

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING IN AFRICAN CITIES: EXPLORING THEORIES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES FROM SIERRA LEONE

WEEK 4 Vulnerability and infrastructure

STEP 4.5 The politics of risk (ARTICLE)

This is a map of the areas identified as hazard prone by the Freetown Structural Plan, a document indicating the development plan of the city.



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NJALA UNIVERSITY
Sierra Leone



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Reported Hazard Prone Area
(indicating location name)
Source: Department of Housing

-  Inland Flooding
-  Landslide
-  Flooding from the Sea

Documented Disaster Event
(indicating year of incident)
Source: Disaster Management Unit

-  Construction Collapse
-  Inland Flooding
-  Industrial Contamination
-  Landslide, Mudslide

Surveyed Hazard Prone Area
(indicating location name)
source: GPS-survey by
Project Team and City Councillors 2011

-  Flood Prone Area
-  Solid Waste Dump Site
-  Solid Waste Dump Transition Point
-  Water Pollution by
Solid Waste Dump Site Drainage

As you can see, several areas are indicated as hazard prone due to inland flooding, landslides, and flooding from the sea, but also water pollution linked to solid waste

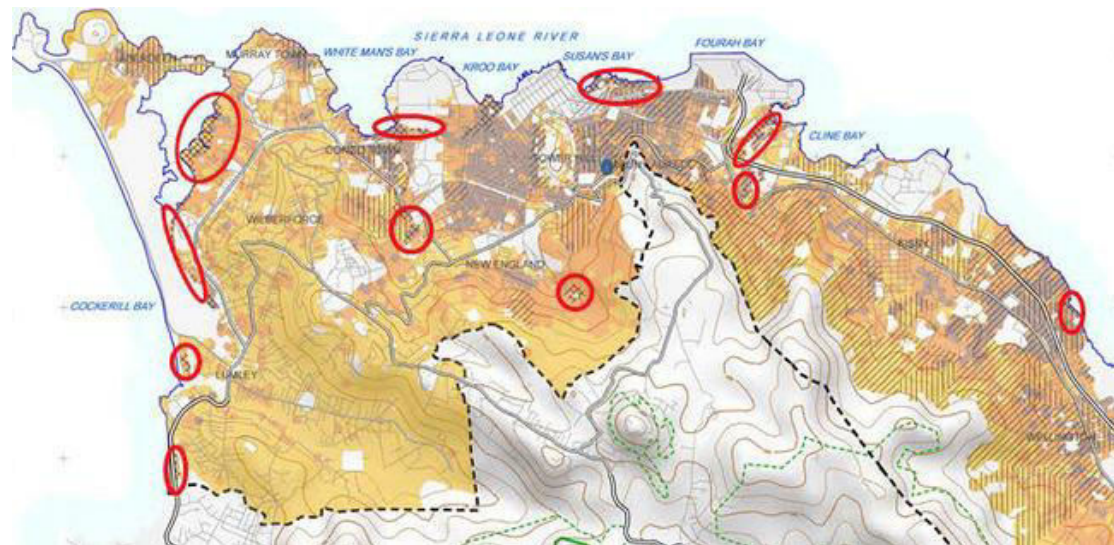
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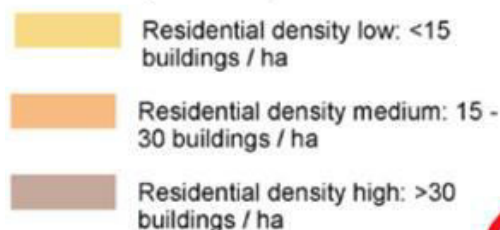


This is a map of informal settlements.



Housing Density

(Source: EU Urban Planning Project Landuse Survey 2013 and Building Database)



Housing Renewal Area

(Source: EU Urban Planning Project Landuse Survey 2013)



Can you see the overlap between hazard prone areas and informal settlements?

This overlap is a sign of spatial injustice as informal settlements are disproportionately affected by hazards. However, the labelling and mapping of informal settlements as hazard prone areas also contributes to policy discourses justifying the need to relocate informal settlement dwellers. In other words, labelling these areas as hazard prone exposes these residents to the threat of eviction. This can lead to residents living under uncertainty, unwilling to invest in their housing and communities to mitigate these hazards. As a result the exposure to hazard grows, increasing the risk for residents and undermining their lives.

Having learned about risk, listened to accounts from informal settlement residents, and looked at these maps, please share your reflections

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about urban risk. You could refer to examples from other cities. Post your reflection below, and don't forget to read and comment on the inputs from fellow participants.

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