

## **From City Plan to the Integrated Regional and National Plan**

Using Abuja, the Federal Capital City of Nigeria as an example, this paper makes the point that the African city should be envisioned and planned beyond its boundaries as regional hubs that are fully connected to the hinterlands by infrastructure [illustration 1]. It also suggests that some of the great cities in Africa have grown concurrently with the expansion of the administrative divisions in the countries where they are located.

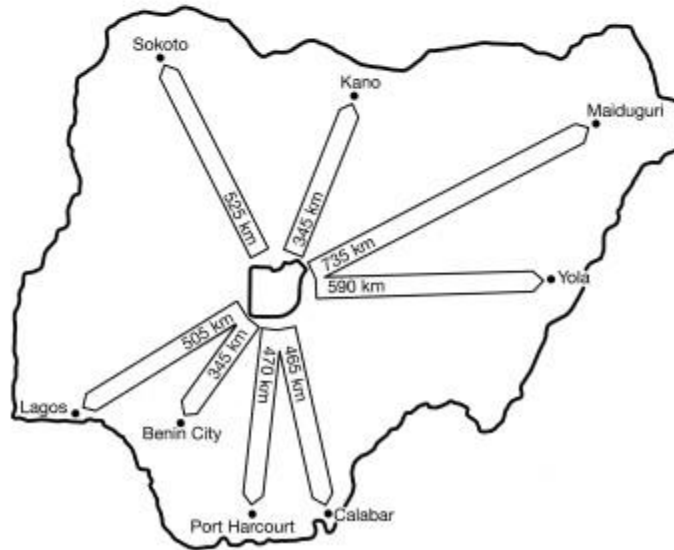
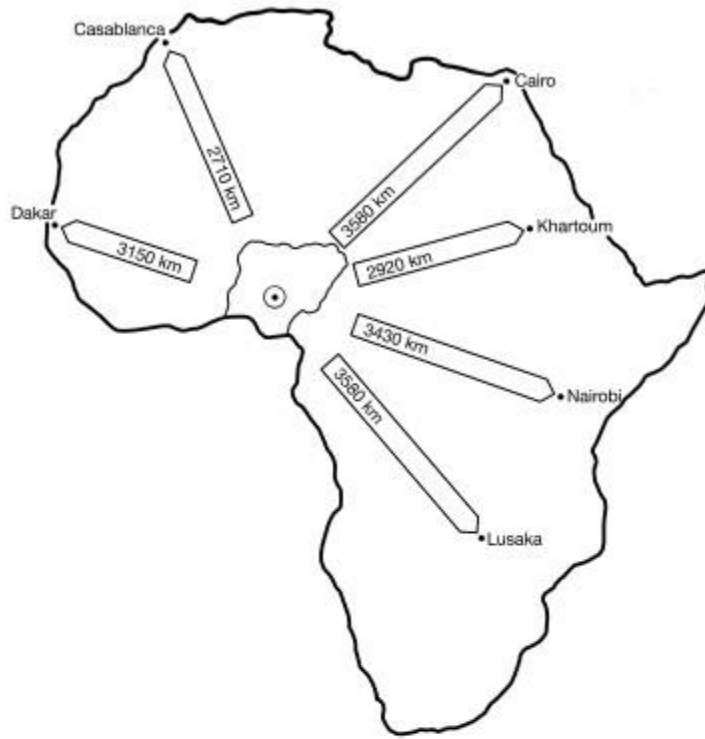
In 1900, Nigeria was two autonomous large regions that were called protectorates. The two regions were amalgamated in 1914, and were subdivided first into three provinces, later four provinces between 1963 and 1966, while Lagos was designated the national capital. The country was divided into twelve states in 1967 when civil war broke out, and a capital city was established each time a state was founded. In 1979, Nigeria had nineteen states and a Federal Capital Territory [illustration 2], but the number of states increased to 30, and finally to 36 between 1987 and 1999 [illustration 3].

