

CAP NEWS

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Planners

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Pacific Islands form Planning Association



CAP President Christine Platt lines up with the founders of the Pacific Islands Planning Association. CAP and the Planning Institute of Australia have helped to nurture a new grouping of planners in the Pacific.

In this issue:

Reports from UN Habitat Governing Council and from the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements.

Participatory planning in Kitale.

Take-off in the Pacific

Planners in the Pacific region are few and far between. As in many small island states the scale of the planning issues far outstrips the number of planners. Collaboration between the Planning Institute of Australia, the New Zealand Planning Institute, CAP and other stakeholders resulted in a seminal meeting in Nadi, Fiji at the end of April.

In her opening address CAP President Christine Platt stressed the importance of planning as a means of adapting places such as the islands in the Pacific to the impacts of climate. “Climate change is likely to speed up the rates of urbanisation within some Commonwealth countries, as we see more and more environmental refugees. What strategies are we putting in place to ensure that urban growth occurs in a sustainable manner, and in safe locations? This cannot be done without planning; indeed without planning we will simply compound the problems,” she said.

Being in Fiji was a fantastic experience, and it was interesting to see how much we all share common problems, but at the same time, it was wonderful to learn so much about the Pacific countries. I look forward to seeing how PIPA develops from now on. CAP will give whatever assistance we can in developing PIPA within the Commonwealth countries of the Pacific.
Christine Platt

The CAP Pacific Planners Forum was a stimulating event. Tagaloa Jude Kohlbase, who works in Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, told CAP News how much she felt she gained from the Forum. “It was satisfying to learn of other islands’ efforts and experiences with planning. The workshop brought planners of the Pacific together to discuss urbanization challenges and opportunities. The resource persons involved provided encouragement and a resource base that all islands hope to strengthen.”

Jude added that while diverse views were expressed, there was a consensus on the need to remove the 'roadblocks' to progress in the region. Samoa was often cited as a sound workable model that might be shared and adapted with other countries in this part of the world.

A key outcome from the meeting was a decision to form a Pacific Islands Planning Association (PIPA). A follow up meeting is planned for later this year.

Overall, the most significant milestone achieved was that the planning professionals in the Pacific were able to form an Association with the primary aim to promote the profession, share ideas to resolve planning problems and provide opportunities for professional development.
Tagaloa Jude Kohlbase, Samoa.

Sustainable urbanisation: planning as local action to reduce urban poverty

The contribution of planning to urban poverty reduction was one of the main themes at the 21st Governing Council of UN Habitat in Nairobi in April. The meeting approved the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan of UN Habitat which covers the period 2008-2013. In this plan “Participatory urban planning, management and governance” is one of six “mutually reinforcing focus areas” on which the efforts of UN Habitat will be concentrated. The other five are:

- Advocacy, monitoring and partnerships;
- Pro-poor land and housing;
- Environmentally sound and affordable basic infrastructure and services;
- Strengthening human settlements finance systems;
- Excellence in management.

The meeting received a report from last year’s World Urban Forum which gave prominence to the importance of planning. The endorsement of the Medium Term Plan makes it clear that urban planning will be a focus of attention globally over the next six years. Thus the work programme approved for the next two years says that “Particular focus will be placed on new forms of urban planning, as integral parts of good urban governance, and as cost-effective ways of achieving slum prevention and upgrading”. The link being made between urban planning and pro-poor land and housing policies, sustainable infrastructure and urban finance is clearly important.

In her opening address, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, the Executive Director of UN Habitat said “Our common goal must be to stabilize the unplanned and chaotic aspects of urban growth and unleash the productive potential of the urban poor. Our strategic objective must also be to address pressing global issues such as climate change that threaten citizens of the North and South alike. Our vision is none other than realization of the Habitat Agenda for liveable, productive and inclusive cities offered by sustainable urbanization.”

CAP had a prominent role in the one-day Dialogue session of the Governing Council meeting. The theme of the Dialogue was “Sustainable urbanisation: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning.” CAP President Christine Platt was invited by UN Habitat to chair the first half of this Dialogue, which comprised a session on “The role of planning in urban poverty reduction”, followed by another on Financing Pro-poor Housing and Urban Development. The fact that CAP’s President was given this prestigious role is recognition of her personal abilities and of the profile that CAP now enjoys as a leading international association in the human settlements field.

The outstanding speaker in the session on planning was Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa. He spoke of the problems of planning practice in cities where the population is doubling every 10-15 years. He also noted the failings of planning systems that had been transferred from developed countries to the developing world, without being adapted to local

circumstances. In particular he highlighted the needs of the urban poor and the limitations in resources and institutional capacity in many countries.

6 major challenges that governments need to overcome to renew their planning tools and systems:

- **Urgency;**
- **Investment;**
- **Social inclusion;**
- **Environmental sustainability;**
- **Participation;**
- **Capacity building.**

Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi.

In the discussion that followed, CAP Secretary General Cliff Hague was able to stress the need for a paradigm shift to make planning systems and practices fit for their 21st century purposes. He argued that many planning systems had been designed in the 20th century to provide tools for urban containment and land use segregation through micro-management of land use. Today's planning systems need to be about creating more sustainable settlements through adapting them to climate change, while also supporting wealth creation and reducing the rate of new slum formation.

Several CAP members were present at this meeting, including the President and the Secretary-General, and the Vice-Presidents for East Asia (Belinda Yuen), East Africa (Bosire Ogero), as well as Kabir Yari from the Nigerian Institute of Physical Planning.



CAP President Christine Platt was the Facilitator for the Dialogue on “Sustainable urbanisation: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning.”

