

# Application of Remote Sensing for Impacts Assessment of Petroleum Activities and Facilities in Bongor Basin, Chad Republic

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**Abstract:** The objective of this study is to compare various changes of ecological parameters within time period prior petroleum activities and after facilities establishment in Bongor basin. Analysis of landsat 7 images from March 24 to April 5, 2000 and that of landsat 8 from February 13, 2015, before and after oil operations respectively, made it possible to extract four biophysical indices, namely: brightness index of soil, moisture index, greenness index and vegetation index. Maps of land use, hydrology and pedology were established from the analysis of multispectral parameters variations. Significant variations between two study periods were then evaluated to be either increasing, declining or stable over the entire Bongor basin and in the areas of the basin under operations. It appears that, shrub savanna has declined by 15.75% over the entire Bongor basin and by 18.90% in the areas of oil operations in Bongor basin. Floodplain and the water body have also declined by 1.59% and 0.0007% respectively over the whole Bongor basin and loss of paddy field. Agricultural area has increased by 15.15% in Bongor basin and by 14.40% in the operations area of Bongor basin, with industrial area occupying 4.49% and the expansion of urbanized area of 0.01%. Silting up of flood zone over the entire Bongor basin has increased by 0.35%. Areas under oil operations, illustrate impacts of activities on soil, trees and groundwater.

**Keywords:** Oil Facilities, Impacts, Basin, Bongor, Chad

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## 1. Introduction

Remote sensing is a reliable tool for monitoring various changes in land cover using satellite data. Studies on land use and land cover changes attempt to explain, where changes in environment are occurring, what types of land cover are changing, what types of transformation are occurring, at which rates land cover has changed, what are the driving forces and the immediate causes of these changes [17]. Landsat spectral data represent real physical properties and useful environmental covariates that can be derived for vegetation, soil and material, and their quantitative relationships used to predict soil and land distribution [6]. These remote sensing data are important component of land and soil mapping

prediction. They provide spatial contiguous quantitative measure of surface reflectance, which is related to certain soil properties [10]. Assessment of petroleum activities and facilities damages on groundwater and the environment through the application of remote sensing, is considered an interesting method [16]. This tool facilitates mapping of inaccessible areas by reducing costly field surveys; it is true especially when acquiring data in arid and semi-arid areas where vegetation cover varies and mineralogical properties of soil surface and /or parental material are not completely covered by vegetation [11]. This aspect of research consists of acquiring and processing data and satellite images for the production of land use maps before and after oil exploitation. The objective of this work is to make a comparative study of

ecological parameters during period before oil exploitation (year 2000) and period when oil activities were intensified (year 2015) in order to observe different changes associated with petroleum activities and facilities. On the basis of preliminary surveys, coupled with information from literature reviews, data processing and satellite images, the identification and evaluation of possible impacts of petroleum activities and facilities on environment and specifically on aquifer formations were carried out in this study.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Study Area Presentation

Bongor Basin is located between longitude 15.15° and 17.50° E and between latitude 9° and 11.25° N covering approximately 105,767 km<sup>2</sup> [2]. It is spread over three regions namely, Chari Baguirmi region, Mayo Kebbi-Est region and Tandjilé region [2]. It is located south-east of Lake Chad, and the capital N'Djamena (Figure 1). Bongor basin is a flat region (province), a transitional zone between sahelian climate and sudanese climate [24, 5]. Vegetation in this region is sudanese shrub savanna supported by sandy textured soils [3]. Forest stands are more or less dense to combretaceous; there are also open forests, shrub savanna, fallow land, meadows and gallery forests that border temporary water streams [3]. Fauna is generally found in area with little human occupation. Prosopis and Baobab areas have terrestrial fauna and are very rich of diverse avian [4]. Populations found in the region are farmers, sedentary and nomad breeders. Economically, subsistence farming is the main source of income, fishing and harvesting of non-timber forest products are secondary to household economic activities [24]. Main food crops grown are: penicillary millet, sorghum, pea nots, cowpeas, sesame, okra and sorrel [24].

### 2.2. Methodology

#### 2.2.1. Data Acquisition

##### (i) Mapping Data

Land or soil base maps (Lai Sheet NC-33-11, Bongor Leaf NC-33-16) from ORSTOM 1968 and vegetation of Chad (Bouso Sheet NC-33-17) from ORSTOM 1968 served as reference maps for the production of the study area base maps using Arcgis 10.7 software.

##### (ii) Field Data

Perimeters limits of oil exploration and installations have been covered to identify and obtain with a GARMIN GPSMAP 64 GPS, reference points of main access roads to oil installations, various water points and habitations. Socioeconomic and environmental investigation of people in Bongor basin and those in areas close to oil facilities, have made it possible to make observations and obtain essential information for sound interpretation of remote sensing data.

##### (iii) Spatial Data

Collection of Landsat-7 satellite images from the periods of March 24 to April 05, 2000 (71830532000045edc00.tif, 71840522000324edc00.tif, 71840532000036edc00.tif and 71830542000045edc00.tif) and Landsat-8 from February 13, 2015 (LC71800G54N18GLN00.tif, LC81810462015282LGN00.tif and LC81810472015282LGN00.tif) covering oil zone from Koudalwa to Bongor, obtained freely from their owner on Earth Explorer, available on United States Geological Survey (<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>) website, were used for land use maps production. These data were provided in orthorectified form of the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) with the World Geodesic System (WGS) 1984 datum in Zone 33 of the Northern Hemisphere expressed as reflectance at the top of the atmosphere.

