

**PERSPECTIVES OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROFESSION
TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN
NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

Urban and regional planning is a specialist, scientific, rational, analytical, and technically skilled disciple for spatial problem-solving, change and decision management. This study adopted a review technique of history, process and practice of urban and regional planning as a discipline and profession. 151 peer-review chapters and articles on relevance of urban and regional planning and sustainable development agenda in Nigeria were selected and 32 were accordingly reviewed for this study. The analysis shows that urban and regional planning has been implemented since the historic Garden City – Radiant City- City Beautiful Movement civilizations and as national development planning strategy. The study further shows that urban and regional planning is directed towards equity, participation, public welfare, efficiency, health and sanitation and environmental protection principles for sustainable development meant to control adverse social and economic impacts of human development. Thus, modernization has evolved in a bottom-top environmental planning and management approach as well as planning education for a sustainable development agenda. The study therefore argues that continued implementation of socio-eco based planning programmes and projects needed adequate funding as planning is strategic and inevitable towards the achievement of viable, equitable, livable and durable neighborhood for human living, working, recreation and circulation against extreme poverty, hunger and social inequality in our generations.

KEYWORDS: Environment, Urban, National Planning, Sustainable Development, Poverty.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda means social, economic, environmental and cultural equity potential to improve the quality of life and to afford global citizens the right to essential welfare including clean water, sanitation, hygiene and health, food security and nutrition, and adequate housing in the neighborhoods and communities which will not only improve socio-economic well-being and environmental integrity but also significantly combat widespread adverse impacts of unsustainable development incidences of extreme poverty, hunger, illiteracy and environmental disruptions (UN, 2015).

On the other hand, urban and regional planning is a development oriented discipline and profession. According to Agunkan et al (2017), urban and regional planning as a discipline is conceived as an accumulated and organized body of knowledge and concepts that focuses specially on the spatial management of relationships of physical, economic and social forces that to a great extent influence and determine the outcome and quality of life of people. Therefore the aim of urban and regional planning profession is fashioned to provide enabling environment that is safe, orderly, functional, economical and efficient for human living, working, recreation and circulation (Obateru, 2005).

However, despite this, the world has witnessed significant disparities in the patterns of development in different countries. For instance, global population had relatively remained low, of about 1 billion persons between 1000 and 1830 AD (ie in 830 years). According to the United Nations Population

Division (UNPD) statistics, the population had grown to over 6.8 billion persons in 2010 (just only in 180 years) and it is projected to about 8.1 billion in 2025 or 9.7 billion in 2050 (in 1050 years). This increase is significantly in the developing countries of Africa and Asia than in developed countries. It also observes that high population increase obviously means that additional billions of persons will have additional needs for food, cloths, shelter, employment and numerous welfare infrastructure and services (UNPD, 2004)

At the dawn of the MDGs, it was estimated that about 1.2 billion persons already lived in extreme poverty in developing countries with an average income of \$1.25 per day while some 2.5 billion people live on \$2 per day. (UNPD, 2004). Though the MDGs framework had made significant progress in many areas, such as the reduction of number of measles casualties in Africa by 91 % and the number of people falling victims of AIDS, it was still conceded that the progress of development has been uneven, particularly in Africa and other least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states were some of the goals remained off-track, in particular those related to maternal, newborn and child health and reproductive health. Had the MDGs fully achieved in 2015 as designed, it would have been that more than 400 million persons delivered from extreme poverty and many millions of lives would have been saved (UN, 2000).

Obviously, the incidences of global high population, mobility, urbanization and attendant poverty and health care deficiency since the industrial revolution, have adversely impacted not only on the well-being of the entire population but particularly degraded the physical environment and resources against sustained and equitable development in the developed and developing societies. However, it was also observed that about the MDGs period, indicators of economic production had improved, having doubled since 1986, with the average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates of 4.5 % in the 1990s, rose to 6.5 % in early 2000s in some low-income countries; though real incomes in the developing countries fell below those of developed countries mostly due to large scale imbalance and disparities in population, affluence and consumption patterns, use of knowledge and technology (Wright & Boorse, 2012).

