, the Nigerian Dimension and the impact on Ibadan. In chapter four the indigenous environmental practices in Ibadan before the incursion of the British Colonialists were critically evaluated. This covered: the relationship between culture and nature (how they perceive land and taking care of it); indigenous environmental laws; sanitation and personal hygiene.

Ibadan actually witnessed a number of unprecedented urban expansion during the British rule so much that it could be concluded that modern Ibadan was a colonial creation. But the haphazard nature of the growth

made it unsustainable as we later discovered that it set foundation for the convoluted urban development Ibadan witnessed in the postcolonial period (which still persist till date. Thus, chapter five examined: Environmental laws and enforcement as they affected: land procurement/distribution, Urban Planning, Waste Management, Sanitation and impact of Poverty in Ibadan during colonial rule. To demonstrate the fact that nothing much changed for Ibadan in terms of environmental mismanagement and unsustainable development in the post-colonial era; chapter six focused on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in Postcolonial Ibadan which covered: City, Environment and Sustainable Development; Ibadan Economy and the Environment and The Stakeholders and the Environment. These were utilised to analyse various urban environmental problems that are confronting the city in post-colonial period.

As it was firmly established in the study, it will be an exercise in deep absurdity to assume that successive governments now or in the past did nothing to ameliorate the environmental decadence in Ibadan. So, it was the focus of chapter seven to evaluate the existing environmental management strategies in Ibadan; covering: Ibadan Town Planning Authority, Ibadan Solid Waste Management Board (ISWMB), Local Government Areas, Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Ibadan Project (SIP), Rural Water Supply Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA), The Ibadan Urban Flood Management Project, before coming up with some new paradigms towards ameliorating the nagging environmental issues. Expectedly, chapter eight that concluded the study, enunciated some possible new paradigms in regenerating, making the city resilient and achieves sustainable development in post-colonial Ibadan; that are also applicable to other cities in the Global South and particularly in sub-Saharan and Nigeria.

Dedication

To my Daughter and City Dwellers in Africa and the Global South

Chapter One

General Introduction

How we plan, build and manage our cities now will determine the outcome of our efforts to achieve a sustainable and harmonious development tomorrow. We believe that the battle for a more sustainable future will be won or lost in cities
(The United Nations, 2013)

Background to the Study

In all ages, man has always exploited his natural environment in order to make a living. This does not only reflect the unbreakable nexus between environmental sustainability and human development but also authenticates the fact that existence of Flora and Fauna has been central to human existence on earth.¹ However, human beings and the natural world are on a collision course.² This is largely because man's activities had contrived to destroy the natural equilibrium that had facilitated the co-existence of man and nature over the millennia. Consequently, our world continues to witness hard and often irreversible damage on the environment and critical resources. While global community has considered homicide, ethnocide and genocide as crimes against humanity, **ecocide** which is the deliberate destruction of environment is yet to attract the needed attention and sanctions. Some of the problems witnessed in this regard include: global warming induced climate change (which is regarded as the most catastrophic environmental crisis confronting the 21st Century humanity); pollution deforestation, desertification, flooding, hurricane, tsunami and so on.³

¹ Walter Rodney, *How Europe underdeveloped Africa*, (London: Bogle L Ouverture Publishers, 1986) 9-30

² Peter Okebukola, "Global Warming", in S.O. Otokiti and S.G. Odewunmi, eds. *Issues in Management and Development*, (Ibadan: Rex Charles Publication, 2001) 597

³ This point has been constant in almost all global meetings on environment from Stockholm 1972, Rio de Janeiro 1992, World Commission on Environment and

The good news is that, the world is standing together more than ever before, brain-storming on how to ensure that human development strategies are environment friendly. A number of conferences have been held at: Stockholm in 1972, Kyoto in 1987, Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Johannesburg in 2002 and IPCC from 2007 to 2022. Others organised for this purpose include: several UN-World Urban Fora, Tokyo in 2008, Copenhagen in 2010, Rio in 2012, Conference of Parties (COPs) which began in march 1995 in Berlin, Germany with the latest one COP27 which took place in Egypt between 6 and 18 November 2022 ; several World Economic For a and many more. Till date, the most comprehensive and ambitious step taken by the global community though the United Nations is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by member states.⁴ The universal resolution was vividly captured by Federico Major (Director-General, UNESCO) in 2002 when he said: “Our challenge is to device policies that will subordinate business and economy to the needs of the individuals based on a better balance, between mankind and the environment.”⁵ Since cities are the epic centres of human development, they present gravest challenges to environmental sustainability due mostly to inadequate environmental management strategies.⁶

