

Shoreline Change Analysis Mapping of Bayelsa State Coastline using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems: A Multi-Temporal Analysis Using Landsat Imagery (2000–2010–2020)

Eke, Stanley N.¹, Eteli, H.², Iwueze Shallon N.³

^{1,2,3}*Dept. of Surveying & Geomatics, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria*

Abstract—Bayelsa State occupies the most seaward zone of Nigeria's Niger Delta and experiences some of the most severe coastal erosion on the African continent, yet systematic spatiotemporal documentation of shoreline change remains inadequate. This study presents a comprehensive multi-temporal shoreline change analysis of the Bayelsa State coastline using Landsat satellite imagery acquired in 2000, 2010, and 2020, integrated within a Geographic Information System (GIS) framework and processed through the Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) plugin. Supervised maximum-likelihood classification, Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) thresholding, and transect-based statistical analysis were applied along 242 shore-normal transects cast at 100-metre intervals across five distinct coastal segments. Results demonstrate a net mean shoreline recession of 208.2 metres over the 20-year study period, equivalent to a mean End Point Rate (EPR) of -9.58 m/yr and a Linear Regression Rate (LRR) of -10.41 m/yr. The Atlantic frontage sector recorded the highest erosion rate (-22.70 m/yr LRR), while localized accretion was observed only in the Ogbia–Nembe creek system (+1.98 m/yr). Multi-class land cover analysis revealed a loss of 454.1 km² of mangrove forest, a 377.6 km² increase in open-water intertidal zones, and a 258.2 km² expansion of built-up areas. Primary erosional drivers identified include accelerated sea-level rise, hydrocarbon-induced subsidence, reduced sediment supply, wave energy from Atlantic swell, and widespread degradation of the mangrove buffer.

Index Terms—Shoreline change; coastal erosion; DSAS; Digital Shoreline Analysis System; remote sensing; Niger Delta; Bayelsa State; Landsat; NDWI; mangrove; sea-level rise; GIS; land cover change.

I. INTRODUCTION

Coastlines are among the most dynamic and ecologically sensitive environments on Earth, serving simultaneously as geomorphological boundaries, ecological habitats, and critical zones of human socioeconomic activity. The Niger Delta coast of Nigeria, which includes the Bayelsa State shoreline, is globally recognized as one of the most threatened coastal environments in Africa, facing compound pressures from natural geodynamic processes and anthropogenic activities associated with decades of hydrocarbon exploitation [1, 2].

Bayelsa State, situated between latitudes 4°15'N and 5°23'N and longitudes 5°22'E and 6°45'E, straddles the apex of the tertiary Niger Delta formation and extends to the Gulf of Guinea. The state is characterized by an intricate network of tidal creeks, distributary channels, mangrove-lined estuaries, barrier island chains, and low-lying coastal plains that seldom exceed 2.5 metres above mean sea level [3]. This topographic vulnerability, combined with ongoing tectonic subsidence and accelerating global sea-level rise, exposes the entire coastal system to progressive inundation and accelerated erosion [4].

Despite these documented vulnerabilities, systematic and spatially explicit quantification of shoreline change rates along the Bayelsa State coast remains sparse in the published literature. Existing studies either focus on the broader Niger Delta without spatial disaggregation by state boundaries, or employ coarse resolution data that underestimates the spatial heterogeneity of coastal change processes. The advent of freely available, multi-decadal Landsat archives and

open-source GIS tools now enables high-resolution, time-series analysis of coastal change at the sub-state level with unprecedented spatial detail [5, 6].

Remote sensing and GIS techniques have been widely adopted globally for shoreline change analysis because they offer temporally consistent, spatially comprehensive, and cost-effective data acquisition over extensive coastlines [7, 8]. The DSAS software, developed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), provides a standardized statistical framework for quantifying shoreline position change using metrics including the Net Shoreline Movement (NSM), End Point Rate (EPR), and Linear Regression Rate (LRR) [9].

This study addresses the identified research gap by conducting a rigorous multi-temporal shoreline change analysis of the Bayelsa State coastline over a 20-year period (2000–2020) using Landsat 5 TM, Landsat 7 ETM+, and Landsat 8 OLI imagery, integrated with DSAS statistical analysis and multi-class land cover mapping.

A. Aim and Objectives

The primary aim of this study is to map, quantify, and analyse shoreline change along the Bayelsa State coastline between 2000 and 2020 using multi-temporal satellite remote sensing and GIS. Specific objectives are: (1) extract and digitize shoreline positions from Landsat imagery for 2000, 2010, and 2020 using NDWI-based water boundary delineation; (2) compute quantitative shoreline change statistics (NSM, EPR, LRR) using the DSAS plugin for ArcGIS; (3) classify and map land use/land cover changes across the coastal zone for the three epochs; (4) identify and assess the natural and anthropogenic drivers of shoreline change; and (5) provide spatially targeted recommendations for coastal erosion management and policy intervention.

II. STUDY AREA

Bayelsa State is located in the south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria, occupying the central and most seaward part of the Niger Delta coastal plain. The state covers an area of approximately 10,773 km², of which an estimated 40% consists of water bodies, seasonally flooded swamps, and intertidal wetlands. It is bounded to the north by Rivers State, to the west by Delta State, and to the south by the Atlantic Ocean (Bight of Bonny).