A report on the Governing Council meeting can be downloaded from www.unhabitat.org

CAP addresses Ministers on need for capacity-building

“We need to build and strengthen the planning function within the Commonwealth, to spread the message about reforming the global planning agenda, and to empower planners to translate the global to the local in order to confront issues appropriate to their own context.” This was the message that CAP President Christine Platt gave to Ministers and high-level officials at the meeting of the Commonwealth

Consultative Group on Human Settlements in April.

Christine had been invited to address the meeting on the topic of “Leadership for new approaches to urban planning and development”. She reminded her audience that new approaches to urban planning was one of only four headline issues identified by the World Urban Forum in 2006. The Forum stressed that planners could be agents of change, with sustainability as the backbone of new forms of planning. “This message is especially critical for the Commonwealth given the rapid rates of urbanisation, and the urbanisation of poverty, being experienced in many countries, not least in the many small island developing states”, she said.

In a presentation that was well received, she stressed the importance of climate change. “Are we creating sustainable cities?” she asked. “Are we considering what the likely impacts of climate change are going to be on our existing settlements and what needs to be done to address these?” She likened planning to preventative medicine, “whereas we have spent the last generation focussing on curative medicine”. Instead of planning for new settlements and hazard mitigation many countries had been in reactive mode, “retro-fitting infrastructure” and incurring “avoidable costs of re-habilitating settlements after natural disasters”.

ComHabitat restructures and identifies need for leadership in planning

ComHabitat is a partnership that links a range of agencies involved in habitat issues, including CAP, and the

ministerial level Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS). The partners work together within ComHabitat in pursuit of the Commonwealth goal for human settlements: “Demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to basic services in every community by 2015”.

ComHabitat presented its new Strategic Plan for the period 2007-2011 to the CCGHS meeting in Nairobi in April. The Plan set three strategic objectives that will guide its work over this period:

1. To improve financial investment to ensure adequate shelter for all, including access to essential services;
2. To strengthen leadership and governance by Habitat Agenda partners in approaches to sustainable and equitable human settlements development.
3. To reduce risks and build community resilience in an urbanising world.

CAP is closely associated with the second of these objectives. The Plan says that leadership is needed in planning. “The potential exists to use information and communication networks, Commonwealth universities and training institutions, professional groups and practitioners, to develop curricula and learning materials, and to share experiences in sustainable planning of urban centres.”

The Plan includes project proposals to follow each of these objectives. The project for the second objective is about “Re-inventing Planning”, which would involve a needs assessment, supporting new practices and development and dissemination of training, allowing

people to learn on the job. The hope is that funding can now be found to make this project happen.

“A safe city is a just city”: World Habitat Day 2007

World Habitat Day this year will be on 1 October (it is the first Monday in October each year). The theme is “A safe city is a just city”. In launching the programme for this year’s Day, UN Habitat identifies three causes of fear and insecurity in today’s cities. These are: crime and violence; forced evictions and insecure tenure; and natural and human-made disasters.

There will be a 2-day conference to celebrate World Habitat Day. It will be held in The Hague, Netherlands on 1-2 October. It will focus on three issues:

- Transforming problem neighbourhoods into vibrant communities: the role of housing in creating safer cities and communities;
- Reconstruction and peace-building after conflicts: support from local governments;
- The restitution of land, houses and properties to returning refugees: a tool for reconstruction.

UN Habitat are also holding a major conference in Monterrey, Mexico on October 1-5 to mark Habitat day. The theme of the event will be The State of Safety in World Cities 2007. CAP has been invited to contribute to the opening session and the CAP Women in Planning network has been asked to Partner UN Habitat to run a session of the conference on the theme of gender and safety.

For more details see www.worldhabitatday2007.org.

CAP Women in Planning Convenor, Alicia Yon, is also in talks with staff of UN Habitat about scope for further collaboration on issues of gender and planning.

Habitat Day provides an opportunity for CAP member institutes to publicise the way that the work of planners can make cities safer places.

CAP message goes round the world

CAP’s message that “There can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation and no sustainable urbanisation without effective planning” has been taken to all corners of the Commonwealth and beyond in recent months.

Secretary-General Cliff Hague was one of the keynote speakers at the New Zealand Planning Institute conference in Palmerston North in March. Speaking in “Re-inventing planning as part of good governance” he said, “we live in one world and while urban experiences and situations may be fragmented they are also deeply inter-connected. Connections include international migration, dependency on the cities as the engines of the economy, a developing “hour-glass” labour market that sees a widening rich-poor gap within urban areas in rich countries too, and increasing insecurity and risk. Part of the risk comes from the consequences of climate change, and how we handle urban growth is fundamental to how we manage those risks. Furthermore, as urban development tends to be disproportionately on coasts or in flood

plains, there is an urban dimension to impacts of climate change as well as to its causes. Similarly, there is a poverty dimension, as typically it is the poor who live in the most hazardous locations.” He went on to explain the importance of raising global awareness, of the need for better planning of settlements, and described the work that CAP has been doing to promote this.

While in New Zealand Cliff also spoke at an event hosted by Auckland City Council that attracted an audience of about 100. He also addressed students at Massey University, and met with some staff from the Auckland Regional Council. He was also the guest speaker at the Auckland Chapter NZPI Annual General Meeting, where he explained the recent history of CAP. He also participated in a one-day research workshop organised by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum in Auckland.

The conference in Palmerston North enabled Cliff to meet with the Executive of the Eastern Asia Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing (EAROPH) who were at the NZPI meeting. This initiated a useful dialogue in which it is hoped that EAROPH will actively work with CAP in promoting the idea of re-inventing planning and building global capacity in planning.