The daily reality of people on this planet is increasingly an urban reality, with about 56% of the world's population (4.4 billion people) living in the cities.(footnote). According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this proportion is expected to increase to 60% or 4.9 billion people by 2030.⁷ Despite this, the situation of urban environmental issues within the internationally agreed goals and targets for sustainable development has remained marginal in the urban growth dynamics. The

Development 1987, Brundtland, 1987, World Urban forum 2003, World Bank 2007, 2008 UNDP, 2006, 2007, 2008 G8 Summit 2008 Copenhagen 2010, and many more

⁴ For more on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) please visit <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background/>

⁵ United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) *Global Environment Outlook 3: Past, Present and the Future Perspectives*, 2002. Available at: <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo3/>

⁶ C. H. Nilon, A. R. Berkowitz, and K. S. Hollweg, “Editorial: Understanding Urban Ecosystems: A New Frontier for Science and Education”, *Urban Ecosystems* 3, (1999) 3-4 and Josef Coughler and William F. Flanagan, *Urbanisation and Social Change in West Africa*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981)

⁷ Available at: <http://www.unep.org>

United Nations through several international conventions and treaties has unsuccessfully tried to reverse the negative trends in urban development. For examples, while chapter seven of Agenda 21 sought to galvanise local level action to prioritise and develop human settlements, chapter twenty-one focuses on solid waste management and sewage infrastructure.⁸ Goal number seven of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also concerns the achievement of a significant improvement in the lives of at least, 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. In addition, it also seeks to reduce the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by half by 2015.⁹ Although these proposals are important, they are not enough. These targets represent part of the "brown agenda" for provision of basic needs that are needed to urgently address environmental challenges, which are also highly correlated to poverty. In its 2007 report, the Third World Urban Forum estimated that approximately 45 percent of the total urban populations in Africa, Latin America, Southeast and West Asia lack portable water in their homes.¹⁰ Moreover, over 25 percent lack three or more basic services (in-house access to drinking water, functioning modern toilet and electricity).¹¹ While it is imperative that the world urgently address these challenges, they have not received enough attention.

However, while industrialised countries are already taking steps to implement sustainable development policies, underdeveloped or developing countries particularly those in Africa are yet to have effective programmes or national action plans to ensure meeting basic necessities of life and still maintain decent and healthy environment. For this reason, most sub Saharan African cities especially those that ought to be "epic centres of development" are bogged down with severe environmental problems. This has led many urban and environmental historians to tag most urban centres in Africa as "sick cities" overwhelmed by air pollution, noise, traffic, waste, racial tension, slum conditions,

⁸ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) *Agenda 21*, 1992, available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21text.htm>

⁹ World urban forum 2007, www.unhabitat.org/worldurbanforum2007

¹⁰ Available online at www.undp.org

¹¹ Available online at www.idrc.ca

maladministration and many other urban malaises.¹² Onibokun equally concluded that “today, the hearts of many cities in Africa are like islands of poverty in the seas of relative affluence.”¹³ The general consensus among other scholars who shared similar view about urban centres in Africa is that most people living in African cities today are facing great challenges such as: the deterioration of basic services, housing and environment, mass unemployment and underemployment, the virtual absence of State welfare and many more.¹⁴ All of these culminated in what Ilda Lourenco Lindell called “urban crisis.”¹⁵ Although the impact of environmental problems in Africa’s urban centres vary from place to place, no place in sub Saharan Africa seem to be immune against the tragedy. As one of the few countries in sub Saharan Africa, which had many large pre-industrial cities, Nigeria cannot possibly be an exception to the African urban environmental decay.¹⁶