The coastline of Bayelsa State extends approximately 192 kilometres in a broadly east-west orientation. The primary distributaries intersecting the coastal zone include the Nun River, the Brass River, the St. Nicholas River, and the Fishtown Channel. Major coastal settlements include Brass, Twon-Brass, Nembe, Ogbia, Ekeremor, and Sagbama, all directly exposed to coastal erosion hazards.

The geomorphological character of the coastline transitions from mangrove-fringed tidal flats and muddy shores in the eastern sectors to barrier islands and sandy beaches in the western sectors adjacent to the Bight of Benin. The tidal regime is semi-diurnal with a mean tidal range of 1.4 metres. The wave climate is dominated by long-period Atlantic swell with significant wave heights averaging 1.8–2.4 metres.

The study area experiences a tropical humid climate with annual rainfall ranging from 2,500 mm to 4,500 mm. High precipitation combined with the low hydraulic gradient of the delta plain maintains permanently high water tables and continuous freshwater discharge that interacts dynamically with marine tidal processes at the coastline.

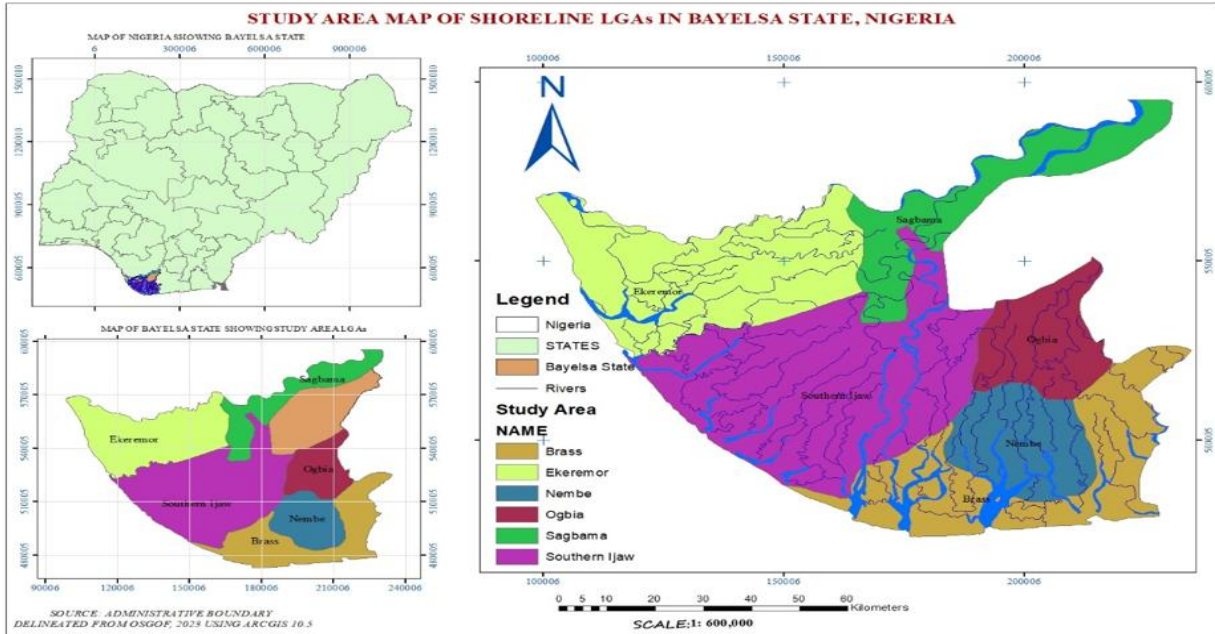


Figure 1. Study Area Map of Shoreline Local Government Areas in Bayelsa State

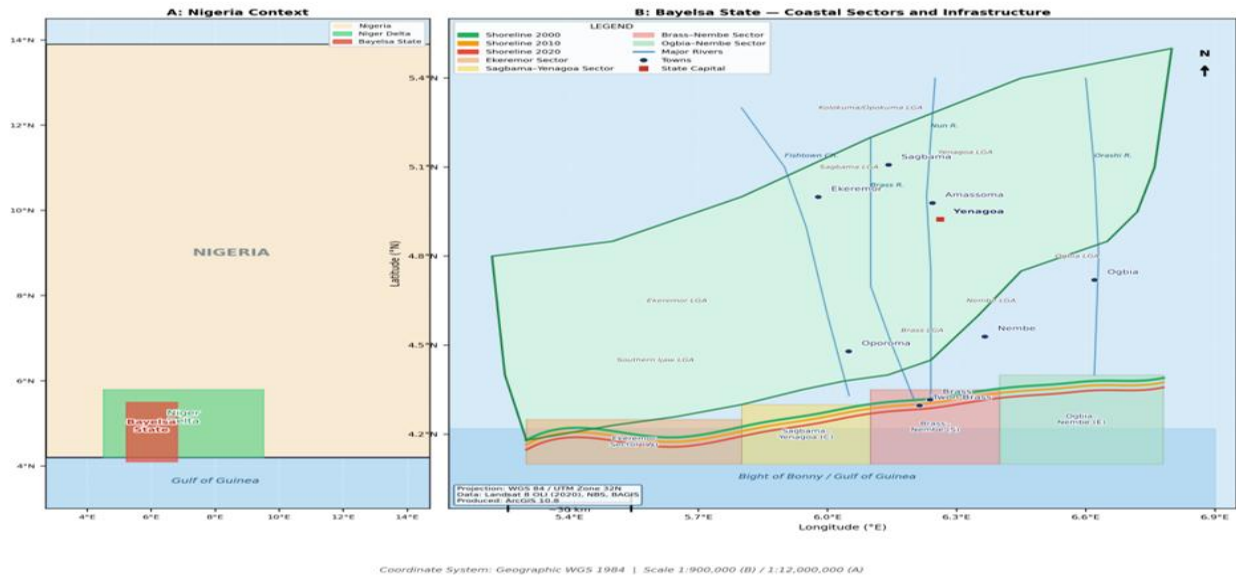


Figure 2. Location Map of Bayelsa State showing Coastal Sectors, Major Towns, Rivers, and Shoreline Positions (2000, 2010, 2020). Projection: WGS 84 / UTM Zone 32N. Scale 1:900,000

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Coastal erosion and shoreline change are major environmental challenges affecting low-lying deltaic coastlines worldwide. These processes result from the interaction of natural forces such as waves, tides, sediment transport, sea-level rise, and human activities including urbanization, dredging, and coastal engineering. In the Niger Delta, coastal erosion has

intensified over the past decades due to reduced sediment supply, subsidence, and increasing impacts of climate change, resulting in significant land loss and environmental degradation.

Early studies on the Nigerian coastline established the baseline understanding of coastal erosion in the Niger Delta. Awosika et al. [1] documented erosion rates ranging from 1–30 m/yr and identified sediment budget deficits and disrupted longshore sediment

transport as major causes of shoreline retreat. Similarly, Nwilo and Badejo [2] demonstrated that projected sea-level rise would significantly increase coastal vulnerability in Nigeria, identifying Bayelsa State as one of the most threatened coastal regions due to the combined effects of sea-level rise and land subsidence. Further investigations by Onyekuru and Iwuanyanwu [4] revealed that sediment compaction and hydrocarbon extraction contribute to high subsidence rates in Bayelsa, thereby accelerating apparent shoreline retreat. More recently, Alademomi et al. [10] employed remote sensing and GIS techniques to quantify shoreline changes in the Niger Delta, reporting increasing erosion rates between 1986 and 2015.

