

GREAT URBAN CHALLENGE IN AFRICA

Staggering recent urban growth in the most deprived areas of the world, **is the biggest challenge faced by global habitability**. Sub Saharan Africa will have 762,5 million new urban dwellers between 2014 and 2050 according to UN-Habitat; a number that amounts to the total current population of Europe. The challenge is increased due to habitability deficiencies, scarce economic resources, lack of qualified personnel, weakness of the legislative framework, entrenched traditions and primary activities among other factors. Big efforts in all levels are needed to face this coming reality, where **the University is a key actor for training professionals and passing to action** in partnerships with local authorities, civil society and other institutions.



FIRST STEP. PRESENTATION AT LISBON CONFERENCE

In this context emerges the proposal of a new initiative: The creation of an **African Cities Observatory** as a next step to strengthen the knowledge about these urban challenges. **The proposal was presented at the II Conference African Urban Planning (Lisbon, September 2017), as a way of creating links and possible networks, finding other Universities and partners interested** in starting the Observatory.

SECOND STEP. UN HABITAT MADRID WORKSHOP

On May 24 and 25, 2018, it was organized in Madrid a Workshop given by UN-Habitat, focused on the African city and called **Towards an Evidence-Based Decision-Making for Cities in Africa**. Along with the interest of the contents themselves that will be exposed by two UN-Habitat technicians (Joel Jere and Donatien Beguy), the Workshop served as a space for learning and debate about the possible creation of an **African Cities Observatory**

The initiative, **coordinated by the Development Cooperation groups ICHaB-ETSAM (Polytechnic University of Madrid) and HD_LAB (CEU San Pablo University)**, was supported by the Architects Association of Madrid, where the Workshop was held.

In this Workshop, **some inputs have been obtained** about the approach of the future Observatory, that are summarized in the third slide. Mainly, to focus on medium-small cities, on Subsaharan African Cities, on Data Collection and Mapping and other working areas.

UN HABITAT MADRID WORKSHOP. 24-25 MAY 2018. "Towards an Evidence-Based Decision-Making for Cities in Africa"

The workshop was given by the specialists in Habitat of the United Nations Joel Jere and Donatien Beguy and was held in the Association of Architects of Madrid. It involved 60 people, both from the university and professional fields. Jesús Paúl, Vice Chancellor of International Relations of the CEU, opened the event, along with Manuel Sierra (Director of Development Cooperation of the UPM) and Carmen Sánchez-Miranda, Director of UN-Habitat in Spain.

Joel Jere and Donatien Beguy presented the work of the "Global Urban Observatory" of UN-Habitat, which supervises and supports 374 local observatories around the world, 101 of them in Africa.

This support is aligned with the United Nations Development Program, specifically with the Objective for Sustainable Development nº 11: "Sustainable Cities and Communities", which in the words of the speakers implies working for cities and human settlements be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The work of these observatories is crucial for human development, since the results of the UN Observatory itself indicate that 60% of local governments lack verified data that allows them to understand the dynamics and challenges of the evolution of cities, as well as tools and means to face them.