Given its size, it is difficult if not impossible to do a nuanced study of environmental management and development of Nigeria. It is in order to ensure an in-depth study that this thesis focuses primarily on Ibadan-one of the largest cities in Nigeria. The choice of Ibadan is premised on the fact that city usually serve as microcosm of their societies.¹⁷ Thus, Ibadan as a micro society within a larger entity called Nigeria could be said to visibly depict the convoluted developmental processes of the country. The general signs include but not limited to: often chaotic political situation, mass illiteracy, perpetual poverty, mixture of traditionalism and

¹² Herbert Werlin, *Governing an African City: A Study of Nairobi*, (New York: Africana Publishing Company, 1974)

¹³ A.G. Onibokun, et. al, *Affordable Technology and Strategies for Waste Management in Africa: Lessons From Experiences* (Ibadan: Centre for African settlement – Studies and Development (CASSAD), 2000)

¹⁴ I. L. Lindell, *Walking The Tight Rope: Informal Livelihood and Social Networks in a West African City* (Stockholm: Stockholm University Press, 2003); Anne V. Whyte, “Women, Environmental Perception and Participatory Research”, in Eva M. Rathgeber ed., *Women’s Role in natural Resource Management in Africa*, (Ottawa, International Research Development Centre (IDRC), 2004), 102-190; Hakeem Ibikunle Tijani (ed), *Nigerian Urban History Past and Present*, (Maryland: University Press of America, 2006)

¹⁵ I. L Lindell, *Walking the tight Role.....9*

¹⁶ Laurent Fourchard, *Urban Slums Reports: The Case of Ibadan, Nigeria*, (Ibadan: Institut Francais de Recherche en Afrique (IFRA), University of Ibadan, 2003)

¹⁷ Justin Labinjoh, “Ibadan and the Phenomenon of Urbanism”, in G. O.Ogunremi ed., *A Historical and Socio-Cultural Study of an African City*, (Ibadan: Oluyole Club, 1999) 238

modernism; porous nature of industrialisation, inadequate town planning and lack of adequate urban environment management. Ibadan no doubt has been a great cosmopolitan city in Nigeria and the history of its environmental decay could be the true representation of Nigeria's ecological tragedy.¹⁸

Nigeria, aptly described as a "country of a thousand villages" and Ibadan was described by P.C Llyod as a "city-village."¹⁹ These descriptions truly reflect the frenetic mixture of traditionalism and modernism in most African "modern cities." Ibadan as the study shows continues to draw more people to her expansive land and over the years has developed a paradoxical character. Like other pre-industrial societies, Ibadan largely presents a sprawling agglomeration of buildings, spread out in numerous directions without any coherent order. At the same time in the words Osofisan "the city is showing the frantic pressure and restless energy associated with modern metropolis."²⁰ Unfortunately, the environmental disorderliness, which has been ravaging this huge urban space, has become dreadful. Yet, both government and the people are seemingly growing more apathetic about environmental issues. It is therefore, not surprising that Ibadan appears today as "a crippled city" in terms of environmental management and development.²¹

In a study of urban decay in forty Nigerian cities, Sylvester Abumere submitted that "most of these cities (Lagos, Ibadan, Benin, Kano, Onitsha etc.) are generally overcrowded and are with dirty and degraded environments"²². Several other studies have also corroborated this unenviable environmental conditions of most Nigerian urban centres and the common denominator is their dawning conclusions. According to

¹⁸ Sylvester Abumere, "Urbanisation and Urban Decay in Nigeria", in A. G. Onibokun et. al, eds., *Urban Renewal in Nigeria*, (NISER, 1987). See also Labinjoh, 1999, Fourchard.... 2003

¹⁹ Available online at www.unesco.org

²⁰ See "The Prologue", in Dapo Adelugba, ed., *Ibadan MESIOGO: A Celebration of a City, its History and People*, (Ibadan: Bookcraft Ltd., 2002) 2

²¹ NISER 1987, Labinjoh, 1999 and Laurent Fourchard, *Urban Slums Reports: The Case of Ibadan, Nigeria*.... 2003

²² Sylvester Abumere, "Urbanisation and Urban Decay in Nigeria" in A.G. Onibokun et. al eds, *Urban Renewal in Nigeria*, (Ibadan: NISER, 1987) 2-25

Mabogunje, most Nigerian cities are still pre-modern largely due to the fact that they have physical environment, which compares unfavourably with their modern counterparts.²³ Most importantly, these cities were not clearly divided into industrial and residential quarters, as cottage industries were located inside the dwelling places of the people. Consequently most of the so called “modern cities” in Nigeria remain “oversized villages.”²⁴ Almost all have been overwhelmed by the culture of unregulated urban environmental management and perennial distortion of master plans.²⁵ This has continued to hinder development in most of these cities. Ibadan is no exception.

