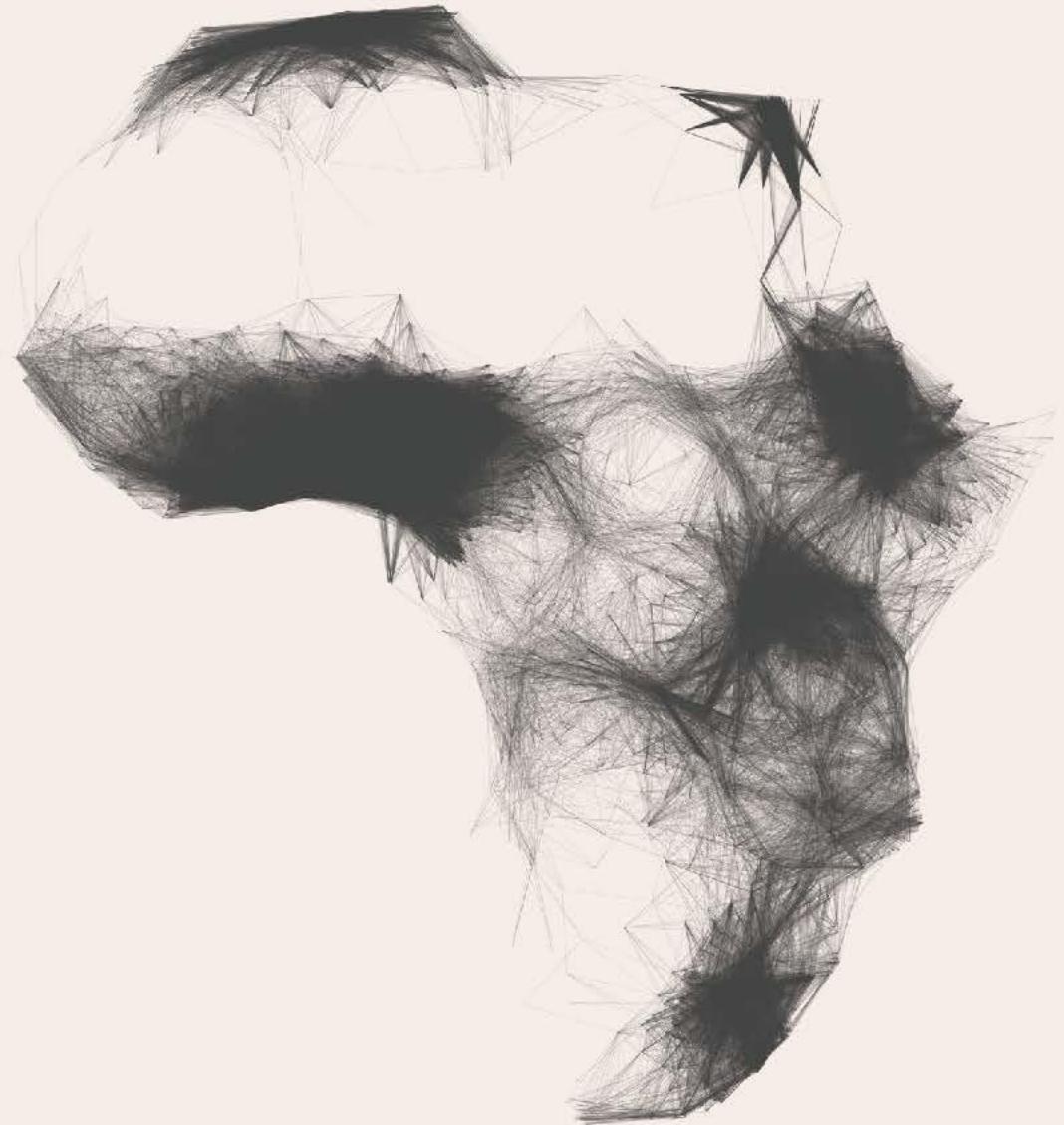


Africapolis

Urbanisation dynamics in Africa

Philipp Heinrigs

Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat
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[@pheinrigs](https://twitter.com/pheinrigs)



Africapolis

Urbanisation dynamics
in Africa

- Africa's urban transition a multifaceted and multidimensional process (drivers, diversity and context)
- Importance of spatial dynamics and geographical scale (local, national and regional)
- Designing forward looking context specific policies



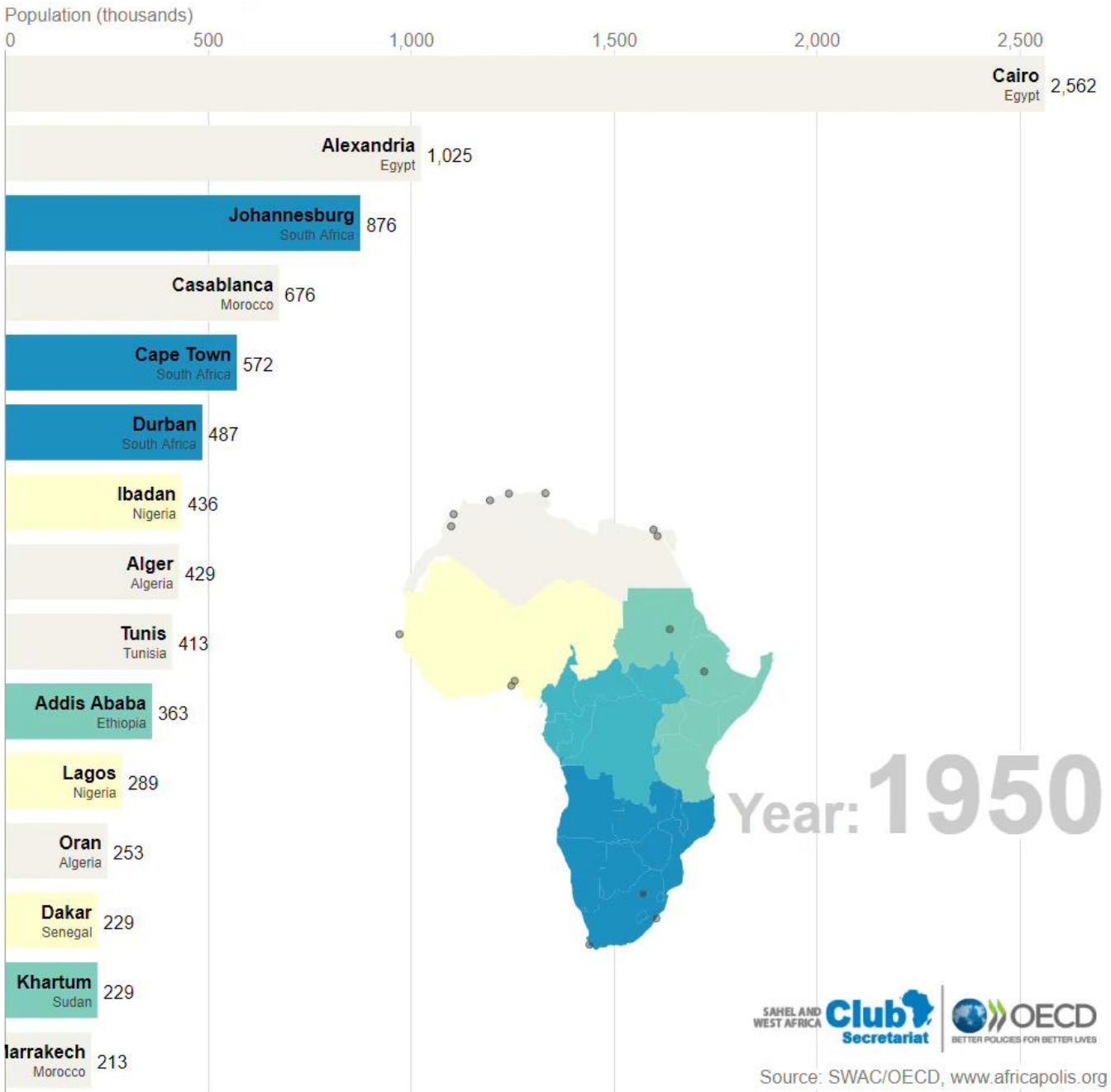
LARGEST URBAN AREAS BY POPULATION

Among the five largest urban agglomerations in Africa are four familiar hubs of global business, media and policy making – Cairo, Lagos, Johannesburg and Kinshasa. The continent's third largest urban area with 8.5 million inhabitants - Onitsha, Nigeria – is, however, not (yet) a familiar household name. A large urban area is emerging – driven by growth and the merging of built-up areas forming one large agglomeration.



