CITIES DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVED URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

In the Lake Victoria Region

KAMPALA, KISUMU and MUSOMA











PART I: CDS AND THE REGIONAL DIMENSION



CDS and the Regional Dimension

1.1 City Development Strategies (CDS)

1.1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE CDS

The social and economic future of nations is increasingly being determined in their urban areas. Globally, the process of decentralization is shifting power and resources to cities and their citizens, raising the importance of how well cities are managed, and how well city economies are performing. Two alternative scenarios are emerging: one of cities characterized by increasing poverty, social exclusion and decline; the other of inclusive cities characterized by equitable and sustainable growth. It is often the quality of urban governance that differentiates declining cities from prosperous ones.

The UN-HABITAT and World Bank formed the Cities Alliance¹ to work in partnership with cities that are attempting to improve opportunities for all their citizens, particularly the urban poor and women who are often the most disadvantaged, and that they do so in an inclusive manner. Many cities are leading the way in redefining their priorities, rethinking the way in which cities are managed, and introducing innovations and improvements in urban governance.

City Development Strategies (CDS) are **action plans** for equitable growth in cities, developed and sustained through participation, **to improve the quality of life for all citizens.**

The goals of a City Development Strategy include a collective city vision and action plan aimed at improving urban governance and management, increasing investment to expand employment and services, and systematic and sustained reductions in urban poverty.

Characteristics and Scope Defined by Each City: Achieving these goals will occur through a wide variety of approaches in different cities around the world, with local and national conditions determining both the chosen approach and the final outcomes. Notwithstanding local differences, Cities Alliance places great emphasis on the lead being taken by the city itself, with the urban poor and local business leaders actively involved within a wider participatory process. In short, local ownership of the process is vital.

The Cities Alliance is a global alliance of cities and their development partners committed to improving the living conditions of the urban poor through action in two key areas: i) City Development Strategies (CDS) and ii) City-wide and nation-wide slum-upgrading. The Cities Alliance was launched in 1999 and its Consultative Group members are the World Bank, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Associations of Local Authorities and Governments.

The CDS has so far been applied in many countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. At the end of 2000, 42 cities in six regions were involved in the CDS activity²: six in Africa, 18 in East Asia, 1 in Eastern Europe, five in Latin America, nine in South Asia and three in the Middle East. The Urban Management Programme has completed the participatory development of CDS in seven cities.³ These cities are Bamako (Mali), Cunca (Ecuador), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Johannesburg (South Africa), Santo Andre (Brazil), Shenyang (China), and Tunis (Tunisia). These numbers have gone up considerably with new initiatives coming up and with lessons and experiences gained from past initiatives.

The Lake Victoria CDS initiative in the three cities is a new initiative, which is adding a new dimension to the whole approach – the application of CDS to regional spatial and environmental planning.

1.1.2 APPLICATION TO REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING

The CDS process, which lays much emphasis on participation and shared city vision, has been found to be applicable to regional planning. Cities of the same region which share unique commonalities within the context of their natural, socio-cultural, development circumstances or history, may find it mutually beneficial to form a shared vision for development of their entire region. The Lake Victoria CDS for Improved Urban Environment and Poverty Reduction is an attempt to apply the CDS to regional spatial planning.

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 OBJECTIVES

The Lake Victoria CDS/Slum Up-grading for Improved Urban Environment and Poverty Reduction aims to mobilize city authorities in the Lake Victoria region, and other stakeholders to develop a programme for laying out City Development Strategies. These strategies uphold popular, private and public participation and decision-making in efforts to improve the living conditions and environment for urban dwellers. This project is an effort to address the absence of effective planning in cities and to complement the Master Planning approach, which is mainly physical in nature and often non-inclusive.

This initiative informs the sub-regions and participating cities on participatory approaches for preparation of the CDS/Slum upgrading programme. It builds on the ongoing Municipal Development Programme (MDP) activities in Kampala, the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP – a joint programme of UN-HABITAT and UNEP) activities in Tanzania, and UMP activities in the entire region. Collaboration with the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC)⁴ is inevitable to support the replication process.

The project has targeted three local authorities along the lake – Musoma in Tanzania, Kisumu in Kenya and Kampala in Uganda.

² City Development Strategies, Progress on Action Plan, CDS Issues Paper, p.1; Tim Campbell and Dinesh Mehta, World Bank/UN-HABITAT.

See also: City Development Strategies: Lessons from UMP/UN-HABITAT Experiences, UMP publication Series #29.

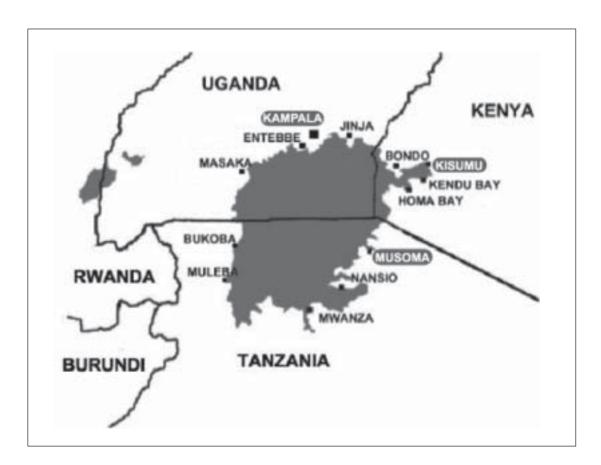
⁴ LVRLAC is an association of local authorities in the Lake Victoria catchment area. Its members are urban and rural local authorities of the three Lake Victoria riparian states – Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

1.2.2 PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The three cities have undergone a broad-based participatory process and delivered the following project outputs:

- The establishment of an inclusive, coordinating mechanism at city/municipal levels to address urban poverty reduction, slum upgrading and environment challenges.
- Improved urban planning and management capacities of the respective councils.
- Formulation of CDS/Slum Upgrading Programme for improved urban environment and poverty reduction.
- Development of proposals and investment plans for resources targeting city and regional level initiatives aimed at improving the urban environment and reducing urban poverty.

