

## Geospatial Assessment of the Spatio-Temporal Land Cover Changes in Iwo Local Government Area, Osun State.

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**ABSTRACT:** This research focused on the geospatial assessment of the spatio-temporal land cover changes in Iwo Local Government Area, Osun State, Nigeria with a view to monitoring the rate of urbanization in order to aid the sustainable development. Medium resolution satellite images - Landsat 8 Operational Land Imager (OLI) of year 2015 & 2020, Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM) of year 2000 and Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) of 1985 were acquired for the study. With the help of ArcGIS 10.5 software, the area of interest (AOI) from images were obtained pre-processed and enhanced to restore and rectify them, and increase their resolution for good quality interpretation. The images were thereafter subjected to supervised classification algorithm into forest, grass land, shrub, built-up, water body and bare land land cover classes. Pixel oriented image analysis was performed on the classified images to assess the rate and direction of urbanization in the study area using the built-up as the index of urbanization. Results obtained, revealed that forest land cover depleted continuously from 51.9% in 1985 to 24.9% in 2020, while others increased - grassland (15.0% to 25.6%), shrub (16.8% to 25.7%), and built-up area (4.9% to 10.3%). A forecast into the future shows that forest land cover is expected to deplete from 42.1 sq. km in 2030 to 9.6 sq. km in 2050, bare-land a decrease to 25.9 sq. km in the year 2030 and an increase to 26.2 sq. km in the year 2050, grassland (61.4 sq. km to 76.0 sq. km), shrub (54.7 sq. km to 68.8 sq. km), built-up area (24.8 sq. km to 31.5 sq. km), water body (1.0 sq. km to 1.1 sq. km) will also experience increase. The result of the Land Use/ Land Cover serves as a good source of information for urban planners interested in sustainable development and agricultural investors looking for a good place to invest their money for maximum yield in their agricultural practice. The research is highly recommended as a guide for developmental planning and decision on the study area such as preservation of forests in Iwo Local Government Area, (as the study have shown a depletion of forests and continual depletion in the next thirty years); also checking incessant and uncontrolled expansion; monitoring of all indexes of urbanization.

**KEYWORD:** Land cover, Land use, Monitoring, Remote Sensing, Spatial, and Urbanization.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization according to Ogunlade and Enisan (2016), have been considered as an essential indicators of economic growth and development of a country. Due to inevitable increase in population, cities are observed to be growing rapidly and developing at a very speedy and sporadic manner in the past few decades. These has been adduced to the several inter- and intra-dynamics of the land cover and land use which is usually indexed through the built-up land cover and its various land use dimensions. Changes in the built-up land cover has always bear its consequences on other land cover viz: vegetation, bare land, water body, rocks as classified by Anderson (1976). Ogunlade (2018) observed that changes in land cover has always been a result of the underlying land use. Thus, a study of land cover can not be separated from the study of land use, and studying land use and land cover dynamics is essential in order to examine various developmental consequences of the change over a space of time. This makes land use mapping and change detection a relevant inputs into decision-making for implementing appropriate policy responses that affects urbanization (Fasona and Omojola *et al.*, 2005). Land use change detection allows for the identification of major processes of change and, by inference, the characterization of land use dynamics (Ademiluyi, *et al.*, 2008). The impact of Geospatial technology on land cover assessment has been tremendous in monitoring the environment in recent times. It has provided a fast, in-depth, all inclusive and all round assessment that has yielded untold results for environmental management and sustainable development. Wolf and Ghilani (2018) observed that the era as one of high availability and flow of geospatial information brought about by advent of computers, technology in instrument, instrumentation, techniques, methods and methodologies. These being the substance in geospatial techniques. Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques are playing a leading role in the impact of geospatial technology on the modern world. Their integration provide users the ability to acquire and extract useful information for decision and policy making from satellite imagery of an area of interest (AOI) without physical

contact with the area; and a supply of proper software environment for the Land use and Land cover mapping and analysis of such are done effectively with less stress, time, and of course cost. The information acquired from the integration is of various benefits such as to help monitor the urban expansion within an area, perform site suitability analysis for infrastructural development, smart planning of an area, etc. according to Donny *et al.*, (1999) and Rao, (1995). The study utilized the integration of Remote Sensing techniques to study the changes in the study area's environment which according to Ogunlade and Oyewole (2018) are mostly achieved through the land cover. The use of medium resolution satellite imagery such as Landsat satellite data, were adopted because according to Arvidson *et al.*, 2006 are the most widely used data types that have as observed by Fan, Weng and Wang (2007) and Lu Junfeng *et al.* (2011) yielded great success in monitoring LULC changes of monitoring and mapping land cover and land use changes. The status of the study area as the most populous Local Government in the State of Osun, Nigeria (2006 NPC) necessitated the geospatial assessment of its spatio-temporal land cover changes so as to monitor its urbanization in order to aid its sustainable development.