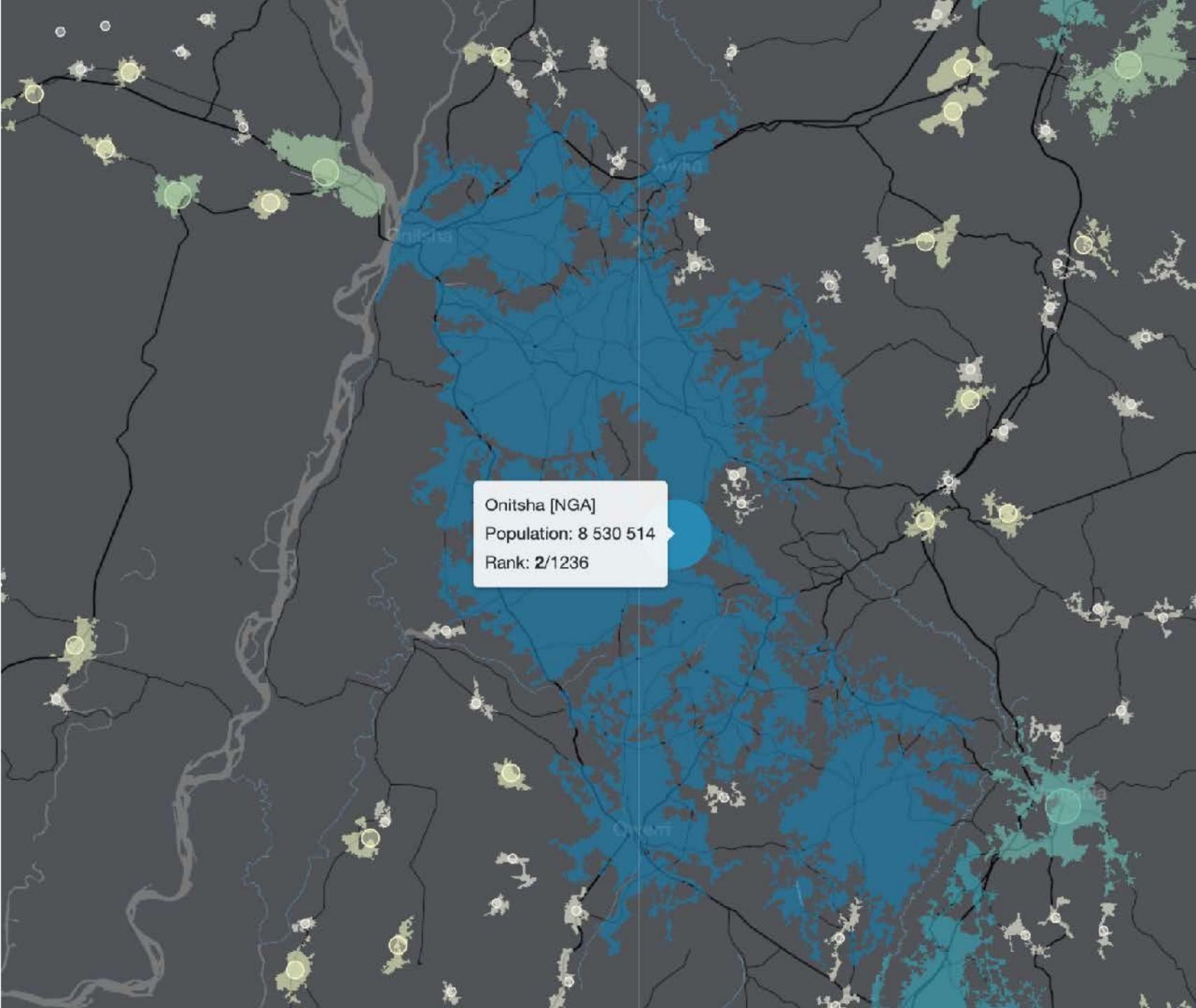
Onitsha : Pace of transformation

The 15 most populous agglomerations in Africa from 1950 to 2015



Onitsha :

Defining urban



Defining urban

No generally accepted international definition of cities/urban

Examples of national definitions of urban in Africa

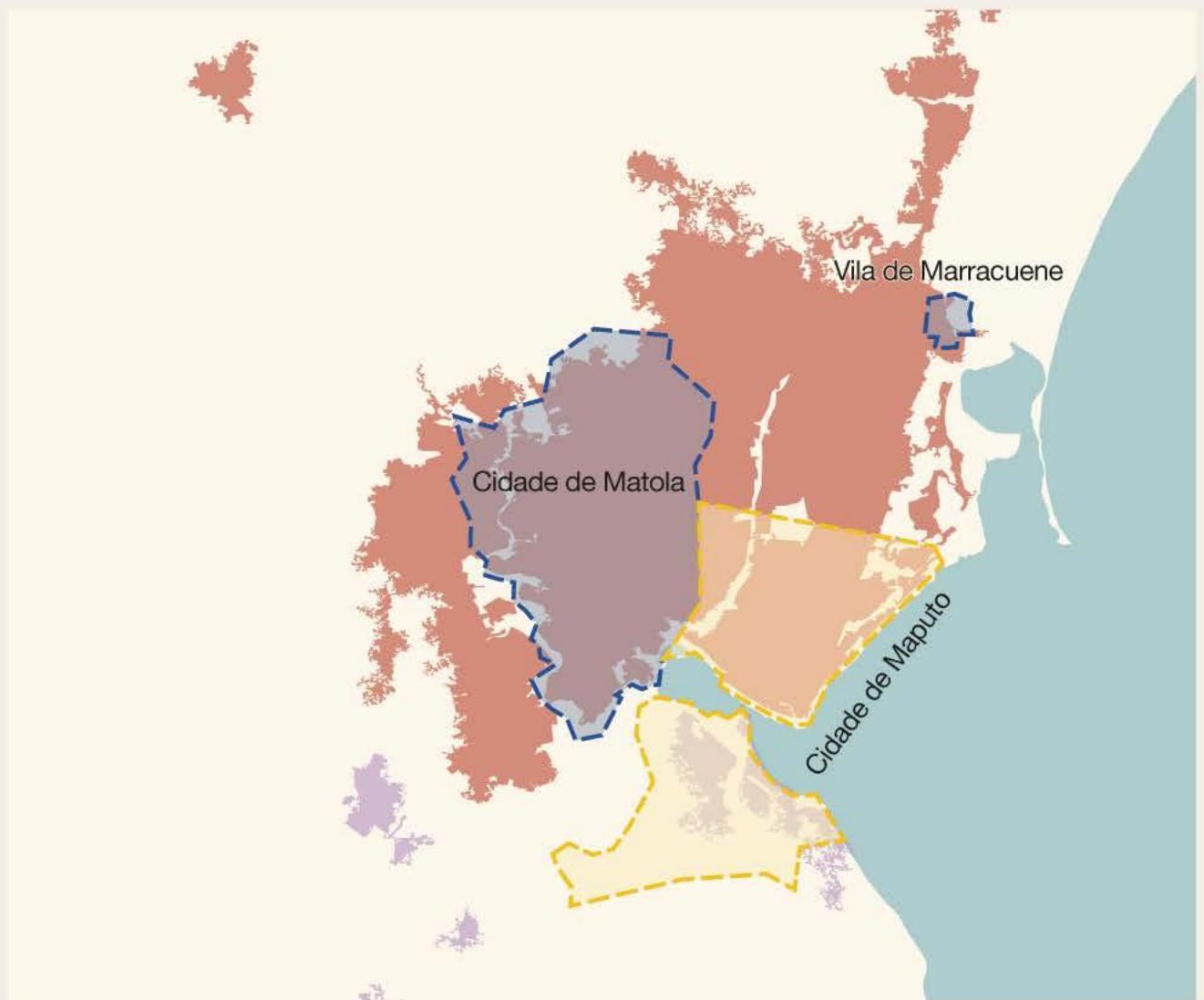
Number of countries	Administrative definition	Mixed administrative and functional/numerical	Numerical (Range 1 500 -30 000 inhabitants)	Mixed numerical/functional
25	i.e. Chad "Administrative centres of prefectures, sous-prefectures and administrative posts."	i.e. Cameroon "Administrative centres of territorial units or any locality with 5 000 inhabitants or more and with sufficient socio-economic and administrative infrastructures."	i.e. Ethiopia "Localities with 2 000 inhabitants or more"	i.e. Angola "Geographic areas with a high population density and concentrated population groups with a high level of infrastructure."