Then in April Cliff spoke to a meeting of the Kenya Institute of Planners in Nairobi, where he again explained the work of CAP and reviewed the meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements that is reported elsewhere in this issue.

In May he was a keynote speaker at a meeting in Lisbon organised by the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP). Again this afforded an opportunity to raise awareness amongst other planners (mainly from Europe this time) about CAP’s work on re-inventing planning and the book *Making Planning Work: A Guide to Approaches and Skills* (Practical Action, 2006). One result is that the Executive of IFHP is likely to review how they operate internationally.

CAP President Christine Platt has also been active in disseminating CAP’s messages. She not only spoke at meetings in Fiji and Barbados that are reported in this issue, but also made contributions to the conferences of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) in Perth in May and to the Canadian Institute of Planners in Ottawa in June. She also managed to have a meeting with members of the Singapore Institute of Planners on her way home to Durban from Fiji.

CAP has also been able to get articles published in the magazines of at least two member institutes. International Planning was the theme of the March issue of the PIA’s *Australian Planner*. As well as articles on the Solomon Islands, Shanghai, the Pacific Islands, India, sustainable development in Asia, and a piece by Sir Peter Hall on Australian Cities, there were articles by Paul Taylor of UN Habitat and by Cliff Hague, both on the theme of Re-inventing Planning.

“Cities concentrate poverty but they also represent the best hope of escaping it. Cities also embody the environmental damage done by modern civilization, yet experts and

policy-makers increasingly recognise the potential value of cities to long-term sustainability. If cities create environmental problems they also contain the solutions. The potential benefits of urbanization far outweigh the disadvantages. The challenge is in learning how to exploit its possibilities.”

UN Population Fund, 2007.

The 13 July issue of the RTPI's weekly magazine *Planning* carried a two-page article on the recently published UN report on *The State of World Population 2007*. It stressed that the growth of cities will be the largest single influence on 21st century development. The article used several quotes from CAP's Secretary-General, including his call for "solidarity from planners in rich countries with their fellow planners in poor nations".

“Planning in one country is no longer enough” Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN Habitat.

The same magazine also carried a feature article on Anna Tibaijuka in its 29 June issue. This followed her keynote address to the RTPI Annual Convention. It quotes her as saying that planning practices in many countries are "simply not relevant to the poor or actively discriminate against them". Dr. Tibaijuka gave examples, including minimum house plot sizes that are beyond the means of the poor and clampdowns by planners on the informal commercial sector which is a vital economic lifeline for many slum dwellers.

Correction: CAP's first woman President

CAP News would like to apologise for an incorrect statement in our last issue (March 2007). We stated that Christine Platt was the first woman to be CAP President. In fact, of course, that honour rests with Mrs. Jacqueline daCosta from Jamaica, who was CAP's President from 1992-1996. Jacqui was also a winner of the UN Habitat Scroll of Honour award in 2000.

CAP and the Global Planners Network

The Global Planners Network (GPN) was formed at the World Planners Congress held in Vancouver last year. Through the GPN CAP has worked with the RTPI, the Planning Institute of Australia, the Canadian Planning Institute and the American Planning Association, amongst others. The aim is to take forward the commitments in the Vancouver Declaration (see CAP News 16).

The GPN is planning to hold a world conference in Zhenjiang in October 2008. Zhenjiang is about 30 kms from Nanjing where the 2008 World Urban Forum will be held.

For news from the GPN see their website, www.globalplannersnetwork.org.

Built Environment Professionals going to Kampala

A workshop on "Towns and Cities: Realising People's Potential" is being staged ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

(CHOGM) in Kampala in November. CAP has worked with the other Commonwealth Built Environment professions on a successful bid to the Commonwealth Foundation to host a workshop on this theme. The one-day workshop is a collaboration between CAP, the Commonwealth Association of Surveyors and Land Economists, the Commonwealth Association of Architects and the Commonwealth Engineering Council.

The keynote speakers in the opening session will include CAP President Christine Platt, and Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa. A speaker from the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment is also expected. The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment is an educational charity founded by HRH The Prince of Wales to improve the quality of people's lives by teaching and practising timeless and ecological ways of planning, designing and building. It is expected that the Prince himself will be in Kampala later in the week for the CHOGM.

Amongst the speakers later in the day will be CAP's Pamela Ayebare from Uganda, who will speak about Women in Planning. The event aims to highlight evidence and examples of how the social and environmental benefits of urban economic growth can be captured through effective governance; disseminate, review key skills and identify actions that will leave a legacy and a commitment for urban growth to realise people's potential.

Nigerian Institute of Town Planners seeks partnership with Ghanaian planners

As a first step towards strengthening relationships among professional town planners across the West African sub region, the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) is seeking greater cooperation with town planners in Ghana. The partnership will provide opportunity for professionals in the two countries to share experiences in project conception, execution and management. This is to be facilitated through regular visits and networking via the internet.

This was part of the agreement reached between NITP and Ghana Institute of Planners (GIP), when members of NITP conducted a four-day working tour to Ghana. The visit took the team to Accra, Tema, Akosombo, and Cape Coast, among other places.

Alhaji Waheed Kadiri, the First Vice-President of NITP, who led the 39 member delegation to the trip, stated that since human settlements in Africa and West African Sub region in particular share a lot of similarities, there is need to evolve concepts that would recognize the "African-ness" in the socio-economic development of African settlements.

