Concept Note

LICJ Webinar #4:
"GeoDesign of Manyatta: An Informal Settlement"

Introduction

To present this concept note, we should highlight that the Institute for Conscious Global Change (ICGC) fully endorses and supports the New Agenda or Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs) many parishes have undertaken in Jamaica. In this regard, it should be noted that the Institute covers topics in the broad areas of supporting capacity building for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Strengthening of Multilateralism, among other tasks. In this aspect, ICGC emphasizes the thematic areas of capacity for the 2030 Agenda: strengthen multilateralism; promote economic development and social inclusion; especially the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #17: Means of Implementation which seeks to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector, academia and other actors. Despite advances in certain areas, more needs to be done to accelerate progress. All stakeholders will have to refocus and intensify their efforts on areas where progress has been slow.

On November 18, 2016, the Permanent Representative of Jamaica transmitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that contained a document A\C.2\74\4 entitled ''The Millennium Earth Project'' which was drafted by the Institute for Conscious Global Change, an international non-governmental organization. We should highlight some of the key elements of the Millennium Earth Project in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

(a) *Technology*: uses geographic information systems, GeoDesign and related technologies to integrate the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, their related 169 targets and 232 indicators based on different data of all kinds and from all sources.

(b) *Representation*: visualizing development plans gives power to the voice of the marginalized or underrepresented, including poor communities, resource users and women, who are otherwise excluded from decision-making processes. A visual approach eliminates educational and language barriers and allows everyone to have a chance to join the conversation.

(c) *Capacity-building*: geospatial education and training via informal (educational games) as well as formal programmes (workshops) for a wide range of target audiences allows communities to begin collecting and analyzing their own data for planning and development purposes.

(d) *Innovation*: opportunity for persons to learn how new innovations and the implementation of technology can help communities develop solutions to best meet their needs.

(e) *Advocating*: tracking development targets at the local level allows the raising of awareness of societal issues and challenges and advocacy for change on a range of sustainable development, environmental and social issues.

(f) *Social Monitoring*: creating 3-D spatial models of development plans allows the Millennium Earth Project to be used as a tool to increase transparency and accountability. These catalogued plans show development projects as promised to the community and can be compared to what is actually built.

It should be noted, the A\C.2\74\4 was circulated to all Member States of the United Nations in all six official languages as a document of the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

As part of Etta Jackson's dissertation research for the Doctorate in Leadership and Change at Antioch University, she conducted a research pilot in the information settlement of Manyatta A and B, Kisumu, Western Kenya. This research partnership highlights the important partnership

possible with governments, multi-stakeholder groups, Community Based Organizations (CBOs0, and NGOs in the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda in each country.

The research study conducted in the informal settlement of Manyatta in the City of Kisumu, Kenya was aimed at discovering how geospatially enabled Multi-Sector Partnerships may facilitate the 2030 Agenda implementation in the broadest sense. To support this overarching question, it was important to understand these supporting issues:

1. How may the GeoDesign method be used to support a participatory action research approach in the SDG agenda implementation?
2. What role may participatory action research play in implementing geospatial information facilitated partnerships for sustainable development through citizen engagement?
3. In the informal settlement of Manyatta, what are the macro level financial, economic, and cultural forces, as identified through Participatory Action Research (PAR), that are perceived by stakeholders to be critical factors in achieving the SDG agenda implementation?
4. What are the major issues on which there are different positional perspectives being articulated at macro, meso and community levels?
5. What may be the critical elements of partnerships in achieving the SDG agenda implementation as perceived by different stakeholder groups working with Manyatta?
6. For Manyatta, how does the GeoDesign tool together with partnerships be created and sustained to facilitate the SDG agenda implementation?

Conclusion

Jamaica has undertaken Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDP) in several parishes, and it is hoped that this presentation on the Manyatta settlement research can help to inspire the participatory GeoDesign of these plans as the next step for possible implementation.