

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

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The geographical entity known as Nasarawa State came into existence on the 1st of October 1996. It has a central location in the middle belt region of Nigeria. The state lies between latitude 7° 45' and 9° 5' N of the equator and between longitude 7° and 9° 37' E of the Greenwich meridian. It shares boundary with Kaduna state in the north, Plateau state in the east, Taraba and Benue states in the south, while Kogi and the Federal Capital Territory flank it in the west (Binbol and Marcus, 2005). Nasarawa state fondly called "*Home of Solid Minerals*" has an altitude of 181.5m above sea level (a.s.l). Located in the north-central geo-political zone of Nigeria, the state has a land area of 27,137.8 square kilometers with a population of 1,863,275 according to 2006 provisional census. It has 13 Local Government areas (Figure 1.1).

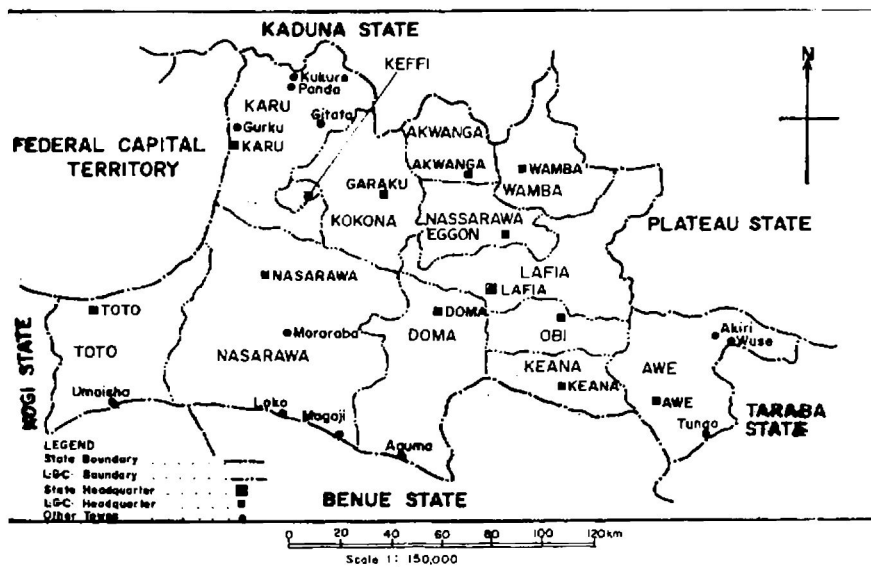


Figure 1.1: Map of Nasarawa State Showing Thirteen Local Government Areas

Geographical perspective on Nasarawa State was published with a view to produce an explanatory text on the physical, social and economic aspects of the state. The essence of the book is to provide a convenient, reliable and up to date source of information on the State from a geographer's point of view. At present, detailed information and data on Nasarawa State is limited, or rendered ineffective by political and socio-economic developments. This text is therefore useful for the provision of vital information from a single source.

The establishment of Nasarawa State University, Keffi is a significant milestone in the development of education in Nasarawa State. Our hope is that the book will serve as a modest expression of our appreciation of the wide range of academic interests and intellectual insight which have been invested in the establishment of this great institution of higher learning

The contributors to this book are all academic colleagues from within and outside the Department of Geography, Nasarawa State University Keffi. The book is divided into three parts. Part one consists of the introduction and the historical background. Part two discusses the physical environment of the State. While, part three discusses the economic and social infrastructures of the State.

Reference:

Binbol, NL and ND Marcus (2005) Geography of Nasarawa State; A study of flora and fauna. In Akinyemi, O (Ed) Studies in the history and culture of the people of Nasarawa State. (*In Press*)