

CITY OVERVIEW

Kampala, the capital of Uganda, is located on the northern shores of Lake Victoria covering an area of 195 sq. km and is situated at an average altitude of 3,910 ft (1,120 m) above sea level. It is situated on 24 low flat topped hills that are surrounded by wetland valleys.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS & VULNERABILITIES

Kampala is characterized by urban sprawl and increasing informal settlements resulting from increasing population pressure and inadequate land use planning. The settlements are located in high risk areas with poor sanitation and prone to flooding. Due to the high water table, most of the wells/springs are contaminated by fecal matter resulting in safe water coverage of only 55% that is exacerbated by inadequate solid waste collection which currently stands at 55%. Increased construction with hard paving is taking place on the hill tops and lack of water harvesting mechanisms has caused degradation of the fragile hill slopes.

There is excessive use of wood fuel as a major source of energy for cooking, over dependence on reused vehicles and use of leaded fuel leading to air, land and water pollution. Encroachment on fragile ecosystems and blockage of the drainage systems has increased the occurrence of flash floods in the city. Given these vulnerable conditions, the city dwellers are exposed to water borne diseases such as malaria, cholera and other ailments such as respiratory tract infections.

PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Within the framework of the Kampala City Development Strategy (CDS) and the local and national development plans, the following activities are proposed during the initial phase of the CCCI project:

1. Establishment of national/city climate change networks comprised of various stakeholders addressing climate change;
2. Increasing the level of awareness and capacities of Kampala City Council on climate change mitigation and adaptation;
3. Increasing the synergies and links between national and local climate change policies and programmes through consultations and policy dialogue.



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Population: Day time 2.5 million; night time 1.2 million (2000 census)

GDP growth Rate: 8%

Economy: Commerce and industry

Governance: Decentralized

Role in the Country: Capital city established in 1962, commercial, industrial and education centre



Climate indicators

Rainfall: 1,750 - 2,000 mm, peaking in March - May and September - November.

Dry seasons: June - July and December - January.

Mean annual temperature: 21.9°C

Relative humidity: 53 to 89%



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THE NATIONAL CONTEXT: UGANDA

Concern over climate change in Uganda emerged over 15 years ago as a result of Uganda's high level participation in the Second World Climate Conference in 1990. In 1993, Uganda ratified the Convention and in 2002 acceded to the Kyoto Protocol at the third UNCED in Johannesburg, South Africa. Awareness of climate change issues is still considered fairly low outside of the Meteorology Department and climate policy does not feature in the policy framework of the Ministry of Water and Environment as an independent policy area. Changes are however taking place and currently, the government is expanding the National Focal Point hosted by the Department of Meteorology into a National Climate Change Secretariat to deal with both mitigation and adaptation issues. In addition, Climate Change has been integrated in the National Development Plan to replace the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP).



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UN-HABITAT'S CITIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

UN-HABITAT launched the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net), an innovative network of global partners, promoting inter-disciplinary approaches to sustainable urban development.

The Cities in Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) is the flagship programme of SUD-Net. The initiative aims to strengthen the climate change response of cities and local governments. Cities are key drivers of climate change due to their high energy consumption, land use, waste generation and other activities that result in the release of the vast majority of greenhouse gases. At the same time, it is cities, and in particular the urban poor, in the developing world, that are most vulnerable to and have the least resilience against, for example, storms, floods, and droughts. Cities need to respond to Climate Change by cutting their greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation). The negative impact of climate change seems however unavoidable and for most cities in developing countries adaptation to the risks is a must.

The Cities in Climate Change initiative brings together local and national governments, academia, NGOs and

international organizations with the aim to alert cities to the action they can take and by strengthening capacities of cities and their partners to respond to Climate Change. The key components of the Cities in Climate Change initiative are:

- Advocacy, policy dialogue and policy change
- Tool development and tool application
- Piloting climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- Knowledge management and dissemination, through, amongst others, the UN-HABITAT partner universities and the partnership with UN-HABITAT's Local Government Training Institutes Network.

Initially four cities, Esmeraldas in Ecuador, Kampala in Uganda, Maputo in Mozambique and Sorsogon in the Philippines participated in the Cities in Climate Change Initiative as key partner cities. An additional 5 cities from Africa Bobo Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, Kigali in Rwanda, Mombasa in Kenya, Saint Louis in Senegal and Walvis Bay in Namibia have joined the initiative since July 2009. Cities in 9 Asian Countries are preparing to join CCCI.



For more information, contact:

UN-Habitat Global Division
Urban Environmental Planning Branch
P.O. Box 30030 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 7625405 • Fax: +254 20 7623715
Email: ues@unhabitat.org • www.unhabitat.org/sudnet

Director Regional Office for Africa & the Arab States
UN-Habitat Nairobi, Kenya
Tel :254 20 7623075 • Fax: 254 20 7623904
Website:<http://www.unhabitat.org/roaas>

UN-Habitat Programme Manager - Uganda
UNDP-15B Clement Hill Road • PO Box 7184 Kampala-Uganda
Tel: 256-41-233440/1/2/5 • Mob: 256-77-479731
Fax: 256-41-344801

Wood fuel, including charcoal, constitute 80% of cooking fuel and generate incomes for women in the informal economy.

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