This study fully recognises the fact that a lush and healthy environment is not a luxury and that environmental sustainability is at the heart of meaningful development in cities. Unfortunately, failure of environmental management strategies has been a recurring decimal in Ibadan at both colonial and post colonial times; thereby exposing the city to constant environmental hazards.²⁶ Environment is defined as all the surrounding things, conditions and influences affecting the growth or development of living things.²⁷ This reflects the dependence of humanity on nature in their bid to develop. However, urban environments as largely artificial creations of man, required sophisticated management strategies to achieve the desired development. While the world is full of both urban environmental “successes” and “failures”, most African cities are examples of urban decadence. Ibadan, which is the main focus of this study, is particularly notorious in this regard.

²³ A.L. Mabogunje, *Cities and African Development*, (Ibadan: Oxford University Press, 1976)

²⁴ Ayodeji Olukoju, “Historical Background of Nigerian Cities”, in Toyin Falola and Steven J. Salm eds., *Nigerian Cities*, (New Jersey: African World Press Inc, 2004)10

²⁵ Toyin Falola and Steven J. Salm eds., *Nigerian Cities*, (New Jersey: African World Press Inc., 2004); and David Anderson and Richard Rathbone eds., *Africa's Urban Past*, (Oxford: James Currey, 2000)

²⁶ This point has been constant in almost all global meetings on environment from Stockholm 1972, Rio de Janeiro 1992, World Commission on Environment and Development 1987, Brundtland, 1987, World Urban forum 2003, World Bank 2007, 2008 UNDP, 2006, 2007, 2008 G8 Summit 2008 just to mention a few

²⁷ Robert K. Barnhart ed., *The World Book Dictionary*, Vol. One, (Chicago: World Book, Inc., 1995) 708

A glimpse at its history reveals that Ibadan (founded around 1829) is one of the few large pre-colonial cities in Africa. Indeed, according to Mabogunje “in a very real sense, it is regarded as the pinnacle of pre-European urbanism in Nigeria, the largest purely African City...which has attracted various epithets as ‘Black Metropolis’.”²⁸ He further describes Ibadan as ‘the largest city in black Africa’....²⁹ However, despite the pre-colonial pre-eminence of Ibadan, the arrival of the British in 1893 opened a completely new epoch in the history of urban development in Ibadan. Although, the City witnessed a number of unprecedented urban development so much that it could be concluded that modern Ibadan was a colonial creation but the haphazard nature of the development completely negated the outcomes of the colonial urban development in Ibadan. The most debilitating effect was the evolution of a segregated society resulting into polarisation of Ibadan into two unequal worlds. While reflecting on the absolute inequalities that characterised the colonial cities in Africa, Frantz Fanon observed that:

The colonial world is a world cut in to two-(the settler’s zone-where Europeans and other foreigners lived and the native’s zone, where indigenes resided; which is diametrically opposed to each other)....No conciliation is possible...The settler zone is strongly built, made of stone and steel; brightly lit; the streets are covered with asphalt.....The settler town is a well fed town, an easy going town; its belly is always full of good things....The part of the town belonging to the colonised people is a place of ill-fame, peopled by men of evil repute. They are born there, they die there....It is a world without spaciousness; men live there on top of each other....The native town is a hungry town, starved of bread, of meat, of shoes, of coal, of light. The native town is crouching village, a town on its knees, a town wallowing in the mire....³⁰

In order to promote a deliberate policy of segregation, the British created the Ibadan Township area with the promulgation of “The Townships

²⁸ A. L. Mabogunje, *Urbanization in Nigeria*, (London: University of London Press, 1968) 186

²⁹ A. L. Mabogunje.....186

³⁰ Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, (New York: Penguin Books, 1983) 29-30