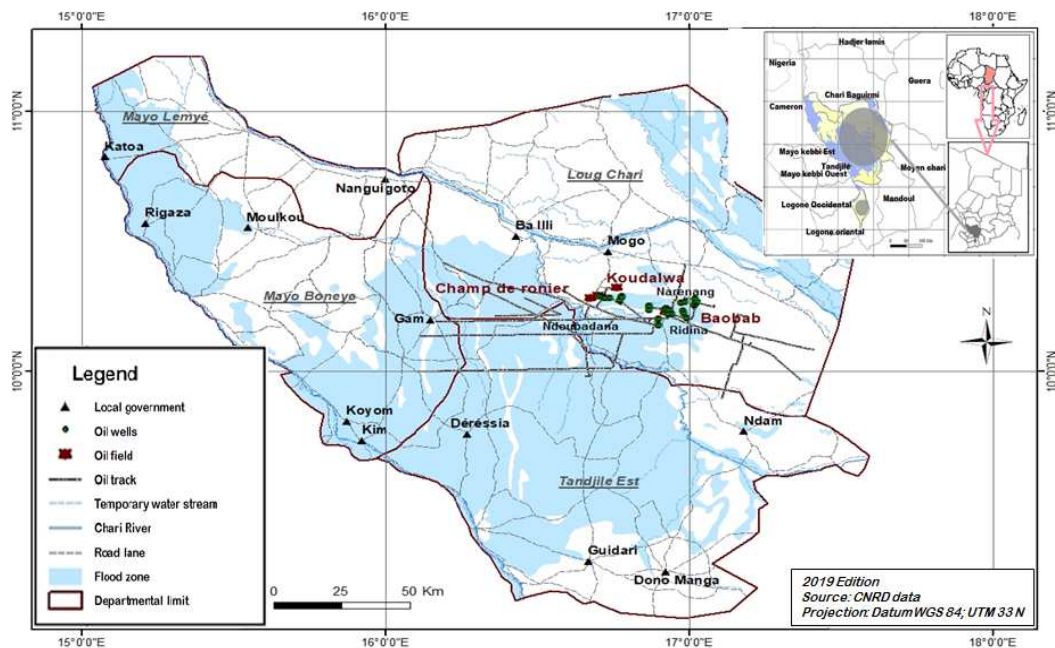


Figure 1. Map of the Bongor basin interfering with oil facilities.

### 2.2.2. Information Processing and Segmentation of Area Under Study

Biophysical indices allow better discrimination of land use classes and reduce confusion [28]. Satellite images obtained were processed using ENVI software by color composition analysis. Then a filtration from the Spatial Analysis Tools (Majority filter) with a window size of 8x8 pixels was performed. The resulting interpretations made it possible to obtain four types of biophysical indices, namely: Brightness Index (BI), Wetness Index (NDWI), Greenness Index (GI) and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). The supervised classification process has enable visual interpretation of the different classes and assign them a name (vegetation, flood zone, wooded savanna) and generate descriptive statistics on the areas of different types of land use, for each of the two dates from 2000 and 2015. These data from the segmentation are exported under ArcGIS software for land use maps production. In order to be able to compare results between two periods 2000 and 2015, a nomenclature common to each class and compatible with the discrimination capacities of each was made. This nomenclature was based on threshold values of Reflectance channels of the near infrared (NIR), red, green blue, spatial information and vegetation index [9]. Colored compositions performed were intended to allow good discrimination of land use units and were obtained after orderly assignments to three primary colors.

### 2.2.3. Assessment of Dynamic Land Use

Different forms of conversion of land use units between two dates (2000) and (2015), and the description of possible changes were highlighted from transition matrix (SCHLAEPFER, 2002). The ArcGIS 10.7 Analysis Tools module has helped in obtaining spatial mutations of the classes during the two time intervals; the intersection is made between land occupations from ArcTool\_AnalysisTools\_Overlay\_Intersect. Changes are obtained by crossing the land cover maps of 2000 and 2015 using Arc Toolbox\_Analysis algorithm and the Tools\_Intersect section under ArcGIS 10.7. The study area extraction was obtained from multispectral images with Basic Tools under ENVI. Images obtained were geometrically corrected based on the UTM33N Datum WGS84 projection.

### 2.2.4. Land Cover Rate of Evolution

The rate of change in space is obtained by calculating rates of change which are the annual rate of change and the overall or global rate of change of areas of land use classes between year 2000 and 2015. These rates of evolution are determined respectively by equations proposed by FAO (1996) and that of BERNIER (1992) cited mostly by researchers [19, 23]. It is expressed mathematically by the following relations:

FAO (1996)

$$Tg = \frac{S_2 - S_1}{S_1} * 100 \quad (1)$$

With Tg: global rate of change; s1: area of a unit area class at date t1 and s2 the area of the same unit area class at date t2.

And Bernier (1992)

$$Tc = \frac{\ln S_2 - \ln S_1}{(t_2 - t_1) * \ln e} * 100 \quad (2)$$

Where Tc: average annual rate of spatial expansion; s1: area of a unit area class at date t1 and s2 the area of the same unit area class at date t2; ln natural logarithm; e base of the natural logarithm (e = 2.71828).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Land Use in the Bongor Basin Year 2000

Reference land use map, year 2000 (Figure 2), shows that savannas in general and agricultural areas occupy respectively more than 70% and 25.47% of the area in Bongor basin. Floodplain and paddy field are poorly and very poorly represented. Water body are almost in trace. Statistical analysis of the areas represented by these entities in the Bongor basin (Table 1) shows that shrub savanna represents 69% (2,694,085.25 ha) of the total area of the basin. The agricultural zone is 25.47% (992,837.60 ha). Floodplain covers 198,255.42 ha which is 5.09% of the total area. Herbaceous savanna covers 6380.68 ha representing 0.16% of area and wooded savanna is 0.10% (3724.75 ha) of the area. Paddy field and water body have very small areas with 2923.07 ha and 198.12 ha or 0.07% and 0.01% respectively.

**Table 1.** Ecological parameters of the Bongor basin before oil exploitation (year 2000).

Landscape year 2000	Area (ha)	Percentage
Agricultural area	992,837.60	25.47%
Water body	198.12	0.01%
Herbaceous savanna	6,380.68	0.16%
Wooded savanna	3,724.75	0.10%
Shrub savanna	2,694,085.25	69%
Paddy field	2,923.07	0.07%
Floodplain	198,255.42	5.09%
Industrial zone		
Total	3,898,404.88	100.00%

### 3.2. Land Use in the Bongor Basin Year 2015

Illustration of land use (year 2015) by oil facilities as well as the road network in place in Bongor basin is shown in Figure 3. The establishment of oil facilities in the area brings about significant change to vegetation, agricultural area, flood zone, paddy field and the water body. Within this period, savannas occupy 55.44% of the total area of the basin: the shrub savanna represents 53.25% (2,075,923.07 ha) of total area; herbaceous savanna occupies 78,759.42 ha (2.02%) and wooded savanna is 6,785.35 ha or 0.17%. Agricultural zone occupies 40.62% of area making 1,583,538.61 ha and floodplain area is 136,523.76 ha, or 3.50%. We also observe industrial zone

establishment occupying 0.08% of the basin. The drying up of streams that are isolated from their sources, give way to silting up of the area with sand occupying 13,628.32 ha or 0.35%, and water body with a very small area of 118, 62 ha or 0.003%.

