

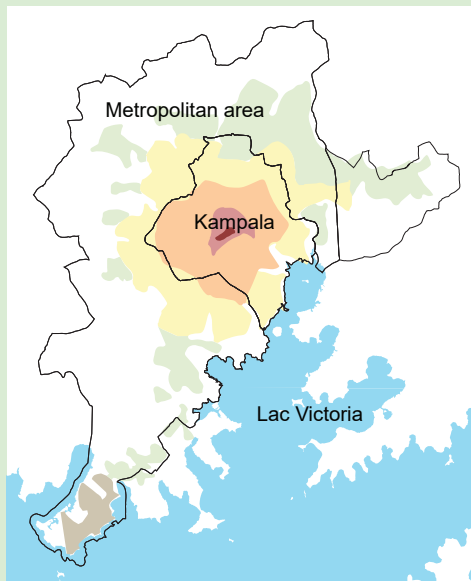




Eighteen professionals from around the world – experts in a range of fields related to urban and territorial development – came to Uganda in November 2019 for two weeks to brainstorm potential actions and strategies for the challenges facing the city of Kampala. Their proposals were then presented to a jury composed of elected African officials, specialists in decentralized cooperation, and local and national stakeholders.

# GREEN AND INNOVATIVE KAMPALA

**HOW CAN A RESILIENT ECOSYSTEM BE BUILT FOR THE UGANDAN CAPITAL CITY based on local resources and initiatives that draws not only on private businesses but also on informal community networks?**



Kampala is the capital city of Uganda, a dynamic and landlocked country in Eastern Africa. The metropolis enjoys a unique geography: numerous hills shape and structure the city's landscape; the presence of Lake Victoria is a source of livelihood and biodiversity, a place of production as well as a potential for tourism; and the wetlands are precious ecosystems. While recognized as valuable assets, they are nevertheless at risk due to the great challenges facing the city. Uganda's capital city, nowadays home of 1,6 million inhabitants, is expected to be home to more than 10 million inhabitants by 2040. This unprecedented growth poses an extreme threat to the environment and has pushed residents to take development into their own hands.

Workshop pilots: Blanca Calvo Boixet, architect-urban planner, and Jean Grébert, architect-mobility expert

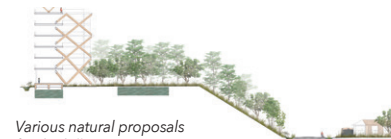
## LESSONS FROM THE WORKSHOP

- **Nature-based and low-cost solutions as an answer to environmental challenges:** Affordable projects that respect natural systems and are adapted to different contexts, such as Kampala's diverse landscapes (hilltop, low-lying and lakefront areas), are needed.
- **Decentralization, creating production and services near inhabitants:** Basic services should be installed in informal neighbourhoods, as well as spaces to foster urban agriculture and circular economy activities such as the recycling of plastic and organic waste. These provide inhabitants with the means and ways to have a direct hand in the transformation of their environment.
- **Finding economic models to sustain and strengthen innovative informal activities:** Kampala must shift from a survival city to a capital in which communities play an important role in their districts. This includes providing alerts, maintenance and green economy activities that are based on a sustainable commercial model.

## TEAM PROPOSALS

### TEAM "THE PATH OF WATER"

- Shift the paradigm: water is no longer perceived as a threat, but rather as an opportunity for planning a greener and more innovative Kampala.
- Leverage local ancestral knowledge to face the diminished integrity and functionality of the wetlands, and the regular flooding events.
- Start with the premise that water cannot be blocked nor controlled and therefore build natural infrastructure to accompany its path through the city.



- Design nature-based solutions for storm water infrastructure and increase local know-how, circular economy activities and multifunctional infrastructure.
- Develop different scenarios specifically for hilltop, wetland and lakefront areas.

### TEAM "RECONNECTING THE METROPOLIS"

- Improve the quality of life for Kampala's residents through a focus on informality, mobility and flood management.
- The Node is the name of a modular community building concept that starts with a basic unit comprised of a public toilet, a rainwater harvesting system and a 'clock tower' to increase its visibility.
- Eventually expand nodes to accommodate spaces for economic and social activities for the community, including courses on financial planning and savings as well as urban agriculture.
- Implant nodes at the intersection of pedestrian routes to create a metropolitan network that contributes to the city's transportation infrastructure.
- Increase plastic bottle recycling through financial incentives.



### TEAM "RESILIENCE AND INCLUSION"

- Implement a transformation model rooted in the informal economy and aimed at raising incomes and providing affordable, well-located housing.
- Develop community innovation and housing cooperatives by partnering with real estate developers as well as businesses and public institutions.
- Accompany the social transformation through an urban restructuring that follows the city's natural topography: link the neighbourhoods built on and around the hills via concentric roads lined with trees and public spaces to prevent erosion and reduce flood risk.

A renewed urban ecosystem

All of the workshop's documents are available at: <https://ateliers.org/en/workshops/221/>