## II. THE STUDY AREA

The study area, Iwo Local Government Area (Figure 1) is one of the thirty Local Government Areas in Osun State Nigeria with its headquarters situated in Iwo, a rich agricultural area with a distance of about 45 kilometers from Ibadan the capital of Oyo State and Osogbo the capital of Osun State.

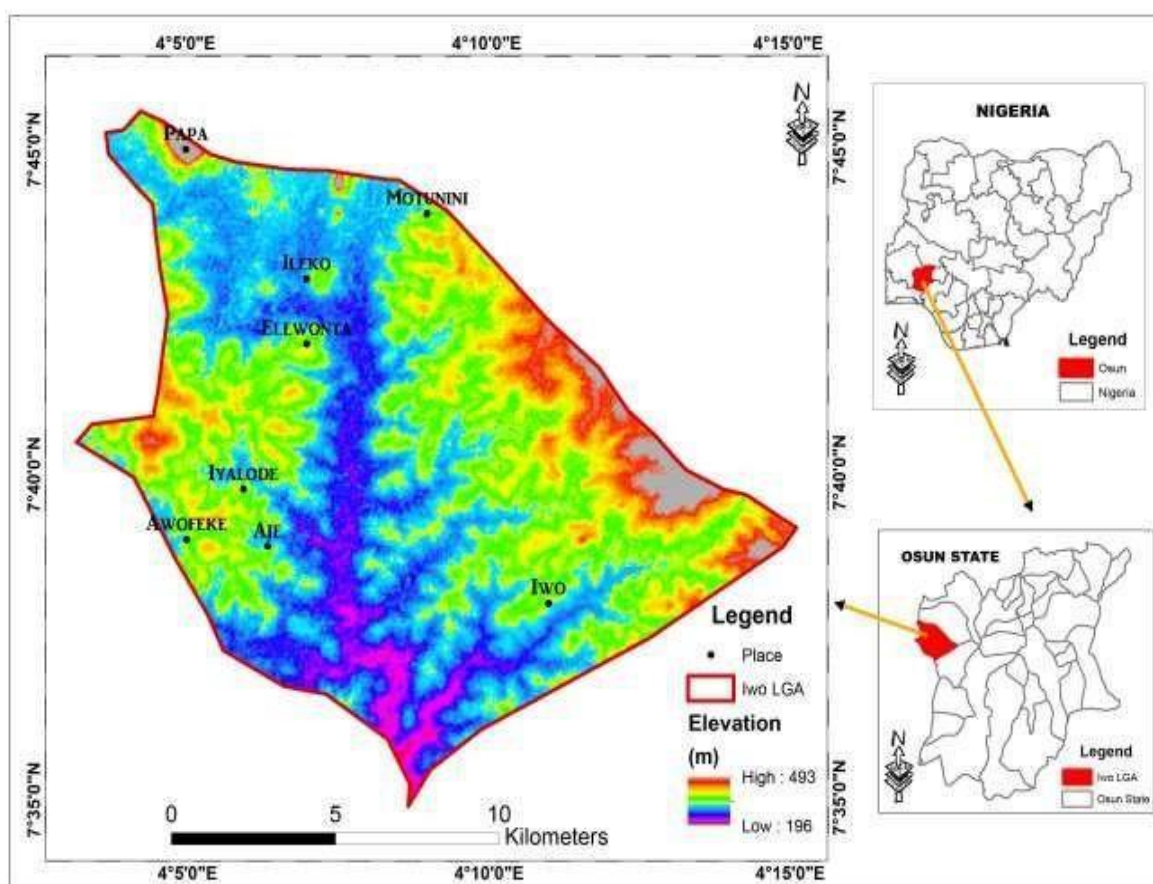


Figure 1: Map of Nigeria-Osun State-Iwo Local Government Area

It has an area of 245 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 191,348 making it one of the most populous Local Government in State of Osun by 2006 Nigeria National census figures. It lies within the latitudes and longitudes (7°45'N, 4°04'E), (7°39'N, 4°15'E), (7°35'N, 4°09'E), and (7°41'N, 4°03'E).