From the Garden City history, elements of urban and regional or called in different ways, have been employed by planners to improve the quality of life, human activities and environment. Most countries have embarked on development planning as a way to increase economic growth and a balanced regional development. In recent development, environmental planning and management approach to incorporate the concerns of environmental integrity to social, political and economic policies of development planning. These sustainable development principles are therefore intended to achieve a society that is just, fair and inclusive, an economy that is viable and an environment that is livable (UN, 2015). The focus of the study is to review the concepts, paradigm and approaches of urban and regional planning, development planning and environmental planning and management contributive relevance to the achievement of sustainable development as agenda in Nigeria.

RESEARCH MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

This study is aimed to review the contributive relationship and relevance of urban and regional planning solutions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda. To achieve this aim and objectives, the study adopted the literature review survey mechanism of 151 peer review chapters and articles were selected from urban and regional planning and sustainable development-based publications including NITP (2013); NITP & TOPREC MCPDP (2013); TOPREC & CHSUD (2017); Egunjobi Vol. 11(2016) Egunjobi Vol. 111 (2017); and Uyanga & Ekong (2018) respectively. This method of research previously has been proved effective in a global review of peri-urban development and planning (Woltjer, 2014).

A sample size of 32 articles (21%) of selected population was considered adequate and suitable for the study. Some of the sectors and institutions selected in which sustainable URP services and opportunities are relevant include Facilities and Services; Security and Safety; Population; Environmental Risk; and Governance among others. Some of the concepts or thematic outlines that

have been reviewed include Accessibility and Agenda; Agriculture and Agency; Biodiversity and Conservation; Culture and Climate change; Crime control; Development and Dialogue; Green Infrastructure and Food Security; Institution and Justice; Land and Law; Livelihood and Location; Leadership and Legislation. Others are Management and Modernism; Policy and Public good, Settlement and Society; Space and Standard; Strategy and System; Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals; Violence and Vulnerability among others.

CONCEPTS AND APPROACHES

Urban and Regional Planning Conceptuality

Urban and regional planning discipline and profession can be conceived in different terminologies occasioned by differentials in operational definitions, environmental space and time. In different climates and orientations, urban and regional planning activities have been construed simply as urban planning, town planning, town and country planning, regional planning, City planning, spatial planning, land use planning or physical planning (Obateru, 2005; NITP, 2010; UN, 2015; Ekong, 2018). Obateru (2005), however argues that the appropriate designation of the profession should be spatial planning, land use planning or physical (environmental) planning due to their pre-occupation with spatial organization of land use (being the physical dimension of development planning), as other terms merely describe the location or area of professional activity rather than the form of contribution made by the profession. Thus the concept of the urban and regional planning profession largely relies on the ideas of pioneer professionals in the field

including Patrick Abercrombie (1933), who referred to the profession as Town and Country planning; Thomas Adams (1935), saw it as Town planning; F. Stuart Chapin, Jr. (1965), described it as City planning; and Lewis Keeble (1969), saw it as Town and Country planning. In tertiary training institutions in most countries, the programme is predominantly referred to as town and country planning in the United Kingdom (UK), urban planning in Malaysia, Canada and Australia, and urban and regional planning in the United States of America (USA) and in Nigeria. According to Uyanga (2018) history of professional practices dates back to the era of “Garden City concept (after Ebenezer Howard in 1898); Regional planning decentralization approach (after Patrick/ Geddes, Lewis Mumford and Clarence Stein), the “Radiant City” (after Le Corbusier); and the “City Beautiful Movement” Plant/Land use Zoning and Subdivision Regulations (as reaction of planning Acts).