**Table 2.** Ecological parameters of the Bongor basin with oil activities (year 2015).

2015 Landscape of Bongor	Area (ha)	Percentage
Agricultural zone	1,583,538.61	40.62%
Water body	118.62	0.003043%
Herbaceous savanna	78,759.42	2.02%
Wooded savanna	6,785.35	0.17%
Shrub savanna	2,075,923.07	53.25%
Sand	13,628.32	0.35%
Floodplain	136,523.76	3.50%
Industrial zone	3,127.45	0.08%
Total	3,898,404.88	100.00%

### 3.3. Occupation of Space in Oil Zone of Influence and Exploitation in 2000 Before the Activity

The intensified zone of operations in year 2000 before petroleum activities (Figure 4), represents KOUDALWA oil zone over a radius of 75 kilometers. Agricultural zone in this area occupies 44,023 ha, or 2.49%; a shrub to wooded savanna covers 1,722,538 ha, which is 97.47% of the total area; industrial zone and an urbanized zone occupy respectively 125 ha and 109 ha, representing 0.01% each (Table 3). Water body and floodplain have 168 ha and 208 ha respectively with each parameter representing 0.01% (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Ecological parameters in the oil operations zone (year 2000).

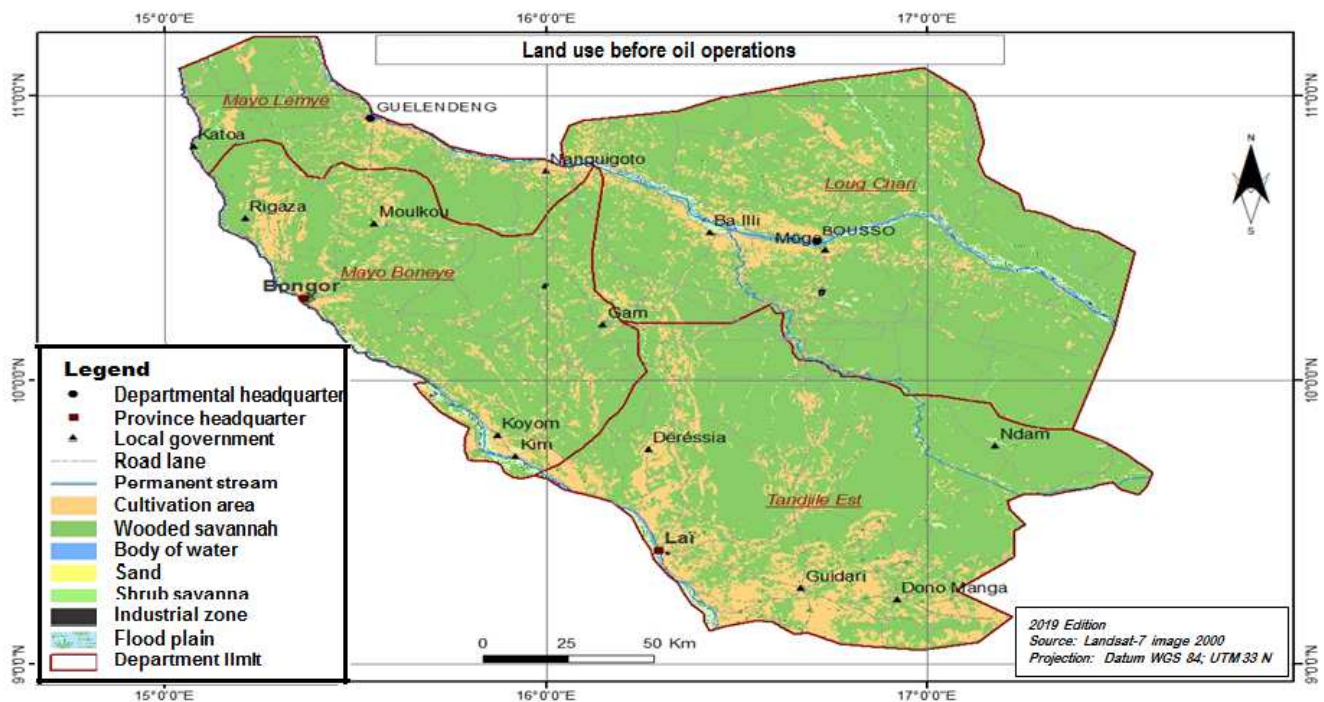
Landscape year 2000	Area (ha)	Percentage
Agricultural zone	44,023	2.49%
Shrub to wooded savanna	1,722,538	97.47%
Industrial zone	125	0.01%
Water body	168	0.01%
Floodplain	208	0.01%
Urbanized area	109	0.01%
Total	1,767,170	100.00%

### 3.4. Occupation of Space in the Zone of Influence of Oil Exploitation During Activity in 2015

Oil exploitation zone in KOUDALWA (Figure 5), shows oil facilities and road networks. Statistical descriptions of ecological parameters in 2015 (Table 4) show a change in land use with an agricultural area covering 298,524 ha or 16.89%; a shrub-to-wooded savanna with a surface area of 388,537 ha or 78.57%; an industrial zone covers 79,453 ha or 4.50%; water body and floodplain are extended to 157 ha and 184 ha respectively. The urbanized area occupies 315 ha (0.02%) of the Bongor oil exploitation zone.

**Table 4.** Ecological parameters in oil operation zone (year 2015).

Landscape year 2000	Area (ha)	Percentage
Agricultural zone	298,524	16.89%
Shrub to wooded savanna	1,388,537	78.57%
Industrial zone	79,453	4.50%
Water body	157	0.01%
Floodplain	184	0.01%
Urbanized area	315	0.02%
Total	1,767,170	100.00%



**Figure 2.** Bongor basin in year 2000, prior to complex establishment of oil facilities: flood and paddy fields are visible, vegetation is appreciable and agricultural areas are minimal.