### III. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Landsat satellite images of Iwo local government for year 1985, 2000, 2015 and 2020 and the administrative map were acquired for the study. Table 1 is a summary of the data acquired, source, year as well as the resolution of the data. The images of the four years 1985, 2000, 2015 and 2020 under study were imported into ERDAS Imagine 10.3 software environment by their bands and composite images were generated by combining bands selected as appropriate for the study. The resultant images were pre-processed to correct their geometric and radiometric distortions and restoring their geometric and radiometric quality.

Table 1: Data Description

Data	Source	Year	Resolution
LANDSAT 8 OLI/TIRS	United State Geological Survey (USGS)	2020 & 2015	30 m
LANDSAT 7 ETM+	United State Geological Survey (USGS)	2000	30 m
LANDSAT 7 TM	United State Geological Survey (USGS)	1985	30 m
Administrative map	Office of the Surveyor General of Osun State		-

The area of interest (AOI) was clipped from the images and subjected to rectification. Image to map registration otherwise called geo-referencing of the images was performed on the images to convert the image pixels in rows and columns to corresponding ground coordinates in Eastings and Northings. Points used as controls were selected on the imagery of the study area. These points adjudged to adequately represent a good coverage of the image area were visited with a differential GPS instrument and their coordinates were obtained and used for the geo-referencing. Enhancement was carried on the images to increase the resolution for good quality interpretation. Pan sharpening, which is the integration of high-resolution panchromatic and lower resolution multispectral imagery to create a highly improved-resolution colour image for small was used to improve the resolution of the image output for good classification. The panchromatic band (band 8) Landsat 7 (ETM+) and Landsat 8 (OLI/TIRS) with a resolution of 15m was used for this process. The images were processed digitally using maximum likelihood method of supervised classification algorithm to classify the pixels based on the spectral reflectance into their land cover classes, so as to produce the land cover maps of the study area for the four years (1985, 2000, 2015 and 2020) under consideration. The land cover classification adopted for the study as modified from Anderson *et al.*, (1976) are bare land, grassland, forest, shrub, water body and built-up area (Table 2). The purpose of the research is to monitor the urbanization in the study area for sustainable development. This necessitated a forecast into year 2030 and 2050. a prediction from the results of the previous years was carried out using the linear trend method in Microsoft Excel software

Table 2: Land cover classes and their descriptions

Bare Land	Land area without buildings nor vegetation cover:
Forest	Land covered with trees and woodland, heavy green areas..
Water	Streams, Rivers, Swamp etc.

Source: Modified from Anderson *et al.*, (1976)

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The resultant LULC change maps of the study area for the four years 1985, 2000, 2015 and 2020 were produced (Figure 3). The areal extent of each land cover class for the four years under study were calculated (Tables 3-6). Figure 3 is the visual expression of the changes in the land cover of the study area. The patterns are best explained through the tables showing the aerial extents. The tables are the numerical interpretation of the maps.

