



# REGIONAL RESOURCE PLANNING AS A TOOL FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY FOR SONG L.G.A

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper seeks to examine the rural area efforts of producing the highest percentage of the food and raw materials required in the country and even beyond. The low condition of the rural areas due to neglect of such area has led to low standard of living. To improve and develop the rural area and its resources, the study considered the various information about the resource produced in some environment, the population and facility distribution: it is observed through the result of the findings that some settlement are being neglected in the allocation and distribution of rural resources. Primary and Secondary source of data collection was employed of some*

## Introduction

Every individual as we all know comes from a rural area or can trace his root from the rural area. This shows that neglecting the rural area means looking down on ones root. Williams (1978), stated that, in Nigeria, over 70% of the population lives in the rural areas. With this figure, one can say the country is predominantly rural. The rural sector is the principal source of food and raw material for the urban sector. National development cannot be achieved without generating growth and development in the rural sector. Changes in the rural sector ramify (can complicate) throughout the total economy.

Ogbazi, (1995) puts forward that in population consisting of self-sustained individuals such as in rural communities, one can envision a stage when the needs of the community will diversify new technologies will be adopted. This is necessary as the available opportunities increase. Technological or social change arising from diversification, or lack of it, present complex problems to those attempting to guide it. Planning offers useful opportunities for rural areas to deal with change. It is an open and glaring issue that the gap between the urban and rural area is wide in developing countries. Ogbazi (1985), observed that sharp differences between the urban and rural areas have led to rural exodus. Putting agricultural production in jeopardy. Urban live became more and more attractive, while rural area, are the disadvantage. Changes in the rural areas as well as urban areas must therefore form an integrated whole.

Most economic problems related to the national took their root from the rural area. Considering the example stated by Ogbazi (1995), a strong economic base in the rural area will employ young school leavers who otherwise would migrate to the urban areas and constitute surplus-unemployment group. Ogbai (1995) realize one aspect of planning that has not received the right emphases



village heads, Government officials where interview were conducted. Existing maps including study area map was collected. Information were also gathered from textbooks, downloaded website materials/ magazine for the secondary data. The result of the findings were presented in tables and maps. The study revealed that despite the rural development programs by both the federal, state and local government in the rural area, the gap between the urban and rural area is still wide. Therefore, in view of this proposals and recommendation were suggested. Economic activities, social and other resources should encouraged for higher production through the decentralization of the administration site so as to develop and expand the area. This can be done through the judiciary law, orders and policies be revisited and enforced.

**Keywords:** Regional Resource, Development, Rural Planning, Rural Development.

it deserves is rural planning (area). It is assumed that in the process of planning the cities and regions, the rural areas are taken care of. However, he said, rural areas have their own characteristics, and rural dwellers have their own problems with regard to housing, infrastructure, services and amenities. At the same time, they are characterized by low standard of living. This problem requires the attention of planners. He further stated that some argue that planning is planning and the process and techniques can be in any situation, but efforts at planned rural change show that rural environment present peculiar problem and uncertainties, hence they require different approaches from urban planning.

Region as a conceptual term is a relative and of symbolic significance in planning. To some people, it is a positively identified entity, while to others, it is merely a method of classification. Without regional concept, the states and countries of Africa, Europe, America, and Asia would be so general as to be meaningfully demarcated. Bashrun (2015). The oxford advanced learners dictionary of current English defines a region” as an area or division with or without definite boundaries or characteristics. Within the context of National planning, it is viewed to be a continuous geographical area intermediate between national and urban level, otherwise known as state. This illustrate in a striking way, a territory of distinct political unit or district. However, one important point to bear in mind about region is that it tries to define a particular area consisting of elements grouped according to a number of concrete factual connections. Basharun, (2015).

Gore (1985), recognizes three types of regions, which are homogenous, functional and programing regions. Homogenous region, also called formal or uniform region exhibits common attributes or indicators of regional performance in terms of language/dialect, farm or industrial output, weather condition, land form, vegetation, population, employment and so on. The functional region often appears to be nodal or polarized in nature as communities or trade areas cluster round a town, City or area. The degree of Interactions and flow of goods and services between the core area (node) and the spheres of influence define the functionality of the region. The programing region is purely as administrative region which



could be a nation, state or local government area (L.G.A). The sub-area of such regions fall under the jurisdiction of a planning or administrative authority.