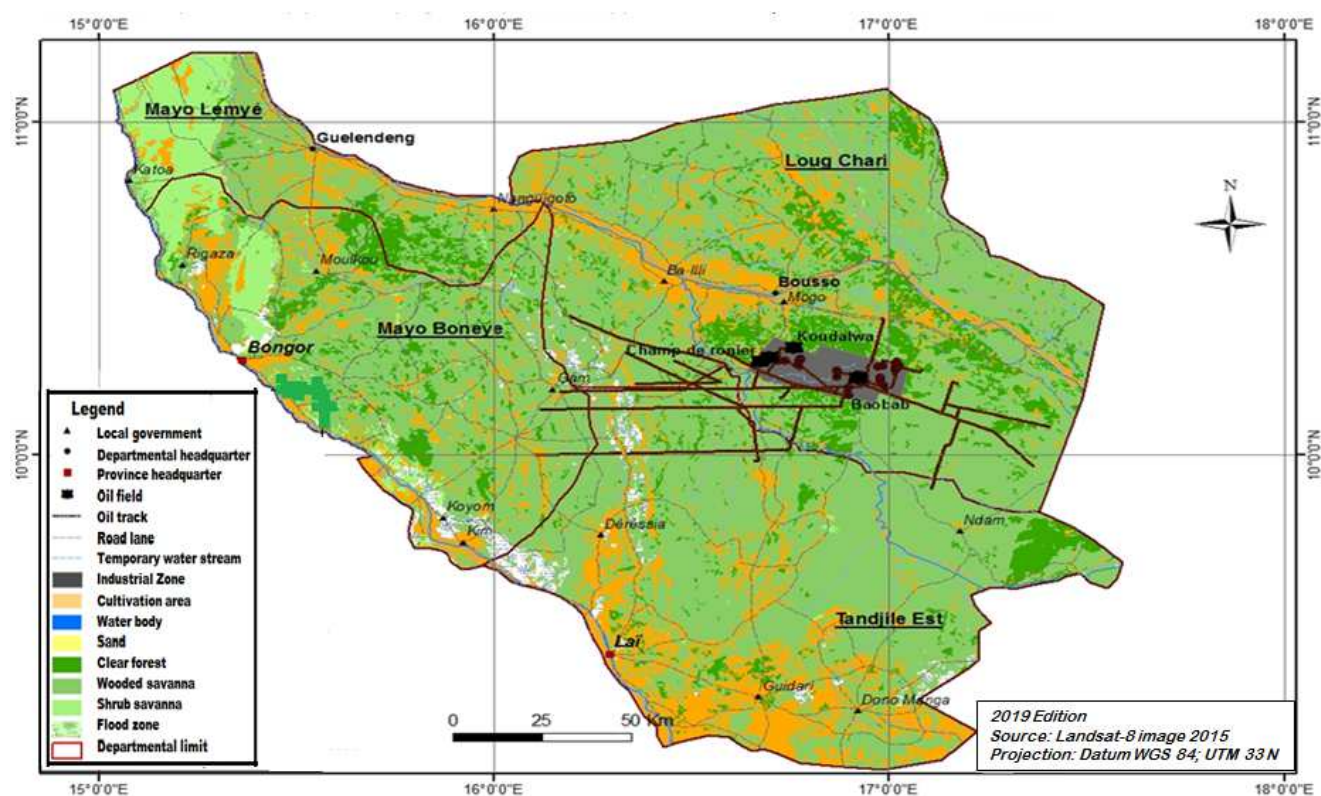


Figure 3. Bongor basin (globally) in year 2015; illustrating oil facilities as well as road networks.

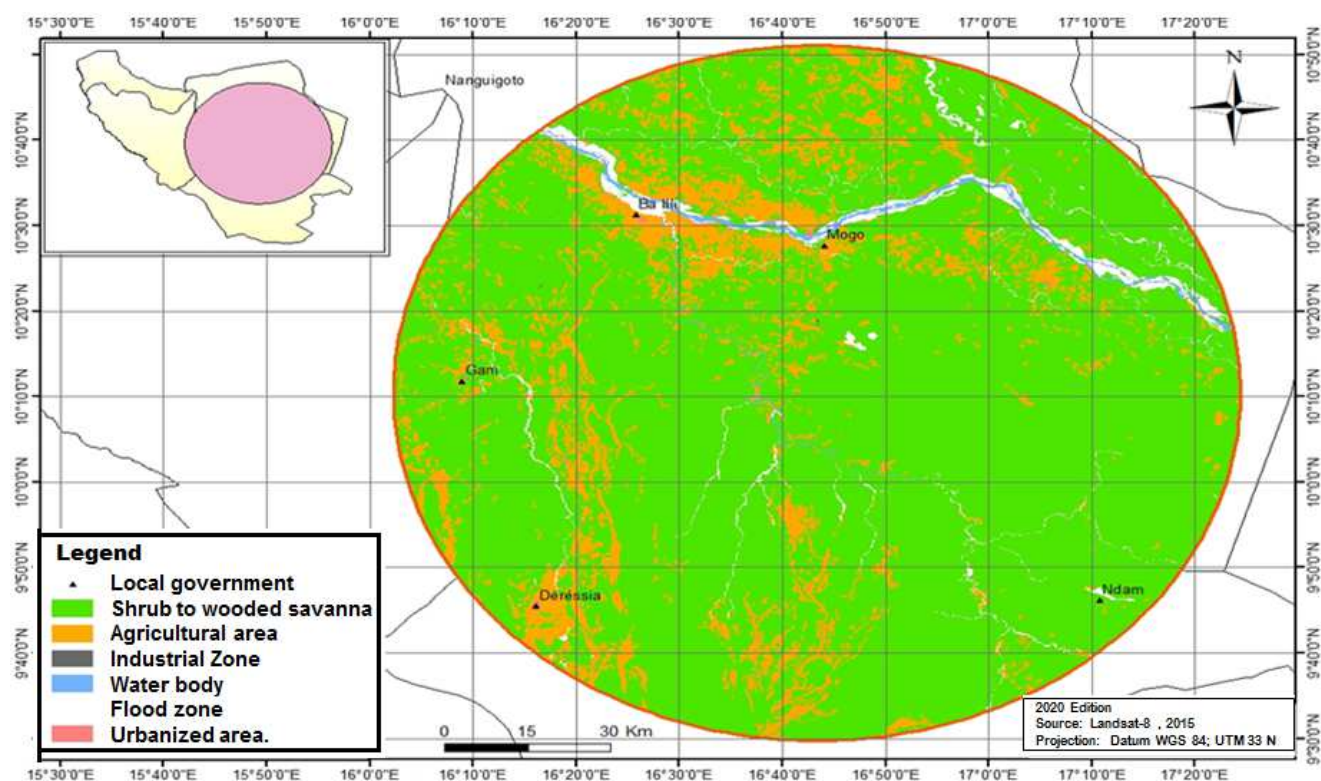


Figure 4. Bongor basin oil zone in year 2000, prior to complex oil facilities establishment.