Ordinance of 1917".³¹ This was at two levels. The first was between indigenes of a town and Nigerians from other places (the so-called alien natives). The second was to segregate Europeans from Nigerians, irrespective of the status of the latter. Europeans lived in reservations where they had access to the best medical attention, efficient security system, adequate water supply, good road and other social amenities. With this ugly arrangement, it is not surprising that colonialism created racial segregation and ethnic disaffection.³² It also fostered class consciousness which was anchored on the concept of modernisation especially among the few educated elite. These "civilised" few felt that they were privileged to imitate western culture and those who also benefited from the colonial state began to see themselves as *olaju* (the civilised) to distinguish themselves from the *ara oko* (the rural, uncivilised).³³ As it has been demonstrated in this study, the dual personality created in Ibadan by colonial urbanism led to a lot of enduring environmental, social, economic and cultural changes which sharpened and dampened almost in the same manner the general character and patterns of growth and development of Ibadan from colonial era and subsist till post colonial period.

Statement of the Problem

It is axiomatic that adequate urban environmental management is essential for sustainable development in any country.³⁴ As a corollary, urban centres have become the most conspicuous environments in which economic capabilities are expanded or impeded; and social qualities of life are fulfilled or frustrated. However, urbanisation could be as dangerous as it is important for the development of most African countries. This is because the urban centres' crucial role has not been sufficiently realised, as the development planners are yet to grasp their position as the major media of development. In the struggle to create new capabilities, African leaders tend to be more pre-occupied with economics that they often lose

³¹ Toyin Falola, *Politics and Economy in Ibadan*, (Lagos: Modelor Design Aids Ltd., 1989) 135

³² Toyin Falola....135

³³ Toyin Falola....135

³⁴ See Herbert Werlin, *Governing an African City*....6

sight of the need for adequate/qualitative urban environmental management strategies for sustainable development. With the stimulated progress in education, transportation and communication, most African urban areas are growing more rapidly than the available opportunities. At the same time, the urban authorities are unable to cope with the housing, educational, healthy welfare and recreational needs of the population. The result is the evolution of what Blackwell called "Parasitic City."³⁵ Rather than providing the basis for sustained economic growth, cities have become serious impediments to sustainable development, especially in sub Saharan Africa.

In spite of the above identified crises, historical research on implications of adequate environmental management or lack of it for sustainable development has been relatively insignificant in Africa. For example, while Nigerian historians have documented much on issues like pre-colonial era, colonialism and responses of the people; intra and intergroup relations, political, economic and social history; they have done little or nothing about environmental history of the country. Hence, the reason for this research as a modest contribution towards providing literature and enhance the position of environmental history as a veritable field of study in Nigeria. Ibadan, one of the largest (and presumably, one of the dirtiest) cities in Africa is the primary focus of the study.

It is incontestable that Ibadan presents a terrible environmental picture. In fact, the city like most of the Nigerian urban areas, there is little evidence of any realistic physical planning. Visits to major streets and residential areas especially the core city centre, show a prevalence of uncontrolled heaps of refuse in open spaces and all pervasive stench from open sewers. The picture is generally that of urban disarray. The core of this problem is the prevalence of industrial and non-industrial pollutants. Factories and individuals are reckless in waste disposal resulting in environmental hazards inimical to human and animal health. There are also: infrastructural decay, deplorable roads, pitifully inadequate water supply, erratic electricity supply and acute shelter shortage³⁶. The inadequacies of

³⁵ Jonathan M. Blackwell et. al, *Environment and Development in African Selected Case Studies*, (Washington D.C: The World Bank, 1992) 10

³⁶ Abumere, "Urbanisation and Urban Decay in Nigeria" ...20-23

town planning and urban mismanagement are visible for everyone to see but no one seems to be showing expected serious constructive concern towards solving the problem.

Indeed, Ibadan has a long history of urban arbitrariness, which explains clearly the reasons for the present urban crisis in the so called “ancient city”. For example a 1945 report revealed that though Ibadan was founded in 1829, it took the successive administrators a century to commence a comprehensive planning for the city.³⁷ Consequently, development had proceeded in Ibadan without the needed environmental management philosophy or policy that could result in standard street systems, parks, well structured buildings and so on. Ibadan therefore becomes what Labinjoh called “epitome of planlessness...”³⁸ Laurent Fourchard further corroborates this in a special report on Ibadan in 2003 that “after taken a deep historical search, what Ibadan reflects, is a near total absence of urban management and urban planning.”³⁹ While one may not totally agree with this assertion, it will be foolhardy to deny the enormous challenges the present generation is facing with the appalling environmental situation in Ibadan, which is a reflection of national urban failure in Nigeria.