Mr. Kofi Osei, President of GIP was delighted that NITP has commenced the campaign for integrating human settlement planning professionals in the sub region. He stated that there is need to involve other-countries like Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia,

Gambia and Senegal in the proposed West African Association of Planners. “We have always seen Nigeria as a big sister whom we can count on for support. We are also aware we can learn a lot from you. I believe strongly that we should have an Association of West African Planners. We have our peculiarities”.

The team, in the course of the visit was in Tema Development Corporation, the agency that is charged with physical planning and infrastructure development for Tema city, the primate industrial city of Ghana. The Nigerian planners were informed that the master plan of the city was prepared over 50 years ago, by Doxiadis, a firm of foreign planners. The detailed land use plan of various sectors or communities within the city was done by local planners in Ghana.

A member of the Nigerian delegation, Mrs. Kehinde George said the experience learnt in the implementation of the Tema City Master Plan is that for every master plan, there must be lower order plans, like district and local plans. Such plans, she said will give detailed information on land use, infrastructure development and natural resources management. According to Mrs. George, this is one of the reasons for the failure of implementation of the expired master plan for Metropolitan Lagos. "District plans identified in the Lagos master plan were not prepared", she said.

The team was also at the Centre for Environmental Resources and

Geographic Information System, University of Ghana. The Centre is involved in mapping work for the entire country. Such maps cover settlement, natural resources and infrastructure. The study tour was organized as part of the fortieth Anniversary Celebration of NITP.



NITP members on their study visit to Ghana.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Christine Platt



This has been an exceptional six months for CAP. The level of activity in the regions, coupled with the exposure CAP has had at the highest levels, has been momentous, and probably unprecedented in CAP's history. CAP has addressed or been present at planning events and meetings in New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Australia, Singapore, Canada, Britain, the Caribbean, and East Africa. CAP will be participating in CHOGM in Uganda in November, and has been invited to events in Mexico, Singapore and Cameroon. CAP is also presently making arrangements to visit the Institute of Town Planners, India.

In addition, CAP delivered a keynote address to the Inter-Ministerial Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements, and CAP had the honour of facilitating the Plenary Dialogue session of UN Habitat's Governing Council 21 meeting in Nairobi in April.

The outcomes have also been heartening, and we have witnessed landmark events, such as the formation of PIPA – the Pacific Islands Planning Association. We have also seen serious discussion about benchmarking for accreditation of planning schools, using CAP as a mechanism to facilitate an international perspective in member countries. Liaison with our global partners has also centred around capacity building for planning, and preliminary work has started on formulating principles to underpin this initiative.

You will read more about some of these activities in this newsletter, and we will be reporting on others in the next newsletter.

While in Barbados, I was asked to address the conference group after dinner, on my reflections of the past six months. There were many, many things to talk about, but I chose to talk about my sense of the CAP family. We use the terms “the global family of planners” or the “Commonwealth family of planners” glibly, but on reflection, we really are like a family. We share many similarities, and there are strong ties which bind us, but there are also clear differences between us – just like any family.

Our ties are clearly that we are all planners, facing the same challenges, particularly fighting poverty, trying to understand climate change and its potential impacts on the areas within which we work, and grappling with the impacts of urbanisation. We all share concerns about recognition of the relevance of our work, and of the need to boost capacity, in both planning and governance, to bring about effective and efficient planning. We are debating issues around appropriate planning education in the 21st Century, indigenous accreditation, the broader recognition of qualifications within the Commonwealth, and the registration and licensing of planners. Many of us are grappling with drafting post-colonial, or 21st Century planning legislation, which hopefully will allow us to put in place sustainable planning frameworks and systems. Some of us are starting to formulate specific, or one-on-one relationships, within this family, such as the Women in Planning Network, and the bilateral mutual recognition of qualifications between Australia and Canada. The overriding similarity however is the commitment, passion and outstanding ability of the planners I have

had the privilege of meeting over the past six months.

Just like a normal family however, there are differences between us. These include local custom, which is so critical to making our work effective – we have to be able to translate the global to the local, to ensure that we adapt our tools to be relevant to our local context. Historical background adds specific flavour to the planning challenges in particular areas, and arguably none more so than here in South Africa. We also face the challenges mentioned above, to different degrees, and in different ways, and we have each reached different stages in developing planning systems appropriate to our own local context.

But, like any close family, we have the avenues open to us to jointly celebrate our successes, discuss our experiences, debate our differences, learn from one another, and to provide support and assistance when needed. It is good to see this happening in so many regions of the Commonwealth.

It is a long time since last this “family” has enjoyed as high a profile, and recognition of our relevance, and what I have seen over the past six months confirms that this faith in what we do is justified. Although there is much to do, planning is clearly in good hands in the Commonwealth. I am sure that we will have many positive messages to deliver at CHOGM in November and at the World Urban Forum in Nanjing next year.

Life in the slums



Linet, Rosemary and Nancy

The number of people in slums will pass 1 billion during 2007. There are some 200 slums and informal settlements in Nairobi. AIDS leaves many orphans. Typically the median age in slums is less than 15. Few young people here have met any planners: few planners hear their voices.

Nancy Opondo and her friend Linet have grown up in Huruma, home to some 300,000 people, which is part of the larger Mathare slum on the east of Nairobi. Their parents came from the countryside. Huruma is part shanty town of mud huts and part slum. The mud huts literally dissolve in heavy rain. The slum is where the better-off poor live, crammed in small flats in unauthorised seven-storey buildings. Sanitation is open drains running through the maze of streets.