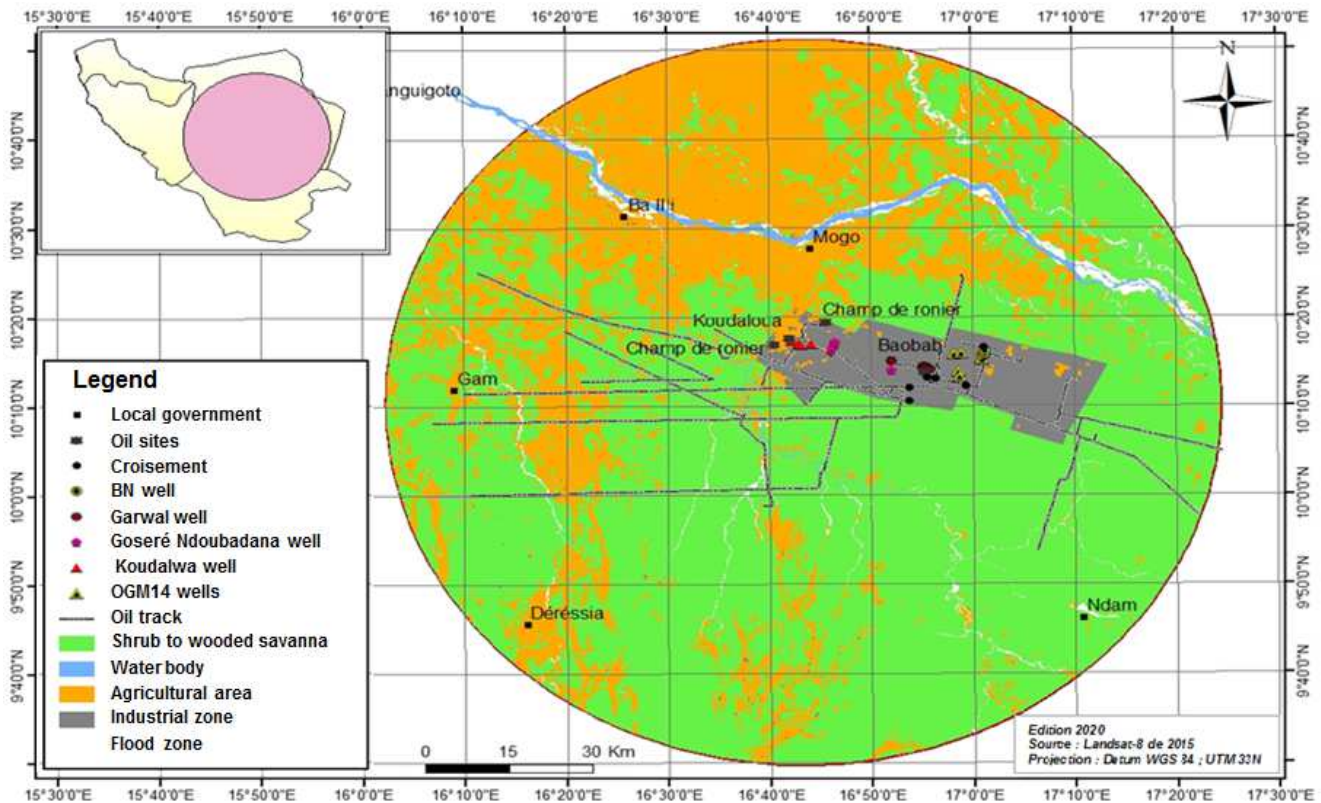


Figure 5. Bongor Basin oil zone in year 2015, illustrating oil facilities, road networks and sampling points.

### 3.5. Spatial Mutation of Ecological Parameters in the Bongor Basin

Statistical analysis of ecological parameters (Table 5) resulting from the difference between entities of 2000 map (Figure 2) and that of 2015 (Figure 3) shows that the evolution of the area of agricultural zone is +590701.01 ha (+15.15%); shrub savanna is -61,862.182 ha or -15.75%; herbaceous savanna is +72,378.74 ha or +1.86%; wooded savanna is +3060.6 ha or +0.07%; floodplain is -61,731.66 ha or -1.59% and the industrial zone is +3127.45 ha or +0.08%. This land use dynamic shows a loss of paddy field in 2015 giving way to sand with +13,628.32 ha, or +0.35% and water body with -79.5 ha or -0.0007%.

Statistical changes of parameter observed from the superposition of the 2000 and 2015 maps in Bongor basin (Table 6) gives for the natural environment which has

remained natural, -68.93% (-2687,299.90 ha) an area, 15.23% for natural environment transformed by human activities (+593,828.75 ha) and 53.70% for regressed natural environment (+2,093,471.15 ha).

Table 5. Spatial mutation of ecological parameters in the Bongor basin.

Land use classes	Area (ha)	Percentage
Agricultural zone	590,701.01	15.15%
Water body	-79.5	-0.0007%
Herbaceous savanna	72,378.74	1.86%
Wooded savanna	3,060.6	0.07%
Shrub savanna	-618,162.18	-15.75%
Sand*	13,628.32	0.35%
Paddy field*	disappearing	
Floodplain	-61,731.66	-1.59%
Industrial zone	3,127.45	0.08%

N. B: \* ecological parameter disappeared (paddy field) and presence of sand with oil activities and facilities.

Table 6. Ecological parameters after superposition of 2000 and 2015 maps (Bongor basin).

