

Land Reclamation and Livelihood Options of Lagoon Dependent Communities in Lagos Nigeria

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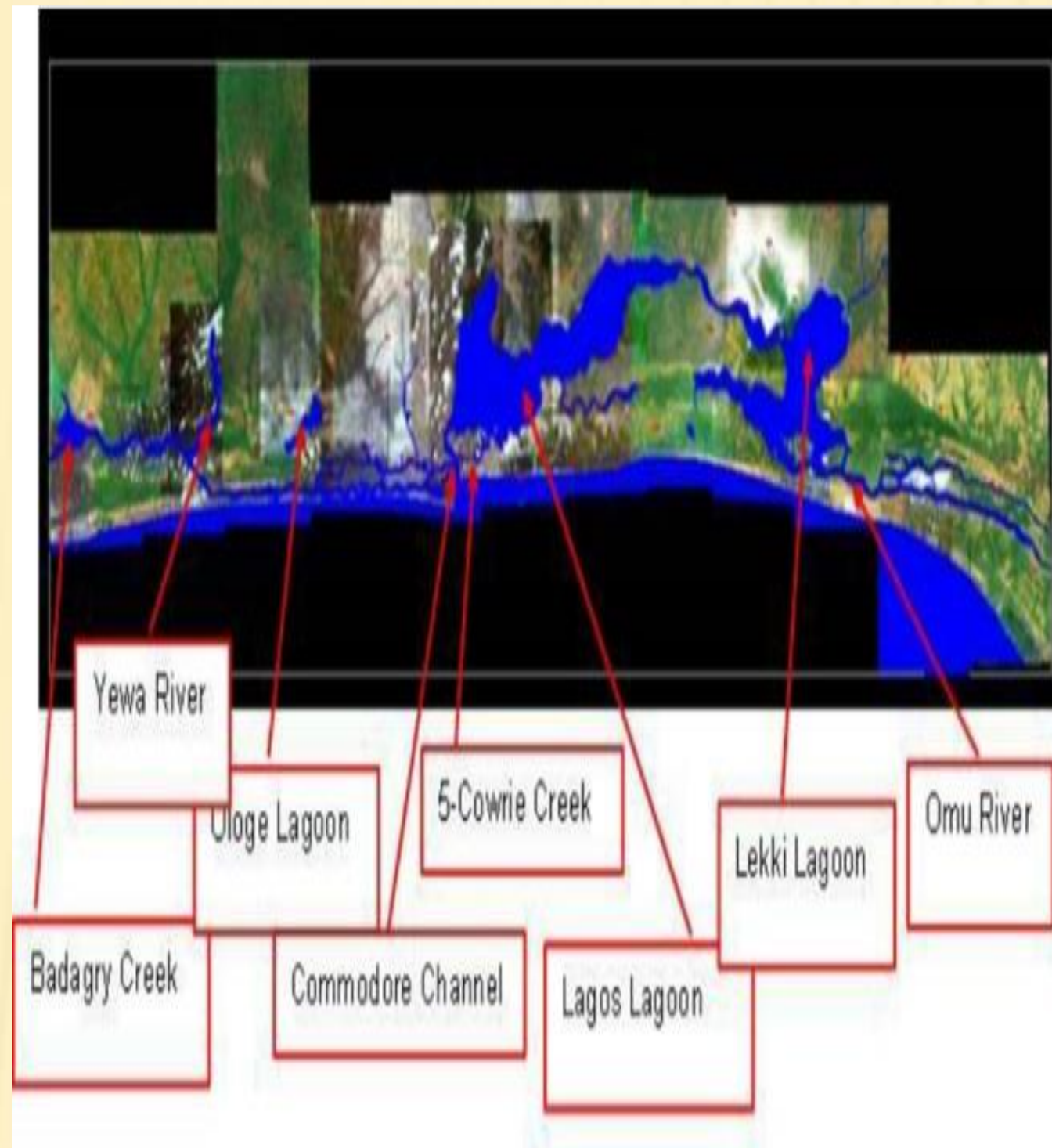
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Background

Around the world, coastal cities are reclaiming lands and building artificial islands in the ocean due to population squeeze. In Lagos, indiscriminate sand extractions and amorphous construction within urban seascape are partly responsible for the rapid decline or complete loss of native fish species that are vital to local livelihood sustainability.



Using Google maps, we are able to detect the extent of lands reclaimed from the Lagoon mostly since 1999 in various parts of Lagos. The growing appetite for dry land means that Lagos is colonizing its vital barrier lagoon much faster than we have witnessed in the previous years creating great concern among development and environmental NGOs' actors.



Proposed Project Objectives

The aim of this project is to understand the livelihood options of coastal communities along Lagos Lagoon to changes in lagoon resource availability overtime due to land reclamation. The specifics objectives includes:

- Identify the drivers of lagoon resource use.
- Understand how land reclamation determines household livelihood vulnerability.
- Explore potential adaptive and transformative alternative livelihood options under intensified land reclamation activities.
- Explore possible strategies for lagoon resource conservation.

Scoping study – Methods

- Workshop scoping management objectives.
- Semi structured interviews with key informants including government representatives.
- Survey and semi-structured interviews with households.
- Gather publicly available socio-economic data on lagoon fisheries.
- Review conservation options for unregulated common resource



Preliminary Progress

- Awareness raising
- Preliminary engagements
- Stakeholders mapping
- Communities consultation

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