Nancy describes a day in Huruma. “The father walks about 30-45 minutes to work in the city or an industrial area. He earns about 200 shillings a day (about £1.60). The mother stays home with about 5 children. There is free primary education – but they don’t attend. You

can't study on an empty stomach. People can't afford the uniforms."

"There is one communal bathroom and toilets in a 7 storey block, used by 60 to 70 households. Water is available on tap, but only from midnight to 5a.m, and it does not reach the top floor. We are lucky: we have electricity, but many neighbourhoods don't. You hire an electrician to connect you (illegally) to the supply, but it only works for the TV and the lights, and goes off during the day. Landlords fit circuit breakers so you can't use an iron, for example. At night the whole family sleeps in one room. Rents are about 2000 shillings a month (£16), collected by agents: but nobody knows who their landlord is."

Rosemary was born in the countryside and arrived in Nairobi at the age of six. She lives on the other side of town, in Deepsea, a more recent informal settlement of only 3,000 people, where there are no 7-storey blocks and no electricity. Life here is more precarious than in Huruma: rents are only 200 to 500 shillings a month, although a hut with a concrete floor costs about 1500. "Deepsea is built on somebody else's land, so the government regularly demolishes our houses. The Catholic Church gives us tents and we live in those until we can rebuild the shanties."

These areas have no public lighting and no paved roads. Emergency vehicles cannot get through the alleys. Health services amount to over-the-counter purchases of medicines from a local shop. Schools lack the basics: "There are 90 pupils in a class, but no tables or seats, just benches. Teachers are poorly paid. Just to complete primary school

requires real commitment," says Rosemary.

There can be no doubting the commitment of this trio. Nancy and Linet are active in the Slumcode Group, a voluntary organisation that promotes youths as agents for participatory social development. Rosemary is with Ghetto Reporters, another voluntary group, trying to give a voice to the people from the informal settlements through Slums Diary, a weekly 15 minute programme on a local Catholic radio station.

Slumcode organises monthly clean-ups in Huruma, mobilising youths to collect rubbish and recycle it. Some is converted into bracelets or necklaces; some is taken to Dandora, the biggest rubbish tip in East Africa for recycling. Paper is turned into charcoal which can be sold by the unemployed youths. Linet hopes that Slumcode can set up a recording studio in the slum, where people could develop their talent rather than hanging about on the street. Yunasi, a local Afro-fusion band, has had international success.

So where do these bright, able unemployed young women want to be in 10 years time? Rosemary would still like to be in Deepsea, but would like it to be "a habitable place, with schools and a hospital, and proper roads and lighting. I don't want to see that girl child being harassed; I want to see her so high up."

Nancy says she would like "a more equal distribution of resources. People come here hoping to find white collar jobs; when they don't get work they start to steal. If the slum problem could be tackled more effectively, there would be less crime."

Nancy is right: in cities everything affects everything else. In Nairobi under-five mortality rates are 62 per 1000 live births, but in the city's slums the figure is 151. Pave the roads and you reduce stagnant water and malaria. If you are a girl in Africa your risk of contracting AIDS is halved if you go to primary school. Slum upgrading and effective planning to reduce the spiral of new slum formation are challenges comparable to that of global warming for the next generation.

This article by Cliff Hague was published in Planning in May 2007.

Planning with the urban poor for access to services

The rate of urbanization in Kenya is a staggering 7% a year. Kitale is a city of about 165,000 people, some 380kms north-west of Nairobi. It is experiencing strong inward migration from its rural hinterland. Growth has outstripped the capacity of the Kitale Municipal Council (KMC) to plan the development effectively and deliver infrastructure and other services. As a result, 65% of its residents do not have access to secure tenure, decent shelter, safe water, sanitation, health services, employment opportunities and other basic needs, and live in informal settlements and slums such as Kipsongo, Shimo La_Tewa and Tuwan.

Although local authorities in Kenya were required to produce 3-year service delivery plans, the poor have usually lacked the power to claim their share. However in Kitale an action research project, *Building in Partnership: Participatory Urban Planning (BiP-*

PUP) was set up by the UK's Department for International Development. It ran from 2001 to 2004 and aimed to "enhance the effectiveness of city and municipal planning". It sought to create formal and informal linkages between community based organisations (CBOs), public agencies and the formal and informal private sectors so as to build local capacity to assess and meet the needs of the urban poor. A central concern was to develop means for active participation of key stakeholder groups in assessing needs and developing neighbourhood plans.

Under the project Practical Action worked in partnership with KMC, using a sustainable livelihoods approach and participatory urban appraisal methods. First, a survey was done to identify and map areas of concern over a wide range of services across all ten wards in the municipality. An inventory of stakeholders was drawn up, which helped to identify potential partners, planning needs and areas of collaboration. The survey also showed which informal settlements were in greatest need, and three were prioritised.

Local residents were then involved in designing a planning toolkit. The toolkit was then used in preparing strategic neighbourhood and investment plans for each settlement. The investment plans were linked into the municipal budgetary process, which other stakeholders were committed to support. Thus a key part of the Kitale approach was the scaling up of participatory planning models from neighbourhood levels to the municipal planning ward level, bringing the urban poor into the mainstream urban development programmes. This made it possible for the urban poor to

access services that previously were not available to them. The glue that held the process together was a shared vision, identification and prioritisation of projects for implementation and the mobilisation of resources. In all there were over 20 different stakeholders involved. These included the municipal and provincial councils, four central government ministries, the Kenya Institute of Planners and other professional groupings, NGOs and grassroots organisations, as well as researchers and private sector bodies.

Achievements

A literature review was done on participatory planning in informal settlements development. It included case studies from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, as well as from Bangladesh and Peru. A manual was produced and disseminated to local authorities and planners.