Administrative

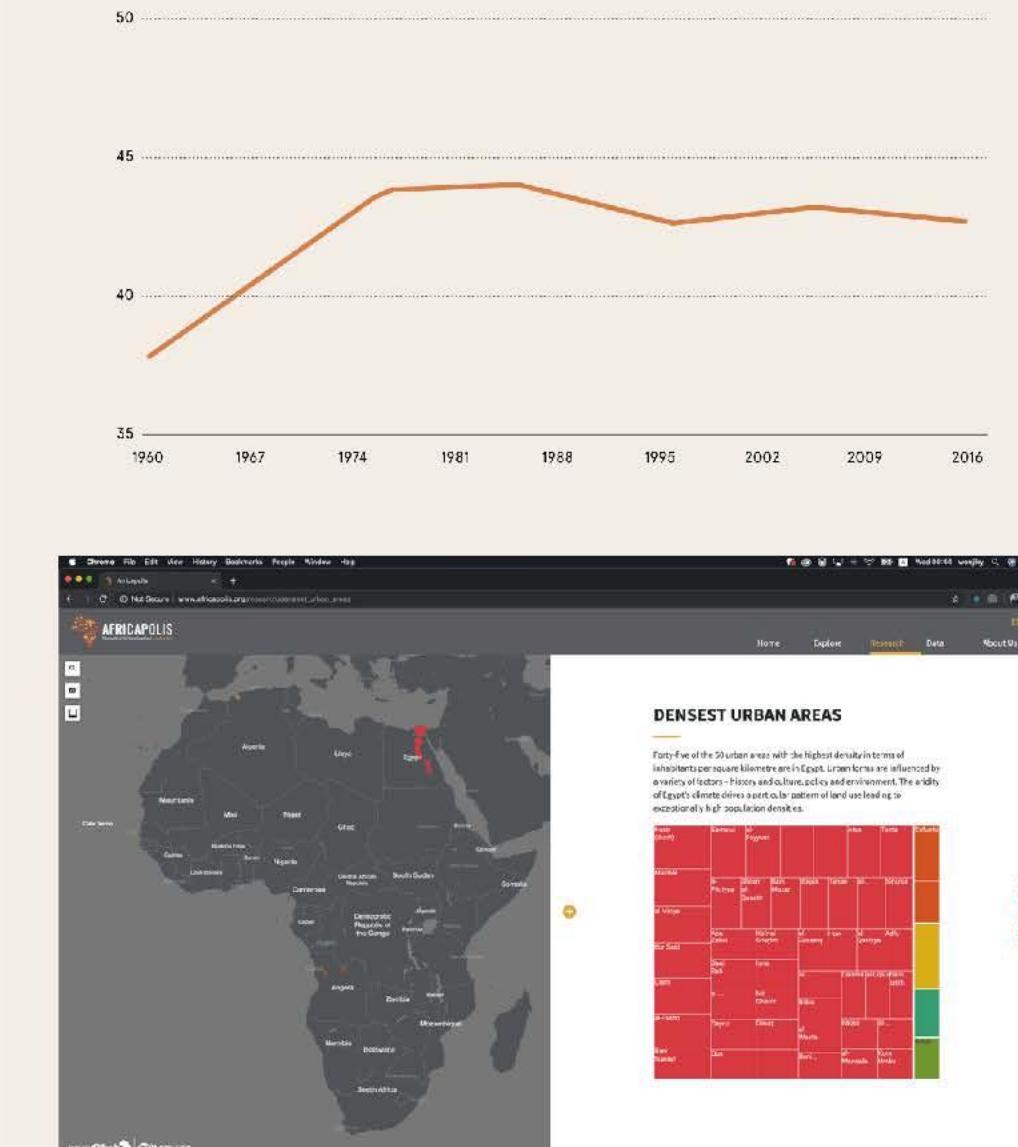
Statistical definitions vs.
people's realities

Administrative limits Maputo

Official population Maputo : 1.1 m / Africapolis : 2.6 m



Administrative Inertia vs. fast transformations

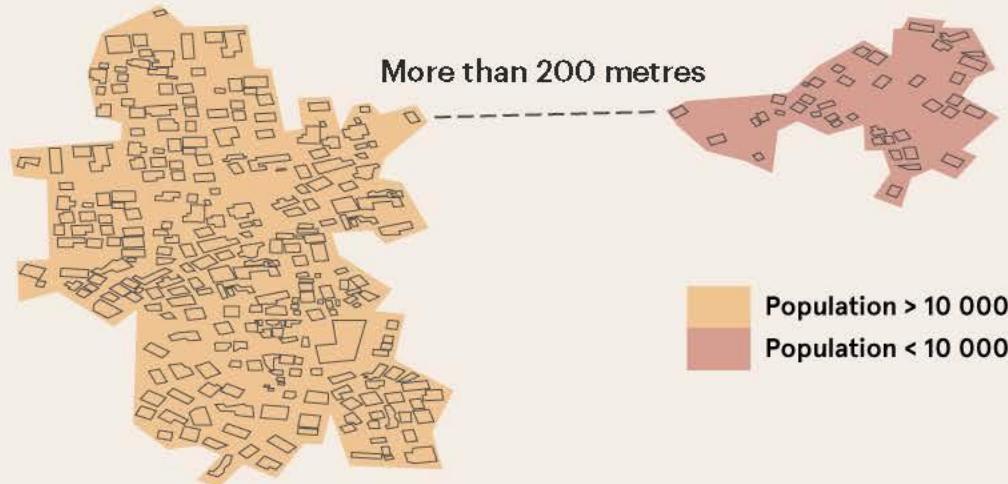


Egypt, urban population (% of total population)

World Development Indicators, World Bank 2019 ;
based on United Nations Population Division,
World Urbanisation Prospects: 2018 Revision

Africapolis

Designed for comparable
long-term analyses



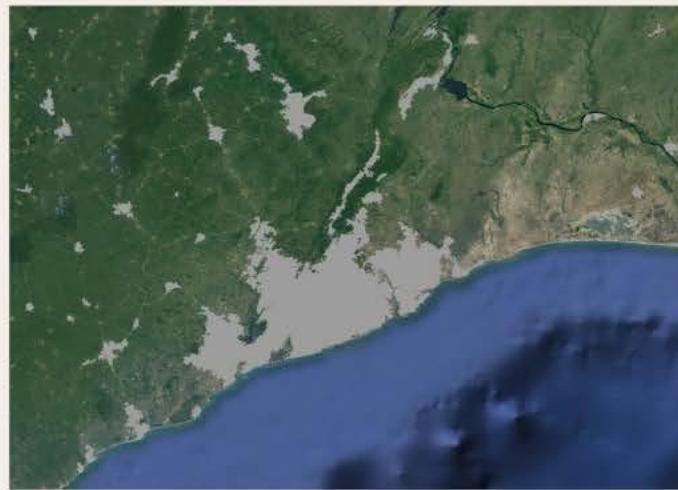
Africapolis one **homogenous and comparable definition** for urban Agglomeration in all countries. The definition is based on two criteria:

- An agglomeration is a continuously built-up and developed area, with less than 200 meters between buildings. (Buildings can be for residential, commercial, industrial, administrative or mixed use.)
- An agglomeration is considered urban if it has a minimum of 10 000 agglomerated inhabitants.

