

Sustainability and Credibility of Addis Ababa's Eco-City Projects in Addressing the City's Environmental Concern



Authors

Liku Work Alemahu & Tsion lemma

August 2007

Content of presentation

- Introduction
- Background
- Introducing the Eco-City concept in Addis Ababa
- Case study
- Major challenges and Achievements
- Concluding Remarks

Introduction

- “human beings are the center of concern and an integral part of the development process for environmental protection and sustainable development”
Rio’s declaration 1992
- “Improving and enhancing the health and quality of life of Ethiopians and promote sustainable social and economic development ...” EPA 1997
- On the bases of International and national Agenda, Eco-city projects are launched in Addis Ababa in 2002

Background



- ❑ 71.2% hh do not have adequate sanitation (UN-Habitat 2004)
- ❑ Only 9% of households are connected with sewer line (UN-Habitat 2006)
- ❑ 33.6% of hh share toilet facility with six or more families (UN-Habitat 2004)
- ❑ Only 52.8% solid waste is collected by government, and a very small proportion by private the rest is thrown to the streets and rivers (UN-Habitat 2004)

Background



- Planning and environmental development endeavors
 - ❑ Currently poverty reduction and slum upgrading programs are being undertaken based on National and Urban policies
 - ❑ Development actors are undertaking the interventions particularly upgrading, however, the interventions are integrated neither spatially nor institutionally lacking sustainability
 - ❑ On the other hand, Agenda 21 puts sustainable development as a way to reverse poverty

Introducing the Eco-City concept in Addis Ababa

- Hence, the city government took a different approach for upgrading and adopted the Eco-City concept for its holistic approach and sustainability focusing on environment
- Through adopting the concept, it was planned to incorporate ideas of
 - Comprehensive urban development system (Coordinated intervention) through community participation
 - Sustainable Development through implementing environmental measures

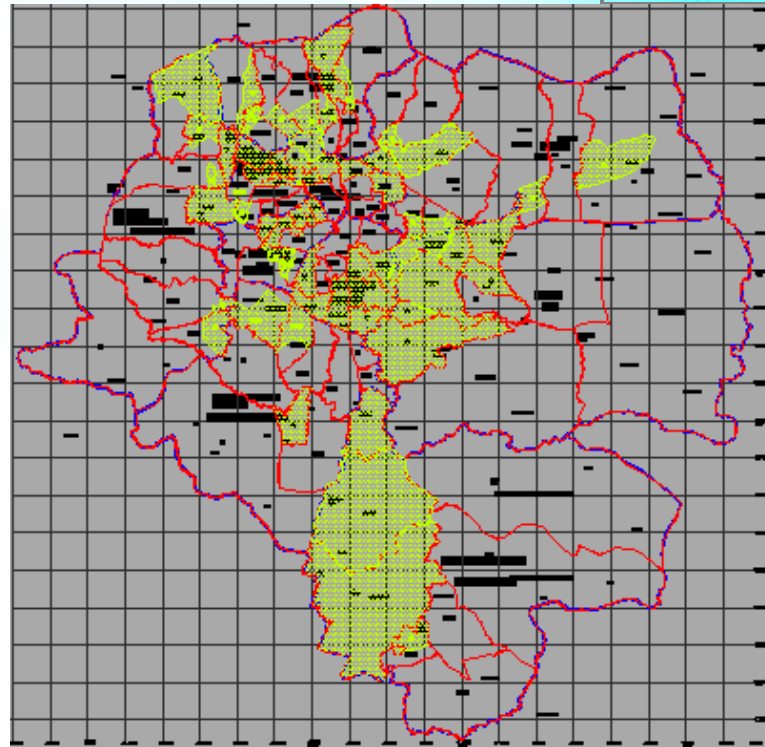
Eco-City Projects in Addis Ababa

- Specific Objectives

- Sanitation in terms of sewerage disposal, solid waste management
- Accessibility in terms of mobility and infrastructure provision
- Open spaces and green areas
- Social service (health and education facilities)
- Economic activities

- Project Components

- Relevant to low income groups
- Take account of the existing situation
- Replicable
- Sustainable



The programme was initiated at city level

- Steering & technique committees were organized and leading the project
- Kebeles that are in need of immediate intervention and believed to be exemplary to adjacent kebeles were selected for the projects
- 1st phase 10 model kebeles and 2nd phase additional 50 kebeles were selected and studied for eco- city projects