With assistance from the project, KMC's Department of Housing and Social Services carried out the preliminary city-wide survey. The purpose of this work was to help communities to identify and map their development priorities and planning and funding challenges, particularly in respect of infrastructure needs (water, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management and pedestrian and vehicular access), shelter, health services and education facilities.

The project also did a detailed household survey and inventory of active CBOs. These fed into the development of micro-level spatial integrated neighbourhood plans and meso-level ward-based Local Authority Service Delivery Plans.

The surveys also fed into a ranking process to identify the most needy areas. Through this inclusive consultative process a consensus was reached on priority development needs and on the wards and informal settlements where the project should work. Kipsongo, Shimo La_Tewa and Tuwan were selected. Participatory neighbourhood planning exercises were undertaken there and plans were prepared. Local communities in these areas were then actively involved in preparing a planning toolkit for communities to use to identify and prioritise development needs and formulate plans.

Strong partnerships were formed which then resourced the service delivery. In Kipsongo eight communal sanitation blocks with latrines and bathing cubicles were constructed. It was the first time that Kipsongo's residents had had access to sanitary services. In Shimo La_Tewa an 80 metre long footbridge was built, with the local people providing labour and timber for the decking. KMC provided 30% of the cost, while engineers from the private sector, the Ministry of Public Works and KMC did the design and supervised construction. A local business also supplied some materials at reduced cost. Again the cost-sharing partnership approach meant that communities in informal settlements gained access to municipal services that previously they had not had.

The Kitale Environmental Development Plan

In partnership with the relevant ministry and other local stakeholders, the project prepared an environmental Development Plan. This identified environmental problems in Kitale, their causes and proposed remedial measures. The plan

proposed locally-based intervention strategies to protect the environment and enhance sustainable urban development. A voluntary action group, the Kitale Green Towns Environment Group Initiative, was formed. It promotes environmental awareness and supports conservation and protection of environmentally fragile zones in the town. It also works with others on implementation of the Environmental Development Plan.

Lessons

- Educating members of the community about the municipal planning and budgetary process, their rights and existing sources of development funds strengthens their voice in demanding services from the Council. It increases transparency.
- People in informal settlements collectively have a wealth of knowledge and social networks that can make a participatory partnership process a success.
- Residents in informal settlements pay higher rates for services than those in formal settlements. Thus people are very willing to pay for services at fair rates.
- It is easier to work in medium-sized and secondary towns on participatory planning. In big cities bureaucracy can hinder such work.
- Participatory planning and partnership building takes time and resources. Partnerships mean entering into memoranda of understanding, urban pacts and agreements that have to be negotiated.
- Older women are most likely to participate in socially-oriented projects, while youths are more

drawn to projects focused on economic benefits.

Overall Kitale has shown that a participatory partnership project can work and deliver a remarkable amount of development in terms of physical infrastructure and amenities, social infrastructure and personal development.

There is a web site: www.kitale.org

This is an edited version of a paper written by Paul Chege of Practical Action – East Africa. Paul can be contacted at paul.chege@practicalaction.or.ke

Urban Flooding

Climate change means that extreme weather events become more likely. However, as with everything else, unless you factor in the explosive rates of urbanization that are with us for at least a generation, you fail to grasp the true extent of the problem. Urban development increases flood risk. As land is covered with roofs, roads and paved areas the run-off increases and there are less places for waters to go. Even building drains means that water reaches rivers faster than it would naturally.

So it is the combination of climate change and rapid urban development that will ensure that risks of urban flooding figure ever more prominently in the work of planners. Urban floods keep children out of school, destroy jobs and livelihoods, wipe out property assets and spread disease. Just as you miss the point if you look at environmental change in isolation from urbanisation, so

also environmental impacts in cities need to be considered in relation to the escalating urbanisation of poverty. When floods strike it is the urban poor who are the main victims.

A recent report by Action Aid highlighted some of the issues. "Climate change, urban flooding and the rights of the urban poor in Africa" looked at six Commonwealth cities: Accra, Freetown, Kampala, Lagos, Maputo and Nairobi. Interviews with slum dwellers in these cities revealed that "there are few, if any, collective mechanisms either for reducing flood risks, or for managing floods once they do happen." A resident of Mabatini in Nairobi is quoted as saying that "We are not included in decision-making processes. If we were, we could form residents' associations to improve our own welfare and response to emergencies. We can partner with the city Corporation of Nairobi to plant trees along the riverbank, dig canals, trenches and drainage next to our houses."

ActionAid has developed a technique called Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA). It works on the premise that communities know their local conditions best and so need to be central to assessing vulnerability and planning responses. ActionAid argue that "Poor people's participation in the planning process is key to having development that would help them adapt to climate change."

Policies

Uganda has a special ministry responsible for disaster preparedness and response. Its strategy is based on hazard mitigation. This implies good land use planning and avoiding development in hazardous locations.

Ghana's National Disaster Management Organization has a system of committees at national, regional and district level with a brief to co-ordinate activities. However, ActionAid's research suggested that these were not operating effectively. "Disaster reduction or vulnerability reduction is not a priority in Accra city planning. If the local authority had the resources to enforce building regulations, flooding could be greatly reduced", says the report.

While Mozambique's master plan for managing disasters makes the connection to poverty reduction it fails to give special attention to urban areas. In general across Africa national strategies are in place, but the Achilles heel is local implementation and effective enforcement of local plans. There is a lack of financial resources and human capacity. Thus "There are efforts to incorporate the Hyogo Framework for Action in the planning, but many key officials involved in the planning and providing services to the vulnerable are not aware of this agreement that their governments signed up to in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005."