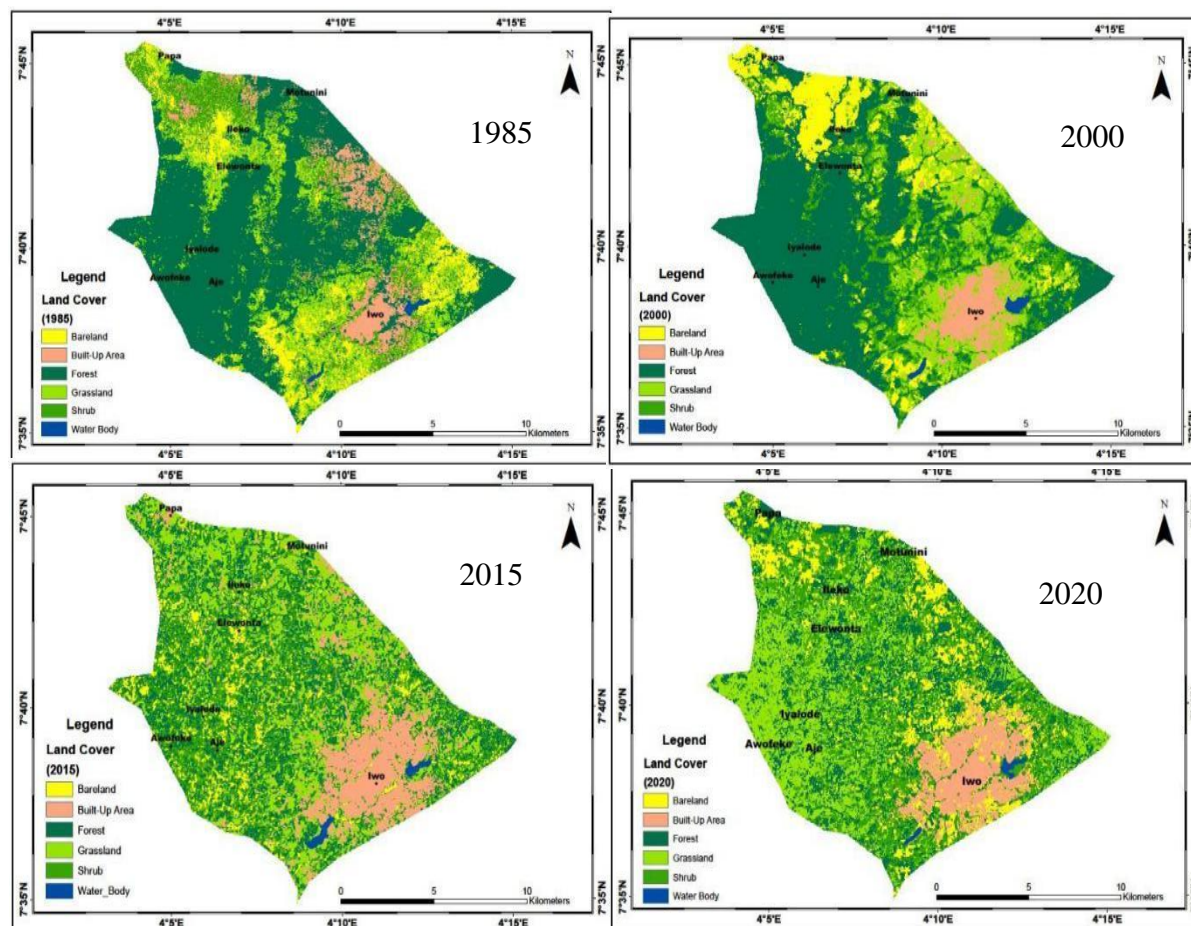


Figure 3: LULC change maps of the Iwo local government area for the four years

Table 3: LULC classes aerial extent in 1985

S/N	Landuse	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area(%)
1	Forest	110.7	51.9
2	Grassland	32.0	15.0
3	Shrub	35.8	16.8
4	Built-Up Area	10.4	4.9
5	Bareland	23.9	11.2
6	Water Body	0.6	0.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>213.4</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4: LULC classes aerial extent in 2000

S/N	Landuse	Area(km <sup>2</sup> )	Area(%)
1	Forest	98.1	46.0
2	Grassland	32.9	15.4
3	Shrub	39.2	18.4
4	Built-Up Area	13.2	6.2
5	Bareland	29.0	13.6
6	Water Body	1.0	0.45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>213.4</b>	<b>100</b>



Table 5: LULC classesaerialextentin2015

S/N	Landuse	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area(%)
1	Forest	69.1	32.4
2	Grassland	53.3	25.0
3	Shrub	49.2	23.1
4	Built-UpArea	19.7	9.2
5	Bareland	20.9	9.8
6	WaterBody	1.1	0.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>213.4</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6: LULC classesaerialextentin2020

S/N	Landuse	Area(km <sup>2</sup> )	Area(%)
1	Forest	53.0	24.9
2	Grassland	54.5	25.6
3	Shrub	54.7	25.7
4	Built-UpArea	22.0	10.3
5	Bareland	28.4	13.3
6	WaterBody	0.7	0.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>213.4</b>	<b>100</b>