Status of the projects



- General project level implementation
 - Widening of roads; market area and open space development; provision of communal toilets and street lighting;
 - Detail design and implementation of biogas and composting solid waste
 - Employment opportunities
 - Clearing and redevelopment of cemeteries

Gulele Sub-city Kebele 18



Gulele Sub-city kebele 18 Eco-City project

- Land degradation and sanitation were the main problems identified
- Waste dumping places are rivers, open spaces and streets
- High density of population compared with toilet facilities (only 26 communal and 457 private toilets for more than 35,000 people)

Gulele Sub-city Kebele 18



- **Integrated public toilet, biogas and composting unit**
Currently the unit is functioning as a model but
 - Women and Youths are organized for solid waste collection
 - A number of families are beneficiaries of the public toilet
 - The biogas is being used as a model for lighting and cooking

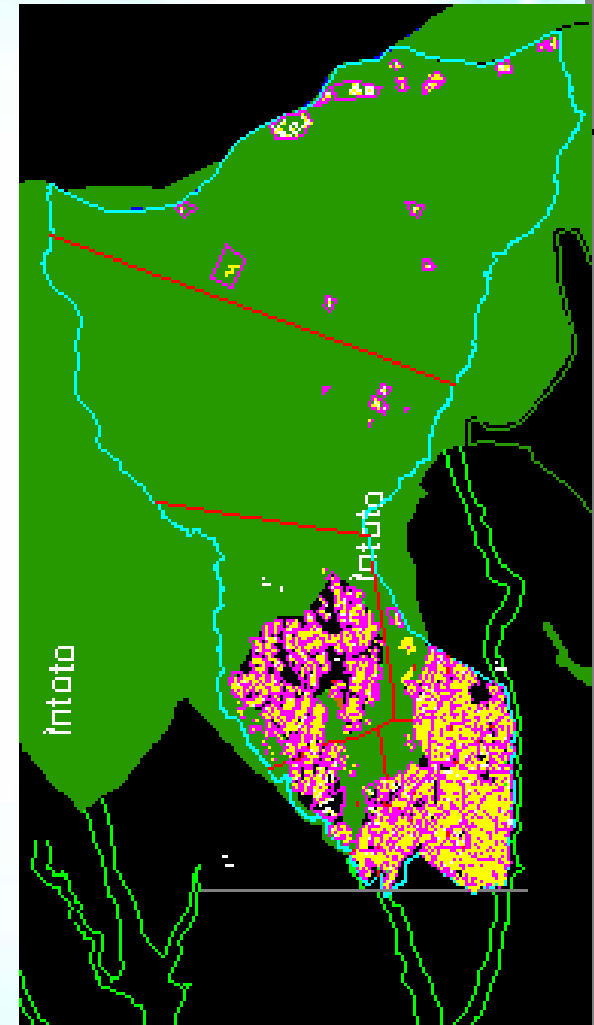
Gulele Sub-city Kebele 18

- **Eco-tourism**

- Located on the northern part of the city where there is high topography, natural forest development and a number of historical churches

Taking the potentials of the area

- Design of footpath to the historical site with the scenery down to the city
- Design of shopping and display areas for the communities' products (pottery and traditional clothes) along the trail to the historical sites



Achievements



- ❑ Introduced wider neighborhood development approach creating sustainable development directions
- ❑ The inclusion of environmental issues in the city development plan
- ❑ It was possible to exchange ideas, practices and knowledge among different actors

Challenges



- Lack of common understanding of the concept
- Lack of integration between the eco-city projects and other projects
- Organizational problems - no proper accountability
- Launching of many projects at the same time
- Poor managing and financing mechanisms

Concluding Remarks

- ❑ Create awareness and reach to common ground and develop shared understanding on eco-city concept
- ❑ Develop long & medium term eco-city development programs and design short & successive and interlinked short term projects in order to ensure the continuity of activities
- ❑ Allocate the mandate and accountability of leading and coordination of eco-city projects to an appropriate body
- ❑ Establish or enhance the existing kebele development committees to be able to incorporate needs of local community
- ❑ Devise and search different financial sources or financing mechanisms in addition to regular budgeting of the projects
- ❑ It is fundamental to incorporate sustainable environmental measures as a local policy; expand the scope and inculcate the concept into citywide development plan and various sector development programs of the city

**Thank You
for
Your Attention**