The report calls on national governments and regional agencies to support local authorities in mapping flood risk areas, maintaining urban stream channels, controlling building in flood channels and on flood plains, and providing emergency assistance. Where there is vulnerability to floods due to major rivers bursting their banks the planning needs to be at a river basin scale. This may require international co-operation. If individual urban authorities build embankments etc. the risk is that flood

waters are simply diverted to some less fortunate city.

The ActionAid web site is www.actionaid.org

The report can be obtained by emailing marketing@booksforchange.net

Oz research shows compact cities not enough to deliver sustainable development

Australia's inner city neighbourhoods are "consumption hotspots" says a new *Consumption Atlas*. Although inner city households make less use of cars than those in suburbs or rural areas, they outstrip the rest of Australia in every other aspect of consumption.

The Atlas, published by the Australian Conservation Foundation, says that cities offer many opportunities to reduce environmental impacts when compared with less dense forms of settlement. Access to public transport and shops that are a walkable distance from home make inner city residents less car dependent. Compact house forms such as apartments can also reduce heating costs.

"Most of our impact on the environment actually comes from the pollution created and the water and land used in the production and distribution of the goods and services we purchase."

However, "the opportunities for relatively efficient, compact living appear to be overwhelmed by the energy and water demands of modern urban

living, such as air conditioning, spa baths, down lighting and luxury electronics and appliances, as well as by a higher proportion of individuals living alone or in small households."

The research found that it was the centre of the capital city in each State or Territory that was the areas with the highest environmental impacts. Next came inner suburban areas, while rural and regional areas had notably lower levels of consumption.

Thus this study shows that it is not house form, urban form or location that determines the levels of greenhouse gas emissions or the amount of water used, but wealth. Although water use flattens out with income growth after rising initially, "greenhouse gas pollution appears to rise indefinitely as wealth goes up, even at high income levels." Yet again we see how environment and equity are closely intertwined. The Atlas observes that "Far from enabling a more sustainable lifestyle, increases in wealth appear to go hand-in-hand with greater environmental stress."

"In Australia wealth is not currently being utilised in an environmentally sound way. More of our individual and national wealth could be used to enable us to lead fulfilling, sustainable lives, rather than just consuming more, and to invest in environmental protection and sustainable economies."

Areas where average household sizes are greater tend to have markedly lower levels of per capita greenhouse gas

pollution than those of single person and small households. By sharing common living areas, furniture and food larger households are likely to be less wasteful. This suggests to the authors that “communal living is, in many respects, more efficient than single person or small households.” However, in Australia household size is shrinking while the houses themselves are getting bigger. “The efficiency of larger households has important implications not only for personal lifestyle choices but also for what kinds of housing governments should foster through planning, funding and regulatory processes.”

To see the Atlas go to www.acfonline.org.au/custom_atlas/index.html

Commonwealth Planning Schools: The Master of Urban Development and Design, University of New South Wales

The Master of Urban Development and Design is a very international programme. It has traditionally had an Asia Pacific focus but has increasingly taken a global view, with international studios being conducted in Buenos Aires and Dubai.

A key building block of the programme is the studio project on the “Generic City”. This introduces students to urban design principles and paradigms through looking at a typology of city types: the Cool Temperate New Age City, the Mediterranean City, the Manufacturing City and the Tourist Tropical City.

Professor Jan Lang, the Studio Coordinator says “The goal of this introductory studio dealing with generic design issues is to get students (and their educators) to think about those problems of concern to urban designers that are universal and those that are unique to specific situations. It is also to think about concerns other than those implicit in the design paradigms in use today. These paradigms have been used, often indiscriminately, across the world because they are fashionable even though they were generated within particular climatic (usually cool-temperate) and specific cultural environments (those of Western Europe and Anglo-America).

The programme is divided into three sessions, one of which is over the summer. The second design studio applies the urban design principles from the “Generic City” project to a range of Australian projects, and then the international studio takes place over the summer session.

<p>“The intention of the MUDD programme is to provide an appropriate platform for graduates in addressing the increasingly global issues of urban development and their relationship to the important broader social, environmental and economic issues confronting human society.”</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Judd, Visiting Senior Research Fellow.</p>

As well as the studios there are required classes on the History and Theory of Urban Development and Design (which has a strong emphasis on South East Asian cities), Case Studies in Urban Development and Design (again strongly featuring South East Asian experience as

well as Australian), Urban Landscape and Heritage, Planning and Urban Development (which includes Australian planning law), and Communications in Urban Design. There are also a range of elective courses that cover topics such as Computer Aided Design, Project Management, Property Finance and Sustainable Development.

Dr. Bruce Judd, a Visiting Senior Research Fellow involved in the programme, says that climate change and the “growing social divide between and within urban societies, and between cities and rural areas” are important issues that designers should face. “Urban designers can try to wipe their hands of such issues, relegating them to being the responsibility of governments. However, ultimately we have to face the fact that a really good city is an equitable one where all citizens including lower income groups have good access to appropriate services and amenities.”

Students taking the programme are allocated to either a Design theme or a Development theme, depending on their background and interests. The MUDD is recognised by the PIA, though students from a non-planning background are required to take an additional 24 credits worth of planning courses or do a Planning Project to become eligible for PIA membership.

