

May 2017

Adaptation Planning in the City of Honiara, Solomon Islands

For half a decade UN-Habitat, through its Cities and Climate Change Initiative and Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, has assisted the urban areas, both formal and informal, of the City of Honiara in the Solomon Islands with adaptation planning. Assistance began in 2012 with a participatory analysis of vulnerability and adaptive capacity.

In 2014, floods devastated Honiara and destroyed one highly vulnerable settlement, Koa Hill. This destruction gave added impetus to adaptation planning. After the floodwaters receded, UN-Habitat assisted Honiara to undertake climate action planning. An innovative feature of the planning process undertaken was that, from the outset, the process was undertaken jointly by the Solomon Islands Government and Honiara City Council, as well as ward- and community-level stakeholders. This innovative institutional anchoring reflects what is often the case but seldom so explicitly acknowledged: that managing the urban territory is rarely an exclusive responsibility of a local authority only - but that higher level authorities and local implementers share this responsibility.

This joint effort led to the release in 2016 of the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan. This plan



The Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan has been formally endorsed by Honiara City Council and the Government of the Solomon Islands. © UN-Habitat

provides for concrete actions to reduce the multitude of risks that the city faces, with adaptation actions at the city-, ward- and community scales. It is hoped that the joint release – and ownership – of this plan by the Honiara City Council and the Solomon Islands Government will pave the way for its vigorous implementation.

Further planning and implementation support continues in Honiara. At present (April 2017) assistance is reaching further down, to community-based adaptation in three highly vulnerable informal communities: Koa Hill, Ontong Java, and Vara Creek. UN-Habitat has trained local officials, community representatives

and partners in the use of tablets, drones and geographic information systems to prepare geo-referenced, ortho-rectified maps of these communities.

At the same time, more detailed assessments of environmental risks, as well as of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, are underway. Community-based adaptation will be fully integrated into city-wide planning – another innovative feature of the effort. Finally, a proposal to the Adaptation Fund to implement high-priority actions in Honiara is currently under development.

Multifunctional Community Centre for Renewable Energy in Beira, Mozambique

In late April 2016, UN-Habitat and the Municipal Council of Beira (CMB) launched the Multifunctional Community Centre for Renewable Energy in the slum of Munhava, in Beira, Mozambique. The USD 158,000

project that began in 2011 was a result of co-funding from the German foundation BASF Stiftung and UN Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative with support of the agency for local and economic development

in Sofala Province, ADEL Sofala. The Community Centre offers innovations in the production and use of various forms of renewable energy. At this initial stage, the Centre will produce biogas from human

Multifunctional Community Centre for Renewable Energy In Beira, Mozambique (continued)

waste, briquettes and solar energy, as well as support local economic development and urban resilience.

The project aims to provide clean energy, better sanitation, and clean water to the inhabitants of Munhava slum. At the same time the project aims to provide opportunities, particularly to youth and women, to learn, exchange experiences and generate local initiatives linked to the development of their communities.

The Centre will be managed by a local association composed of community members, mostly youth and women, trained on issues related to renewable energy production, environmental management, small business management and accounting.



Daviz Simango, Mayor of Beira (left) and Joost Mohlmann, UN-Habitat Mozambique Head of Programme (right) during the centre opening ceremony.

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The community centre kitchen showing the gas stove and its pipe connection to the biodigester. © UN-Habitat Mozambique



Given that the Centre is located in an informal settlement and next to a small informal market, it has been fitted with a community kitchen, meeting and events room, a playground, water storage tanks

to supply drinking water, and public toilets connected to biogas system. It will benefit approximately 500 families in Munhava and the surrounding area.