Methodology

- 1 Sourcing**
- 2 Spatial and temporal harmonisation/ Geo-reference**
- 3 Combining population and agglomeration data**

1. Sources



Satellite images / Maps



District Name	Census Population
Accra Metropolis	2,087,668
Ga South Municipal	521,162
Tema Metropolis	353,086
Ledzokuku/Krowor Municipal	275,239
Ga West Municipal	268,557
Ashaiman Municipal	231,096
La Dade Kotopon Municipal	221,284
Ga East Municipal	179,107
Ga Central Municipal	141,070
La Nkwantanang Madina Municipal	134,837
Kpone Katamanso	132,070
Adenta Municipal	93,158
Ada East	86,002
Ningo Prampram	85,406
Ada West	71,133
Shai Osudoku	62,200

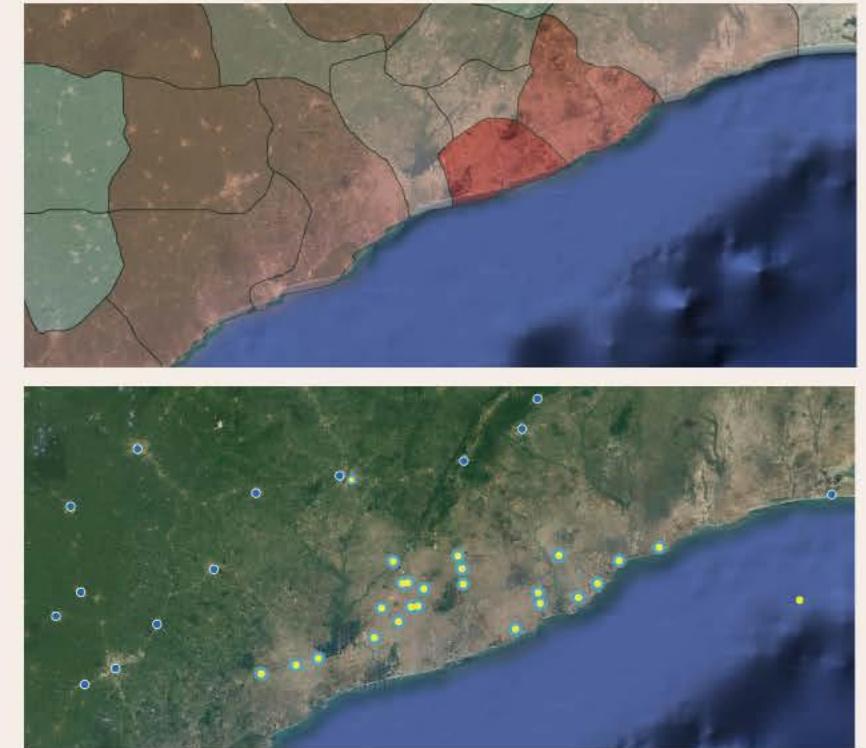
Censuses

2. Spatial and temporal harmonisation / Geo-reference

District Name	Census Population
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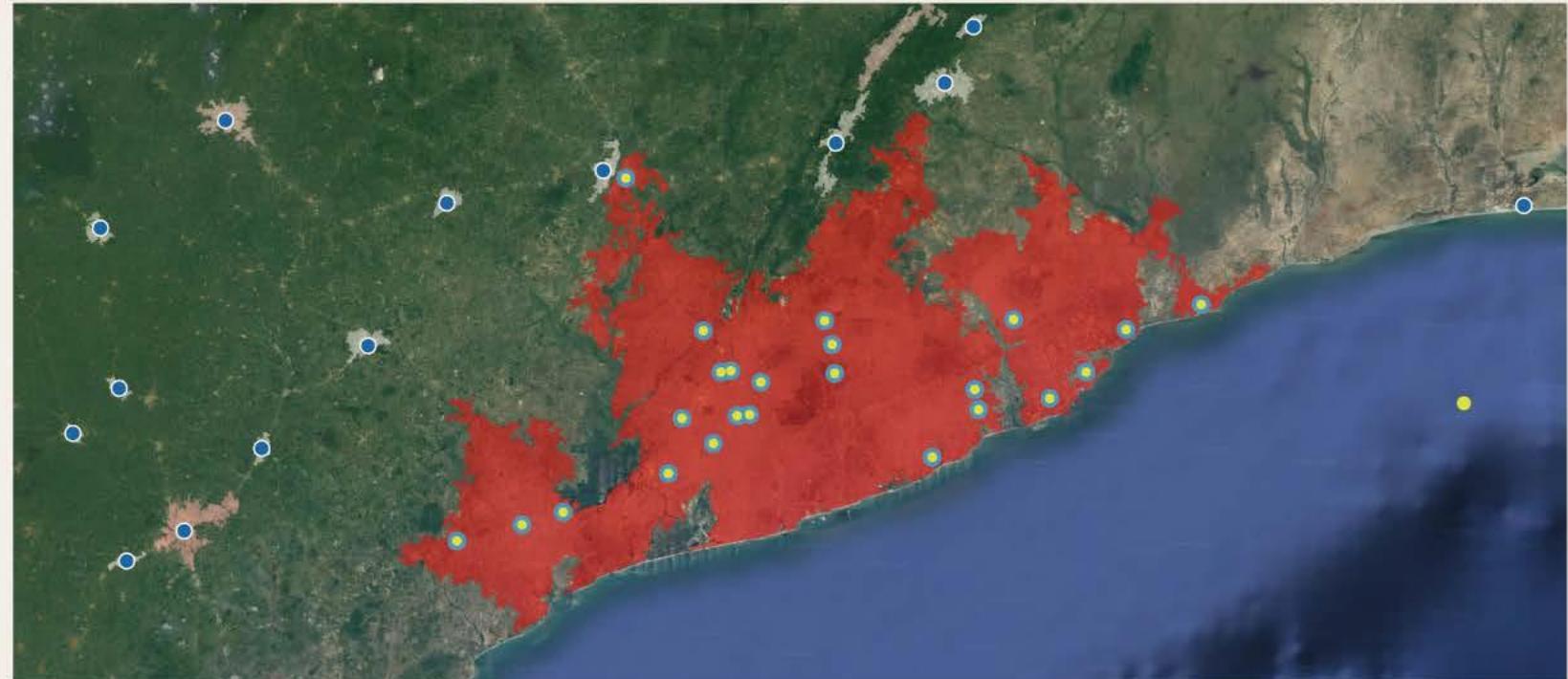
Census point

