

EAST AFRICA GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE 2015 - ABSTRACT

TITLE : An investigation in cross sector collaboration in delivering sustainable cities and communities

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KEY MESSAGES/LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- What are the components of a sustainable city/sustainable community? What are the characteristics of the Cities of tomorrow?
- A look at the challenges of delivering city wide projects by various sectors individually (Private sector projects, Public sector (Government) projects, NGO's and civil society projects, PPP (Public private partnerships)
- The need for partnerships – the whole system approach
- The proposal – Public, Private, People Partnerships – What this is? How can this be put in place?
- What are the challenges with Public, Private, People partnerships? Difference in objectives, values and attributes.
- How to align these objectives and agree on a collaboration agreement? Shared value approach, Partnership brokering
- What is required for the successful cross sector collaboration?
- Case Study: Regeneration of Port Louis project

ABSTRACT

Unplanned and uncontrolled growth of population within the urban areas is creating intense competition for land use and services, especially in countries which are already limited in terms of their land resources. Inhabitants are being driven to develop informal settlements/slums in vulnerable areas (flood plains, swamp areas) while some areas are experiencing inadequate provision of basic services. Cultural heritage are being destroyed. Urban – generated GHG emissions are on the rise with the increased use of automobile and fuel and electricity consumption for space heating, cooling and lighting systems. Climate change impacts are thus aggravated. Range of impacts include rising of sea level threatening land erosion and submersion, increase intensity of storms, drought and rainfalls leading to life risking situation for people having inadequate infrastructure or living in vulnerable areas. Hence, as a means of reviving these rundown (neglected regions) as well as diminishing the significant impacts that unplanned and unsustainable urbanisation is having on the environment and humanity, the need to stop, re-think and reconfigure our cities into sustainable cities is necessary.

In the presentation we shall first look at what make sustainable cities and communities through rating tools, such as LEED Neighbourhood development, BREEAM Communities and Siemens Green City index.

We then look at the how - In a world defined by rapid change, the search for solutions to social and environmental challenges has become more complex. No single player--whether government, citizen sector, or business--can address these challenges alone. While many are trying to address these issues, most efforts are still conducted in isolation and therefore lack sustainability and scale. We need to go beyond the traditional tensions between social-mission, government, and profit-making organizations and move forward in partnership.

In 1992 the UN Conference on Environment and Development - the Rio Earth Summit - placed partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society as central to achieving global sustainable development. This was echoed at the Rio follow-up summit held in Johannesburg in 2002 and at successive summits on population, urban development, gender and social development.

The hypothesis underpinning a partnership approach is that only with comprehensive and widespread cross-sector collaboration can we ensure that sustainable development initiatives are imaginative, coherent and integrated enough to tackle the most intractable problems. Single sector approaches have been tried and have proved disappointing. Working separately, different sectors have developed activities in isolation - sometimes competing with each other and/or duplicating effort and wasting valuable resources. Working separately has all too often led to the development of a 'blame culture' in which chaos or neglect is always regarded as someone else's fault.

Addressing the problems involved in building a sustainable city or community and conceiving the opportunities are complex and require a systemic approach. It involves the formation of new organisational structure involving partnering of all the contributing actors - Green Building Council, governments, academia, associations, NGOs and many others into a single collaborative platform to meet the scale and speed of challenges involved in driving the sustainability agenda.

Partnership provides a new opportunity for doing development better - by recognising the qualities and competencies of each sector and finding new ways of harnessing these for the common good.

The presentation provides an investigation of cross sector collaboration and partnerships in delivering sustainable communities and cities. The presentation aims at providing a framework for delivering successfully city wide projects for sustainable cities and communities. A case study of a current project being led by the Green Building Council of Mauritius – 'Regenerating Port Louis' will be used as an example of the proposed framework.