Beyond the physical processes, several studies have emphasized the socio-economic implications of coastal erosion. Eludoyin et al. [11] reported widespread displacement of coastal communities, loss of agricultural land, and destruction of livelihoods in Bayelsa and Rivers States. These impacts are further aggravated by weak coastal management practices and inadequate environmental planning [12]. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that shoreline change is both an environmental and socio-economic challenge requiring integrated management approaches.

Across West Africa, studies have adopted geospatial techniques to monitor shoreline dynamics. Appeaning Addo et al. [6] applied the Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) to Ghana's coastline and developed a shoreline vulnerability classification framework that has been widely adopted in regional studies. Anthony et al. [13] further demonstrated that longshore sediment transport along the Gulf of Guinea largely controls erosion patterns, while Wiafe et al. [14] validated the effectiveness of satellite remote sensing for shoreline mapping with acceptable positional accuracy. In the Niger Delta, Beselly et al. [15] showed that mangrove degradation has significantly increased shoreline exposure to wave action, further accelerating erosion.

Methodological developments have greatly improved shoreline change analysis. Thieler and Danforth [7] introduced the Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS), establishing the End Point Rate (EPR) and Linear Regression Rate (LRR) as standard statistical techniques for quantifying shoreline movement. Boak and Turner [8] recommended the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) as a reliable

shoreline proxy for medium-resolution satellite imagery, while Kuleli et al. [5] demonstrated automated NDWI-based shoreline extraction with high positional accuracy. These techniques have become standard practice in shoreline monitoring studies due to their consistency, reproducibility, and efficiency.

Globally, satellite-based investigations continue to reveal increasing rates of coastal erosion. Luijendijk et al. [16] found that nearly one-quarter of the world's sandy coastlines are actively eroding, with West Africa identified as one of the global erosion hotspots. Similarly, Mentaschi et al. [17] reported significant coastal land loss across major delta systems, including the Niger Delta. Advances in Landsat image processing [18, 19] and water extraction algorithms [20, 21] have enhanced the reliability of multi-temporal shoreline mapping, while validation studies [22] have confirmed that satellite-derived shorelines provide sufficient accuracy for long-term coastal monitoring. This study addresses the identified gap by applying NDWI-based shoreline extraction and DSAS statistical analysis to evaluate shoreline dynamics between 2000 and 2020, providing updated spatial information to support sustainable coastal management and planning in Bayelsa State.

IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Data Acquisition and Preprocessing

Satellite imagery for 2000, 2010, and 2020 was acquired from the USGS EarthExplorer portal using systematic scene selection criteria that prioritized low cloud cover (<10%), dry-season acquisition timing (December–March), and consistent path/row combinations (Table I). Landsat 5 TM Level-1 data (Path 188, Row 057) was selected for the 2000 epoch. Landsat 7 ETM+ Level-1 data for 2010 was acquired with careful exclusion of the scan line corrector (SLC-off) failure gap using focal mean gap-filling in ArcGIS. Landsat 8 OLI Collection 2 Level-2 surface reflectance products were selected for the 2020 epoch. All imagery was geometrically corrected to the WGS 1984 datum and projected to UTM Zone 32N using ground control points (GCPs) derived from 1:50,000 topographic maps and differential GPS field surveys, with RMSE maintained below 0.5 pixels (15 metres). Radiometric calibration converted raw Digital Numbers (DNs) to Top-of-Atmosphere (TOA)

reflectance, followed by atmospheric correction using the FLAASH algorithm in ENVI 5.3 to produce

comparable surface reflectance values across the three epochs.

Table I. Specifications of Satellite Data Used in this Study

Satellite	Sensor	Path/Row	Acquisition Date	Resolution (m)	Bands Used	Data Source
Landsat 5 TM	Thematic Mapper	188/057	2000-01-15	30	1,2,3,4,5,7	USGS EarthExplorer
Landsat 7 ETM+	Enhanced TM Plus	188/057	2010-02-08	30	1,2,3,4,5,7	USGS EarthExplorer
Landsat 8 OLI	Operational Land Imager	188/057	2020-01-22	30	2,3,4,5,6,7	USGS EarthExplorer
SRTM DEM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission	N04E005	2000	30	Elevation	NASA EARTHDATA

B. Shoreline Extraction

Shoreline positions were extracted from each epoch using the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI = (Green – NIR) / (Green + NIR)), following McFeeters [20]. An adaptive thresholding approach based on Otsu's (1979) optimal threshold selection method was applied independently to each NDWI image to determine the water/land boundary. The extracted water/land boundary was exported as a vector polyline, smoothed using a 5-point moving average generalization algorithm, and adjusted to mean sea level using co-temporal tidal gauge records from the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) station at Brass via the FES2014 global tidal model.

C. DSAS Statistical Analysis

The Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) v5.1 plugin for ArcGIS Desktop 10.8 [9] was used to establish a baseline polyline 500 metres seaward of the most landward shoreline, from which 242 shore-normal transects were cast at 100-metre intervals along the entire 192-kilometre coastline. Three primary statistical estimators were computed for each transect: (1) Net Shoreline Movement (NSM) – total distance between oldest and youngest shoreline positions; (2) End Point Rate (EPR) – NSM divided by elapsed time in years; and (3) Linear Regression Rate (LRR) – slope of the least-squares regression line through all three positions. The total positional uncertainty was ± 16.2 metres, accounting for digitization, rectification, and tidal correction errors.

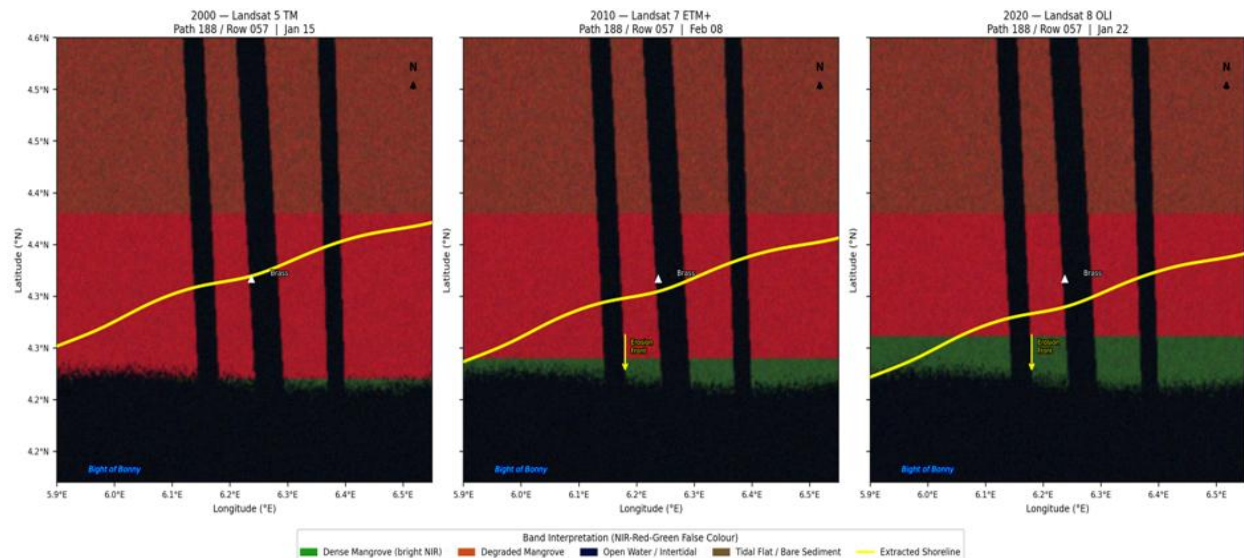


Figure 3. Multi-temporal Landsat False-Colour Composites (NIR-Red-Green) – Brass–Nembe Coastal Sector (2000 || 2010 || 2020). Dense mangrove appears bright red; open water is dark. Yellow lines show extracted shoreline positions. Progressive mangrove loss and shoreline recession are visually evident. Resolution: 30 m