Although every generation has to live and work in an inherited environment shaped in some cases by very distant predecessors⁴⁰; this does not foreclose environmental rejuvenation by succeeding generations. This study attempts to document and put in proper historical perspective the impact of environment on the development in Ibadan over an identified period of time. This is with the view to mapping the relationship between successive policies on the environment on one hand and sustainable development (or lack of it) on the other. It is also meant to raise environmental consciousness of Nigerians in this direction. Although Ibadan is one of the largest cities in sub-Saharan Africa, yet, it

³⁷ Abumere....

³⁸ Justin Labinjoh, “Ibadan and the Phenomenon of Urbanism”, in G. O.Ogunremi ed., *A Historical And Socio-Cultural Study of an African City*.....238

³⁹ Laurent Fourchard....37

⁴⁰ Gerald Burke, *Towns in the Making of London*, (London: Edward Arnold Publishers Ltd., 1975) 1

lacks: international airport, international markets, navigable river, standard rail system or centralised connecting bridges (fly-overs). Most of the major roads are single lanes. Most importantly: this study chronicles the evolution of Ibadan as an urban centre; analyses stages of urbanisation in the city; discusses the colonial urban environmental policies; evaluates its post-colonial urban environmental policies; establishes the nexus between urban environmental management strategies and development in colonial and postcolonial Ibadan; highlights its infrastructural problems and suggest how best to solve the problems.

This study covers the pre-colonial to post-colonial era in Ibadan .The choice of the pre-colonial era as the starting date is informed by the fact that the knowledge about where we are coming from will assist in understanding the current circumstances and guide us towards a better future. The significance of the colonial rule in the environmental history of Ibadan makes it mandatory to be understood by any research such as this. Ibadan actually witnessed a number of unprecedented urban expansion during the British rule so much that it could be concluded that the city was a colonial creation. But the haphazard nature of the growth made it unsustainable as we later discovered that it set foundation for the convoluted urban development Ibadan witnessed in the postcolonial period (which still persist till date). For example, with the promulgation of "Township ordinances" by the British colonial rulers⁴¹marked the institutionalisation of segregation in colonial urban policies across Nigerian Cities. The entrenchment of policy of segregation in Ibadan by colonial urbanism led to a lot of enduring environmental, social, economic and cultural changes which shaped the general character and patterns of growth and development of Ibadan from colonial era till date.

The creation of Oyo State ministry of Environment in year 2000 coincided with the end of military rule, it marked the beginning of a new democratic rule and equally heralded the 'magical' new millennium with great expectations of unprecedented development in every aspect of life. This included a hope for urban environmental rejuvenation. Ibadan with its national significance was expected to benefit from the 'monumental

⁴¹ Toyin Falola, *Politics and Economy in Ibadan*, (Lagos: Modelor Design Aids Ltd., 1989)
135

millennium miracles' which has largely turned out as a mirage.⁴² Stretching the discussion to post-colonial offers a unique opportunity of evaluating more than a hundred years of environmental history of Ibadan. With this, we are able to draw important lessons from the pre-colonial and colonial environmental practices to correct the current environmental maladies confronting the city and its people

Objectives

Having accepted that a healthy and adequately managed environment is a prerequisite for sustainable development⁴³, this study demonstrates that a systematic and focused environmental management is imperative for the regeneration and development of Nigerian cities as a whole and Ibadan in particular. Apart from the broad concern of examining the relationship among urban management, environment and sustainable development of Ibadan during the peak of colonial rule and post colonial era, the study has the following specific objectives:

1. establish the interdependence of environmental management and sustainable development and investigate the root of environmental crisis in Ibadan;
2. Identify major stakeholders and their roles in urban environmental management and development in Ibadan;
3. examine the efficacy of the governmental strategies in urban environmental management and development in Ibadan;
4. assess people's attitude and perception to personal hygiene, environmental management and development in Ibadan;
5. examine roles of industries in environmental management vis-à-vis development in Ibadan; and
6. generate ideas that will be useful for the people and environmental managers when planning for the future.

