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Session 6: Hazard and Risk Geospatial Information Requirements (cont)

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Hazard and Risk Geospatial Information Requirements in Cameroon

Abstract

The urban population of Cameroon is growing at an exponential rate, and so are the potentials of risks and catastrophes. The scale of the material, economic and human damages caused by these disasters in Cameroon is well established (about 1800 deaths in Lake Nyos-1986). Given the contingencies of the physical milieu, the geological profile and the topographic as well as the geographic diversity of Cameroon, there is a variety of natural and human-induced threats that have not been studied extensively, until recently. The most recurring risks in Cameroonian cities are: floods, landslides, erosion, collapse of building, fire ... Cameroon has taken measures to prevent risks and disasters by implementing a number of policies enclosed under the term “civil protection” through the elaboration of several legal texts and the organization of various structures dealing with the issue. The establishment of a National Risk Observatory-NRO in 2003 demonstrates the interest of the authorities in relation to risks and catastrophes. Despite the creation of this observatory that regroups many administrative departments, we witness the lack of a coordinated approach in collecting, storing, accessing and disseminating geospatial data. The typology and quality of available geospatial data will be the focus of this presentation with case study on erosion in Yaoundé.