Geo-localise

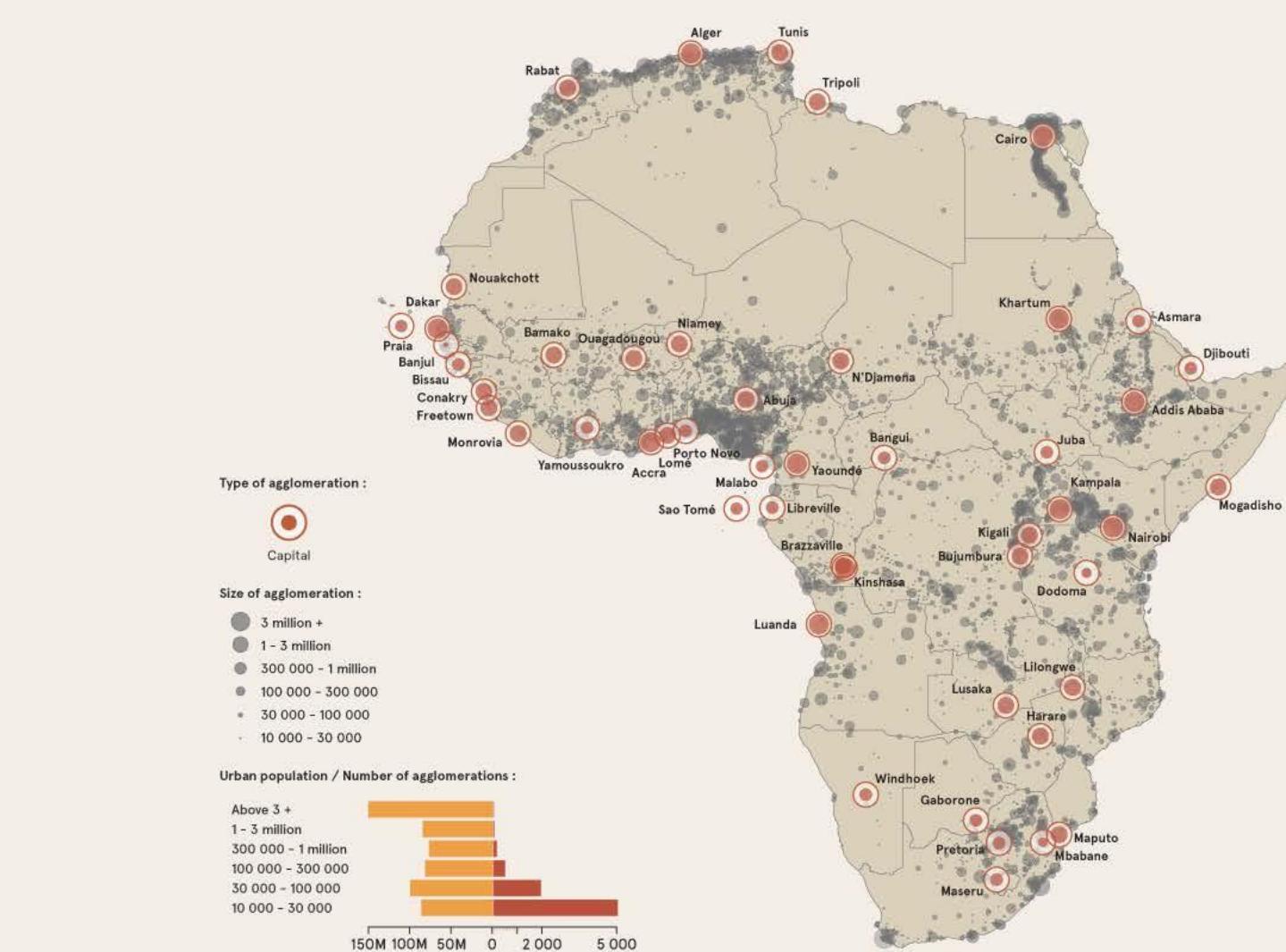


Local unit harmonisation & Geo-reference

3. Combining population and agglomeration data



A comprehensive geospatial database on urbanisation dynamics in Africa



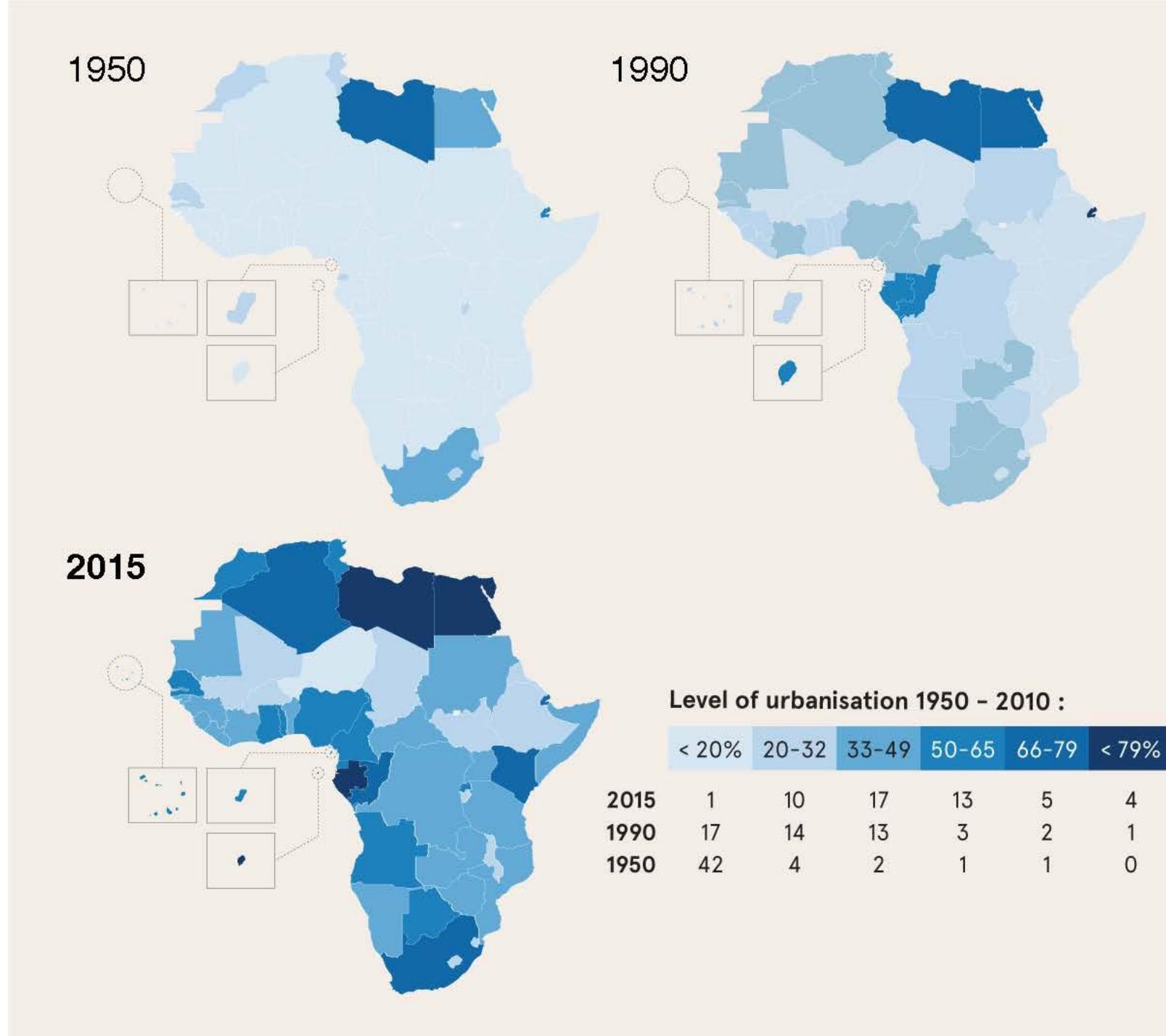
- 7 617 urban agglomerations identified in 2015
- Covering 1950-2015 period
- 200 000 data points including geo-spatial and admin information
- Freely accessible and downloadable :
[@ <https://stats.oecd.org>](http://www.africapolis.org)

What are the main findings?

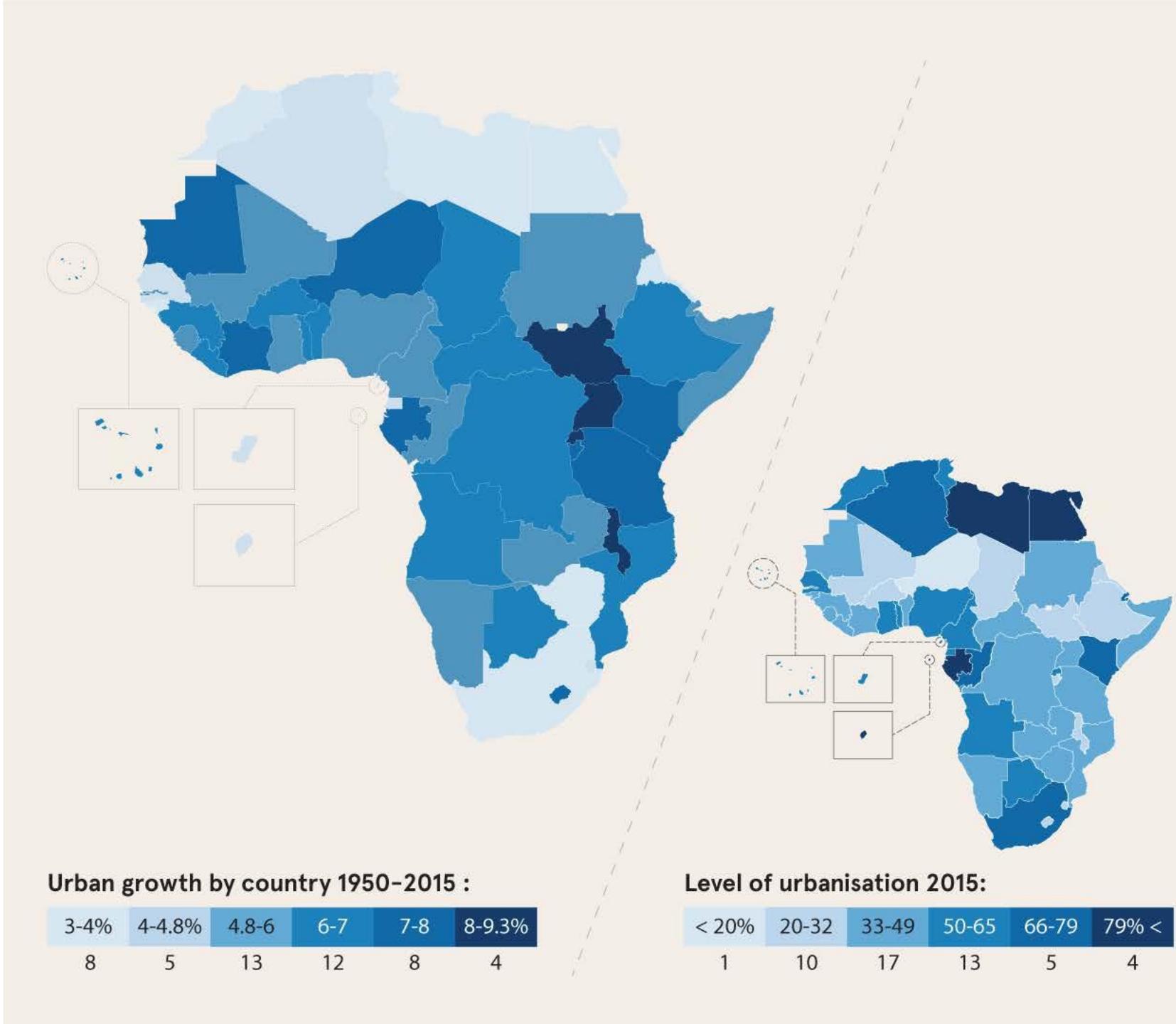
- 1. Already urban.**
- 2. The dominance and emergence of large metropolitan regions.**
- 3. From rural to urban: urbanisation in the absence of rural migration**
- 4. Africa's urbanisation inside the continent**