Observation from tables 3-6 showed that the total areal extent mapped shown in the last row was 213.4 km<sup>2</sup>. Each land cover class in the second column transformed part of the total areal extent as recorded in the third column. The fourth column is a record of the percentage areal extent transformation. The Summary of the landcover change shows that Forest landcover depleted continuously through out the epoch of study. The trend showed from a depletion of 51.9% in 1985 to 46.0% in 2000 to 32.4% in 2015 to 24.9% in 2020 at a rate of 0.6% (1.3km<sup>2</sup> per year) . While Grassland (15%-15.4%-25.0%-25.6%), Shrub (16.8%-18.4%-23.1%-25.7%) and Built up area (4.9%-6.2%-9.2%-10.3%) increased by 0.3%, 0.3% and 0.2% per year respectively. Waterbody (0.3%-0.45%-0.5%-0.3%) increased by 0.01% per year till 2015 but decreased by 0.04% in 2020. These trends are visualized in Figure 4. The depletion in the forest land cover is expected and agrees with Ogunlade (2018) that it is the land cover that is mostly altered in LULC transformation for various land uses such as residential, agricultural, industrial; and many other developmental indexes. Year in year out alteration of forest land cover has become inevitable in the study area for constructions, various dimensions of farming, timber and wood works. There are also replet with sawmills that process forest products. So also, the increase observed in the rest land cover classes can be adduced to the fact that the study area being an agricultural area and farming being a major occupation of the people, coupled with the high population, shrubs and grassland that are light vegetation can not but increase. Horticultural activities in the developing two towns and other towns especially around educational, residential, industrial and

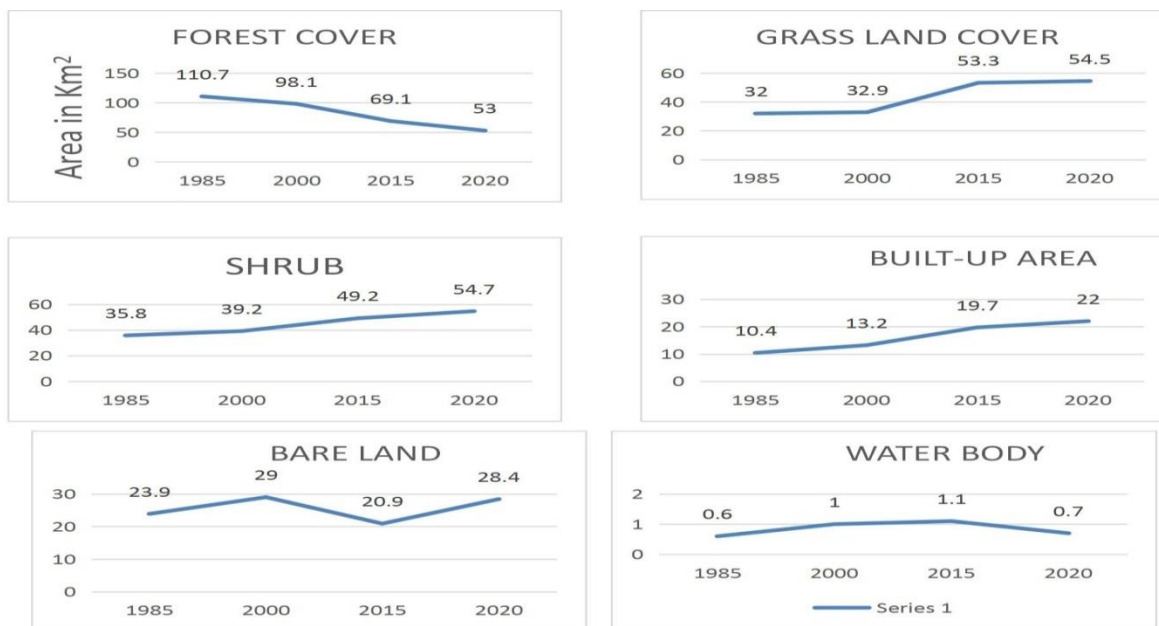


Figure 4: the line graph of the trend of land cover transformation

commercial and uses are noticeable. Such as for open field, sport pitch, aesthetics landscaping of buildings. All these could have helped in the increase in grassland land cover. The depletion in the forest land cover is expected and agrees with Ogunlade, (2018) that it is the land cover that is mostly altered in LULC transformation for various land uses such as residential, agricultural, industrial; and many other developmental indexes. Year in year out alteration of forest land cover has become inevitable in the study area for constructions, various dimension of farming, timber and wood works. The area is replete with sawmills that process forest product. So also, the increase observed in the rest land cover classes can be attributed to the fact that the study area being an agricultural area and farming being a major occupation of the people, coupled with the high population, shrubs and grassland that are light vegetation can not but increase. Horticultural activities in the developing Iwo town and other towns especially around educational, residential, industrial and commercial land uses are noticeable. Such as for open field, sport pitch, aesthetics landscaping of buildings. All these could have helped in the increase in grassland land cover. One index of urbanization is an increase in the built-up which is observed in the map and tables. Even though the built-up has the lowest rate among other land cover classes it still informs that urbanization in the study area is on the rise. The local government's aerial extent of 213.4 km<sup>2</sup> remained intact but there have been various transformations between and within the land cover classes which according to Ogunlade (2018) is due to the underlying land uses and its transformation. It has also been evident that the study area has experienced steady urbanization of 0.2% per annum.