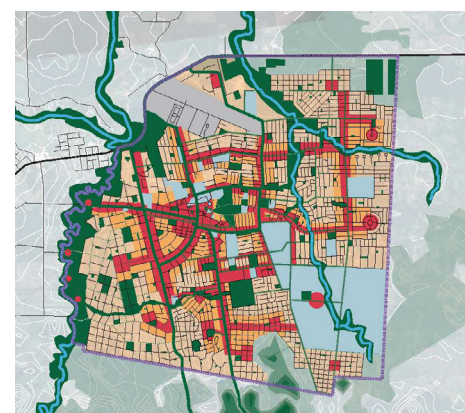
Blue-green Network Planning as a Spatial Development and Climate-resilient Strategy - the Case of Belmopan, Belize

Belmopan, the capital city of Belize, is currently facing important urban challenges including increasing population growth, climate change, inadequate public spaces, poor non-motorized transportation infrastructure and a lack of urban structure. Planning for its future development is a key to the city's liability and economy. A blue-green network planning approach will protect the ecological and hydrological values of the urban landscape, providing resilient measures to address climate change and improving quality of life.

UN-Habitat in collaboration with local stakeholders proposed a blue-green network planning approach to develop an integrated resilient master plan for the city, offering urban design tools to address the city's challenges. The plan will serve as a spatial plan to complement the city's 2014 Municipal Development Plan (MDP), which outlines the city's needs and proposes projects to address the needs. Per the request of the Belmopan City Council, the most important scale was the city-wide as the spatial plan will be complementing the MDP which was

developed at this scale. The Plan focuses on structuring the city's growth along development corridors that comprise of networks of existing natural systems, multi-modal transit systems and public spaces in order to improve connectivity spatially and socially. The process has been developed based on a scale approach ranging from the mentioned city-wide scale to the neighborhood and community level.

The Master Plan will become a guidance document to help direct future development projects in a comprehensive way, giving main relevance to the social and environmental components in planning. It suggests specific strategies to tackle the city's major issues. The Plan creates a foundation from which to work further on planning projects so that the future development of the city is integrative and climate-resilient. The vision for the Plan is to use blue, green and grey networks as the planning elements. This approach to planning focuses on integrating natural systems and waterways into an urban area. A blue-green network will help the city to realize its potential for further



- BLUE-GREEN NETWORK
- MIXED-USE NETWORK
- RESIDENTIAL HIGHER DENSITY
- RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY
- INDUSTRIAL
- EDUCATIONAL-INSTITUTIONAL
- ||||| MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

Belmopan City Master Plan.
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integration of green infrastructure into the built environment and the surrounding natural systems.

The Plan will improve connectivity within the city's system of public spaces and the development corridors of mixed-use development. The Plan also focuses on developing the residential areas. First, the planners identified the need to infill the large areas of vacant land adequate for

Blue-green Network Planning as a Spatial Development and Climate-resilient Strategy - the Case of Belmopan, Belize (continued)

construction. Next, they proposed residential development along the mixed-use corridors in order to be able to accommodate the growing population and to generate a safer, more vibrant, walkable and dynamic city. The social program of the system of public spaces is also a key feature. This program is developed for each of the scales (city-wide, neighborhood and community) and it

is linked together within the broader city-wide strategy. It includes public spaces such as a city market, forests, pocket parks and reading areas.

Ultimately, the Plan illustrates how design tools can help cities to tackle climate change and environmental challenges. The Plan calls for addressing water pollution, fragmented habitat, and increasing

urban temperatures and flood risk through interventions such as green networks of public spaces, eco-mobility or bio-swale retention, among many others. Blue-green network planning will create a more sustainable and climate-resilient future for the city.

Planning for Climate Resilience in an Informal Settlement in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

UN-Habitat has launched a new project under its Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), generously funded by the Government of Sweden, on 'Pro-poor planning for climate resilience in marginalized neighbourhoods'. This project, involving the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) as a partner, kicked off in 2016, in partnering cities and communities in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Jamaica, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Informal settlements are often disproportionately affected by climate change impacts. Moreover, while "community based adaptation" represents one approach to building resilience in such communities, one weakness in this methodology typically is its weak or non-existent links to city-wide planning processes and solutions (IIED). The present Project is designed to remedy that weakness by working at the community level while at the same time integrating slum resilience-building into city-wide planning processes.