Africa's urban transition

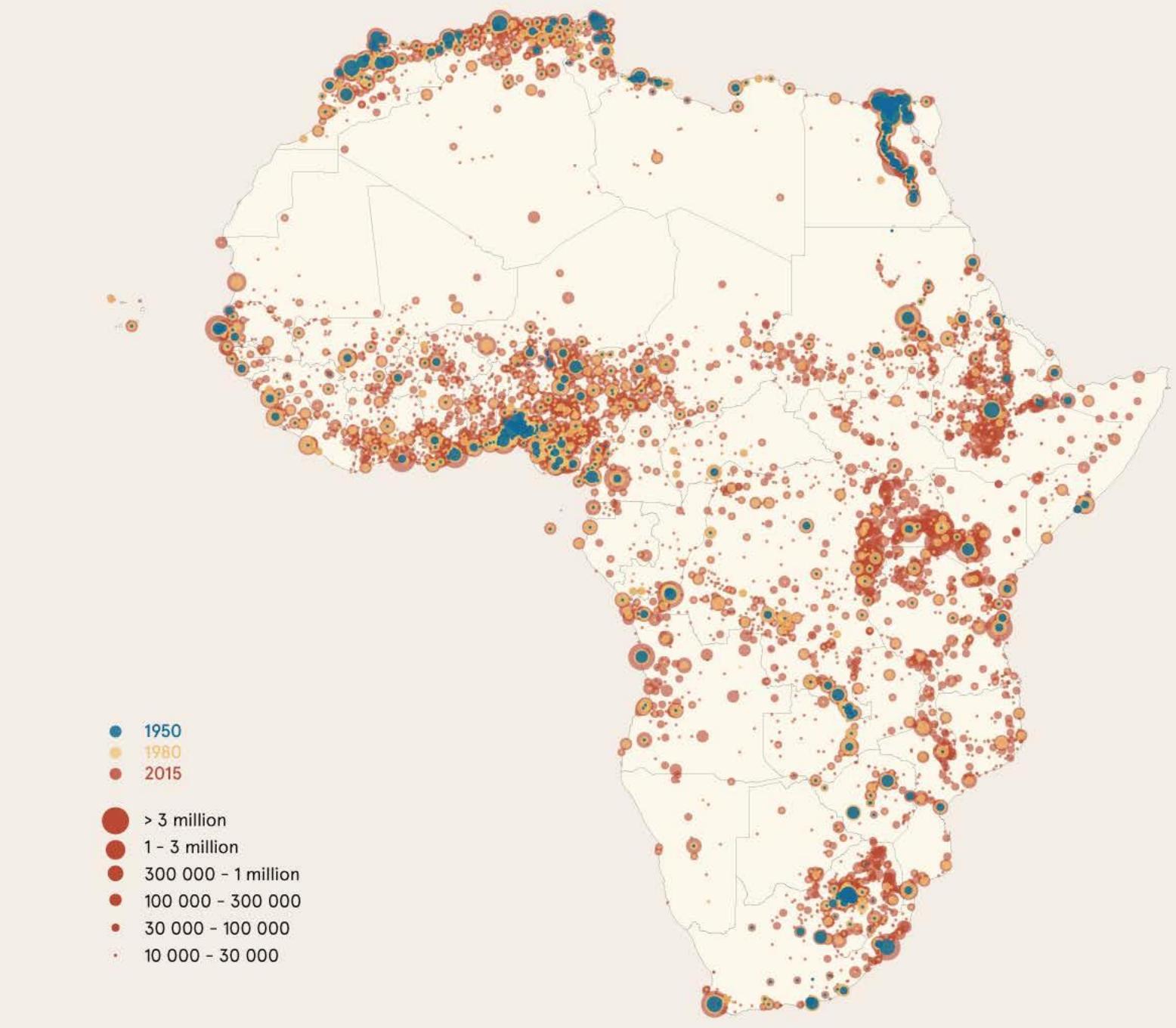
Already urban



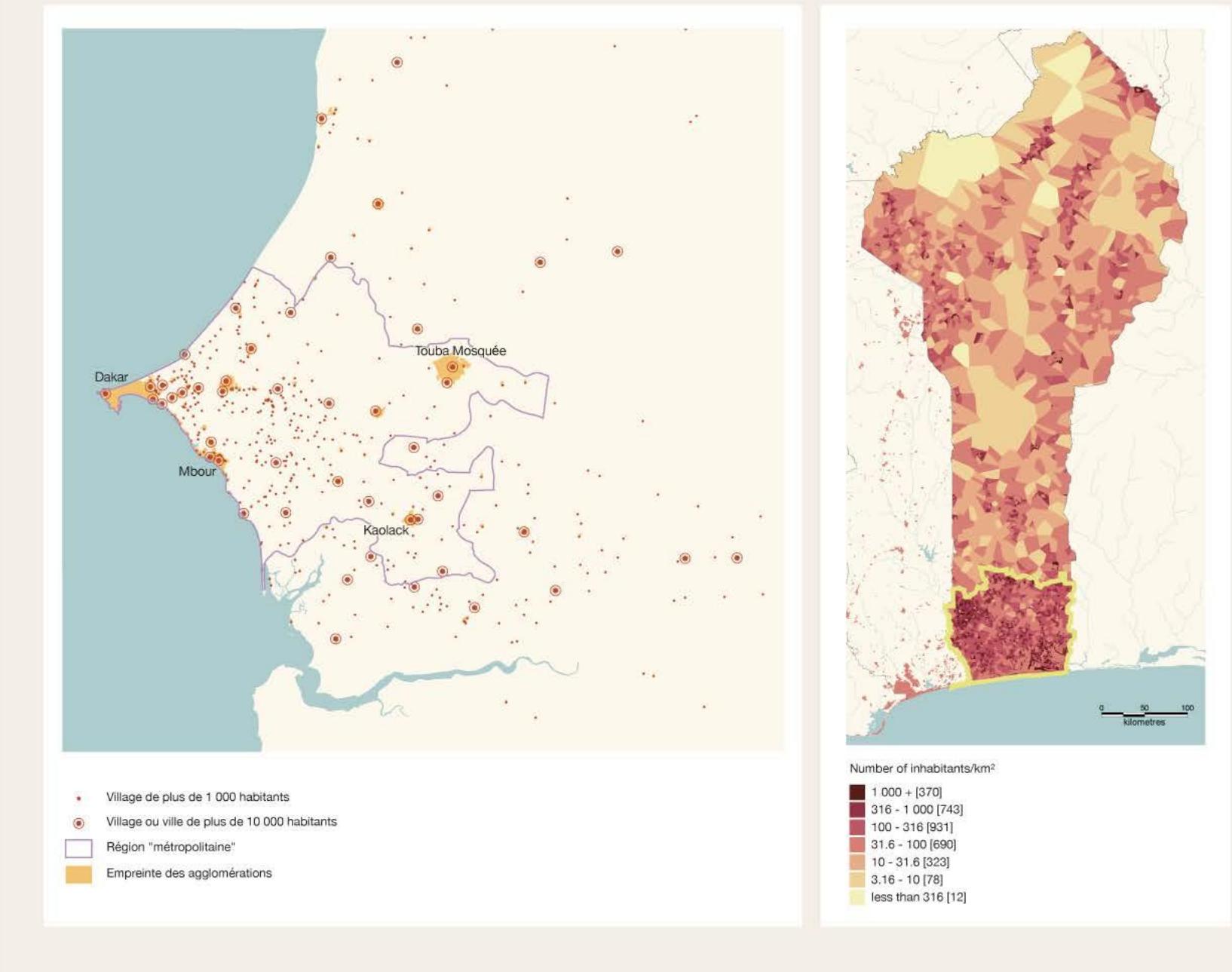
The pace of urban growth



Africa's new urbanisation dynamics