More details can be found at www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/degrees/mudd/program.asp

Book Review

Paul Selman (2006) Planning at the Landscape Scale, The RTPI Library Series, Routledge, Oxford, UK

Landscape and landscape settings have always been central to many icons of the planning discipline; new towns, green belts, countryside protection etc. Perhaps it is this tradition that has spawned the term landscape planning as a recognisable element of professional planning responsibility. However Paul Selman is concerned that landscape planning is currently being marginalised in the planning system and is too often reduced to concerns related to the protection of landscapes of exceptional quality and the more general aesthetic or scenic agenda. This comes at a time when sustainability issues are dominating national planning agendas and the quality of our landscapes is seen as central to a global life support system. This book sets out to redress this situation and attempts to carve out a more central role for landscape considerations within planning practice. Professor Paul Selman is both a qualified planner and landscape architect and is well placed to build the bridge across the disciplines at a time when such trans disciplinary engagement is seen as a path to new insights and knowledge.

The book starts by exploring the dimensions of landscape (scale, history, modification, ecology etc) and identifies the fractured approach to its planning and management that has marginalised its influence on planning outcomes. Against this background the important connections between people and place is

explored to reflect on what we have lost (are losing) in ignoring the landscape context in development decisions. As the author notes; 'many landscapes are becoming 'illegible' and losing their association with place and people' (p.67). Expert, top down planning approaches are critiqued and the challenge of 'reconnecting people to their territory' is addressed.

However constraining such noble objectives is the tradition of seeing landscape in more scientific (and pseudo scientific) terms and a chapter is devoted to explaining how we have typically divided the landscape up on the basis of ecology, hydrology and scenic units. The author counters this with the more recent emergence of landscape character assessment as a more unifying approach that combines both the scientific and human values attached to landscape.

Spatial planning is at the heart of the book's reform agenda and the second part of the book explores the opportunities to weld landscape ecology and deliberative planning approaches into a system that respects the integrity of nature and the varied relationships that people form with the landscape. Existing controls and policy are noted (World heritage listing, European Landscape Convention, IUCN protected areas etc.) as well as their limitations being recognised (focus on a limited number of sites and areas). This sets up the book's analysis of emerging initiatives which the author combines to present the planning and land management armoury available to decision makers to achieve more sensitive and effective landscape outcomes that reflect the sustainability imperatives of the 21st century. The

reader is presented with the contemporary range of rural policy instruments such as agri-environment grants, Environmentally Sensitive Area management controls, and Countryside stewardship schemes. These softer controls are contrasted with more traditional approaches such as strategic acquisition and statutory spatial planning. As the author concludes 'practising landscape scale planning involves mediating decisions through the imaginative deployment of a repertoire of complementary planning instruments in pursuit of multiple objectives across numerous terrains and networks' (p.143). To demonstrate this the book then categorises typical landscape challenges (special landscapes, damaged landscapes, industrial landscapes etc) and applies the theoretical and policy measures that can be usefully applied to reassert the value and potential quality of landscape.

Having noted (in the earlier parts of the book) the 'vicious circle of decline' in landscape quality, the book concludes with a chapter entitled; 'The Virtuous Circle'. This approach celebrates difference, embraces place making and condemns the pastiche in ensuring 'the sustainable management of landscapes, so they, in turn become the foundation for community prosperity and quality of life, instilling a reason for continued stewardship into the future' (p. 168). To demonstrate that this is not all wishful thinking examples of integrated rural development are identified as a beacon for future intellectual and practical application of landscape scale planning.

This is a well written book and the text is articulate and erudite. The principles covered are not complex and much of

the argument that is developed is compelling. Behind the accessibility of the text and the proposals it embraces is the well worn ground that is covered. Issues related to sense of place, sustainability and rural planning policy will be familiar to most readers coming from a planning background. However disparate concepts are well combined at both a theoretical and policy level and a book of considerable scope has been kept to a manageable read.

The book is first and foremost Anglo centric followed closely by Eurocentric. Readers not familiar with this background may struggle with the context of the debate intrinsic to the aim of the book. There is passing reference to broader international examples but these are few and far between.

The book will be valuable to the myriad of professionals with an interest and stake in the future of landscape development. However despite its obvious quality there is no magic bullet in its recommendations but rather an endorsement of a range of current practices that continue to be marginalised in the clamour for consumption and economic growth. But landscape touches a very human nerve that triggers a link between identity and territory that can be motivated as a powerful force for change. This book gives voice and direction to this argument and provides the hope and optimism that is needed to inspire and fuel reform.

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CAP BUSINESS MEETING

The next CAP Business Meeting, or “Conference of Delegates” in the words of the CAP Constitution, will be held in Johannesburg, provisionally on 13 April 2008. This will be part of CAP’s participation in the Planning Africa Conference that the South African Planning Institute is hosting.

The Business Meeting will elect CAP’s officers for the next 2 years as well as receiving reports from existing officers. It is also an opportunity to propose motions or changes to the CAP constitution.

Each full and affiliate member organisation of the CAP that is in good financial standing (i.e. has paid its subscription) has one vote at the Business Meeting, to be cast by the accredited Delegate or alternate Delegate of that member organisation. There is also provision for a member organisation to vote by proxy.

Any member organisation proposing an amendment to the Articles of Association must give notice to the Secretary General not less than three months prior to the date fixed for the Business Meeting. Thus such amendments should be sent to Annette O’Donnell, CAP Secretariat, Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland, 57 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7HF, Scotland or by email to Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk to arrive by 13 January 2008.

CAP News welcomes letters, articles or news items and encourages member institutes to supply items that they think will be of interest to members elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Please send material to Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk. We are also keen to recruit people to undertake book reviews or provide news of planning schools. If you would like to help, please contact Annette O'Donnell.