The Project kicked off activities in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, by training stakeholders in resilience action planning. Trainers familiarized participants with the City Resilience Action Planning (City-RAP) Tool, developed under DiMSUR (the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience in Southern Africa) and already successfully piloted in other African cities. City-



Bissighin, an informal settlement in Ouagadougou. Brick-makers draw mud and water from this unsanitary body of water, which is at risk of flooding during periods of heavy precipitation. © Felix Vollmann, UN-Habitat

RAP enables actors to progressively reduce disaster risk and build urban resilience in their communities.

Thirty-two (32) professionals from Burkina Faso were introduced to the theoretical knowledge and equipped with the practical skills to implement the City-RAP Tool within a municipality or neighbourhood. Participants from different backgrounds attended the training, including representatives from the Municipal Council and sub-cities of Ouagadougou, the National Association of Municipalities, civil protection services, the National Institute for Urban Development, the Ministry of Urban Planning, academic institutions, members of Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, as well as representatives of key partners in the country such as the World Bank, UN-OCHA, UNDP, IOM

and the West African Economic and Monetary Union. Next steps planned will be for participants to use the City-RAP methodology to draft a Resilience Framework for Action in Ouagadougou's vulnerable sub-city Arrondissement n°8.

Further activities are ongoing under this new initiative in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. In Fiji and the Solomon Islands, local officials, experts and stakeholders have already assessed the vulnerability to climate impacts of five highly vulnerable informal settlements. CCCI foresees that the new project will yield insights and practical tools for addressing climate change as part of slum upgrading, and integrating community-based adaptation planning into broader city-wide planning processes.

Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement

In this publication, UN-Habitat analyzes the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, with a special focus on the urban context, in order to understand better the roles of member states in urban climate action. The results are illuminating: over two-thirds – 110 out of 163 – of the submitted NDCs show clear urban references and content, establishing the relationship between sustainable urbanization and climate action. Through the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate

Change, UN-Habitat stands ready to support member states to implement the urban-relevant parts of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy

National Urban Policy is a tool to assist governments and other stakeholders with achieving more sustainable urban development. At the same time, how to address climate change in cities and human settlements represents one of the most pressing challenges facing urban policy-makers today. This Guide (No. 4 in the CCCI Policy

Note Series) recommends how to mainstream such considerations into National Urban Policy, thus helping to empower national governments, local governments, and other stakeholders to effectively address climate change.



Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2017

Bonn, Germany: A series of CCCI supported official and side events will take place at the ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress, 4-6 May 2017.

Paris, France: Paris, France. UN-Habitat is coordinating a session on climate change and national

urban policy at the 2nd International Conference on National Urban Policy, 15-18 May 2017. The session will demonstrate the Agency's capacity to support countries in addressing climate change through National Urban Policy, bringing together partners working in this field.

Bangkok, Thailand: Integrating Climate Change Concerns into National Urban Policies: Experiences and Recommendations from 5 Asian Countries. 19-21 June 2017.

ABOUT US

Headquartered at UN-Habitat in Nairobi, the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) involves the participation of more than 40 cities worldwide. It targets medium-sized cities in developing and least-developed countries, and emphasizes good governance and practical initiatives for the municipalities and their citizens.

The CCCI team has adapted

previously by UN-Habitat so as to specifically address climate change issues within the city. A complementary set of tools has been and is being further developed to support cities in assessing vulnerabilities, analyzing baseline emissions, and prioritizing mitigation and adaptation actions. Since 2008, CCCI has been generously supported by the Governments of Norway, Germany and Sweden, the United

Cities Alliance, and other sources of global, regional, national and local funding.

Bulletins of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative are periodically published electronically. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact ccci@unhabitat.org or visit www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

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