The formation of metropolitan regions

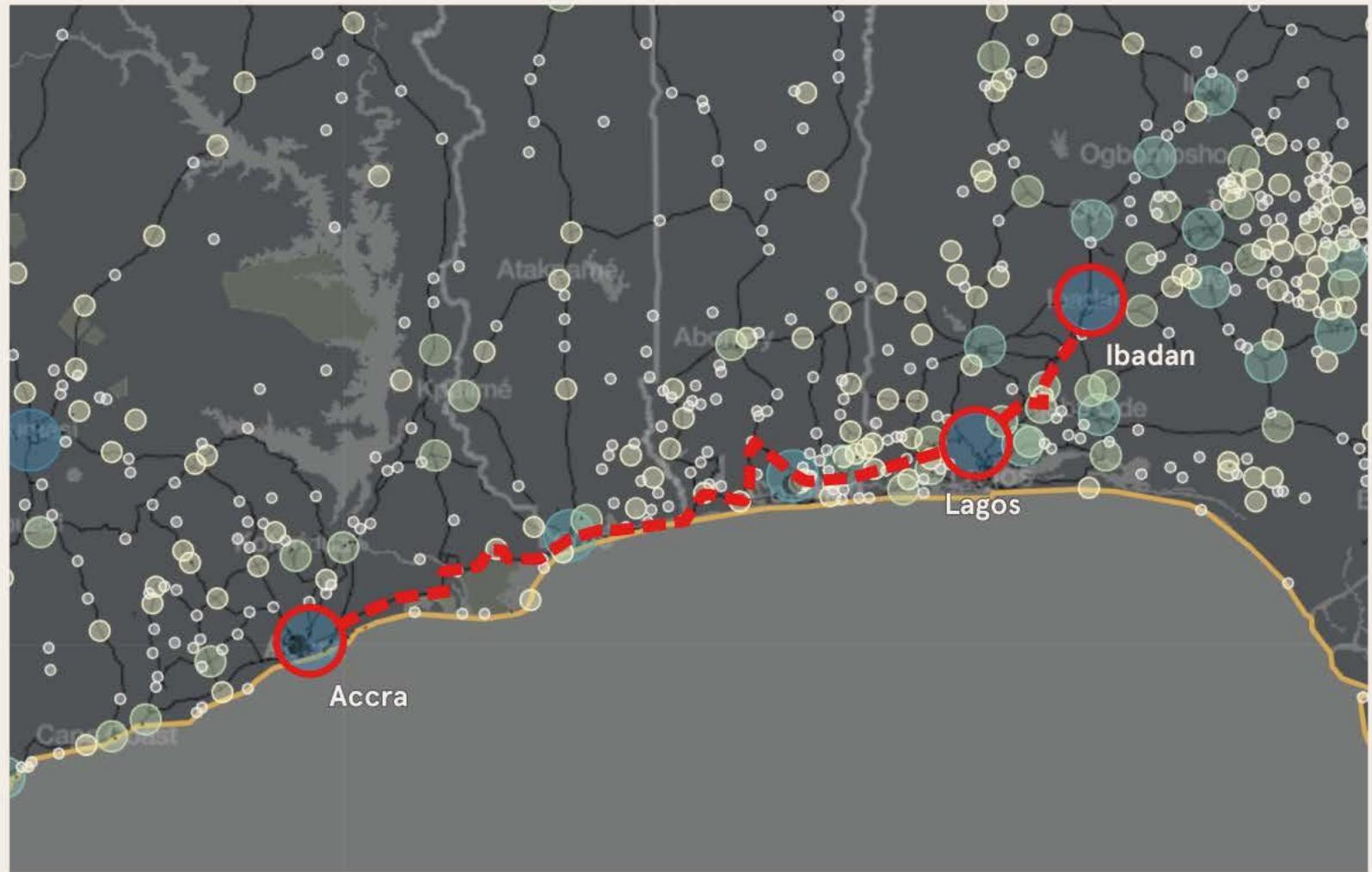


Metropolisation and new mobility patterns



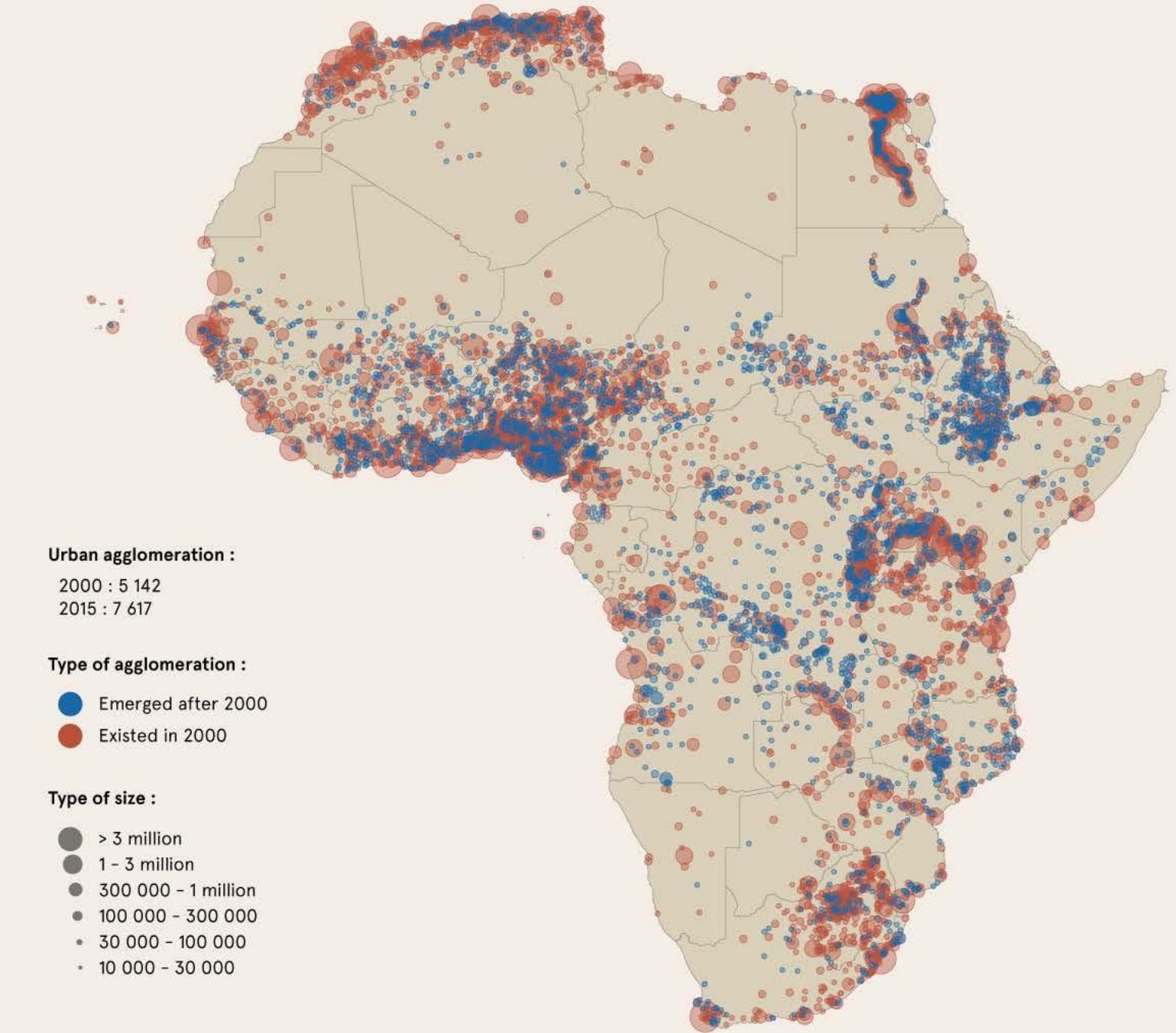
Metropolisation and changes in policy scale

