

SAMSET

Supporting Sub-Saharan Municipalities with Sustainable Energy Transitions



Welcome to the first SAMSET newsletter

SAMSET is a 4-year project supporting sustainable energy transitions in six urban areas in three African countries – Ghana, Uganda and South Africa. In this newsletter we aim to provide information of relevance to sustainable energy in urbanizing Africa, and update you on project work.

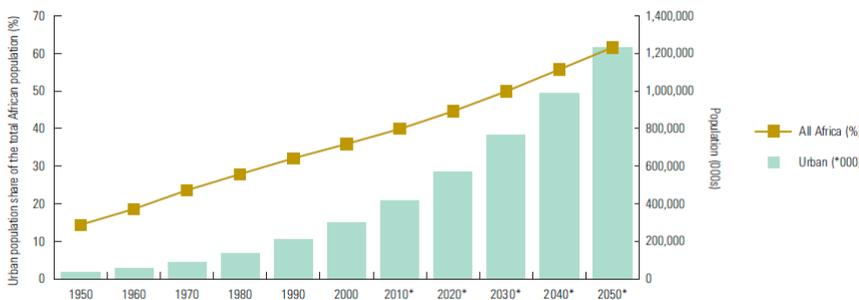
We hope you find it of interest.

The SAMSET Team

Urbanisation in Africa: a daunting challenge

Urbanisation rates in Africa are the highest in the world, and in most Sub-Saharan countries service delivery is inadequate to keep up with the needs. African populations remain amongst the poorest in the world, and efforts to achieve the energy-related dimensions of the MDGs have in most cases not had significant impact on urban populations. There is often a gap between policy and implementation around sustainable energy issues, and the capacity within cities and other spheres of government involved in energy and urban development is inadequate in the face of the increasing social and environmental challenges.

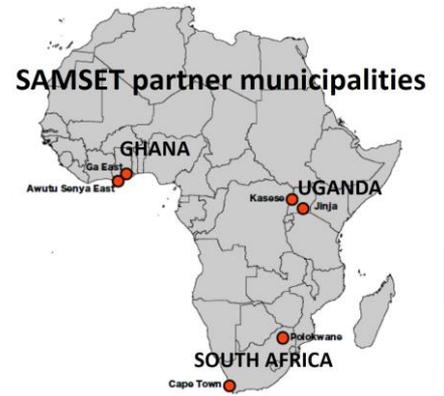
AFRICAN URBAN POPULATION TREND 1950-2050



* Projections

Figure 1: Urbanisation in Africa (Source: State of African Cities 2010, UNHABITAT)

The UNHABITAT 2010 State of African Cities report highlights the scale of the problem. African urban populations are set to triple in the next 40 years, and given the existing serious backlog in service provision, the situation “could spell disaster unless urgent action is initiated today.” It also points out that 70% of urbanisation will take place in smaller cities and those with populations of less than half a million – here the capacity in municipalities to meet the associated service delivery needs is extremely limited, further exacerbating the problem.



SAMSET project info

About

SAMSET is a 4-year project (2013-2017) supporting Sustainable Energy Transitions in six urban areas in three African countries – Ghana, Uganda and South Africa. A key objective is to improve ‘knowledge transfer frameworks’ so that research and capacity building efforts are more effective in supporting this challenging area.

The Team

The project team includes a leading university in each of the three Africa countries – [University of Ghana](#), [Uganda Martyrs University](#) and [University of Cape Town](#) - as well as an NGO in South Africa, [Sustainable Energy Africa](#). In addition, the team includes two leading universities in the UK – [Durham University](#) and [University College London](#), and a UK consultancy, [Gamos](#).

Project funders

This project is co-funded by UK aid from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Engineering & Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) and the Department for Energy & Climate Change (DECC), for the benefit of developing countries.

Project ref: EP/L002620/1

The views expressed in this project are not necessarily those of DFID, EPSRC or DECC.

