

Towards a Spatial Information Model for Poverty Reduction and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa

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SUMMARY

In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty is prevalent despite the availability of abundant natural and human resources. Its magnitude and dimension has made poverty reduction the core challenge for African's development in the 21st century. In the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there is the resolve to halve global extreme poverty (people living below one dollar a day) as well as other goals by 2015 from the present 1.2 billion people living in deep deprivation. Five years after the setting of the MDGs, sub-Saharan Africa's performance towards achieving the targets are negligible for most indicators of the MGDs. Whereas in most regions of the world, including Northern Africa, poverty rates are fast dropping. As emerging studies are gradually establishing an indisputable link between geographic location and poverty, taking spatial determinants into cognizance in better understanding the distribution of poverty as well as that of assets that are fundamental for poverty alleviation is imperative. This would require some effort in designing and developing appropriate spatial information systems to aid the modelling of a socio-economic problem as poverty. This paper describes an ongoing effort, which is attempting to model within a spatial context the management of poverty, using Nigerian as case study.