

CLIMATE PROOFING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

EXPERIENCES FROM GHANA, AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

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INTRODUCTION

□ Ghana being a signatory to the international Protocols on climate change, over the years has put measures in place to adapt or mitigate climate issues impacting negatively on the economy as a result of climate change.

INTRODUCTION cont.

- ❑ Ghana's vulnerability to climate change is largely defined by its exposure to the various impacts of;
 - I. Drought
 - II. Flooding
 - III. Sea erosion

- ❑ This has deepened rural poverty and enhanced the process of land degradation and desertification.

- ❑ Investments in agriculture are becoming expensive, risky and less profitable.

CURRENT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN EJISU MUNICIPALITY

- ❑ Ejisu municipality, which serves as a dormitory town 18 kilometers away from Kumasi.

As a result, taking cue from the national level, Ejisu has put in place measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These include;

CURRENT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN EJISU MUNICIPALITY

Cont.

- i. Regeneration of the urban forest in Ejisu and protection of wet lands.
- ii. Afforestation in the degraded rural agricultural communities
- ii. Formulation and enforcement of bye laws
- iii. Subjecting of all development plans to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- iv. Continuous public education

- ❑ Cities do not function in isolation. They are networked and function as system which makes the activities of one affect the other directly or indirectly.
- ❑ Cities are the major places where human activities that contribute greatly to climate change take place – it is argued that 40% of the Paris agreement targets can be delivered by cities.

CHALLENGES TO CLIMATE ACTIVITIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

□ They include but not limited to the following:

- i. Weak institutional linkages in planning and enforcement of laws
- ii. Inadequate technical know-how in climate adaptation and mitigation measures.
- iii. Lack of and weak political support
- iv. Powerful but skeptical traditional authorities
- v. Woefully inadequate budgetary support
- vi. [Uninformed and recalcitrant citizens](#)



WHAT CAN BE DONE AND WAY FORWARD IN THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- i. Continuous education of the general populace
- ii. Lobbying higher political authorities and policy makers
- iii. Building strong institutional framework and linkages
- iv. Forging long lasting and strong municipal partnerships

EXPERIENCES FROM KUMASI'S PREVIOUS PARTNERSHIP AND EJISU'S CURRENT EFFORTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

i. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

- a. Dortmund City compost plant installed and operated by a private company
- b. [Regeneration of urban forest in Ejisu by private company with municipal authority support](#)

ii. CAPTURING OF METHANE GAS FOR ECONOMIC USAGE

- a. Dortmund city landfill site engineered with pipes to capture the methane gas for production of electricity
- b. Ejisu municipal new slaughter house constructed with bio-digester to produce methane gas for use by the butchers





Cont.

iii. ***STRONG ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE CLIMATE ACTIVITIES BY AUTHORITIES***

- a. Strong backing from the city authorities in Dortmund has sustained the climate activities in line with national requirements/standards in Germany
- b. Relatively good support for climate activities in Kumasi by the Mayor and City authorities leading to appreciable success

Cont.

- iv. ***TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT FROM THE
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DORTMUND AND THE
KNUST GHANA***
- v. ***URBAN REGENERATION AND RECLAMATION
OF THE OLD IRON INDUSTRIAL SITES IN
DORTMUND AND SIMILAR REGENERATION OF THE
URBAN FOREST IN KUMASI AND EJISU USING
SIMILAR APPROACHES***

CONCLUSION

- ❑ In conclusion African Municipalities can achieve greater synergies if they are able to forge strong and lasting partnerships with the common goal of arresting climate change as cities do not operate in isolation but function as systems whose activities affect each other. Hence with greater cooperation and partnerships municipalities can cumulatively add up to the national and global actions towards fighting climate change