The SCP Documentation Series, Volume 1

## THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME IN TANZANIA 1992-2003

From a city demonstration project to a national programme for environmentally sustainable urban development







TANZANIA



SUMMARY

### **UN-HABITAT MISSON STATEMENT**

The mission of UN-HABITAT is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

### History and Background

Originally established in 1978 as an outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, UN-HABITAT is charged with coordinating and harmonizing human settlement activities within the UN system. It facilitates the global exchange of information on shelter and sustainable human settlements development, and gives countries policy and technical advice. At the second UN conference on Human Settlements, in Istanbul, Turkey in June 1996, governments agreed on the Habitat Agenda and Istanbul Declaration, committing themselves to the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. Five years later, in June 2001, the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, endorsed by the General Assembly, entrusted the organisation, then called the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with continued responsibility for supporting implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In 2002, the General Assembly transformed the organization into a fully-fledged programme of the United Nations and renamed it UN-HABITAT: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

#### Strategy

#### UN-HABITAT bases its activities on four main strategic objectives:

• Advocacy – Drawing the world's attention to crucial human settlements problems and spurring governments and other organisations into action. UN-HABITAT conducts its advocacy through the Global Campaign on Secure Tenure, the Global Campaign on Urban Governance and World Habitat Day

• **Research and Monitoring** – Coordinates global efforts that monitor human settlements conditions and progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda by identifying innovative solutions and practices. The results are disseminated through two flagship publications, the Global Report on Human Settlements, and the State of the World's Cities Report, as well as other specialised technical publications

• Training and Capacity-Building – UN-HABITAT strengthens the capacity to plan, develop and manage human settlements, particularly at local government level. Important tools include training for local leaders as well as development, testing and dissemination of training materials

• Technical Cooperation – UN-HABITAT provides national and local governments advisory services and technical support, including assistance with mobilising financial and human resources to implement sustainable projects. UN-HABITAT is involved in hundreds of such projects in over 54 countries world-wide.

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# Tanzania

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) started in the Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam in 1992 under an initiative known as the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project. Dar es Salaam was one of the first demonstration cities in Africa where environmental planning and management were revitalized under the SCP, a joint initiative of UN-HABITAT and UNEP to implement Agenda 21. Others cities were Ismailia in Egypt, Accra in Ghana, Dakar in Senegal, Ibadan in Nigeria, and Lusaka in Zambia.

This report draws on the environmental planning and management (EPM) process under the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project from 1992. It examines subsequent replication in other urban centers in Tanzania under the National Sustainable Cities Programme from 1998. EPM has now taken roots in the Tanzania, and is gradually replacing the entrenched techno-bureaucratic and prescriptive planning model of the past half century with a new collaborative and inclusive form of city planning and management.

With its emphasis on inclusion, transparency, decentralization, efficient service delivery and responsiveness to civil society, and sustainability, the EPM is considered a model for UN-HABITAT's Gobal Campaign on Urban Governance in the drive for urban poverty reduction.

The **SCP in Tanzania** traces back to a request of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help it review the master plan for Dar es Salaam from 1979. Under the Town and Country Planning Ordinance of 1956, such plan should be reviewed every five years taking into account changed social and economic circumstances. At the time of the review, it was found that the environmental problems confronting Dar es Salaam City were such that a change of direction was needed. City planning and



management was being conducted without proper coordination or consultation among departments, let alone the beneficiaries. This situation cried out for a more responsive and effective form of planning and management – one that would better take into account prevailing socio-economic conditions.

The documentation of the EPM process under the SCP provides a record of the processes involved in the initiative to reform the urban planning and management practices, achievements, challenges and take heed of the lessons learned for further replication. It forms a knowledge base that can be customised to suit local conditions, and also serve as an archive for future plans.

The need to document the EPM process was raised after evaluations of the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project in 1995, and again in 1997. Both evaluations cited the need for a recorded planning history and a proper institutional memory. It is hoped that this history will be reflected in this report.

SUMMARY

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Although the documentation refers generally to all the SCP cities or municipalities in Tanzania, it draws mainly on the sustainable cities projects in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Iringa, and Moshi for the following reasons:

The **Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project** is the oldest SCP programme in Tanzania, and part of a global SCP demonstration process. It enables us to see every facet of the SCP Process- from preparatory and start-up, to negotiation of strategies and action planning, implementation of demonstration projects, and scaling up, to the replication of an environmental improvement strategy and institutionalization. It also shows how one can learn from the experience of aggregating and coordinating issuebased strategies into a Strategic Urban Development-Planning (SUDP) framework. Because of the wealth of information available on the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project, it is given more attention in this report.

**Mwanza Municipality** received financial support in the tune of 1.9 million Danish Kroner from the Danish Government through DANIDA. This sum was meant to complement Council's EPM implementation, utilizing financial resources available through an Environmental Development Fund (EDF). It was thus assumed that SMWP would progress rather fast, building on the SDP experience in putting the EPM process to work, and providing opportunity to learn from.

**Iringa** received a similar amount from DANIDA. As Iringa's municipality prepared for the DANIDA support, Moshi Municipality secured 180,000 Dollars from UN-HABITAT to introduce the new planning and management approach under the **Sustainable Moshi Programme**. This initiative started in 1996, long before commencement of the replication programme in 1997, indicating demand-driven initiative to engage in the EPM process. This programme is thus selected to learn from that demand driven experience with modest external support.

However, the selection of the four cases does not in any way disregard what could be learned from the other cases within the replication programme. Given the unique socio-cultural, economic and political make-up of each municipality, as well as in terms of the technical leadership in the EPM process, the experiences of each context would have provided valuable lessons.

The full report has five chapters

• **Chapter One** gives an overview of the SCP principles, the approach and the EPM process.

• **Chapter Two** describes how the EPM process worked in the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project (SDP).

• **Chapter Three** looks at the coordination of issue-based strategies as part of a new urban development-planning framework for the city.

• Drawing on three specific cases, **Chapter Four** reports on how the EPM process was replicated in other municipalities.

• **Chapter Five** provides conclusions and emerging lessons for initiatives on more inclusive and democratic planning systems at the national and international level.

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### THE SCP PROCESS IN THE TANZANIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Technical support for the implementation of the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project (SDP) was, until 1997 when national execution of the SCP commenced, provided by the UN-HABITAT. Under the national execution a central coordinating unit - **the Urban Authority Support Unit (UASU)**, which began operating in 1998 -assumed the responsibility of providing and coordinating technical support to SDP and the municipalities under the national replication programme.

In providing technical support, UASU was supposed to collaborate with the UN-HABITAT, which had by then stepped back from the 'driver's seat' of supporting the SCP so as to let the local capacity lead the programme.

To date, a relatively well-equipped Environmental Management Information System (EMIS) unit has been established in every municipality, where experts manning the units have been trained on Geographical



Information Systems (GIS). The objectives of establishing, equipping and staffing the units was to build capacity of the city/municipal councils to collect, analyze, store, retrieve and disseminate information on urban environmental conditions and trends. The ultimate goal is to have an up-to-date environmental data-base to facilitate informed decision making, effective planning and management. This goal has not been reached, though some municipalities are genuinely striving to use the available facilities and knowledge to facilitate informed decisions. The existing capacity in terms of skills and GIS equipment needs to be more effectively used.

#### **Environmental Profiles**

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Unlike the EPM experience in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza where compilation of city Environmental Profile was primarily expert dominated, the process in the other municipalities was improved by bringing in other stakeholders through a 'miniconsultation' that was organized before the main consultation. This provided

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