Change in ecological parameters (Bongor basin)	Area (ha) 2000	Area (ha) 2015	Difference between 2015-2000 (ha)	Percentage
Natural environment remained natural	2,694,085.25	6,785.35	-2,687,299.90	-68.93%
Natural environment transformed by human activities	992,837.60	1,586,666.35	593,828.75	15.23%
Regressed natural environment	211,482.03	2,304,953.18	2,093,471.15	53.70%
Total	3,898,404.88	3,898,404.88		

### 3.6. Spatial Change of Ecological Parameters in the Zone Under Oil Operations

Statistical analysis of the surface area of the ecological

parameters (Table 7) resulting from the difference between entities of the land use map of oil zone of influence from year 2000 prior oil activities (Figure 4) and year 2015 with oil facilities in (Figure 5) shows that the expansion of



agricultural zone is +254,501 ha (+14.14%), shrub to tree savanna change is -334,001 ha or -18.90%; industrial zone occupies +79,328 ha (4.49%). Water body and floodplain have -11 and -24 ha of area respectively.

Statistical analysis of Change in ecological parameters oil zone under operations, observed after superposition of year 2000 and 2015 maps (Table 8) shows change of natural environment remained natural with -334 001 ha (-18.90%), natural environment transformed by human activities gives an area of 334,035 ha or 18.90% and the regressed natural environment has an area of -35 ha or 0.00002%.

**Table 7.** Spatial mutation of ecological parameters of oil zone under operations.

Land use	Area (ha)	Percentage
Agricultural zone	254,501	14.400%
Shrub to wooded savanna	-334,001	-18.900%
Industrial zone	79,328	4.490%
Water body+	-11	-0.001%
Floodplain+	-24	-0.001%
Urbanized area	206	0.010%

N. B: +the platforms of the oil installations are compacted and the water areas tend to disappear.

**Table 8.** Ecological parameters after superposition of 2000 and 2015 maps in oil zone.

Change in ecological parameters in zone under oil operations	Area (ha) 2000	Area (ha) 2015	Difference between 2015-2000 (ha)	Percentage
Natural environment remained natural	1,722,538	1,388,537	-334,001	-18.900%
Natural environment transformed by human activities	44,257	378,292	334,035	18.900%
Regressed natural environment	376	341	-35	0.00002%
Total	1,767,171	1,767,170		

### 3.7. Land Cover Rate of Evolution Between 2000 and 2015 (Bongor Basin)

Rate of change in land use in the Bongor basin between 2000 and 2015 (Table 9) shows that classes representing agricultural zone, herbaceous savanna and wooded savanna are increasing in areas during this period (Figure 6) with 59.50%, 1134.34% and 82.17% respectively and those declining are, water body, shrub savanna and floodplain (Figure 7) with 40.12%, 22, 94% and 31.13% respectively. It should be noted that industrial zone and silting up observed over the entire basin in 2015 with 3,127.45 ha or 0.08% of area and 13,628.32 ha or 0.35% respectively, constitute new ecological parameters in the basin and paddy field within this period disappeared.

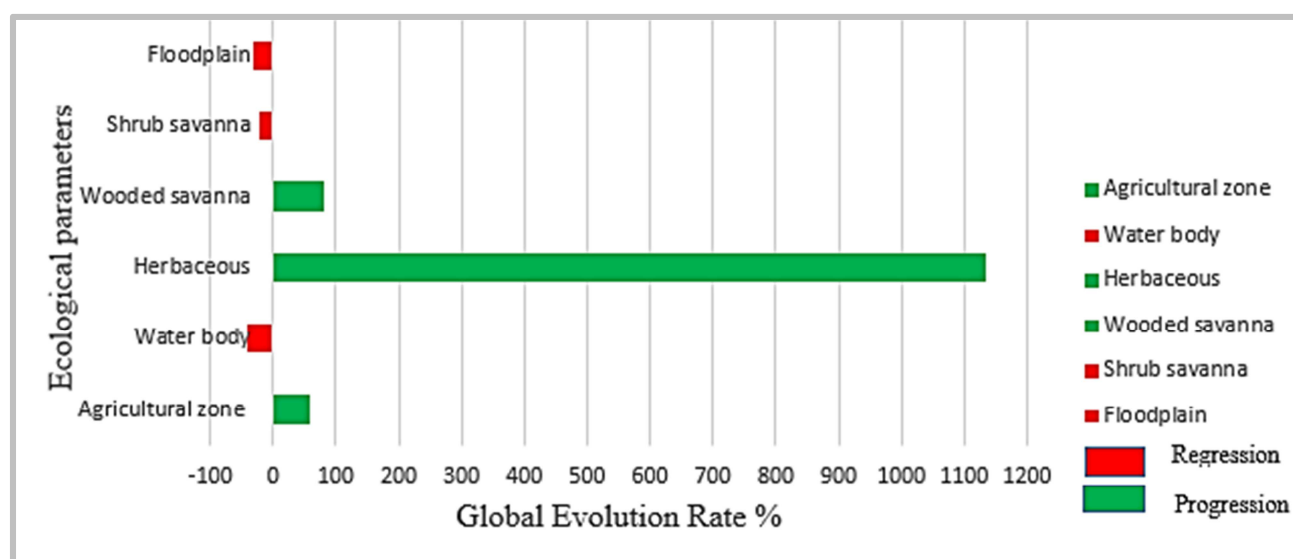
**Table 9.** Global rate of spatial change in the Bongor basin between 2000 and 2015.

Land use classes	Area (ha)		Tc (%)	Tg (%)
	2000	2015		
Agricultural zone	992,837.60	1,583,538.61	59.49	59.49
Water body	198.12	118.62	-40.12	-40.12
Herbaceous savanna	6,380.68	78,759.42	1,134.34	1,134.34
Wooded savanna	3,724.75	6,785.35	82.16	82.16
Shrub savanna	2,694,085.25	2,075,923.07	-22.94	-22.94
Floodplain	198,255.42	136,523.76	-31.13	-31.13
Paddy field** <sub>-2</sub>	2,923.07			
Sand** <sub>2</sub>		13,628.32		
Industrial zone ** <sub>2</sub>		3,127.45		

N. B: Tc: average annual rate of spatial expansion; Tg: global rate of change.

\*\*<sub>-2</sub> ecological parameter disappeared after oil facilities in place.