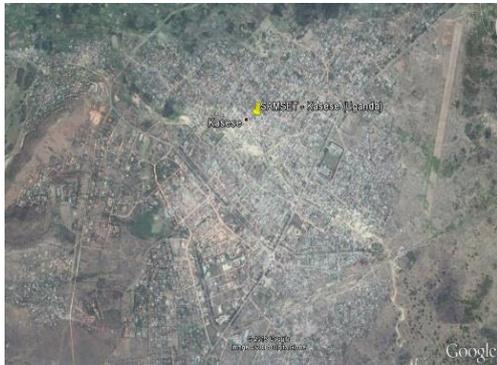
More info: see the SAMSET website (click here)

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SAMSET partner urban areas

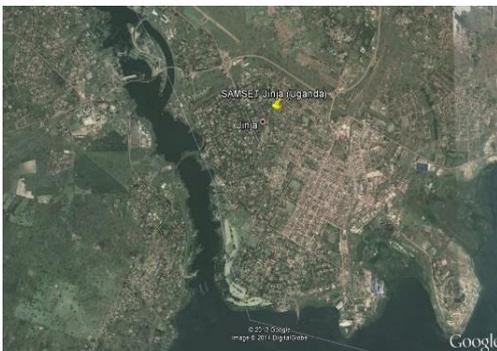
The SAMSET project methodology works from the ground up. By engaging in detailed interaction and support for initiatives in partner municipalities, lessons can be fed up into national policy, development organisation approaches, and research and other knowledge exchange frameworks. The municipalities with which the project has started working are:

Uganda: Kasese



Kasese Municipality is located 352km West of Kampala. According to 2011 estimates Kasese's population is 75,000, with an average annual growth rate of 4.2% - making it one of the fastest growing urban areas in Uganda. This growth is linked to the areas transport links, tourism in nearby national parks, trade with neighbouring Congo and the presence of a number of development organizations.

Uganda: Jinja



Jinja Municipality is located 75km East of Kampala. It is the 7th largest municipality in Uganda. According to 2011 estimates Jinja's population is 90,000, growing at 2.9% per annum and with a large population of urban poor. Jinja is the historical industrial town of Uganda and the location of two of the larger hydro-electric plants in the country.

Ghana: Awutu Senya East



The Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly is located in the Central Region of Ghana. It has a population of about 133,000, with average annual growth rate of 3.0%. Due to its proximity to the national capital, Accra, the rapid rate of urbanization has overwhelmed the municipal assembly, with the capital Kosoa being the fastest growing town in Ghana.

Ghana: Ga East



The Ga East Municipal Assembly is located in the Greater Accra Region and has a population of 259,668 and a growth rate of about 3.8% per annum. There are about 50 settlements in the municipality. The rate of waste generation and management in the municipality are of great concern to the Assembly.

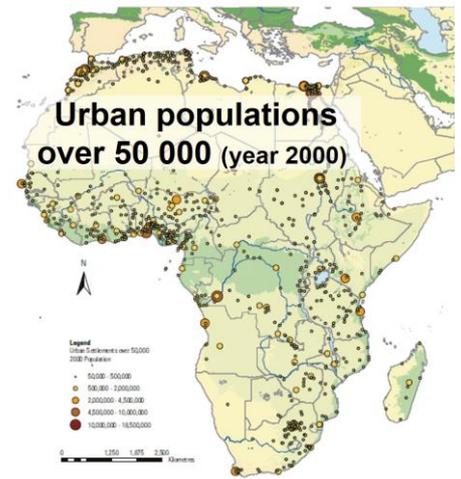
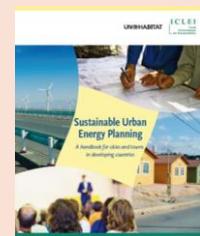


Figure source: State of African Cities 2010

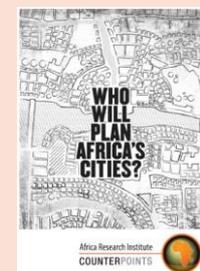
Featured publications

Sustainable Urban Energy Planning: *A handbook for cities and towns in developing countries*



Guide for municipalities to develop and implement a sustainable energy plan in the context of climate imperatives. Includes case studies and useful resources (ICLEI, UN-HABITAT, UNEP, 2009)

Who will plan Africa's cities?



Booklet looking at the urban planning capacities in Africa, with a focus on the tertiary educational needs to address the situation (Africa Research Institute, 2013)

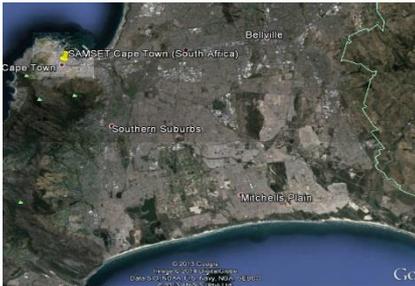
SAMSET partner urban areas (cont...)