### **Regional development**

Adinu (2008) defines regional development as the process involving the transformation of the full potentials of a region to bring about an improved economy, social, political and environmental wellbeing for its population. In a nutshell, it is the process of socio-economic transformation in a supra-urban space. Therefore, it ensures a more advance or organized socio-economic activities, with the reflection of the benefits on the population. Ogbonna, (1985) observed that resource endowment is important to regional development, especially where resource project generate higher level of income. He also wrote that the extent to which other activities cluster in the same general area as the resource (located linkage) affect the development of a region.

### **Regional planning**

Regional planning generally connotes planning on a larger than urban scale. It deals with the scales of cities and their common overlapping intervals. Hall (1992). Friedman (1963) defines regional planning as a process of formulating and clarifying social objectives in the ordering of activities in a supra-urban (involving more than one urban) space. In other words, the idea of regional situation (formulation) is based on careful observation and assemblage of relevant information that is synthesized and analyzed (clarified), to generate best options with which allocation (ordering) of activities can be made, to address regional advancement in all its ramification (social objectives)

It is also defined as the manipulation of land use pattern effectively and efficiently in supra-urban space (Gilbert and Gugler, 1982). This means an intervention on the arrangement of socio-economic activities (land pattern), in a manner that translate them into functional state and without loss of resources (effectively and efficiently). Consequently, regional planning can be defined as the guided location of investment in a supra-urban space in a manner that reinforces equal access to common wealth for optimal realization of its potential and in turn, the wellbeing of its population. Adinnu (2008)

### **Rural development**

Rural development reflects on the ability to increase production and employment thereby raising income, as well as provision of necessary facilities and services such as schools, health centers, shelter and communication channels. To embark on rural development, sufficient information about each area is needed. According to FAO, (1995) in Orekan and Sani (2022), development drives its existence from the use of land resources hence, without government (regional) intervention and control, no meaningful economic activities can take off. This obviously will affect the rural area more than anywhere else. Rural development efforts, therefore should aim at improving the economic and social life of rural dwellers within the context of the identified local needs. In other words, rural development can be achieved



through substantial measure of planning involving the established strengthening of local planning agencies to ensure continuity in all efforts to improve the lives of the people. Rural development is therefore aimed at improving the overall welfare of rural areas, taking into account the physical, social, economic, political and cultural changes desired. Ogbazi (1995).

**Rural planning** is a continuous coordinating and comprehensive process of developing and implementing policies, designs and programs of action to meet the needs and realize the potential of the rural communities. This implies that through planning, community goals are identified and available resources are used to meet the needs of people. Inherent in their definition is also the fact that a lot of potentials and resources are available in the rural areas. These can be utilized for improving the living conditions and effecting orderly positive change in the rural areas. In aggregate terms, rural areas are found to be lagging behind national average economic growth rates. Weaker economic performance is driven by persistent out-migration of younger and better-educated people, lower educational attainment, lower average labour productivity, and lower levels of public service provision, often working as a vicious circle of rural decline. On the demand side, rural economies are often highly specialized in low-wage, low-skill occupations lacking career ladders and job security, and rural areas often lack cutting-edge telecommunications and other infrastructure, further limiting labour productivity and prospects for growth. Neil and Brown (2009).

#### **Goals of regional resource planning**

Regional planning may have varied goals and objectives for varying intent and context but is all tied to the existence of spatial disparity. Its main effort or goals is in the pursuance of balance development across regions of a country. Adeneyi, (1987) provided clarification on this to mean the assistance of every regions of a country in development efforts, for optimal realization of their potentials. Glasson (1974), also stated that equality of opportunity for each region to redress demographic, economic, social and environmental weakness and to achieve its full potential as well as ensuring that quality of life is not the function of the area of the country in which people happens to live and work. In short, the primary goal of regional planning is to achieve equitable distribution of resources in space. Taylat, (2004), articulated that the goal of equitable distribution of resources in space can be specifically implemented in three major ways (objectives).

1. Creation of regional (gateways growth centres- a political actions that not only complement ones, but act as a drive to development, especially in large regions.
2. Embarkation of massive infrastructural investment in roads, transport and utilities (development of regional infrastructure) at major subsidiary foci of regions, as well as remote parts, to consolidate and open them up for socio-economic activities as the case may be.