Nigeria is not alone in this example that shows the growth of cities in the country with increases in administrative provinces. South Africa's four large provinces were subdivided into nine provinces each with its own administrative capital when apartheid ended in 1994. Moreover, what was once known as homelands were integrated into the new provinces. This is in addition to the multi-capital cities arrangement that positions Pretoria as the administrative capital, Cape Town as the Parliamentary Seat, while Bloemfontein is the Judicial capital. The establishment of a Constitutional Court in Johannesburg adds a new judicial capital to the existing three.

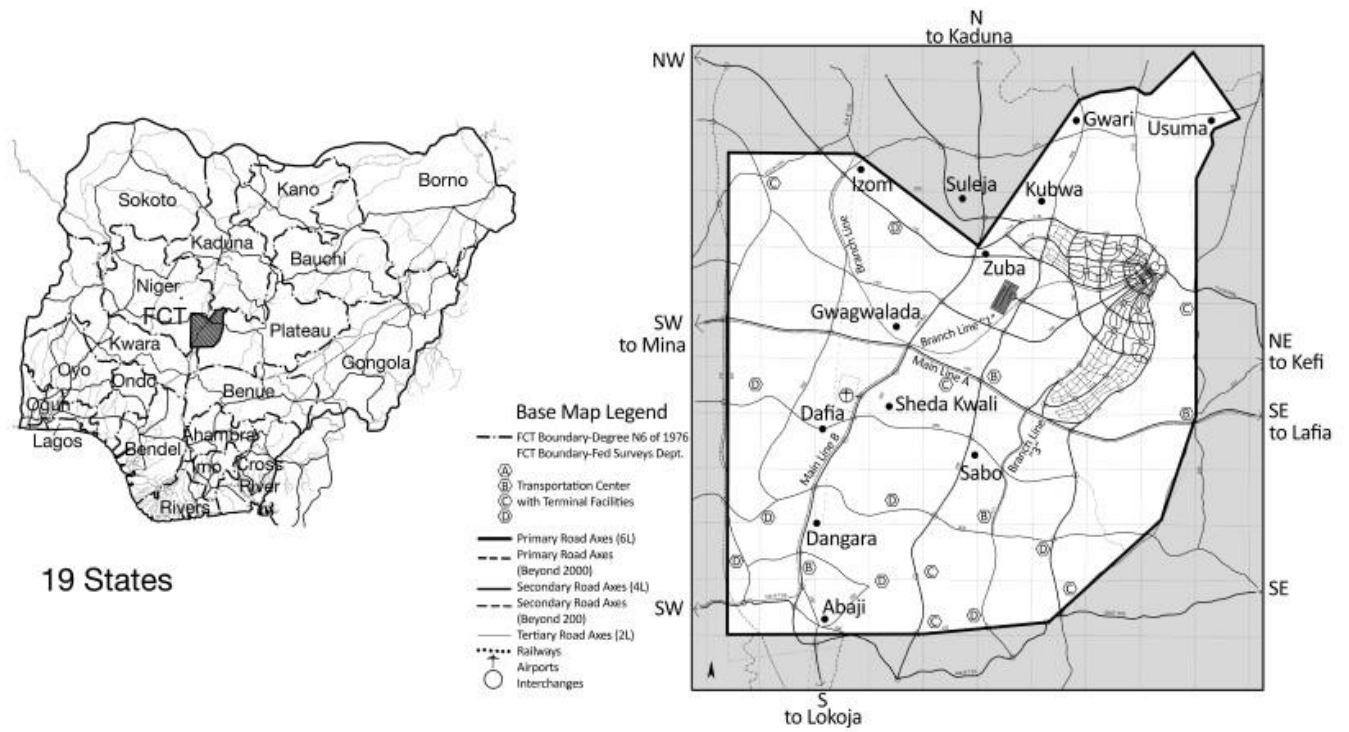
The Republic of South Sudan, the youngest country in Africa, is planning to relocate its capital city from Juba to Ramceil, a site it considers a centralized location for its provinces.

The examples discussed in this paper suggest that planners can imagine the African city with the growth of the countries where they are located, and always consider the ecological assets beyond the limits of the cities before population explosion takes over the surroundings.

[Illustration 1]



[Illustration 2]



[Illustration 3]