South Africa: Polokwane



Polokwane has a population of 628 999, and is experiencing rapid growth (2.7%). Although it has started engaging with sustainable energy initiatives, it is not well resourced and suffers significant capacity challenges to keep basic municipal services running. Polokwane is located in a greater area of poor rural settlements which are one of the significant sources of in-migration.

South Africa: Cape Town



Cape Town has a population of 3 740 000 and is growing at 2.6% p.a. It faces issues of informal settlement growth (4% p.a.), significant poverty and disparity of wealth, energy supply security, and environmental sustainability. While it is relatively well resourced compared with most African municipalities, it suffers capacity challenges in moving to a sustainable energy future. It

has an existing foundation in sustainable energy strategy implementation and as such will bring important lessons of a pioneering city into the SAMSET project.

Images of informality in Accra, Kampala, and Cape Town (top to bottom). Quote from 'Who will plan Africa's cities?'

SAMSET outputs [\(click here for SAMSET outputs webpage\)](#)

1. **The nexus between urbanisation and energy in Ghana: A literature review** (Institute of Social, Statistical and Economic Research, University of Ghana, 2013)
2. **Energy and Urbanisation in Uganda: Context report and literature review** (Uganda Martyrs University, Faculty of the Built Environment, 2014)
3. **Energy and Urbanisation in South Africa: Context report and literature review** (Sustainable Energy Africa, 2013)

Forthcoming outputs

- Case Study (Uganda): **The Renewable Energy Policy Gap - the case of solar technologies within an energy policy biased toward hydro**
- Case Study (Ghana): **Waste as a Resource for Energy Generation in the Ga East and Awutu Senya East Municipalities: The Policy Discourse**
- Case Study (South Africa): **Small Scale Embedded Generation**
- Case Study (South Africa): **Joe Slovo Informal Settlement Upgrade**

Key SAMSET dates

Next Network Meeting (<i>internal to project team and municipal partners</i>)	14-16 May 2014 (Ghana)
Continual Professional Development courses: Sustainable Energy and Urbanisation	South Africa: Nov 2014 Ghana: Nov 2015 Uganda: Feb 2017
Regional Sustainable Energy Transitions workshops (<i>open to relevant organisations and municipalities involved in sustainable energy and urbanisation challenges</i>)	Nov 2015 (Ghana) Jun/Jul 2017 (Ghana)

(Subscribe to this newsletter to stay informed of relevant events, date changes etc)

Featured publications ...

How to Implement Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Options:

Support for South African local government

Guide for local government staff, covering solar water heating, efficient lighting, efficient building management, public transport, waste to energy, solar PV, wind energy and others (Sustainable Energy Africa, 2009)

To comment, subscribe or unsubscribe, please email: melusile@sustainable.org.za

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SAMSET is a part of the Low Carbon Energy Development Network which links the twelve projects currently funded under the DFID/DECC/EPSC "Understanding Sustainable Energy Solutions" programme.

The LCEDN is to become a central point of information for UK-linked research projects in the field of low-carbon energy, and energy for sustainable development. The LCEDN currently offers a database of low-carbon energy development research spanning the last decade through their website:

<http://lcedn.com/>



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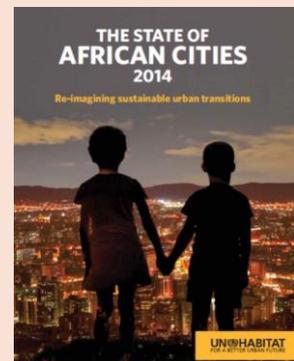
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Featured publications ...

The State of AFRICAN CITIES 2014

Re-imagining sustainable urban transitions



This comprehensive document reflects the challenges faced by urban Africa with its fast growing populations, limited institutional capacity, and increasing impacts of climate change on the continent. Chapters reflect sub-regional status reports (UN-HABITAT, 2014)

[Visit the SAMSET blog \(click here\)](#)

(on the blog page click "Follow" to receive the blog by email)

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