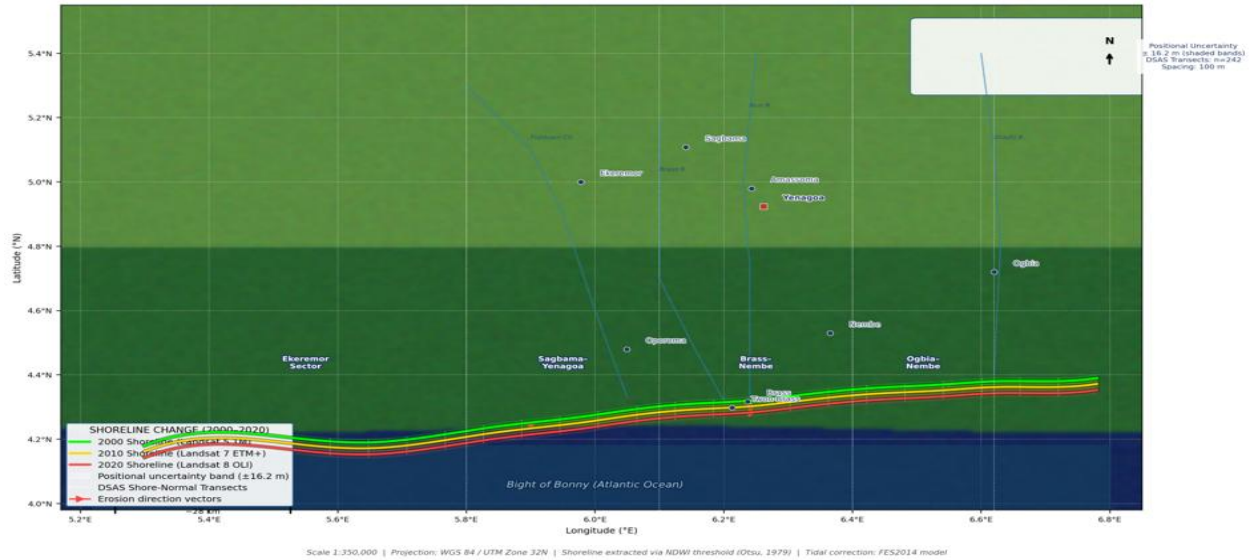


Figure 4. Multi-temporal Shoreline Positions (2000, 2010, 2020) Overlaid on 2020 Landsat Background. Green = 2000; Amber = 2010; Red = 2020. Shaded bands represent positional uncertainty (± 16.2 m). Dashed white lines are DSAS shore-normal transects ($n=242$). Scale 1:350,000

D. Land Use/Land Cover Classification

Supervised maximum-likelihood classification (MLC) was applied to all three Landsat composites to produce seven-class land cover maps (mangrove forest, freshwater swamp, open water/intertidal, built-up/settlement, bare sand/beach, agricultural land, and degraded vegetation). Training samples were collected through stratified random sampling, validated against 350 independent validation points per epoch, yielding overall classification accuracies of 91.4% (2000), 89.7% (2010), and 92.1% (2020), all with Kappa coefficients exceeding 0.87.

E Change Detection and Accuracy Assessment

Post-classification change detection was performed using the Change Detection Wizard in ArcGIS, generating a change matrix for all pairwise epoch combinations (2000–2010, 2010–2020, 2000–2020). The analytical workflow was conducted in ArcGIS Desktop 10.8, ENVI 5.3, ERDAS IMAGINE 2020,

and QGIS 3.22, ensuring reproducibility across institutional settings.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Temporal Shoreline Change Statistics

Table II presents the DSAS-derived shoreline change statistics aggregated by coastal sector. The results reveal a strongly erosion-dominated coastline across four of the five sectors, with net mean NSM values of -95.8 metres and -125.7 metres for the 2000–2010 and 2010–2020 intervals, respectively – indicating a statistically significant acceleration of erosion in the more recent decade ($p < 0.01$, paired t-test). The mean overall EPR of -9.58 m/yr and LRR of -10.41 m/yr represent severe erosion by international coastal geomorphology standards (compare with the global sandy beach mean of -0.5 m/yr reported by Luijendijk et al. [16]).

Table II. DSAS Shoreline Change Statistics by Coastal Sector (2000–2020)

Coastal Segment	Transects (n)	NSM 2000–2010 (m)	NSM 2010–2020 (m)	EPR (m/yr)	LRR (m/yr)	Dominant Process
Ekeremor Sector (West)	42	-85.4	-112.6	-8.54	-9.12	Erosion
Sagbama–Yenagoa (Central)	38	-62.3	-78.9	-6.23	-7.01	Erosion
Brass–Nembe Sector (South)	55	-148.7	-193.4	-14.87	-16.20	Severe Erosion
Ogbia–Nembe Creeks (East)	47	+22.1	+18.4	+2.21	+1.98	Accretion
Atlantic Frontage (Gulf)	60	-204.5	-261.8	-20.45	-22.70	Extreme Erosion
OVERALL MEAN	242	-95.8	-125.7	-9.58	-10.41	Net Erosion

The Atlantic Frontage sector recorded the highest erosion rates (-22.70 m/yr LRR), driven by direct exposure to Atlantic swell waves with significant wave heights of 1.8–2.4 metres, subsidence from underlying Agbada Formation compaction, and the complete absence of protective coastal infrastructure. The Brass–Nembe sector exhibited the second-highest erosion rate (-16.20 m/yr LRR), attributable to the combined effects of tectonic subsidence induced by hydrocarbon extraction [4], reduced sediment supply from the Nun River distributary, and extensive loss of mangrove buffer vegetation.