\*\*<sub>2</sub>: ecological parameter appeared after oil facilities in place.



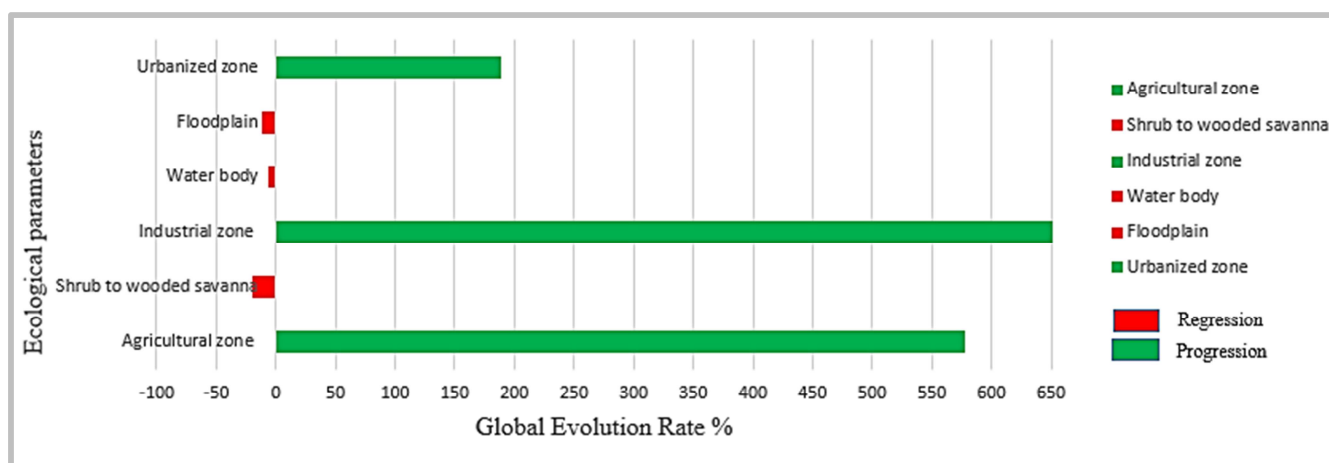
**Figure 6.** Global rate of spatial change in the Bongor basin between 2000 and 2015.

### 3.8. Land Cover Rate of Evolution Between 2000 and 2015 in Oil Operation Zone

Land use rate of evolution of ecological parameters in oil operation zone (Table 10) shows that these ecological parameters of land use have undergone significant changes. The ecological parameters (Figure 7): agricultural zone, industrial zone and urbanized zone have very high global change rates with 578.10%, 63462.4% and 188.99% respectively (Table 10). Other three (3) ecological parameters: floodplain, water body and shrub to wooded savanna are declining with -19.39%, -6.54% and -11.53% respectively (Table 10).

**Table 10.** Global rate of change in space between 2000 and 2015 of the zone put into operation.

Land use classes	Area (ha)		Tc (%)	Tg (%)
	2000	2015		
Agricultural zone	44,023	298,524	12.76	578.11
Shrub to wooded savanna	1,722,538	1,388,537	-1.43	-19.39
Industrial zone	125	79,453	43.03	63,462.40
Water body	168	157	-0.45	-6.54
Floodplain	208	184	-0.81	-11.53
Urbanized area	109	315	7.07	188.99



**Figure 7.** Global rate of spatial evolution of the oil exploitation zone of influence in the Bongor basin between 2000 and 2015.

## 4. Discussion

### Dynamics of Land Use Between 2000 and 2015

Industrial establishment and oil activities in 2015 show remarkable changes in the ecological parameters of land use in entire Bongor basin (Tables 5 and 6). Agricultural zone revealed an increased by 15.15% and wooded savanna as well by 0.07%. At the same time, shrub savanna is in decline by -15.75%. There is a decrease in water body and floodplain with respectively 0.007% and 1.59%. From 2015 period, paddy field loss has been witnessed with tremendous shift in land giving way to the appearance of sand occupying 13,628.32 ha of the total area. These observations and analyzes are in agreement with the trend observed in the Cuyabeno region in which oil facilities contributed to deforestation or forest degradation [30].

Spatio-temporal changes that occur between two periods 2000 and 2015 in Bongor basin (Figure 2 and Figure 3) illustrate negative evolution of shrub savanna with an overall change rate (Tg) of -31, 13% and an average annual spatial expansion rate (Tc) of -2.48% (Table 9). These regressive changes are attributed to deforestation for the benefit of oil facilities and infrastructures in place. These regressions phenomenon is also observed in project area of Amazon where rate of deforestation in the Ecuadorian Amazon region evaluated to be 4%, which corresponds to 3000 km/year of forest lost [22]. Moreover, agricultural areas are recording

increase of 3.11% in annual average rate of spatial expansion following the development of new farming fields due to its economic added value to farmers with demographic expansion around oil companies.

It has also been observed that in oil zone under operation named 'zone of influence', industrial zone and agricultural zone cover respectively up to 4.49% and 14.40% of the total area and gradual increase in urbanized areas of 0.01%. These parameters illustrate annual growth rate between 2000 and 2015 respectively to be 12.76% for agricultural zone, 43.03% for industrial area and 7.07% for urbanized zone (Table 10). Consequently, influence of petroleum facilities and activities has impact on initial natural environment with 18.90% of rate (Table 8).

Shrub to wooded savanna, water body and floodplain are in considerable regression respectively by -18.90%, -0.001% and -0.001% (Table 7), and thus showing annual regression rate of -1.43% for shrub to wooded savanna, -0.45% for water body and -0.81% for floodplain (Table 10). Consequently, dynamic analysis of land use in oil zone of influence and facilities shows strong degraded quality of environment due to destruction of vegetation, wetlands lost to installations and petroleum equipment. Despite this small scale, impacts are significant due to roads opening and clearings [15]. It has also been proved that oil and gas exploration in the Haynesville Shale area had disturbed forest and agricultural lands [29].



