



PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY IN AND AROUND THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN



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THE UN-HABITAT AGENDA

History

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Originally established in 1978 as the 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 organization, then called the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with continued responsibility of 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.

Key recommendations and fine tuning of the agenda are now underway as strategy clusters for achieving the urban development and shelter goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration - the United Nations' development agenda for the next 15 to 20 years. The revitalization has placed UN-HABITAT squarely in the mainstream of the UN's development agenda for poverty reduction with a more streamlined and effective structure and staff and more relevant and focused set of programmes and priorities.



Strategic Vision

With these imperatives in mind and with a sharper focus on urban poverty the UN-HABITAT strategic vision has been further refined:

“To help create by 2013 the necessary conditions for concerted international and national efforts to realize more sustainable urbanisation, including efforts to arrest the growth of slums and to set the stage for the subsequent reduction in and reversal of the number of slum dwellers worldwide.”

By giving more attention to knowledge management, the financing of housing and human settlements and, particularly, to strategic partnerships the expanded strategic vision is both forward looking and pragmatic. It is also consistent with social norms and political principles as well as with UN-HABITAT mandates, capabilities and partners' objectives. Its main elements are:

- Knowledge management and reporting, expanding the global understanding of urban development, shelter and poverty, and tracking progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda;
- Advocacy of norms for sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction, carried forward through two global campaigns and a number of global programmes;
- Technical cooperation in linking norms and campaign/programme goals to urban poverty reduction activities on the ground;
- Innovative financing for urbanization and specific shelter needs of the urban poor; and
- Strategic partnerships to leverage resources and coordinate international programme activities that work toward similar ends.



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Effective conservation
of biodiversity at all levels
- genes, ecosystems - is a
precondition for sustainable
development

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Convention on
Biological Diversity

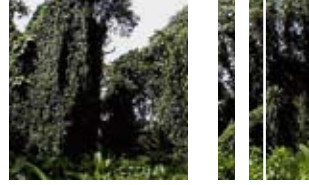


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Accronyms and Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDS	City Development Strategies
COP	Conference of Parties
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environment Initiatives
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LAB	Local Action for Biodiversity
LVRLAC	Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Co-operation
LVB	Lake Victoria Basin
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
SIDA	Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
USD	United States dollar
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development



Foreward

An estimated 40 percent of the global economy is based on biological products and processes. Poor people, especially those living in areas of low agricultural productivity, depend heavily on the genetic diversity of the environment. The effective use of biodiversity at all levels - genes, species and ecosystems - is therefore critical to sustainable development.

Cities surrounding Lake Victoria all depend on and share a single eco-system which sustains much of their economic activity. They also share similar challenges in conserving biodiversity. These challenges include: poor land use planning, lack of proper liquid and solid waste management; unregulated source and non-source pollution; deforestation, and lack of protection of wetlands.

In response to some of these challenges, the local authorities of Kisumu, Homabay, Entebbe, Jinja, Musoma, Bukoba, Kampala and Mwanza have recently embarked on the process of developing City Development Strategies for improving the urban environment and reducing poverty. City Development Strategies can be defined as participatory planning processes focusing on pro-poor and socially inclusive sustainable urban development.

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This publication provides an overview of the processes and outcomes of developing action plans in the above-mentioned cities. Significantly, all of them have recognized the importance of improving the urban environment to enhance economic productivity and reduce poverty.

To date, there are several follow-up proposals for local interventions and initiatives in support of conserving biodiversity. These range from improved sanitation and

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