

Nakuru was founded in 1904 as a railway outpost 160 km from Nairobi. It is located along the east-west transport route that links the Kenyan Coast with Lake Victoria and Uganda. It is situated at an altitude of 1859 m above sea level on a remarkable and overwhelming setting between the Menengai Crater and Lake Nakuru - home to the famous flamingoes. The Lake Nakuru National Park is a tourist attraction of great economic value. Located on the floor of the Rift Valley, Nakuru founded on volcanic soils is prone to whirlwinds of dust during the dry season - giving the town its name. At present the city is the fourth largest town in Kenya and is the headquarters of the Rift Valley Province. After the 1992 boundary extension, the Municipality now covers an area of 290 sq. km with the town occupying 102 sq. km while the famous Lake Nakuru Park covers the remaining 188 sq. km.

Population Estimated population of 360,000 with a staggering growth rate of 7%.

Economic Activities Several industrial investments provide employment for Nakuru residents. Important factories produce cooking oil, batteries, blankets and agricultural implements.

Environmental Concerns

- Emission of toxic effluents by some industries
- The deteriorating standard of urban services and infrastructure
- The fragile ecological setting of the city

Priority issues

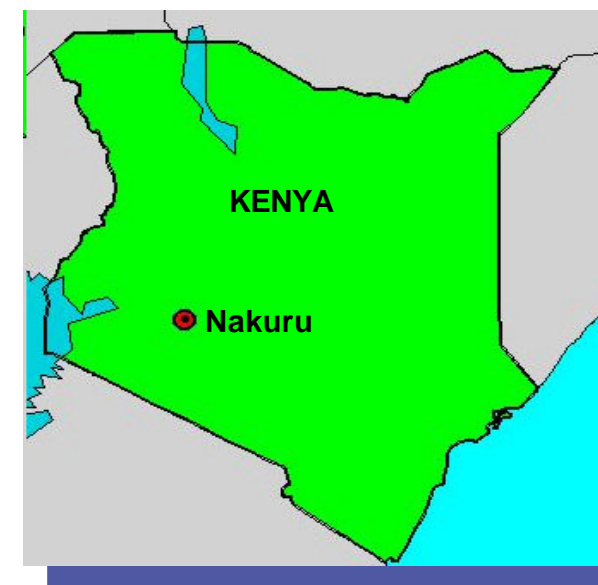
- Creation of a Town Planning Unit to reinforce the Council's capability for integrated planning
- Geological survey on unstable soils and volcanic activity
- Resolving space use conflicts by re-planning the Bus Station
- Revitalisation of part of the Council's rental housing stock
- Implementing alternative options for community assisted removal of solid waste
- Greening projects in the town
- Rationalisation of municipal revenues and pricing of services
- Creation of Zonal Development Committees
- Leadership training for Councillors, Environmental Guardian training

Main dates of the Project

July 95 Start Local Team
November 95 City Consultation
April 96 Urban Pact No. 1
September 96 Planning Workshop
October 96 Councillors as Guardian of the Environment
March 97 Revenue rationalisation action plan
July 97 Creation of Planning Team
November 97 Collaboration between CBOs and Council (ZDC)
March 98 Partnership with City of Leuven
May 98 Urban Pact No. 2
November 98 SSP Stakeholders meeting
May 99 Completion SSP Final Draft
 September 99 Kaptembwa water project with ICLEI
November 99 Loan negotiations with Leuven
November 99 Establishment of Zonal Committees
December 99 Flamingo 1 revitalization approved by Council
April 00 Approval of SSP
2001 2nd SSP Stakeholders implementation workshop
November 01 Establishment of Environment Department
August 02 Institutionalisation of LA21 into Council system
Oct 02 Listed in UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour
2003 Completion of Flamingo Phase 1 Pilot Project
January 2003 Geographic Information System Study – NCCR & Bern University in Switzerland

Bilateral and multilateral partners

Several actors have linked their activities in Nakuru to the Localising Agenda 21 initiative. These include, among others, several Kenya Government Ministries (Ministry of Local Authorities, Urban Development Department; Ministry of Lands and Settlements, Physical Planning Department,) NGOs (WWF, ITDG (EA) ALGAK), community based organisations (University of Nairobi, Egerton University) and international organisations (World Bank, UNDP, ICLEI, JICA, ADB). In addition, Nakuru enjoys city- to-city cooperation with Leuven, Jinja, Kampala, Atlanta, and Karlstad. The Municipality of Nakuru ensures co-ordination at the local level.



The Belgian Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIC) provides core funding for the Localising Agenda 21 Programme. The Postgraduate Centre for Human Settlements (PGCHS) of the K.U. Leuven acts as the convenor of a consortium of Belgian universities, municipalities, consultancy firms and NGOs providing support to Programme activities. UN-HABITAT ensures coordination and management, assisted by a Steering Committee.

Local Teams, consisting of members of the Municipality, the Central Government and NGOs complement the existing institutional framework for urban planning and management. The Teams are focal points for information exchange, studies and projects concerned with the sustainable urban development of Nakuru. The Local Advisory Board is composed of a wider group of stakeholders involved in or affected by the project's action plans.

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Nakuru Municipality



UN-HABITAT



Belgian Development Cooperation

Nakuru town embraces the policy of inclusive governance and partnership co-operation. Through its Strategic Structure Plan, it has taken the initiative to improve environmental planning and management by involving the main stakeholders and other agencies for the benefit of its citizens. Development Action Plans are achieved through linkages and leveraging resources, both locally and internationally. The LA21 Programme focuses on poverty alleviation and is engaged in various activities including waste management, water provision to low-income groups, transfer of technologies and international co-operation.



Transfer of Technology



The use of cobblestones in parking and light traffic areas. The cobblestones have a low economical maintenance cost. This technology was introduced by the city of Leuven, Belgium.



About 74% of the households in Kenya use mud or wood in the construction of walls for housing. 67% use the same material for the floor, while 36% use grass thatch for roofing. The use of STABILISED soil blocks is encouraged in affordable low cost housing. Achieving the right mix of soil, cement and water is critical for success.

Water Provision

One of the millennium goals is to provide water for all. Water kiosks are strategically placed at reasonable distances for easy access. The water points are managed by a community-based organisation through public-private partnerships with the communities.



Solid Waste Management

A number of refuse storage chambers have been constructed at various points within the low-income neighbourhoods. The chambers are large enough to hold one week's garbage. The town has been zoned into three operational zones - the public, private and low-income areas. Community based groups have been empowered to collect garbage in the low-income areas.



Achievements

Nakuru and Leuven city in Belgium pride themselves for inclusion in the Habitat Scroll of Honour in 2002. Some of the actions leading to this recognition include:

- Communication between primary schools on sustainable development
- Urban renewal project – Flamingo Housing Estate
- Improvement of storm water drainage
- HIV and Aids Awareness Raising
- Exchange visits – resulting in capacity building in management and administration



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