Reduction of pressure on the infrastructures and production sectors of prosperous regions, through a deliberate and consistent introduction of new enterprises with



**The study Area (Districts and Villages)**

Song Local Government Area has 224790 population according to population commission census record of 1996. There are six (6) districts with several villages in each (as displayed on the existing map of Song). Each district is headed by a district head whom performs several functions to the people ranging from legal, moral and theocratic. The comprehensive list of the districts and their respective village area and district head are shown on the next page in a tabular form.

Song Local Government Area is situated on coordinate 9° 49' 28" N 12° 37' 30" E/ 9.82444° N 12.62500° E. The head-quarter of the local government is located 72 kilometers away from Yola, the state capital. Song Local Government occupies a total land area of about 5,493 square kilometers.

**METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS USED**

Preliminary investigation revealed that, there are challenges of rural resource planning in Song Local Government Area. The study utilise primary and secondary sources of data where information were generated through field investigation where village tour was carried out for reconnaissance survey for physical assessment purpose. Secondary source of data was also used to gathered data from Journals, library Search, magazines, newspapers, books, seminar, paper, Internet and some lecture notes.

Map of the study area is display and also propose map in addition to the existing ones are shown. The pop of the study area is 12640 according to population census of 1996. This shows that there is high population in the study region. The field survey involves the use of interview of some village heads, local government officials and physical observation when village tour was conducted in the study area. Records that reflect issues ranging from Cultural, Natural, and Civic Composition of Song LGA at Wards Level was gotten. Also, Existing Facilities, Utilities, and Services and road condition among other information’s were collected. The information were gathered, analysed and presented as displayed in the work.

**Results and Discussions**

**ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

Table 1: Showing Cultural, Natural, and Civic Composition of Song LGA at Wards Level.

Ward_name	No. of Settlements	Tribes	Crop Produced	Industries	Commerce	Tourism	Social Devt./Welfare	Env./Nat./Res
Song Waje Ward	53		Bambara nut, melon, guinea corn					
Sigire Ward	86		Guinea corn, Maize, Beans, Millet, Melon, Bambara Nut, G/Nut, cassava		Gakta, handa, lokatabu	Livo traditional tourism site		
Dirma Ward	69		Millet, rice, tiger nut, beni seed, cocoa yam, sweet melon, beans, cassava, Sugarcane, mango, banana		Dirma, tinde, dumne		CRUDAN PPF YADA	
Waltandi Ward	46		Corn, maize, millet, g/nut, beniseed, bambara nut, tiger nut,		Prambe, dikir		PPF YADA	
Kilange Funa Ward	86		Maize, beans g/nut					



Dumne Ward	58		Millet, rice, cassava, beans															
Zumo Ward	55		G/corn, rice, maize, beans, sugarcane															
Suktu War	47		G/nut, cassava, millet, beans, cocoa yam, tiger nut, rice, maize, mango, banana						Salasa, roma, kuma					PPF YADA			Forest: Suktu, waltandi Ditera-madrid, tamarin	
Song Gari Ward	20		Maize, g/corn, rice, Potato, Sugarcane, onions, garden egg, pepper, moringa, fish, spinach, lettuce						Song, bariki, lainde, gari	lokko, sobon	Three sisters rock, spring water			PPF				
Kilange hirna	64		Maize, onion, rice, pepper.						Salasa, handa		Nil			Nil			Forest, tamarin	
Gudun mboi	49		Maize, rice, g/nut, beans, Sweet millo.						Prmbe.		Nil			Nil			Forest	

Source: Field survey October, 2020.

### ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Table 1: Showing Cultural, Natural, and Civic Composition of Song LGA at Wards Level.

Table 1 above shows the name of the wards, number of settlement in each wards and their tribes, the type of crops they produced in each ward and also the types of industry they have, commerce and tourism in each wards, it also showed social development, welfare and natural resources available in the area. This reveals that Song LGA has a lot of potentials that if develop can be of much benefit to the State and beyoung.

Table 2: Showing Existing Facilities, Utilities, and Services in Song LGA.