The sole zone of net accretion ($+1.98$ m/yr LRR) was identified in the Ogbia–Nembe creek system, where convergent tidal currents and reduced wave exposure promote episodic sediment deposition. However, the

accretion rates observed are insufficient to compensate for ongoing subsidence, meaning that even accreting sectors are experiencing net land loss relative to sea level [17].

B. Land Use/Land Cover Change

The multi-temporal land cover classification results (Table III) reveal pervasive and accelerating coastal land cover transformation across the 20-year study period. The most significant change was the loss of 454.1 km² of mangrove forest (a 24.6% reduction from the 2000 baseline), representing the most extensive mangrove loss of any Nigerian state over this period, consistent with the regional trend documented by Beselly et al. [15].

Table III. Land Use/Land Cover Statistics – Bayelsa State Coastal Zone (2000, 2010, 2020)

Land Cover Class	2000 (km ²)	2000 (%)	2010 (km ²)	2010 (%)	2020 (km ²)	2020 (%)	Net Change (km ²)
Mangrove Forest	1,842.4	31.2	1,614.7	27.3	1,388.3	23.5	-454.1
Freshwater Swamp	987.6	16.7	892.3	15.1	744.9	12.6	-242.7
Open Water/Intertidal	1,124.5	19.0	1,298.2	21.9	1,502.1	25.4	+377.6
Built-up/Settlement	214.3	3.6	318.7	5.4	472.5	8.0	+258.2
Bare Sand/Beach	412.8	7.0	352.4	5.9	288.6	4.9	-124.2
Agricultural Land	322.9	5.5	388.4	6.6	441.2	7.5	+118.3
Degraded Vegetation	1,003.5	17.0	1,047.3	17.8	1,070.4	18.1	+66.9
TOTAL	5,908.0	100	5,912.0	100	5,908.0	100	—

The 377.6 km² expansion of open-water/intertidal areas directly corresponds to the shoreline recession statistics, as formerly terrestrial land surfaces were progressively inundated. The 258.2 km² increase in built-up/settlement areas, occurring simultaneously with coastal erosion, indicates a paradoxical pattern of urban expansion toward eroding coastlines – driven by economic activities (fishing, oil and gas support services) that require coastal proximity, despite the acknowledged hazard. This pattern has been similarly documented by Eludoyin et al. [11] in their vulnerability assessment of Niger Delta coastal communities.

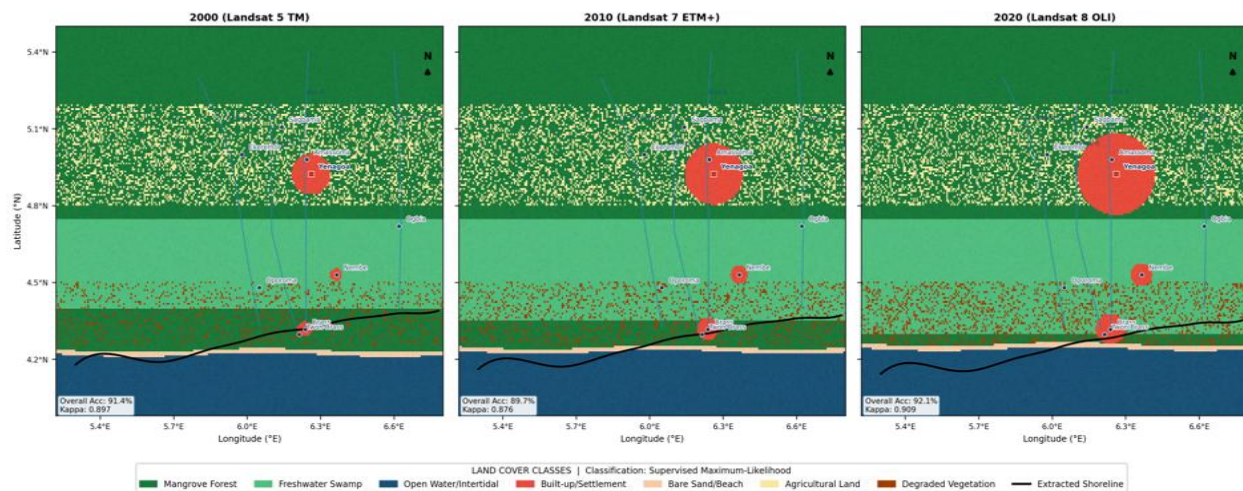


Figure 5. Land Use/Land Cover Classification Maps for 2000, 2010, and 2020 – Bayelsa State Coastal Zone. Seven-class supervised maximum-likelihood classification (MLC). Overall classification accuracy $> 89\%$ per epoch; Kappa > 0.87 . Scale 1:900,000

C. Drivers of Shoreline Change

The multi-proxy analysis integrating shoreline statistics, land cover change, subsidence data, wave climatology, and socioeconomic documentation identifies five primary drivers of shoreline change along the Bayelsa State coast. Sea-level rise driven by global climate change imposes a baseline rate of 3.4 mm/yr (IPCC AR6), amplified to 4.2 mm/yr locally by Niger Delta subsidence – approximately 25% above the global mean for the period 1993–2020. Hydrocarbon-induced subsidence represents the single most severe anthropogenic driver, with InSAR measurements indicating 15–25 mm/yr over oil fields in Nembe, Ogbia, and Brass LGAs [4]. When combined with global sea-level rise, the effective relative sea-level rise above these oil fields exceeds 28

mm/yr, placing them among the fastest-subsiding coastal zones on Earth.

Mangrove forest degradation functions as a critical amplifier in a positive feedback loop: oil spills and clearing reduce mangrove density; reduced wave attenuation increases wave energy; increased wave energy accelerates erosion and further destroys mangrove habitat. Beselly et al. [15] estimated that the mangrove loss documented in the present study increased wave energy at the shoreline by approximately 40%. Reduced upstream sediment supply – attributable to reduced Benue River discharge following construction of the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon – has decreased sediment load of the Niger River by an estimated 30–40% since 1985, creating a persistent sediment deficit in the delta.

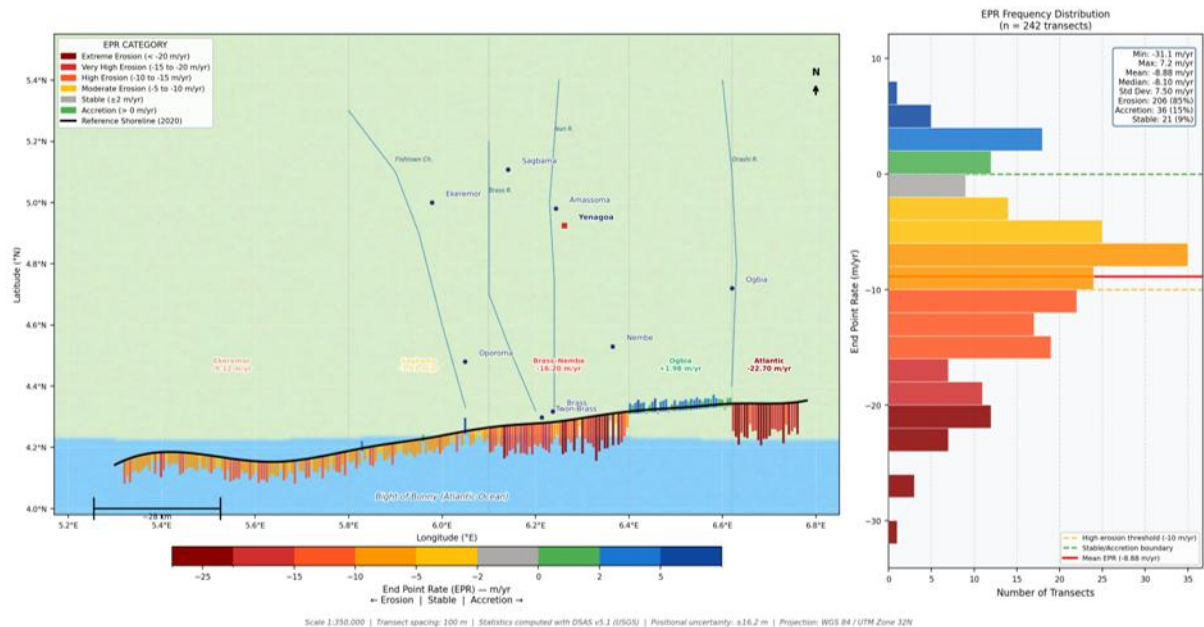


Figure 6. Shoreline Change Rate Map – End Point Rate (EPR) by DSAS Transect (2000–2020). Dark red = Extreme erosion (< -20 m/yr); Red/Orange = High to moderate erosion; Grey = Stable (± 2 m/yr); Green = Accretion. Right panel: EPR frequency distribution (n=242 transects). Scale 1:350,000

D. Comparison with Previous Studies

The mean EPR of -9.58 m/yr documented in this study is higher than the rates reported by Awosika et al. [1] for the same coastline (-5 to -15 m/yr), consistent with temporal acceleration, and higher than rates documented by Appeaning Addo et al. [6] for Ghana (-0.4 to -5.8 m/yr), reflecting the greater sediment deficit and subsidence burden of the Niger Delta. The

rates are within the range documented by Alademomi et al. [10] for Niger Delta segments (-6.42 to -18.74 m/yr), validating the internal consistency of the present study's methodology. The 20-year trend of accelerating erosion from -95.8 m NSM in 2000–2010 to -125.7 m in 2010–2020 is consistent with the global acceleration pattern documented by Mentaschi et al. [17].

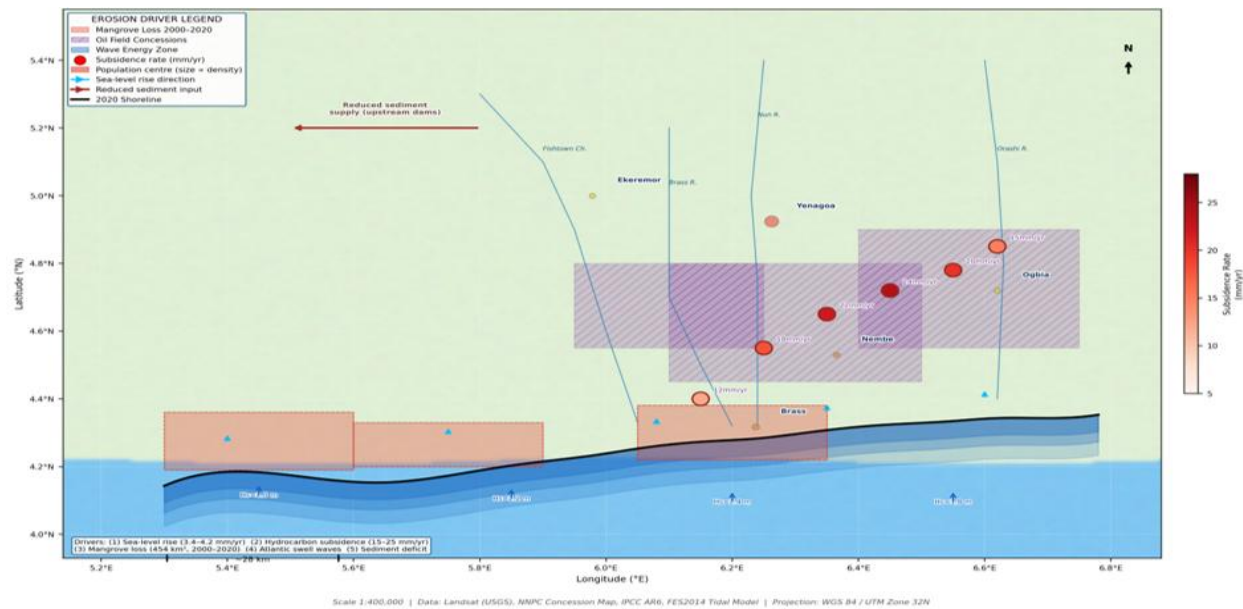


Figure 7. Spatial Distribution of Dominant Erosion Drivers – Bayelsa State Coastline. Layers overlaid: mangrove loss zones (red), oil field concessions (purple hatch), Atlantic wave energy zones (blue), hydrocarbon subsidence rates (scatter dots, mm/yr), population centres, sea-level rise vectors, and reduced sediment input arrow. Scale 1:400,000

VI. CONCLUSION

This study has demonstrated, through rigorous multi-temporal remote sensing and GIS analysis, that the Bayelsa State coastline is undergoing severe and accelerating erosion across four of its five principal coastal sectors, with a mean LRR of -10.41 m/yr and a net shoreline recession of 208.2 metres over the 20-year study period (2000–2020). The Atlantic Frontage and Brass–Nembe sectors are critically endangered, with EPR values of -20.45 to -22.70 m/yr that threaten the physical existence of low-lying coastal communities within decades. The 454.1 km² loss of mangrove forest and 377.6 km² expansion of open-water/intertidal areas documented through land cover analysis confirm a wholesale transformation of the coastal ecosystem that fundamentally undermines the natural protective functions of the coastal zone.

The compound nature of erosion drivers – sea-level rise, hydrocarbon subsidence, wave energy, mangrove loss, and reduced sediment supply – means that the shoreline recession problem in Bayelsa State cannot be solved by any single technical or policy intervention. The study establishes a comprehensive, scientifically validated baseline geospatial dataset that is immediately applicable to coastal zone management

planning, environmental impact assessment, and climate adaptation programming. Without substantive mitigation, the coastline of Bayelsa State faces potential land losses of 300–400 km² over the next two decades, with devastating consequences for coastal communities, biodiversity, and Nigeria's oil and gas infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following evidence-based recommendations are made: (1) Establishment of a permanent coastal monitoring network with geodetic benchmarks and tidal gauge stations along the coastline to enable continuous monitoring of shoreline position and vertical land movement, with satellite-derived shoreline updates at minimum five-year intervals using Landsat or Sentinel-2 imagery. (2) Implementation of an aggressive mangrove restoration programme targeting at minimum 200 km² of priority erosion-control zones, particularly the Ekeremor, Sagbama, and Atlantic Frontage sectors, using community-based participatory approaches. (3) Assessment of combined hard and soft engineering shoreline protection measures for communities facing EPR values

exceeding -10 m/yr, with design criteria accounting for projected 2050 sea levels. (4) Mandated InSAR-based subsidence monitoring for all active oil fields within 50 kilometres of the coastline, with results integrated into operational environmental management plans. (5) Development and enforcement of a Coastal Setback Line (CSL) of minimum 200 metres from the mean high-water line in all sectors with EPR values exceeding -5 m/yr. (6) Expedited development and passage of a National Coastal Zone Management Act establishing legally enforceable coastal setbacks and sediment management standards. (7) Development of a coastal adaptation portfolio accessing Green Climate Fund resources for mangrove restoration, hard infrastructure, and community relocation, with partnerships pursued with international institutions for delta management expertise.

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