⁴² Details of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are online at www.undp.org/MDGs

⁴³ W. I. Bell-Gam et. al eds., *Perspectives on the Human Environment*, (Port – Harcourt: Amethyst & Co Publishers, 2004)

The main research questions are: What were the ways people in Ibadan preserved their environment before colonial era? What were the programs for urban management and development in Ibadan during the colonial period? Did colonial rule introduce any significant changes to the Ibadan environment and its management? To what extent did these changes enhance or impede the development of Ibadan? What groups were influential in the management of Ibadan environment and provision of infrastructure? What were the people's roles in the management of the environment? What were the cultural perspectives to the management of the environment in Ibadan? How is globalisation impacting Ibadan environment and development? How can Ibadan become a globally competitive city and achieve sustainable development?

Clarification of Terms

Before going into the details of this discourse, one must give it a clear direction by providing working explanations rather than definitions for the principal terms around which the study essentially revolved i.e. Environment, Environmental Management, Environmental History, and Development and Sustainable Development.

Environment

The word, "Environment" is from the Latin word *Environs* which is linguistically translated as one's surroundings⁴⁴. Generally, the term varies in meaning because of its complexities and scope which encompasses anything from biosphere to the habitat of the smallest creatures or organism. Consequently, environment as a concept has been variously described in the works of several scholars and organisations. For examples, Adeniyi, defines environment as the outer physical and biological systems in which man and other organisms live in a wholly albeit a complicated one with many interacting components.⁴⁵ On his part

⁴⁴ A. D.Nagam and M. Halle Runnalts, "Environment and Globalisation Understanding the Linkages", available online at www.google/environmental-2bisuses.band.com

⁴⁵ E. O. Adeniyi, *Environmental Management and Protection in Nigeria*, (Ibadan: NISER 1986) 9

Abrahams, sees environment as the sum total of all external conditions influencing the growth and development of an organism. These factors could be physical, biological, social and cultural.

The 1992 United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) declaration referred to man's environment as "that which gives him physical sustenance and affords him the opportunity for intellectual, spiritual, moral and social growth..., both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man made are essential for his well being and enjoyment of basic human rights".⁴⁶ The Infoterra National Network, a global information exchange network views the environment as the "sum of all external conditions and influences affecting the life and development of organisms."⁴⁷ Princeton University simply describes environment as "the area in which something exists or lives; the country-the flat agricultural surroundings."⁴⁸ The World book Dictionary sees environment as all of the surrounding things, conditions and influences affecting the growth and development of living things. The environment is something you are very familiar with.⁴⁹ It's everything that makes up our surroundings and affects our ability to live on the earth—the air we breathe the water that covers most of the earth's surface, the plants and animals around us, and much more.

From the above definitions, one can rightly deduce that, the natural environment, commonly referred to simply as the environment, encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally on Earth or some region thereof. But in all, the study adopts the definition offered by The American Heritage Dictionary. The book defines environment as the "circumstances or conditions that surround one's surroundings... especially the combination of the external physical conditions that affect and influence the growth, development and survival of organisms."⁵⁰ The American Heritage Dictionary goes a little further by explaining that the environment could be all the biotic and abiotic factors that act on an

⁴⁶ www.google.com/environmental-2bisuses.band.com Access date-20/09/2010

⁴⁷ www.google.com/inforteranetwork

⁴⁸ Available on www.wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn

⁴⁹ See Robert K. Barnhart.....708

⁵⁰ *Environment*, available online at www.americanheritage.com

organism, population or ecological community and influence its survival and developments. The Biotic factors include the organisms themselves, their food and interactions, while the abiotic factors include a number of factors including weather, climate and pollution. The environment of a particular location is made up of all the things and conditions found there. Non-living things and conditions like mountains and valleys, rivers and streams, rocks and soils, sunlight and heat, rain and snow make up the physical part of the environment. Living things, like plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria make up the biological part of the environment.