Due to its multidisciplinary context, urban and regional planning profession is defined variously by different pioneers and contemporary researchers. For example, Keeble (1969) defined Town and Country Planning as “the spatial ordering of the use of land and character, siting of buildings and communication routes so as to secure the maximum practicable degree of safety, convenience, economy and beauty”. Obateru (2005) believes that physical planning should appropriately be defined as “the art and science of space (land) use organization involving the location of land uses and allocation of land to them for the purpose of creating physical environments that are orderly, economical, functionally efficient and pleasant for living, working, recreation and circulation. He therefore opines that a physical planner as an artist and scientist is concerned with the organization, design and management of environmental space. In the study of risk and disaster management in urban and regional planning practice, Ekong (2018) shows that the definition of urban and regional planning or city planning has over time changed very little from when it emerged as a profession, that the profession is now concerned with general pattern of land use, the character, and location of public buildings and structures, the design of streets infrastructure, the location and development of transit and transportation systems, and all other physical facilities that are needed to enhance economic growth, promote environmental protection and social welfare as intended to bring about sustainable growth and development among residents.

As art and applied science discipline that evolve from architecture, civil engineering and public health background, the role and orientation of urban and regional planning activities becomes distinctive in creating and achieving urban and regional investments.. Elizabeth Howe (1980)

identified three major roles for planners in the United State of America, namely, technical, political and hybrid roles on the scale of public interest. Technically, planners seek to ensure public safety in a good environmental and settlement designs in order to mitigate completely the incidences of substandard and haphazard physical development. Ekong (2018) also identifies two technical tools of development planning and development control in planning as measures necessary to mainstream physical, economic and social development. Development planning involves the utilization of design standards in planning and engineering in preparing and producing development or general plans such as metropolitan master plan, city plan, rural plan or disaster risk plans more for land use purposes than economic growth and investments. According to Ekong (2018), a plan is an official document that outlines and indicates by legislation detailed development policies concerning future physical development of a particular urban or regional settlements. To this, development control measures usually entail an organized monitoring and evaluation systems of development plans by setting up centralized authorities or bodies such as ministries, department and agencies (MDAs). An example is the Uyo City Capital Development Authority (UCCDA).

Urban and regional planning also assumes the public policy role of government occasioned by public interest, health and safety needs in the society. Planners are therefore interested in identifying the goals and ends, determine the means and programme to achieve these goals and ends through the planning process. Planning at this level becomes the official function of government by preparing alternative long, medium and short term urban and regional development plans through policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation systems by the MDAs. Though planners act as specialists and catalysts in development planning decision-making role in the organization, coordination and use of support groups to garnish and present plans, the role is mostly viewed as political perhaps due to professional values and biases (Harman, 1980, Ogbazi, 2014). As a scientific discipline, the basic planning process includes data collection and analysis, plan preparation and presentation (with alternatives) as well as plan implementation and evaluation (Ekong, 2018). The actions that combine and balance both technical and political aspects are the hybrid oriented through professional activeness, skillfulness, comprehensiveness and independency (Howe & Kaufman, 1979). Thus, conceptually, planning is strongly viewed in three dominant management activities: as a basic human activity concerned with the organization and control of future projected course of actions (Gulick, 1937). It is also considered as a rational choice based on utilization of scientific knowledge (Dahl, 1959). Planning is also directed towards reformation, change and social (public good) welfare by the use of democratic process in compensatory policies, programmes and projects (Waldo, 1948, Etzioni, 1968). These activities are strong agents for sustainable development achievement.

Concept of Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development evolved as a result of adverse economic and social impacts on the physical and socio-cultural environments particularly since the 19th Century industrial revolution. The concept became a global strategy with the Brundtland Report of 1987, for the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). The Report popularly referred to as “Our Common Future” provide its classical definition. It defines sustainable development as the “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Although the Sustainable Development Resolution (SDR) was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September, 2015, the principles of sustainable development had long begun as embodied in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Generally, Rio Summit was designed to put strong emphasis on the protection, conservation, and sound management of natural resources as well as addressing the concerns of disparities between the developed and developing countries in the patterns with regards to environmental stress, economic growth, poverty, unsustainable consumption patterns particularly in the later (Atakpa, 2019, 67). In addition, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) also referred to as “RIO+10” was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 to broaden the scope of the Rio Summit in 1992. According to Shah, (2002), the key issues for

discourse included poverty, water quality and availability, cleaner energy, health, good governance, technology as well as patterns of economic production and consumption. Others are ocean and fisheries, tourism, globalization and women's rights.

Another significant global attempt at the principles of sustainable development was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Resolution adopted during the UN Millennium Summit in the year 2000. The MDGs had 8 goals bordering at poverty, primary education, gender equality and empowerment, HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability and global partnership for development (Wright and Boorse, 2011). On the whole, it is on these premises that the UN made the solemn declaration tagged "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". According to the UN (2015), the Agenda is a plan of action on cardinals "5Ps" to end poverty of the People; to protect the Planet through sustainable production and consumption; to ensure Prosperity for mankind; to foster global Peace without exclusion and violence and to ginger global collaborative Partnership among stakeholders to strengthen solidarity towards the needs of the poorest and vulnerable people and nations. The Agenda has 17 straight goals that are identifiable and measurable with 169 targets and 304 indicators. The Agenda also specifies a global partnership as the means of implementation with follow-up and review at national, regional and global levels (UN, 2015).

Generally speaking, sustainable development concept has three main structures; environmental, economic and social structures though cultural content is very potent as the fourth. In Figure 1 below, a sustainable or durable development is achieved over a viable eco-economy; and livable neighborhood is achieved where natural resources are preserved, greenhouse emissions and wastes are reduced while clean water and sanitation facilities are available to all. This emphasizes green, blue and brown conservations against unsustainable human actions. Socio economic fairness will demand valuable lifestyles, access to individual's rights as well as inclusiveness and participation; to combat exclusion and inequality and promote solidarity, collaboration and partnership. These developmental attitudes can be envisioned through sustainable urban and regional development planning.

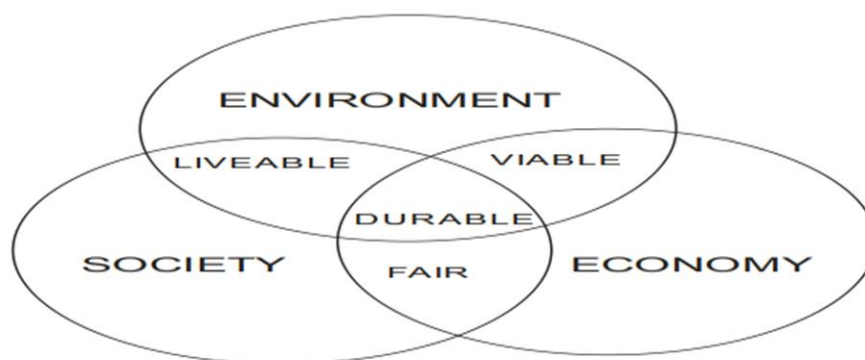


Figure 1. The structure of Sustainable Development

Source: Adopted from Greenly Earth, 2023.

Urban and Regional Planning within Development Planning Process in Nigeria

By development is meant creating the conditions for the achievement of human socio economic well-being and full personality (Ajayi, 2013). This can be accessed through reduction in (extreme) poverty level, unemployment, and inequality in income and social amenities. In most quarters, development planning is often referred to as economic development planning, which incorporates economic planning, physical planning and social planning actions. Obateru (2005) defines economic development planning as "the process of raising the standard of living of a society or country to a level of desirable well-being and self expression". He points out that economic development planning is neither synonymous nor coterminous with economic growth. He also defines economic growth in terms of "the process of increasing per capita income or the gross national product (GNP) of a country over a sustained period of time through continuing growth of per capita productivity".

Thus, the overall aim of development planning is to safeguard and foster the growth of national economy through adequate welfare provisions including food and nutrition, housing, quality education, healthcare, recreational services and means of circulation that are in orderly, efficient, and economical in patterns. Economic development planning therefore is dependent on economic growth, or the growth of the nation's income capacity (Obateru, 2005).

Economic planning is the first popular stage of development planning. For a long time in the history of planning in Nigeria, economic development planning has been mistaken as economic planning itself. As a process, the primary objective of economic planning is to enable the achievement of critical national, regional, urban or local economy that is sufficient to ensure full employment and raising the standard of living of the people, while also being able to minimize inflationary trends. According to Obateru (2005) among other functions, economic planning is useful in physical planning as a means of balance in national development, in the spatial distribution of population and employment with regards to available capital resources. Physical planning function, as already pointed out, even in development planning is basically concerned with the spatial organization of locating and allocating rural and urban land uses to create an environment that is orderly, economical, functionally efficient and aesthetically pleasant for all inclusive living, working, recreation and circulation. The techniques include land use planning, master planning, zoning regulations and subdivisions. For instance, in the urban areas, it is concerned with the spatial organization of residential, industrial, commercial and public systems for transportation, recreation, waste management, water and energy supply and communication networks etc, while contributing to raising the living standard of rural populace through natural resources conservation and provision of socio-economic and physical infrastructure for taming rural-urban drift.

At the national, state or regional levels, it is concerned with minimizing inequalities in development opportunities between the component entities. In the local scale, physical planning concerns about spatial arrangement of buildings, and structures of roads, utilities, community facilities and services for the purpose of achieving underlined goals (Obateru, 2005). Social planning or better still, social welfare planning is mostly practiced in socialist states though it is also practiced in mixed economic system like Nigeria. Lomas (1978) defines social planning as "the planning that seeks to achieve expanding opportunities for the raising of the standard of life of the whole population, through deliberate steps initiated in the main by government, influencing both economic activities and the physical environment when necessary to achieve this goal".

NITP (2014), Ajayi (2013) and Asaju & Robert (2012) have outlined physical planning and national development efforts in Nigeria. They maintain that in the colonial period, development planning was a potential strategy for achieving economic development and social progress. They identify the two colonial national development plans in Nigeria to include the 1945-1955 Development Plan and the 1955-1960 Plan. The independence Development Plans include the First National Development Plan (NDP 1) (1962-1968), the Second National Development Plan ((NDP 11) (1970-1974), the Third National Development Plan (NDP 111) (1975-1980) and the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP 1V) (1980-1985). As observed, the National Development Plans in Nigeria were mainly focused on economic growth while physical and social developments were underrated (Obialo, 2005). For instance, the NDP 1 was focused on agricultural and industrial production that was aimed at achieving 4% growth rate per year of its GDP at constant process by investing 15% of its GDP annually. Some of these Plans were abruptly interrupted by the civil unrest and military interventions. The NDP11 was post-war reconstruction Plan with a number of physical projects and social programmes including federal roads, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and federal scholarship and loan schemes for the Nigerian students (NITP, 2014). Other National Development Plans also include the National Rolling Plan (in the 1990s), Vision 2010, and the Vision 20:2020 including National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS), the Local Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (LEEDS), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and currently the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We now have the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2025 and Nigeria Agenda 2050 that is succeeding the previous Blueprint for Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017- 2020 and Nigeria Vision 20:2020 “Economic Transformation Plan”. The NDP 2021-2025 envisions to make Nigeria a country that has unlocked its potential in all sectors of the economy for sustainable, holistic, and inclusive national development with the following objectives: To establish a strong foundation for a diversified economy, with robust MSME growth, and a more-resilient business environment; To invest in critical physical, financial, digital, and innovative infrastructure; To build a solid framework and enhancing capacities to strengthen security and ensure good governance and; To enable a vibrant educated, and healthy population; Investing in the social infrastructure and services required to alleviate poverty; and promoting development opportunities across states to minimize regional economic and social disparities (FRN, 2017). Poverty alleviation and social protection objectives, target and key performer indicators are presented in Table 1below

Table 1: Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Objectives and Targets

Table IV: Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Objectives and Targets				
S/N	Objectives	Key Performer indicator	Baseline	Target
1	Significantly reduce poverty in Nigeria	Reduction in poverty headcount rate	40%	34%
2	Access to social services by the most vulnerable in the communities	Increase in number of POCs provided with relief materials (food, on-food, medical)	37,647	1,000,000
3	Design a social protection data ecosystem o reach the most vulnerable Nigerians	Share of vulnerable Nigerians with Digital identities (NIN and BVN (%)	Approximately 10%	95%
		Completeness of social protection data system (5)	Approximately 10%	90%
Sources: FRN (2017) NBS and NIMC for Baseline data; Target are projections				

PERSPECTIVES OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) Approach

The world today is faced with immense challenges of rising inequalities, youth unemployment, intense and frequent natural disasters, racial conflicts and violence and health threats as a result of unsustainable development patterns in different countries and communities (UN, 2015). According to Yator (Online), environmental planning and management evolved in the mid 20th Century as a potential tool for achieving sustainable development. He notes this process might have begun in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm through the Declaration of Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Environmental planning and management is a new agenda for achieving sustainable environment and human development. It becomes a new way of how man can reorganize his thoughts, mobilize resources and take action in issues of development. The UNCH/UNEP (1993) defines Environmental Planning and Management as “a continuing and dynamically evolving process and procedure whose purpose is to formulate development policy and implement progressively more responsively to environmental considerations”. Sadeghi & Khakzand (2016) also describe EPM as “a general and integrated approach to deal with the environment beyond the traditional, professional and administrative borders directing toward guaranteeing long-term goal of environmental sustainability”.

Zannat (2017) gives another concept of EPM as the process of evaluating how social, political, economic and governance factors affect the natural environment when considering development issues. Thus the goal is not only decision making in managing relationships within and between natural and human systems in most effective, orderly, transparent and equitable patterns, it has a view to ensuring efficient socio-economic production and consumption to guaranteeing ecological sustenance for coming generations. It therefore promotes resource conservation; construction of space development; enhance environmental quality; social equity and political participation. As a social, economic, political and ecological process, it provides protection and conservations of green (biodiversity resources), blue (wetland and marine ecosystems) and brown (humanity and human activities) against the impacts of destructive human activities (Zannat, 2017). The process of environmental planning and management follows four stages: the policy formulation and transmission into strategic and operational plans; plans approvals; implementations (management) of strategic and operational plans; and the follow-up by monitoring and evaluation to ensure ecological protection and conservation. This process is illustrated in Figure 2.