S/ No	Ward_name	No. of sett	Pop 2020	Pri m	S.S ch	N PS	G AS	Cottage hospital	P H C	Dispen sary	M at	H C	H P	Bore hole	Pos tal	P. Stati on	Co urt	Are a (Km <sup>2</sup> )
1	Song Waje Ward	53	30654	15	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	6	0	1	0	520.75
2	Sigire Ward	86	20436	9	4	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	239.15
3	Dirma Ward	69	17881	14	3	2	0	0	0	3	4	0	2	4	0	0	0	411.69
4	Waltandi Ward	46	22990	8	3	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	162.40
5	Kilange Funa Ward	86	20436	5	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	587.43
6	Dumne Ward	58	22990	12	6	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	119.97
7	Zumo Ward	55	15327	5	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	919.11
8	Suktu Ward	114	20436	14	4	1	0	0	3	3	4	1	6	6	0	0	0	502.49
9	Song Gari Ward	20	53644	14	8	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	3	14	1	1	1	174.4
10	Kilange Hirna Ward	64	17881	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	139.63
11	Gudu Mboi Ward	49	12772	11	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	428.86

Source: Field survey, October 2020.

The above table shows the existing population, facilities, utilities and services.



1. Song Waje Ward: Has 53 settlement with existing population of 30654, having 15 primary school, 3 secondary schools, 2 Nomadic primary school, 1 primary healthcare, 2 dispensary, 1 health Centre, 3 health post, 6 boreholes, 1 police station and the area coverage of 520.75 km<sup>2</sup>.
2. Sigire Ward: They have 53 settlement with existing population of 20436, 9 primary school, 4 secondary schools, 2 primary healthcare, 1 dispensary, 4 boreholes and the area coverage of 239.15 km<sup>2</sup>.
3. Dirma ward: They have 69 settlement with existing population of 17881, 14 primary school, 3 secondary schools, 2 nomadic primary school, 3 dispensary, 4 maternity, 2 health post, 4 boreholes, and the area coverage of 411.69 km<sup>2</sup>.
4. Waltandi ward: Has 46 settlement with existing population of 22990, having 8 primary school, 3 secondary school, 1 nomadic primary school, 3 dispensary, 1 maternity, 1 health post, 4 borehole, with the area coverage of 162.43 km<sup>2</sup>.
5. Kilange funa ward: They have 86 settlement with existing population of 30436, having only 5 primary school, 1 secondary school, having 1 cottage hospital, 1 primary healthcare, 1 dispensary, 1 health post, 3 boreholes, with area coverage of 587 km<sup>2</sup>.
6. Dumne ward: They have 58 settlement with existing population of 22990, having 12 primary school, 6 secondary school, 2 primary, 5 dispensary, 1 health post, 5 boreholes, and 1 police station with the area coverage of 119.79 km<sup>2</sup>.
7. Zumo ward : They have 55 settlement with existing population of 15327, having only 5 primary school, 1 secondary schools, 2 nomadic primary school, 1 primary healthcare, 1 health Centre, 1 health post, 1 boreholes, with area coverage of 919.11 km<sup>2</sup>.
8. Suktu ward : They have 114 settlement with existing population of 20326, having 5 primary school and 4 secondary schools, 3 primary healthcare, 3 dispensary, 4 maternity, 1 health Centre, 6 health post, 6 boreholes with the area coverage of 502.49 km<sup>2</sup>.
9. Song gari: They have only 20 settlement with existing population of 53644, having 14 primary school, 8 secondary schools, 1 nomadic primary school, 1 government Arabic school, 1 cottage hospital, 1 dispensary, 1 healthcare, 3 health post, 14 boreholes, 1 postal agencies, 1 police station, and 1 majesty court with area coverage of 174.4 km<sup>2</sup>.
10. Kilange ward : They have 64 settlement with existing population of 17881, having 5 primary school, 1 primary healthcare, 1 health post 1 boreholes, with area coverage of 139.63 km<sup>2</sup>.
11. Gudu mboi ward: They have only 49 settlement with existing population of 12772, having 11 primary school, 2 secondary school, 2 dispensary, 1 health post, 4 boreholes with the area coverage of 428.86 km<sup>2</sup>.

### **Discussion**

Based on the result from the study, findings revealed that the facilities and services in Song local government area are grossly inadequate. The region is said to have six districts and 11 wards with not less than 30 settlement under each (see Information on table 1). The entire area is divided into eleven wards as displayed on the table showing absence of some facilities like