**V. A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE**

Table 7 is result of the prediction into year 2030 and 2050 obtained from the linear trend method in Microsoft Excel software. The result of the forecast Table 6 shows that by 2030 the area covered by forest would have deteriorated to 42.1 km<sup>2</sup> (20%) and further down to 9.6 km<sup>2</sup> (5%) by 2050. Grass land, Shrub and built-up are expected to gain 29%, 27% and 12%, 36%, 32% and 15% respectively. While water body is expected remain same on 0.5% in the two years, bare land is expected to reduce by 12% in 2030 and gain the 12% back by the year 2050. The implication of this is that there will generally be a continual transformation of the land cover and urbanization will be on the increase. The deterioration in forest cover will have an adverse effect on some forest dependent economy like timber and wood production. The ecosystem of the study area will be affected as highlighted in Ogunlade (2021).

Table 5: Forecasting of the land cover to 2030 and 2050

Name	1985 (sq.km)	2000 (sq.km)	2015 (sq.km)	2020 (sq.km)	2030 (sq.km)	2050 (sq.km)
Forest	110.7	98.1	69.1	53.0	42.1	9.6
Grassland	32.0	32.9	53.3	54.5	61.4	76.0
Shrub	35.8	39.2	49.2	54.7	58.1	68.8
Built-Up	10.4	13.2	19.7	22.0	24.8	31.5
Bareland	23.9	29.0	20.9	28.4	25.9	26.2
Water	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.1

Table 6: Estimated Aerial extent in 2030 and 2050

Year	Forest	Grass	Shrub	Built-up	Bare	Water
2030	-20%	29%	27%	12%	-12%	0.5%
2050	-5%	36%	32%	15%	12%	0.5%

A continual increase in urbanization is indexed through the built-up which is predicted to keep on increasing. This will mean more population, food consumption (that can lead to high price of farm produce because many people will be eager to buy just few available commodities), environmental pollution etc except steps are taken to ameliorate these effects (Ogunlade, 2020b) else the sustainability of the corresponding development is at a very high jeopardy.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrated the effectiveness of geospatial technology through the integration of Remote Sensing and GIS techniques in the assessment of land cover changes over a space of time to monitor urbanization. The study revealed that Forest land cover was the only land cover type that depleted continuously from 1985 to 2020 (51.9% to 24.9%) and will continue the depletion into the future, while grassland (15.0% to 25.6%), shrub (16.8% to 25.7%), and built-up area (4.9% to 10.3%) experienced a continuous increase from 1985 to 2020 and will also continue to increase. The changes expected in the year 2030 and 2050 have been predicted to be forest land -20% and -5%, Grass land, Shrub and built-up are expected to gain 29%, 27% and 12%, 36%, 32% and 15% respectively. While water body is expected to remain the same on 0.5% in the two years, but bare land is expected to reduce by 12% in 2030 and gain the 12% back by the year 2050. These transformations have been observed by Ogunlade (2020a,b,c), Oyinloye (2013) to have its anchor on urbanization which according to Oyinloye and Fasakin (2014), Oyinloye and Kufoniyi (2011) is the most socio-economic change role player in all land cover classes. The attendant consequence of the increase in urbanization is summarily the sustainability of the corresponding development.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As urbanization increases, all other land cover are affected, sustainable approach as in Ogunlade (2020) and other research is hereby recommended to protect some relevant land covers to preserve the green ecosystem, and to sustain the healthy living of human. It is also recommended that the assessment of land cover patterns and trend in this research should be adopted in proper decision and policy making that will prevent inadequate planned and unplanned land use and unsecured tenure system as observed by Owoeye (2016), Owoeye and Ibitoye (2016) and Olajuyigbe et al., (2015). The research is further recommended for urban planners interested in sustainable development and agricultural investors looking for a good place to invest their money for maximum yield in their agricultural practice.

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