Environmental Management

From the various definitions and descriptions of environment, it becomes obvious that it is both critical and central to human survival and development. Hence, the need for man to devise means of take adequate care of this inestimable gift through evolving sound environmental management strategies. The concept of Environmental Management was designed to perform the aforementioned role. Environmental Management offers: research and opinions on the use and conservation of natural resources; how to ensure sustainable cities and urban centres (through proper urban planning and excellent management strategies); protection of habitats and control of hazards, spanning the field of applied ecology without regard to traditional disciplinary boundaries⁵¹. It aims to improve communication, making ideas and results from any field available to practitioners from other backgrounds. As a multidisciplinary concept, Environmental Management draws knowledge from biology, botany, climatology, ecology, ecological economics, environmental engineering, fisheries, environmental law, environmental history, forest sciences, geology, information science, public affairs, zoology and more.

Environmental management is not, as the phrase ordinarily appears, the management of the environment as such, but rather the management of interaction by the modern human societies with, and impact upon the environment. The three main issues that affect managers are those

⁵¹ Schaltegger Stefan et. al, *An Introduction to Corporate Environmental Management: Striving for Sustainability*, (Sheffield: Greenleaf, 2003) 9

involving politics (networking), programs (projects) and resources (money, facilities, etc.)⁵². The need for environmental management can be viewed from a variety of perspectives. A more common philosophy and impetus behind environmental management is the concept of carrying capacity. Simply put, carrying capacity refers to the maximum number of organisms a particular resource can sustain.⁵³ Environmental management is therefore not the conservation of the environment solely for the environment's sake, but rather the conservation of the environment for humankind's sake. This element of Environmental Management is referred to as sustainable exploitation.⁵⁴

Environmental management also involves the management of all components of the bio-physical environment, both living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic). This is due to the interconnected and network of relationships amongst all living species and their habitats. Environmental management also involves the relationships of the human environment, such as the social, cultural and economic environment with the bio-physical environment. It is in the attempt to maintain positive symbiosis between the various components of environment that the concept of sustainable development was invented.

The goal of sustainable development has been incorporated in the agenda of many international organisations with necessary policies in order to ensure solid Environmental Management practice. The most obvious example is the European Union which has now integrated into its policy objectives wider range of tools for environmental policy. In the recent 6th Community Environmental Action Programme, titled, "Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice", recognises this and aims to be a programme that "...completes and reinforces our body of environmental legislation where there are gaps and takes forward the implementation of our directives...does more in terms of mobilising

⁵² G. Buchenrieder and A.R. Göltenboth, "Sustainable Freshwater Resource Management in the Tropics: The Myth of Effective indicators", A paper presented at the 25th International Conference of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) on "Reshaping Agriculture's Contributions to Society" in Durban, South Africa, 2003

⁵³ G. Buchenrieder and A.R. Göltenboth....

⁵⁴ Schaltegger Stefan et. al, *An Introduction to Corporate Environmental Management: Striving for Sustainability*7

stakeholders for the environment and 'greening' the market."⁵⁵On the need to ensure proper implementation, European Commissioner for the Environment at the time, Margot Wallström submitted that:

...we will not solve environmental problems by simply adding a few new directives every year to our existing 270 or so pieces of European environmental law, especially if we discover later on that these directives are not implemented by the member States...we need a broader range of instruments to tackle ever more diffuse sources of environmental pressures...We need instruments which: promote information, awareness and commitment with citizens and in the business community; give the right incentives for environmental improvements in the market place and; ensure the integration of the environment into other policies.⁵⁶

As the principal user of nature, humanity should be responsible for ensuring that its environmental impacts are benign rather than catastrophic. In order to help in achieving this, Environmental Management presents the work of academic researchers and professionals outside universities, including those in businesses, governments, research establishments, and public interest groups. Hence, the accumulation of a wide spectrum of viewpoints and approaches will greatly assist humanity towards ensuring environmental sustainability.

Environmental Management at both people and organisational level revolves round Environmental Management System. An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a problem identification and problem solving tool that provides organisations with a method to systematically manage their environmental activities, products and services and helps to achieve their environmental obligations and performance goals. International Standards Organisation (ISO) defines an EMS as "the part of the overall management system that includes organisational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and

⁵⁵ <http://www.economics.noaa.gov/?goal=ecosystems&file=users/>

⁵⁶ Schaltegger Stefan et. Al....