

PORT MORESBY

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

CITY OVERVIEW

Port Moresby is a coastal hilly city located on the shores of the Gulf of Papua, on the South Eastern coast of the island of New Guinea. Port Moresby is the largest urban center in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and forms the National Capital District. It is made up of three electorates: Port Moresby North East; Port Moresby North West and Port Moresby South East.

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS AND VULNERABILITY

Port Moresby is considered to be at risk and is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels along the coast have affected the low lying areas, causing, erosion, flooding and inundation. The city is at risk of extreme seasonal rainfall and flooding, and is occasionally hit by tropical cyclones.

The main challenge during the wet season is flooding affecting homes, schools, offices, roads and infrastructure as a result of a drainage system clogged by solid waste and sedimentation from hill slopes, gardening and quarrying. The city experiences a prolonged dry season with water levels dropping at times to a record low affecting water and energy supply to the city residents as well as affecting the functions of the city.

The city still lacks proper disaster equipment, education and awareness for the general public. This increases the risks and makes people more vulnerable to climate disaster.

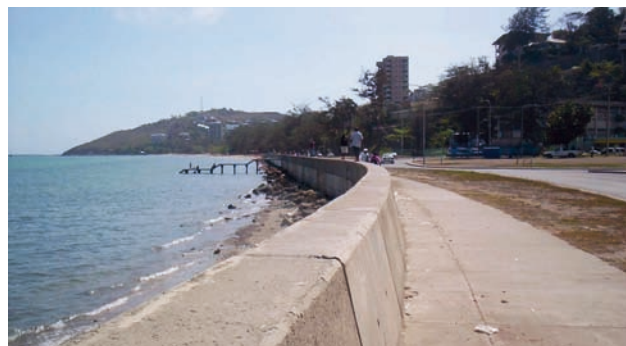
PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The city has formed a core team and a technical working group to address climate change. A participatory approach to assessing the vulnerability of the city to climate change is currently taking place. The core team has met and is now finalizing dates to conduct a multi-stakeholder meeting to create climate awareness and gauge stakeholder support.

KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED

From the stakeholder consultation the following will be undertaken:

1. Review of the building codes to address appropriate design (including height), building materials and energy use;
2. The Energy and the Transport sectors to consider mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions;
3. Transport sector to develop policy on controlling the imports of used cars into the country;
4. Capacity building of local governments to respond to climate change risks;
5. Implement mitigation measures through mangrove planting, tree planting on hill slopes and solid waste management;



Sea wall at Koki, Port Moresby ©Georgina Numbasa, 2008

Population: 400,000 (2008 est.)

Growth Rate: 3.6%

Economy: Services, agriculture, fishing, trade

Political / Administrative Structure: Decentralized

Role: Main administrative, commercial and educational center of the country



Climate indicators

Rainfall: Annual rainfall is slightly more than 1000mm per year.

Temperature: Average high temperatures range from 28°C to 32°C, while average low temperatures have little variation, at 24°C.

Seasons: Tropical wet and dry climate. The wet season starts in December and ends in May and the dry season starts in June and ends in November.



Cause way at Tatana, Port Moresby ©Georgina Numbasa, 2008

6. Building partnerships with stakeholders in implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures;
7. Education on awareness on climate change to the wider community.

THE NATIONAL CONTEXT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea's diverse geography makes it vulnerable to many forms of meteorological disasters including volcanism and tsunami. Rising sea levels and storm surges have affected many low lying areas of PNG including many small islands causing erosion, flooding and inundation, salt water intrusion and infiltration of soils affecting fresh water sources and food gardens. As a result, maintaining livelihoods is becoming increasingly difficult. Extreme rainfall has caused landslides in the highlands destroying homes, loss of lives, food gardens, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges affecting the economy of the country.

Because of climate change, the Carteret Islanders are among the world's first climate refugees and have been relocated from their islands

Local climate change impacts range from severe to catastrophic, hence requiring considerable forward planning at the local and sub-regional level. In response the Papua New Guinea government is making progress in meeting the challenges of climate change by setting up key offices such as the National Disaster Office and the Climate Change Wing of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Parliament has set up the Office of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability to specifically focus on all climate change related activities in the country and develop a climate change policy for the country.

The National Government's commitment is also captured in the country's Long Term Development Strategy "PNG Vision 2050". Sector five of the seven sectors is on "Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability".

UN-HABITAT'S CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

UN-HABITAT launched the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net), an innovative network of global partners, promoting inter-disciplinary approaches to sustainable urban development.

The Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) is the flagship programme of SUD-Net. The initiative aims to strengthen the climate change response of cities and local governments. Cities are key drivers of climate change due to their high energy consumption, land use, waste generation and other activities that result in the release of the vast majority of greenhouse gases. At the same time, it is cities, and in particular the urban poor, in the developing world, that are most vulnerable to and have the least resilience against, for example, storms, floods, and droughts. Cities need to respond to Climate Change by cutting their greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation). The negative impact of climate change seems however unavoidable and for most cities in developing countries adaptation to the risks is a must.

The Cities and Climate Change initiative brings together local and national governments, academia, NGOs and

international organizations with the aim to alert cities to the action they can take and by strengthening capacities of cities and their partners to respond to Climate Change. The key components of the Cities and Climate Change initiative are:

- Advocacy, policy dialogue and policy change
- Tool development and tool application
- Piloting climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

Knowledge management and dissemination, through, amongst others, the UN-HABITAT partner universities and the partnership with UN-HABITAT's Local Government Training Institutes Network.

The following cities are currently participating in CCCI. In Africa - Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso; Kampala, Uganda; Kigali, Rwanda; Mombasa, Kenya; Maputo, Mozambique; Saint Louis, Senegal and Walvis Bay, Namibia. In Asia and the Pacific - Apia, Samoa; Batticaloa and Negombo, Sri Lanka; Lami, Fiji; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; Port Vila, Vanuatu; Semarang, Indonesia; Sorsogon, Philippines; Thanh Hoa, Viet Nam and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In Latin America - Esmeraldas, Ecuador.



For more information, contact:

UN-HABITAT Global Division, Urban Environmental Planning Branch
P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 7625404 • Fax: +254 20 7623715
Email: uepb@unhabitat.org • www.unhabitat.org/sudnet

UN-HABITAT Fukuoka, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ACROS 8F, 1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0001, Japan
Tel: (81 92) 724 7121 • Fax: (81 92) 724 7124
www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org

Mr. Max Kep, Director, Office of Urbanisation
P.O. Box 1311, Waigani, NCD, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
Tel: +675-3250674 • Email: mexskep@yahoo.com

Georgina Numbasa, Environmental Science and Geography Strand
The University of Papua New Guinea
P. O. BOX 320, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea • Tel: +675-3267216

Ela Beach old jetty eroded and abandoned,
Port Moresby ©Georgina Numbasa, 2008