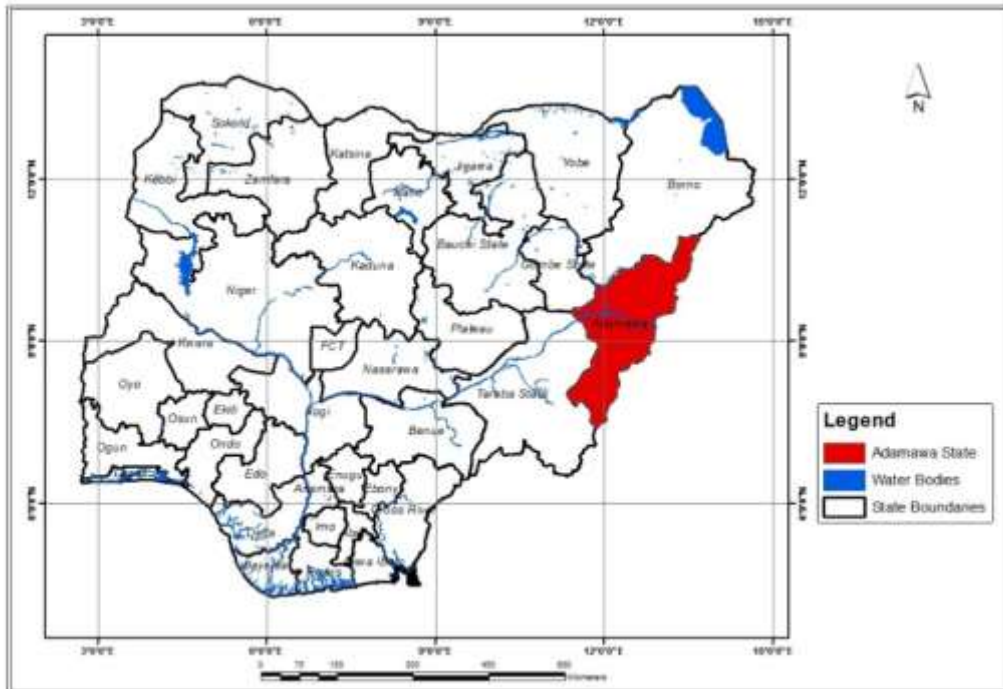
health care like dispensary, educational activities like school, economic activities like market and social activities like police post, water supply, electricity for security purposes and betterment of living condition of the dwellers. This can be seen on table 1 and 2 from the summary/ inference of each table that there is inadequacy or total absence in some settlements of facilities like electricity, primary school, secondary schools, health care facility services, good water supply, postal services and communication services, police posts. Places or wards like Song waje, suntu ward with 114 settlement has only 14 primary schools, and 4 secondary schools, and other facilities and services as shown on table 2 are grossly inadequate. The map of the local government area indicate the distance to be covered from one town to the other. This means that facilities distribution within the area is bias in the sense that some areas have more facilities, than others even though the population distribution differences are not much. Some areas have no single facility even a dispensary for skeleton service (first aid). Song is just 72 km away from Yola town the state capital and is situated along the highway to Yola. This place the region on a disadvantage side in a way because youths can easily move to Yola and may not wish to go back home since there are amenities that can easily be accessed there that will making life better.

Considering the map of Song local government area, roads are lacking that connects the administrative seat of the LGA to other settlements. There are no good roads, even the feeder roads are mostly in bad condition. Table 1 shows the roads within the area and their conditions. During rainy seasons, many of the settlements cannot be accessed. This affects the economic especially agricultural activities of the area. The population of Song L. G. A is 224790 (population census of 1996). This great resource cannot just be neglected. This is because, they can feed high percentage of the nation's population if given the opportunity.

Song L. G. A produce a great amount of farm produce. This place is rich in the production of guinea corn, soya beans, beans, rice, bean seed, groundnut, moringa, animal keeping and many more as can be seen on table 1. This produce are sold in the cities where such produce are not much in quantity enough to feed the city. Villages are the life wire that keep the cities with the







Food they produce. Now if most people because of hard-ship and poverty decide to migrate to cities, who and where will food come from?



Poverty is a disease and also an insecurity. It is both physical and psychological ill health that render its victim feel unsecure. Through regional rural planning, rural areas can do better in their service to the urban dwellers.

### **Conclusion**

This study examines the rural area resources and the regional authority power to harness and develop the rural area. The region is vested with the role of the planning and distribution or allocation of resources in space with equity concern and an overall end of integrated development. The rural area has less or no ability to improve her living standard and that is why it has been where it is and in her present situation. Hence regional development planning will serve well since it is high than a single settlement and has the responsibility of developing and allocating resource of the whole region including the rural area.