1.3 The Region and Project Sites: Musoma, Kisumu, Kampala



1.3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE REGION

1.3.1.1 Urban Environment and Poverty Reduction

Lake Victoria is the world's second largest fresh water body whose surface area is shared by three countries: Kenya (6%), Tanzania (49%) and Uganda (45%). It is estimated that one-third of the combined population of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda derive their livelihood from the Lake, through subsistence fishing and agriculture. Thus, the Lake represents an important economic resource for the region. However, this resource can only be sustained if the Lake's rich and diverse ecosystem is well managed.

1.3.1.2 Urban Centers on the Shores of Lake Victoria

The rapidly growing urban and peri-urban centers located on the shores of the lake depend on its natural resources for their economic growth. The lake is also a source of clean water for domestic use for the lakeside communities.

Regrettably, the urban centers have contributed significantly to the increased environmental degradation of the Lake. Uncontrolled municipal and industrial effluents from the brewery, textile tanning, fish and agro-processing industries continue to pollute the lake, threatening the very basis of the local and regional economy.

The poorer communities, which rely on subsistence agriculture and fishing activities, have settled along the Lake. These communities do not have adequate shelter and infrastructure and suffer under the double burden of increased competition for degraded natural resources and the resultant increased prices for safe water.

The municipalities located on the shores of Lake Victoria lack the capacity to implement sustainable development policies, especially within a regional context of rapid urbanization and weak national and regional economies. Many residents live in poor conditions with limited access to basic services and infrastructure. This is compounded by the uncontrolled pollution of the surrounding environment and dwindling economic opportunities. The poorer sections of the community are particularly at risk.

1.3.2 THE PROJECT SITES

The project sites of Musoma, Kampala and Kisumu all reflect the scenario depicted above. These cities development and environment have been directly impacted by their proximity to the Lake. The Lake Victoria project, in an effort to apply the CDS to spatial planning, is targeting these three cities. To achieve regional integration, maximize on lessons learnt and for national and regional replication, it is necessary to involve cities in all three countries – Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania – which surround the lake. It is also worthwhile to consider the variable levels of development in these three cities.

Kampala, the capital of Uganda, is the largest of the three cities with an appreciable level of development. It is currently undergoing considerable levels of growth and expansion. The city holds some 1.2 million inhabitants. Kampala presents a complex development situation as the high increase in urban population has not been matched by a corresponding increase in the provision of basic infrastructure, housing and social amenities. The local city authority is the Kampala City Council (KCC). The rapid population increase has stretched the council's capacity to deliver services.

Key urban environmental issues here include proliferation of slums and unplanned human settlements, inadequate water supply, poor sanitation, solid waste management, increasing traffic congestion and pollution, growing crime rates, amongst others.

Kisumu is the third largest urban center in Kenya after Nairobi and Mombasa. It was recently elevated to city status and has an estimated population of 345,312, majority being young people under the age of 19. It has a relatively well-developed urban infrastructure. It is a leading commercial, trading, fishing, industrial, communication and administrative center in the Lake Victoria basin. The city is ranked the poorest in Kenya with 48% of its inhabitants living below the poverty line. Its main environmental and development issues include poor land use planning, high HIV/AIDS prevalence, lack of public awareness owing to low literacy levels, outdated and inadequate water and sewerage system, poor solid waste management, presence of water hyacinth on Lake Victoria hampering water supply, inadequate energy supply, and unplanned settlements. The city's authority is the Kisumu City Council.

Musoma in Tanzania is a relatively smaller town, with a population of about 120,000. Nevertheless, it is growing at an increasingly high rate and is beginning to experience typical city problems. The town's infrastructure is poorly developed. It has a weak transport network and poor waste disposal facilities. The town's local authority is the Musoma Town Council, which admittedly requires capacity building to maximize its revenue base.

KAMPALA

Kampala is the capital city of Uganda and is situated on Lake Victoria. It is the largest city in the country and the administrative, communication, economic and transportation center of the country.

KISUMU

Kisumu is the third largest Kenyan City and lies on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria. It is a leading commercial, fishing, industrial, communication and administrative center in the lake basin.

It is ranked as the poorest city in Kenya and has a population of 345,312.

MUSOMA

Musoma is located on the southern shores of Lake Victoria and is a small city with an urban population of about 120,000.

1.4 Project Partners:

The Lake Victoria Region City Development Strategies/Slum Upgrading for improved Urban Environment and Poverty Reduction is an initiative of UN-HABITAT facilitated by the Urban Management Programme (UMP) in collaboration with the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (ROAAS). The project received support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). ITDG-East Africa was the regional anchoring institution while the Kampala City Council, Kisumu City Council and Musoma Town Council are the project implementers.

UN-HABITAT and its Urban Management Programme (UMP) and the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (ROAAS)

UN-HABITAT

Mission Statement: The mission of UN-HABITAT is to promote sustainable urbanization through

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