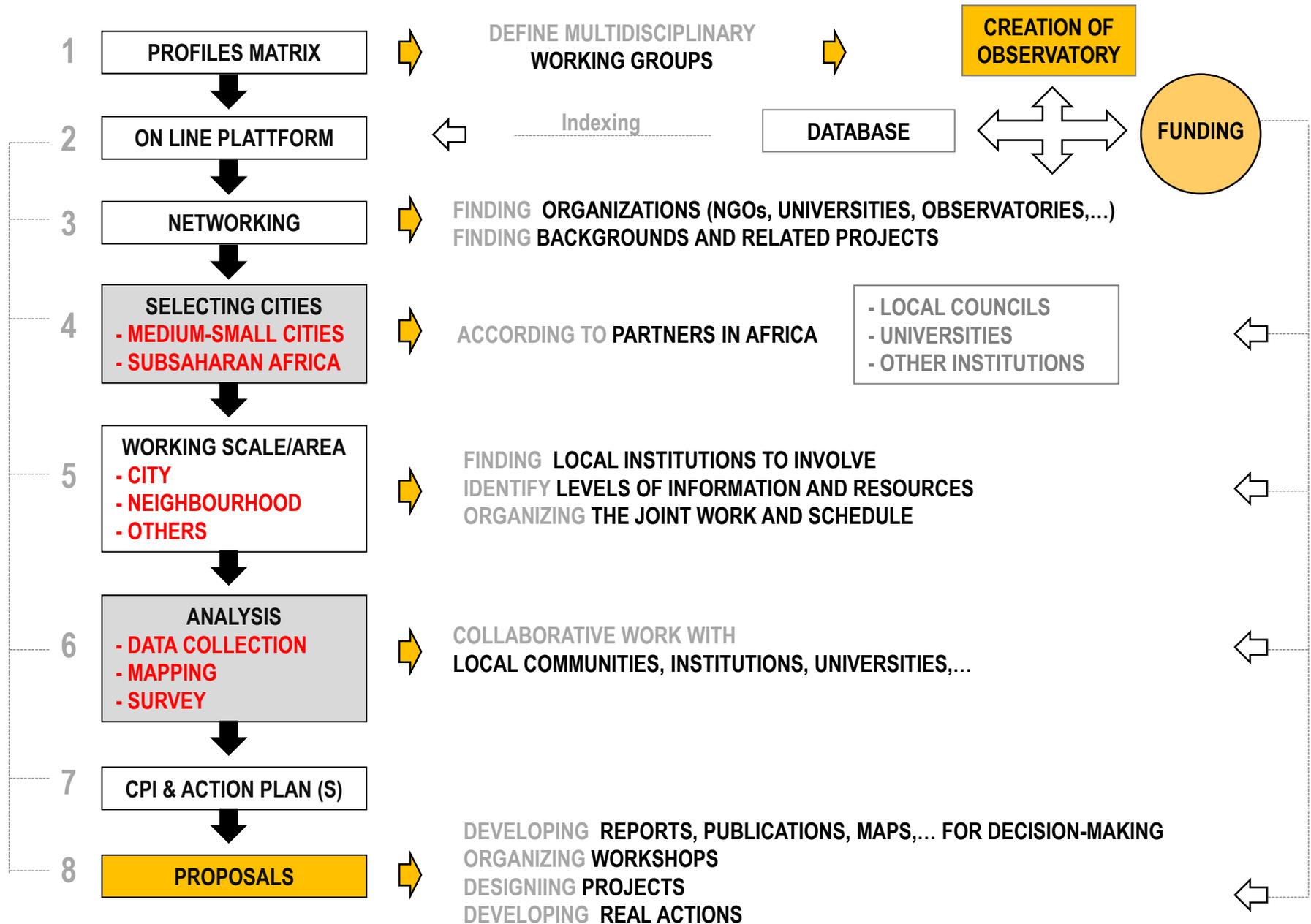
In the first part of the workshop, the participants learned about some of the analytical tools with which the United Nations Observatory works. In the second, they reflected on the objectives and implications of urban analysis and, in working groups, defined possible contributions and approaches for the new Observatory of African Cities in the coming months.



Some images of the Workshop

NEXT STEPS AND APPROACH. AN AFRICAN MEDIUM CITIES OBSERVATORY

The following diagram, tries to summarize the main inputs and approaches obtained by the participants in the [Madrid UN-Habitat Workshop](#):

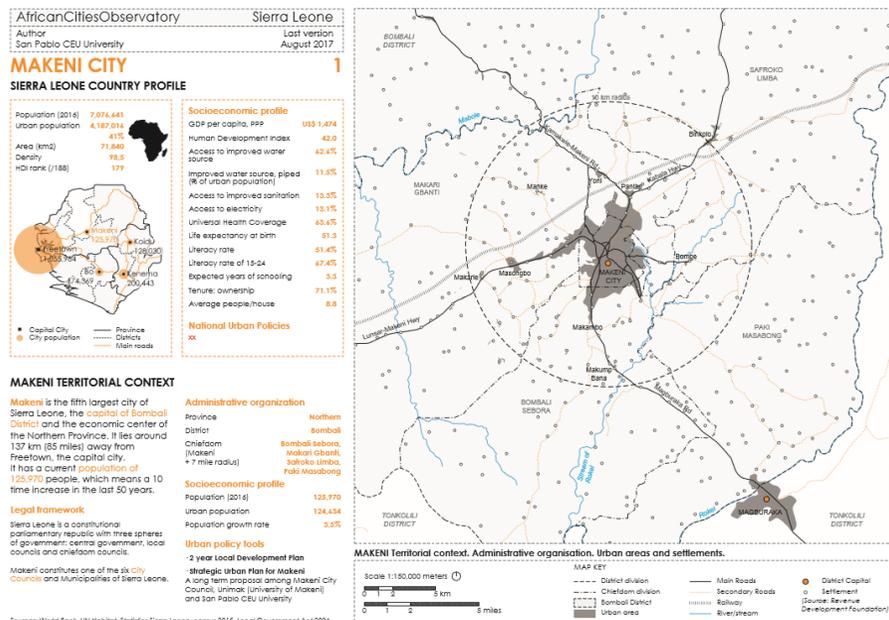


POSSIBLE ITEMS TO WORK IN. DRAFT ANALYSIS IN 4 KEY TOPICS

The African Cities Observatory is proposed as a joint initiative among institutions and professionals linked with the African urban realities. The idea is to create a Laboratory for analyzing and monitoring cities, starting with a very summary documentation that allows to get a comparative and rapid vision. We suggest to organize the analysis of cities in 4 main areas (including references), as it follows with the city of Makeni, Sierra Leone, as an example:

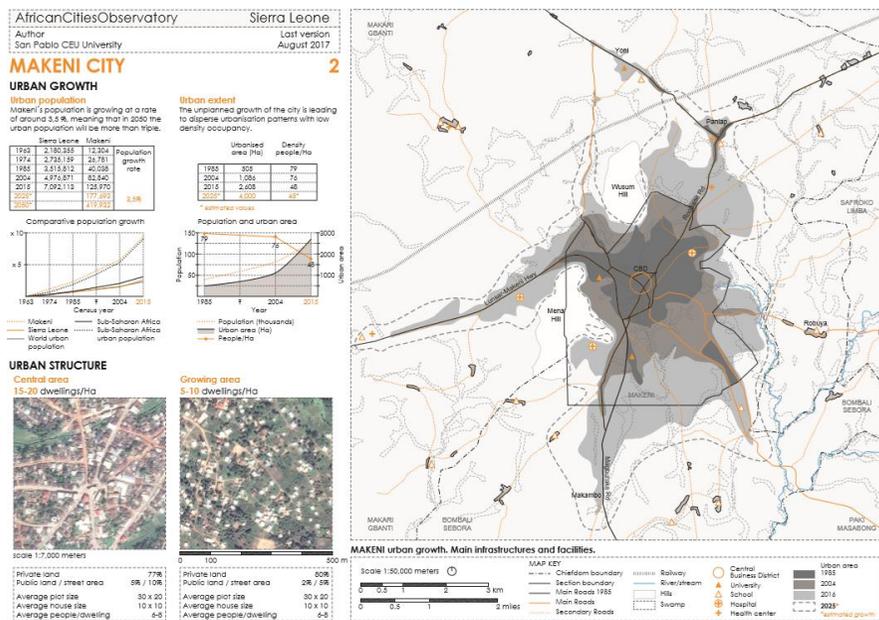
1. TERRITORIAL CONTEXT, DATA COLLECTION AND KEY INDICATORS

The city in the country, main data and territorial context.



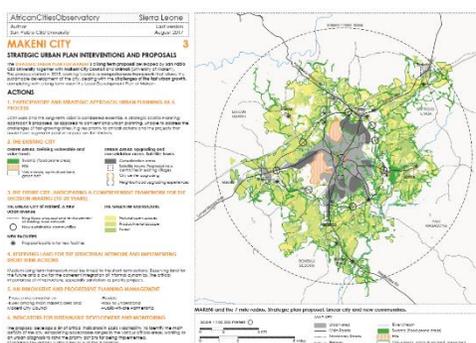
2. MAPPING AND URBAN GROWTH

Land and population growth, including projections. Zooms to certain areas.



3. PLANS, URBAN PROPOSALS

This topic can include spatial urban proposals or plans, or just the main needs or key actions included in the local plans, depending on the information that can be obtained in each city



4. REFERENCES

- Main documents, contacts, websites and references of each city. For example:
- Statistics Sierra Leone. <https://www.statistics.sl/>
 - Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL). *Census Final Results. Sierra Leone, 2015.* <https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/final-results-2015-population-and-housing-census.pdf>
 - Sierra Leone Laws. <http://www.sierra-leone.org/laws.html>
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PROFILES MATRIX OF INTERESTED PROFESSIONALS IN THE AFRICAN MEDIUM CITIES OBSERVATORY

In order to move forward in the Observatory, **we are defining the Profiles Matrix of interested people, as a first step**. We have developed a draft of that, based on the people who attended the Madrid UN-Habitat Workshop. Now, we want to open the scope to include other people who couldn't be in Madrid during the 24-25 Workshop, and to confirm the interest of the people who did attend. We are waiting for any comment or contribution.

People interested in being part of the African Medium Cities Observatory, please, fill in the next form, indicating the profile and main possible contributions for the Observatory:

<https://goo.gl/forms/RBjgXkhkzEu6SUzY2>

Thanks!

For any issue, you can also contact:

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ICHaB-ETSAM:
<http://www.cuhab-upm.es/#/ms-2/1>

Institutions promoting the African Cities Observatory:

