



STRATEGIC URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MASAKA MUNICIPALITY

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

STRATEGIC URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR **MASAKA** MUNICIPALITY

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FOREWORD



Lake Victoria is the second largest fresh water lake in the world, and with over 200 fish species, it is the source of livelihood and development for an estimated 25 million people who live within its catchment area. To support the efforts of these people to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN-HABITAT, in

collaboration with the national governments of the riparian countries of Lake Victoria, is engaged in various initiatives in the region. These initiatives aim to promote environmental sustainability and reduce poverty through improved settlement planning, management and governance. Most of the efforts are focused on the secondary urban centres around Lake Victoria which are experiencing very rapid urbanization rates varying between 3 and 7 percent per annum and are the main source of pollution loads entering the lake

Despite this rapid growth a study undertaken by UN-HABITAT revealed that most of these secondary towns did not have any plan to accommodate rapid growth. Several towns had no plan at all while the plans of others were completed out of date and overtaken by reality. For this reason UN-HABITAT support to these secondary towns centers on two key areas: (i) to help these towns prepare forward looking plans including the spatial configuration of growth; and (ii) strengthening the capacity of these secondary towns to prepare and implement their respective plans. Both these technical aspects of the project are underpinned by a third area – that of urban management and governance.

A key area of innovation has been the adoption of new planning approaches. These approaches are a far cry from the traditional Master Plan approach which has been widely discredited in the region because of its ineffectiveness. Such plans are notoriously inflexible in accommodating unforeseen changes. They also do not seek the participation and ownership of key stakeholders, including the private sector, in the design and implementation process. Most importantly, perhaps, is the fact that the old planning approach is not linked to the resource allocation and budgeting processes.

The Masaka Strategic Urban Development Plan is one in a series of six similar plans which have been prepared under Phase One of the UN-HABITAT supported Urban Planning programme in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. This plan is meant to support our Water and Sanitation project in the region's municipalities. It is my sincere hope that this plan will also be found useful for guiding other development initiatives and projects in the municipality.

I would like to thank all who contributed to this plan whose process was led by Jossy Materu, Chief of Urban Design and Planning Services Unit.

Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
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MASAKA IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT



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