

# Sierra Leone

## Freetown, Waterloo and Bo City



# What are the top three challenges concerning urban ecological and land use planning and green urban infrastructure development?

## Challenge 1

- **Unplanned sprawling cities**
- Rapid urbanization and fragmented and unplanned growth of Sierra Leone Cities have contributed significantly to the loss of natural assets and ecosystems. The rural-urban migration in search of greener pasture has adversely affected urban ecology; wetlands and secondary forests are constantly being encroached for unplanned human settlements.

## Challenge 2

### **Waste Management**

- Pollution of the air, water and soil caused by the uncontrolled emissions or dumping of toxins such as plastics, heavy metals and nitrates, caused by factors such as toxins and gases released by unregulated factories, combustion of fossil fuels, acid rain, oil spill and industrial waste

# What are the top three challenges concerning urban ecological and land use planning and green urban infrastructure development?

## Challenge 3

### **Environmental Management/Land Use Planning**

- The absence of land use planning has seriously affected ecological protection and environmental management in urban Sierra Leone. The lack of strong and effective regulation for the protection and preservation of public land has led to encroachment and conversion of green and open space to other usages.

# What actions should be taken to address the challenges?

## **Action 1**

The government should increase the availability of basic amenities (water, electricity and improve the food value and supply chain), health and education services and employment in the rural areas to stem migration

## **Action 2**

The government should develop and enact policies/regulations to regulate the disposal of waste and emission of toxins and gases.

## **Action 3**

The government should develop a spatial and land use planning system with effective regulation for the built environment (enforce Building Codes) and also review and incorporate environmental planning components into urban planning

# Is there any ongoing project (s) and initiative(s) that support ecological planning and green urban infrastructure?

## **Project 1: The Resilient Urban Sierra Leone project (RUSLP) is a national response to urban planning:**

- World Bank funded - intends to support urban planning, resilient infrastructure and urban greening, SWM in major cities in Sierra Leone.
- RUSLP has conducted a geospatial analysis of the growth of each of the cities supported by the project to identify growth nodes;
- The project will develop a spatial plan for the three cities involved to guide future growth. It would incorporate environmental planning components (reserve land, parks and green spaces etc)
- Map out ecologically rich areas (peats and wetlands etc) to ensure their protection and preservation and develop policy for phasing out single use plastic.
- The project supports the planting and digital tracking of 500K trees in Freetown and Waterloo to improve the cities's green cover.
- It will close the dumpsites in Waterloo and Freetown and replace them with an engineered landfill. Bo city will also be provided with a similar facility.
- Support capacity building programme in NBS and Climate Action Planning through C40 Cities under the UrbanShift Programme.

## **Project 2: Implementation of Rapid Urbanization Toolkit by the Prince's Foundation of UK**

- This toolkit was developed prior to RUSLP - designed to help create simple, robust and implementable urban framework plans that will protect existing and future citizens against the negative impacts of rapid urbanization, and mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate and social change while helping deliver prosperity.

## **Project 3: Implementation of urban nature assets for Africa by ICLEI**

Mainstreaming climate and nature consideration for increasing urban resilience into planning, governance and finance processes.



# What are your key takeaways from this Deep Dive Learning? Any suggestions for the C4B program?

This Deep Dive Learning has demystified the issues of nature-based solutions and their applications in a series of contexts, viz;

1. Transformation of cities into eco-friendly cities
2. Promotion of ecological and Land Use Planning and Green Urban Infrastructure
3. Prompt Nature-Based Solutions and Integrated Approach to address biodiversity
4. Identify Financing Mechanisms for Investing in Nature
5. Identify interventions to promote green space within cities, especially within the existing neighbourhood

## **Suggestions**

The Bank to develop an NBS curriculum and accompanying teaching materials that can be adapted for use by low resourced universities in the Southern hemisphere.