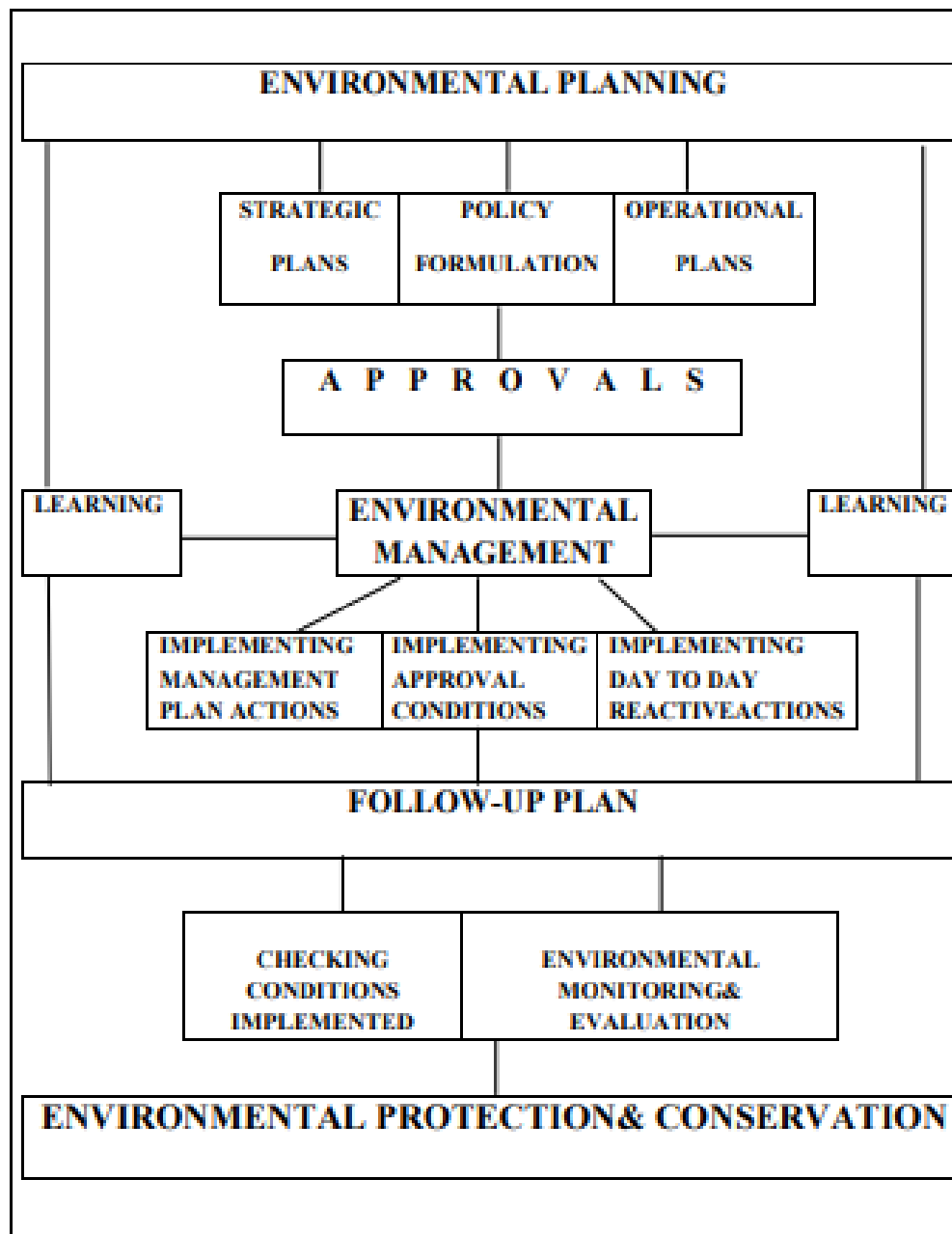


Figure 2 Environmental Planning and Management process

Source: Adopted from Esraz Ul Zannat (2017)

NITP AND TOPREC Educational Programme

There is need for environmental planning and management education. This is in two ways: to train and retrain practitioners in urban and regional planning; and to communicate trends of environmental space to the general public by way of enlightenment programme. One important area of effective communication is in the legal and constitutional development that concern urban and rural daily living. For example, most urban residents are ignorant about sanitation and waste management regulations, building codes and other rights and responsibilities arising from acts of parliament on urban and rural life. In other words most of the regulations made by the local councils, state houses of Assembly and the National Assembly are unknown to those who are to carry them out. Ekong (2020) proposes the need

to communicating climate change in Africa through the “theatre” for development process. The proposal is on the basis of successful community project by Nda (2007) in Ikot Ayan Itam in Itu. Ekong opines that the theatre communication project should be well organized and planned through consultation with the community, meeting with the community, meeting with the volunteer performance group, scripting, casting, rehearsals, venue, the performance as well as monitoring and evaluation. This is another EPM model in communication.

There are two important organs in the structure of formal education and training for urban and regional planners in Nigeria, these are: the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) and The Town Planners’ Registration Council of Nigeria (TOPREC). The NITP is the recognized professional body for URP practitioners in Nigeria through the TOPREC Decree No. 3 of 1988. In 1992, Urban and Regional Planning Law (Decree NO. 88 of 1992) was promulgated. NITP Constitution (2010) provides for its aim and objectives. The aim of NITP is:

“to guide the path for all developmental activities and to ensure for man an environment which is livable, healthy, friendly, efficient and economically viable, through ethical professional training and practices that are responsive to needs and societal dynamics”

The objectives include but not limited to:

- (i) To create awareness of the significance of planning and relationship with the society;
- (ii) To advance town and country planning education, training and research in Nigeria;
- (iii) To hold conferences, seminars, meetings and exhibitions, for the purpose of disseminating planning information and knowledge;
- (iv) To publish the journal of the Institute as its official organ and the issuance of newsletter
- (v) To protect the practice of the profession and promote the welfare of its members
- (vi) To establish an Education Board charged with the responsibilities of devising and imposing the means for testing the qualifications candidates for elections Corporate, Graduate or Student members etc.

On the other hand, the Town Planners’ Registration Council of Nigeria (TOPREC) is the Regulatory Council established for Town Planning under CAP 431 (T7) Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2004 (NITP, 2010). Thus the Council and the Institute in collaboration organize annual Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Programme (MCPDP) on contemporary issues that border on the theory and practice of the profession. This is often held in three centres within the country. According to NITP (2014) between 1995 and 1999, 5 workshops had been organized; between 1999 and 2014, 16 MCPDP were organized; and between 1969 and 2012, 44 Annual Conferences were successfully organized. For example “the Role of Physical Planning and Development in Poverty Alleviation” was the theme for 2000 Annual Conference in Minna. These workshops, MCPDPs and Conferences are sources of urban and regional planning desirable and progressive impacts for the Sustainable Development Agenda in Nigeria. (See MURP and PhD educational curricula in Table 2).

Table 2: The Curricula for Master in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) and Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning.

MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAMME FIRST YEAR-FIRST SEMESTER COURSES (600 LEVELS)			
S/N	Course Code	Course Title	Units
1	URP 611	History of Cities and Urban Planning	2
2	URP 621	Project Evaluation	2
3	URP 623	Environmental Analysis in Physical Development Planning	2
4	URP 625	Traffic and Transportation Planning	2
5	URP 631	Quantitative/ Research Methods and Computer Applications	2
6	URP641	Design Studio	2
SECOND SEMESTER COURSES			
1	URP 622	Planning Theory	2
2	URP624	Regional Development Planning	2
3	URP 626	Rural Development Planning	2
4	URP628	Housing Process and Policies	2
5	URP642	Urban and Regional Planning Workshop	2
6	URP 652	Professional Planning Practice	2
7	URP656	Urban Planning Law and Administration	2
SECOND YEAR- FIRST SEMESTER COURSES (700 LEVELS)			
1	URP 721	Contemporary Issues in Urban Planning Theory & Practice	1
2	URP 731	Research Methodology in Urban and Regional Planning	2
3	URP 733	Information Technology in Urban & Regional Planning	1
4	URP 741	Urban Design / Planning Workshop	1
5	URP 791	Research Seminar in Urban & Regional Planning	2
SECOND YEAR- SECOND SEMESTER COURSES			
1	URP 794	Project Report	8
2	Urp 796	Dissertation / Thesis	10
3		One course in the specialty area of dissertation from the a special subject Area.	2
Source: Uchegbu, 2010			

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Urban and regional planning is a unique scientific, rational, analytical, futuristic and technically skilled discipline oriented toward spatial problem-solving, change and decision management with its distinctive conceptual and procedural theories. From the Garden City through City Beautiful Movement civilizations to this Sustainable Development Agenda, urban and regional planning discipline and profession has continued to impact meaningfully in the management of ecological, spatial, human and infrastructural resources for sustainable coexistence and development. Urban and regional planning principles and sustainable development goals are founded on the cardinal pillars of environment, society and economy and are therefore oriented toward providing viable, equitable, livable and durable environment for human living, working, recreation and circulation to control widespread extreme poverty, hunger and social inequality in our generations.

Thus, Urban and Regional Planning is an interdisciplinary and multidimensional discipline just like Sustainable Development Agenda. The application of Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) approach in Urban and Regional Planning is therefore complimentary to land use planning, Master planning, Development control, Zoning Regulations and Land Subdivision in achieving Sustainable Development Agenda. Furthermore, Planning Education is a major asset to Sustainable Development Agenda. Urban and Regional Planning educational and development programmes, and projects require huge and phase funding; and it is only when they are well funded that the envisioned dividends of Sustainable Development Agenda will be visible in 2030.

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