Greater Ibadan - Lagos - Accra corridor



New patterns and scales of urbanisation imply a need for new policies and institutions

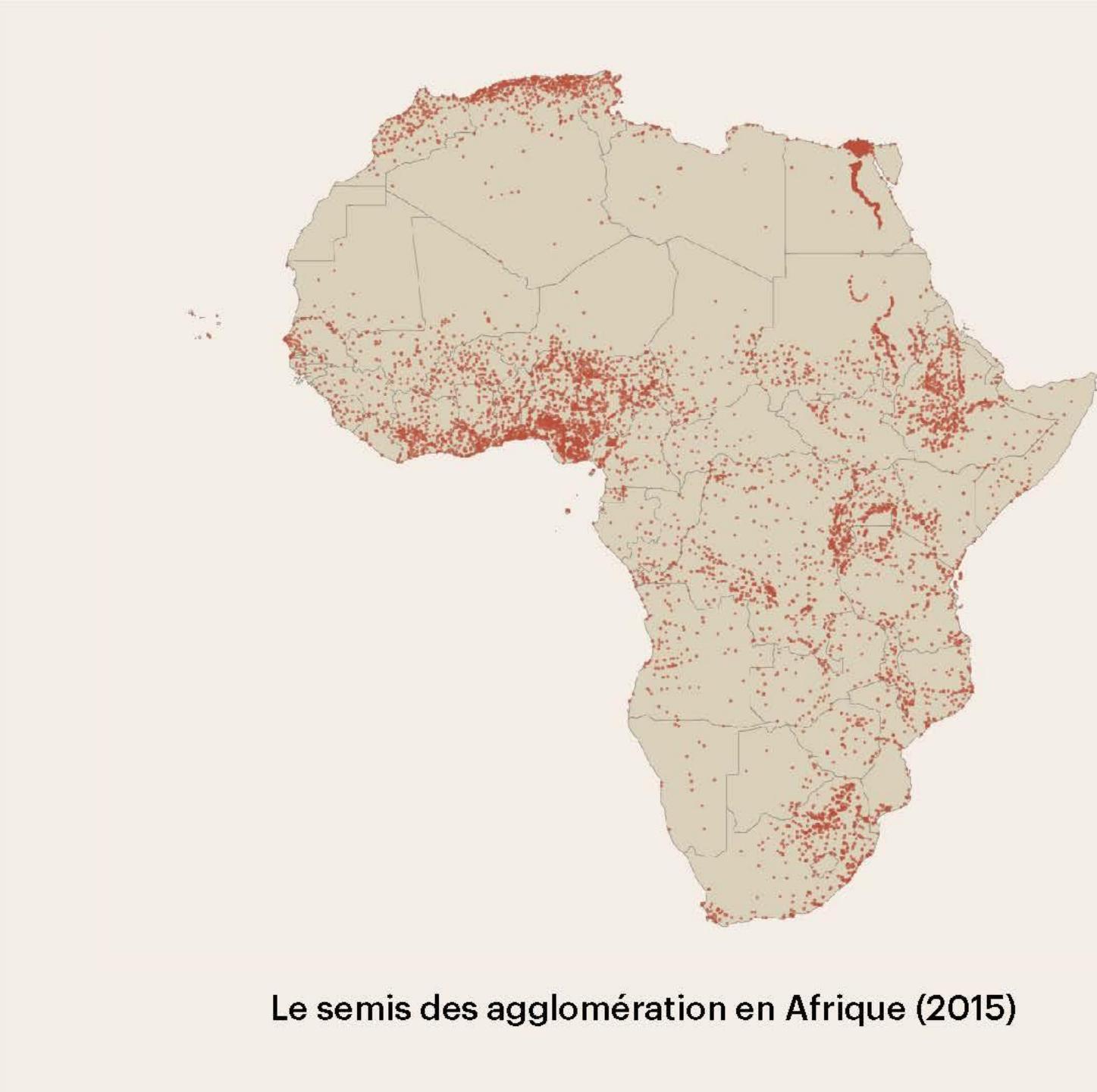
Urbanisation in the absence of rural migration



Still rural or already urban?

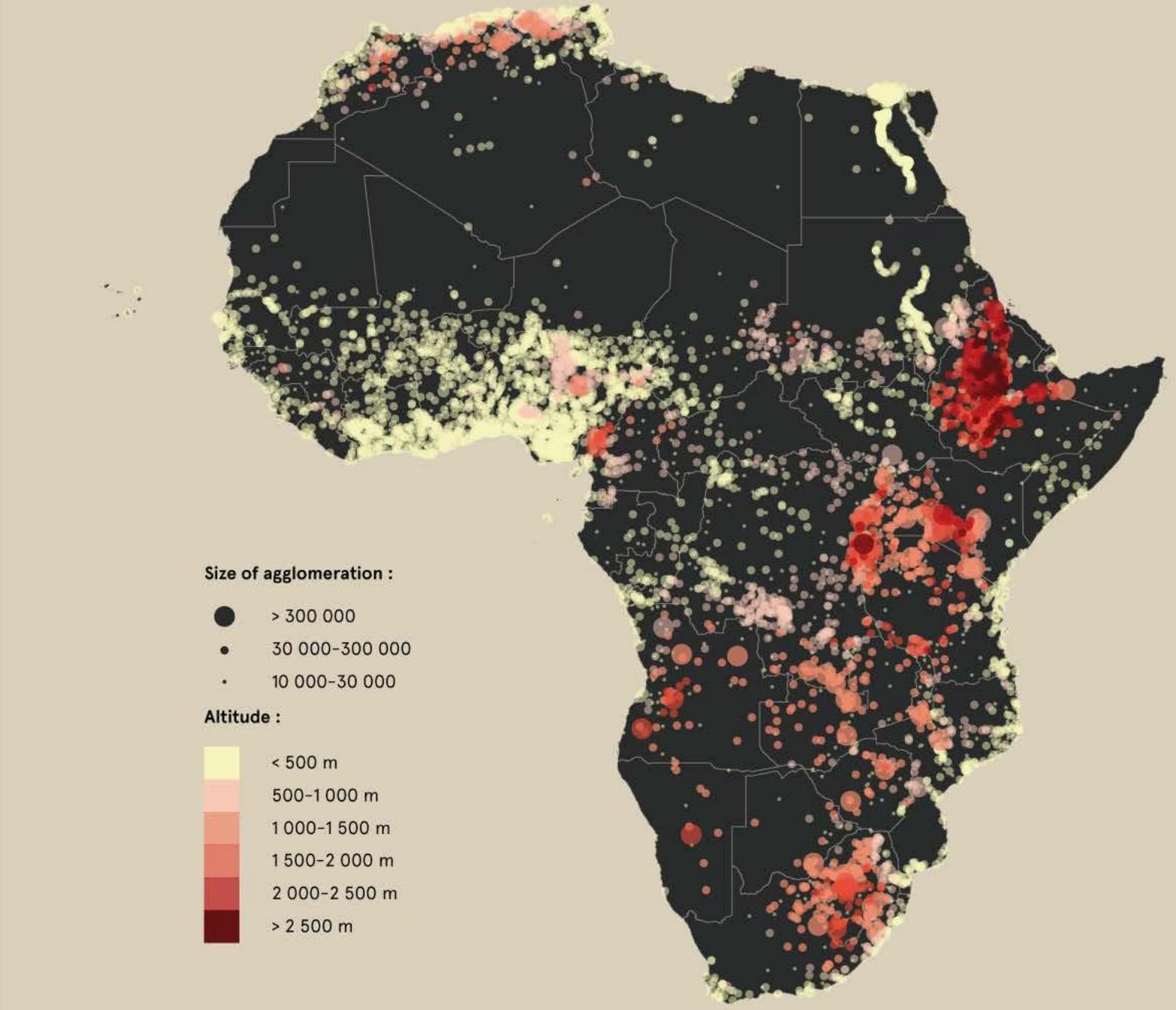


Anticipating rural transformation to plan urban futures



Le semis des agglomération en Afrique (2015)

Africa's urban interior



The environment facing urbanisation