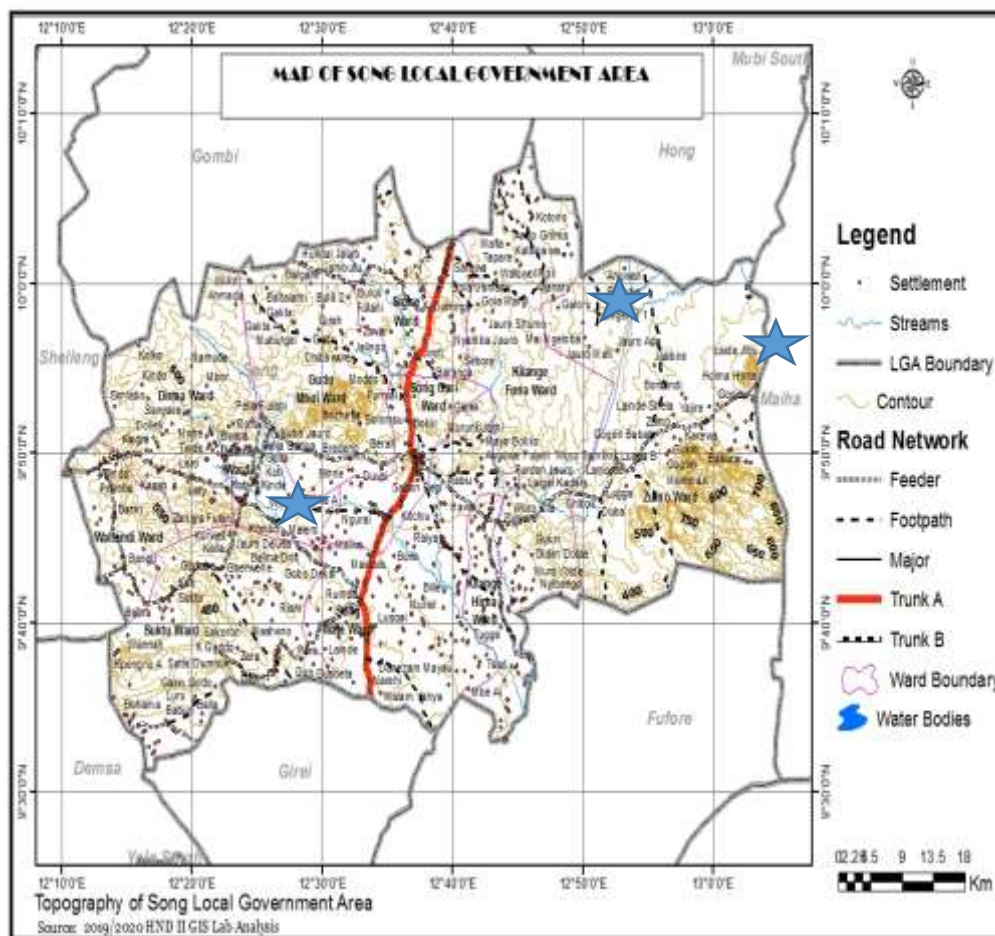
### **Recommendations**

Several development projects have been located in the rural areas of the country by the federal, state and the local government as well as communities and individuals. However, many rural areas have remained unplanned indiscriminate location of development activities abound, but industrial plants have been set up in locations where they are incompatible with surrounding land use. Other problem includes bias allocation of resources where resource meant for a certain village or rural area is diverted to another place e.g. the road area that connect Cameroon with mubi town was approved severally but up now the road is getting worse and remain unconstructed.

Considering the problems of rural area development on song local government Area the following recommendations are therefore put forward.

- Empowerment of institutional framework (Regional Development Agencies) to implement regional and rural development policies and programmes should be enforced through legislative body and close supervision.
- Decentralization of administration to close or reduce development gaps.
- Integration of regional development into economic planning for overall growth, development and wellbeing particularly of the rural dwellers
- More attention to be given to village planning in order to reduce the inflow of migrants to the city.
- Use of plans and schemes to control and sustain regional development particularly for the rural areas
- Employment of federal character and equity principles to ensure access to common wealth by all region for the rural growth and development.
- Siting of industries and machines that will utilized the resources of the rural areas is to be embarked upon based on the resource types.

This will help increasing rural economic activities and all other rural aspects will directly or indirectly be positively affected. Thereby addressing the security conditions of the area when living standard is improved.



Proposed Map of Song L.G.A

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