### *Analysis of Petroleum Activities Impact on Land in Oil Operating Area*

Oil facilities establishment and various oil exploitation activities in this basin, have caused shrub savanna to regress with an average annual spatial expansion rate of -1.73%, an overall rate of change of -22.94% (Table 9) and a spatial mutation between 2000 and 2015 of 15.75% (Table 5). This same ecological parameter in oil zone under operations is also declining with an average annual spatial expansion rate of -1.43%, an overall rate of change of -19.39% and a spatial mutation of 18.90% (Table 7). It is also observed that natural environment transformed by human activities (Table 8) allows the progression of the sparse forest. From field observations, this is due to intensification of exploration activities, tracing of seismic lines, construction of exploitation structures and the establishment of quarries which involves destruction of trees during the process. This phenomenon of regression in vegetation and land cover has also been observed in the farming regions in North-West Siberia [25]. This regression is justified by the obvious direct impacts of buildings, roads and heavy machinery vehicle tracks associated with industrial oil activities [25]. Similar case of Tundra vegetation reduction in Bovanenkovo oil and gas field was observed using multi-year Landsat and Satellite scenes, it is believed that negative impacts of oil development and gas in Northwest Siberia have raised concerns for the ecological environment in these areas [13, 14, 21]. Research work on the environmental management of offshore oil exploitation in Niger Delta also shows that oil exploration, field preparation, production and other activities require creation of access roads through mangrove forests, for the passage of men and equipment; these field preparations include opening of roads, settling of base camps, drilling sites and oil pipelines: these activities destroy a considerable amount of vegetation and that mangroves located at one side and the other of roads that are isolated from natural flow of water end up dying [12]. Floodplain and water body over the whole Bongor basin are in regression with average annual change of -2.48% and -3.41, and overall change of -31.137% and -40, 12 respectively (Table 9). The resulting spatial mutation also gives 1.59% for floodplain and 0.0006957% for water body (Table 5). It is also witnessed in year 2015, a loss of paddy field due to silting up (Table 5) of the area. Natural environment which has remained natural has declined by -68.93% (Table 6). Floodplain and water body regression and loss of paddy field, are in one way or another associated to various works and oil activities in this area; construction of well platforms, oil production facilities and gathering networks, electrical and road networks isolate certain parts of land from others which, before hydrocarbons operations, are supplied by natural flow of surface waters. According to findings and fields observations, this could be explained by the intensification of works requiring a huge amount of soil to compact alleys, wells and other facilities platforms; by doing these works, good number of quarries are dug in many places and are widely open to absorb largest part of surface water which initially spread throughout the bush

and fed paddy fields.

The more or less stable spatial change in the operational area can be explained by the permanent occupation or establishment of oil infrastructure. A similar study at Ilorin and its surroundings in Kwara State, Nigeria, confirms these facts [31]. The phenomenon of regression of water and floodplain as well as silting were also notified at the beginning of oil and gas exploration and exploitation in Niger Delta; and other environmental problems associated with oil activities are oil spills, gas flaring, pipeline, depletion of forest resources, coastal erosion and changes in land use/vegetation [1]. Analysis on land use change in Port Harcourt city in Nigeria also showed that water bodies decreased by 18% from 1996 to 2007 and marshes by 16% over the same period, and it was concluded that this could be the result of various oil activities in the environment [20]. Other studies conducted in the Amazon oil exploitation area of Cuyabeno, Ecuador, have also shown that oil infrastructure interfere with waters flowing mechanisms by disrupting natural flows [30]. The regression of shrub and wooded savanna can also be the cause of silting up. Similar case of silting up of areas was described in Niger Delta oil operations sites, that this phenomenon is associated to sudden and massive mortality of mangrove trees causing sediment erosion [8].

Agricultural area has increase with an average annual change of 3.112%, an overall change of 59.496% (Table 9) and a spatial mutation of 15.15% in the Bongor Basin (Table 5). And in the area of oil operation, there is a very large overall rate of change of 578.11%, an average annual change rate 12.760% (Table 10) and a spatial mutation of 14.40% (Table 7). According to surveys and field observations, the growth in agricultural area may be associated with land use by oil companies with an increase of industrial zone of 4.49% of the total area under oil operation (Table 7) and the increasing demand for food which leads to an increase in agricultural production as well as an increase in agricultural land use [26].

In addition to this, oil operation and activities attract more visitors seeking job opportunities and who end up creating new homes, and investing in agriculture to meet food needs, resulting in increasing of urbanized areas of 0.01% and an overall change rate of 188.990% in area of oil operation. This analysis is in line with the one observed in Port Harcourt where increase in urban space due to the economic pressure is also associated with oil activities impacting the use of residential land or urbanized area [20, 26].

## **5. Conclusion**

Remote sensing is an important tool for assessing impacts of various activities and the complexity of oil facilities in the Bongor basin. Ecological parameters during the 2000s period before oil development and the period when oil activities were intensified in 2015, have highlighted impacts associated with oil installations and activities in the Bongor Basin.

Statistics from dynamic land use analyses in Bongor Basin revealed environmental negative changes such as; destruction of vegetation, disappearance of wetlands for oil industrial expansion. These changes in ecological parameters are quantified by regressive rate of evolution of shrub savannah with the overall rate of change of -31.13% and average annual rate of spatial expansion of -2.48%. In of oil exploitation area, the increasing parameters are, industrial zone, agricultural area and urbanized areas representing 4.49%, 14.40% and 0.01% respectively with corresponding annual growth rate between 2000 and 2015 of 12.76%, 43.03% and 7.07%.

Globally, natural environment remained natural in this basin declined by -68.93%, the natural environment transformed by human activities increased by +15.23% and regressed natural environment increase by +53.70%. And with regard to the oil operation area, the natural environment remained natural by -18.90%, the natural environment transformed by human activities by increasing 18.90%.

Oil prospection to production processes, road constructions, electrical networks, pipeline constructions, quarries and well platforms and other related field activities have generated at various level as shown in this study. Changes in ecological parameters of land use, vegetation cover, disappearance of paddy field, soil erosion with sand accumulation impacting on natural flow and decrease in surface and underground water levels have also been observed. Other reasons related to these ecological (Urbanized area and agricultural zone) changes associated to oil activities, is the increase in population and human activities in oil operating zone.

## Conflict of Interest Statement

Authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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