



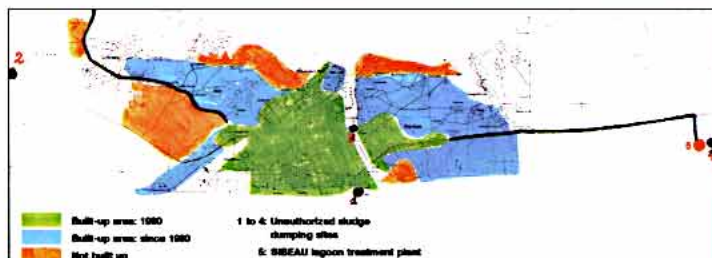
SEPTAGE SUCTION TRUCK

Cotonou - BENIN

Cotonou: population 1,100,000 - 1,000 CFAF = US\$ 1.60

BOX: SANITATION IN COTONOU

- In the absence of a piped sewerage system, 77 percent of households drain wastewater and deposit human waste into on-site traditional latrines and septic tanks.
- These facilities are serviced and maintained by manual latrine cleaners and privately operated suction trucks; the city sanitation department covers only 10 percent of the market.
- Some 23 percent of households make no provision for wastewater and excreta disposal.



Amount of business: 1 to 5 pits/trucks.
Average cost for a second-hand apron: 11,000,000 CFA

SEPTAGE SUCTION TRUCKS COVER THREE-QUARTERS OF THE MARKET

Suction trucks with a capacity of 6 to 10 m³ carry out the removal and transport of septage to the sewerage treatment plant run by a local private company, SIBEAU.

- They pay cash: CFAF 27,500 per load
- Each truck earns CFAF 11 million (400 trips), with the heaviest volume occurring during the rainy season.
- A quarter of those working in the sanitation sector are employed by this activity.

SIBEAU'S TREATMENT PLANT, OPERATING AT CAPACITY

The SIBEAU plant, constructed in 1994, processes waste naturally by lagoon treatment through a series of ponds. It was constructed in 1994 by an entrepreneur who invested several hundred million CFAF.

- Twelve officially registered sewerage services bring their waste to the SIBEAU plant, of which nine are privately run and three are run by public authorities.
- SIBEAU has its own fleet of 21 suction trucks, whose activity is limited by the capacity of the plant.



Liquid waste moves through three ponds before its discharge into the sea.

THE UNION OF SEWERAGE SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

The Union of Sewerage Services was constituted in June 1995, complete with official status and bylaws, at the initiative of SIBEAU. The organization has

- agreed on a common tariff structure in order to discourage indiscriminate dumping,
- organized common efforts regarding taxation and vehicle maintenance and replacement,
- worked out a plan for expanding the SIBEAU plant capacity, and
- maintained an ongoing dialogue with the city and central government authorities.



Truckers pay the dumping fee at the SIBEAU treatment plant.



There is competition from unregistered trucks, who dump waste indiscriminately.