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AN OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN UGANDA

Zara Akram, Saqib Raza, Asra Hafeez, Aisha Khan

Urban Planner, Department of Disaster Management, UET, Lahore

Urban Planner, Department of City and Regional Planning, UET, Lahore

Urban Planner, Department of City and Regional Planning, UMT, Lahore

Abstract

Many towns in Uganda are growing at an unprecedented rate. By 2030 more than 50% of Ugandans will be living in urban centers. This rapid growth of urban centers in Uganda provides for economic opportunities for many urban residents. It also poses various challenges such as urban sprawl, emergence of informal settlements as well as urban poverty. Over 60% of the urban residents in Uganda live in the informal settlements with no basic services and infrastructure such as piped water, decent housing, good roads, sewerage systems as well as schools and health centres. This paper aims to examine and understand the constraints to urban planning and management of secondary towns in Uganda. This paper reflects the development and changes taken place in Uganda. Uganda is still in the category of low developed countries, with most of the social and economic indicators still lagging behind many countries and thus all the SDGs are in line with Uganda's current and future development needs and aspirations in pursuit of a middle income status by 2020.

1 Introduction

Uganda is a landlocked country located in Eastern Africa that borders the countries of Democratic Republic of the

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Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania. The terrain is mostly plateau with a rim of mountains and a southeastern border on Lake Victoria. The government system is a republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Uganda has a mixed economic system in which there is a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Uganda is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC).

Figure 1a location map of Uganda

The country has a significant overpopulation problem. Uganda's population grew from 9.5 million people in 1969 to 34.9 million in 2014. With respect to the last inter-censal period (September 2002), the population increased by 10.6 million people in the past 12 years. Uganda's median age of 15 years is the lowest in the world. Uganda has the fifth highest total fertility rate in the world, at 5.97 children born per woman (2014 estimates).

There were about 80,000 Indians in Uganda before Idi Amin required the expulsion of Ugandan-Asians (mostly of Indian origin) in 1972, which reduced the population to as low as 7,000. Many Indians, however, returned to Uganda after Amin's fall ouster in 1979. Around 90 percent of Ugandan Indians reside in Kampala. According to the UNHCR, Uganda hosted over 190,000 refugees in 2013. Most of the latter came from neighboring countries in the African Great Lakes region, namely Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Sudan.

Languages

English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic.

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Table 1 Administrative division of Uganda and general demographics

Capital	Kampala
Official language	English, Swahili
legislature	Parliament
Area	241,038 km2
Population	2016 estimate 41,487,965
GDP	Per capita $2,352
HDI	0.493
Currency	Ugandan shilling (UGX)

Districts	112
Counties	181
Sub counties	1,382
Municipalities	22
Town councils	174

Religions

Protestant 45.1% (Anglican 32.0%, Pentecostal/Born Again/Evangelical 11.1%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.7%, Baptist .3%), Roman Catholic 39.3%, Muslim 13.7%, other 1.6%, none 0.2%.

Regions of Uganda

The regions of Uganda are known as Central, Western, Eastern, and Northern. These four regions are in turn divided into districts. There were 56 districts in 2002, which expanded into 111 districts plus one city (Kampala) by 2010. The national government interacts directly with the districts today, so regions do not have any definite role in the administration. Under British rule prior to 1962 the regions were functional administrative units and were called provinces, headed by a Provincial Commissioner.

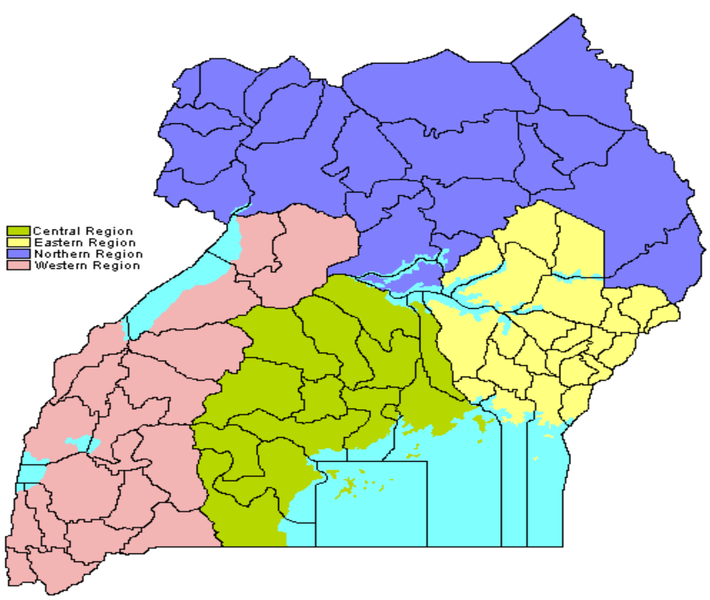


Figure 2a delineation of regions

Source: by researchers'2020

The central region is the kingdom of Buganda, which then had a semi-autonomous government headed by the Kabaka (king). The equivalent of the Provincial Commissioner for Buganda was called the Resident. At Uganda's 2002 census, the Central region (It is coterminous with the Kingdom of Buganda, one of the ancient African monarchies that are constitutionally recognized in Uganda) contained 27% of the country's population, the Western region contained 26%, and Eastern region 25%, and the Northern region had 22%.

The country's population density by region was 226 persons per square kilometer in the Eastern region, 176 per square kilometer in the Central region, 126/km2 in the Western region, and 65/km2 in the Northern region. In 2002 approximately 3 million people, or 12% of the country's population, lived in urban areas. The Central region contained 54% of the urban population (mostly in the city of Kampala), the Northern region 17%, the Western region 14%, and the Eastern region 13%.

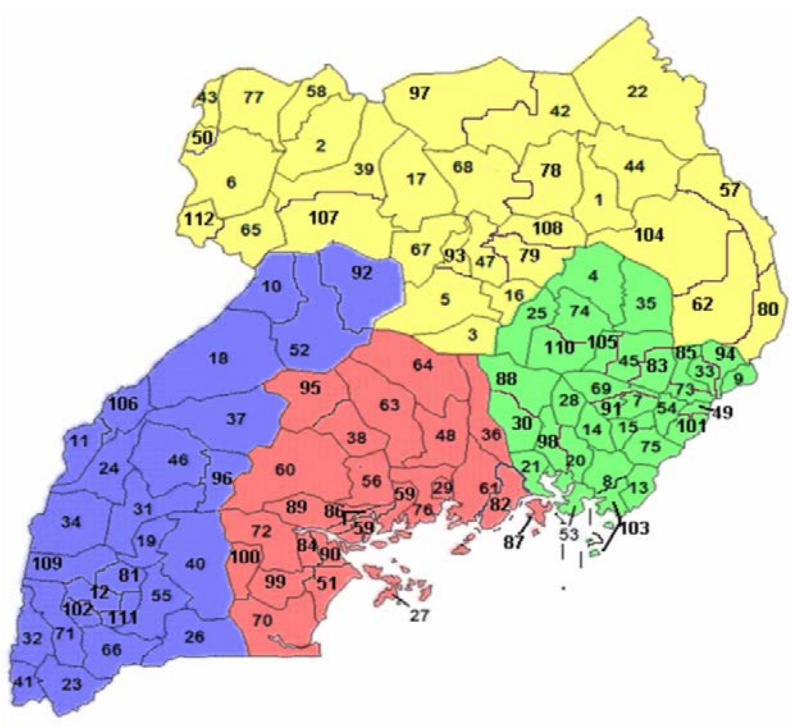


Figure 3 division of districts in Uganda

Source: by researchers'2020

Delineation of Regions

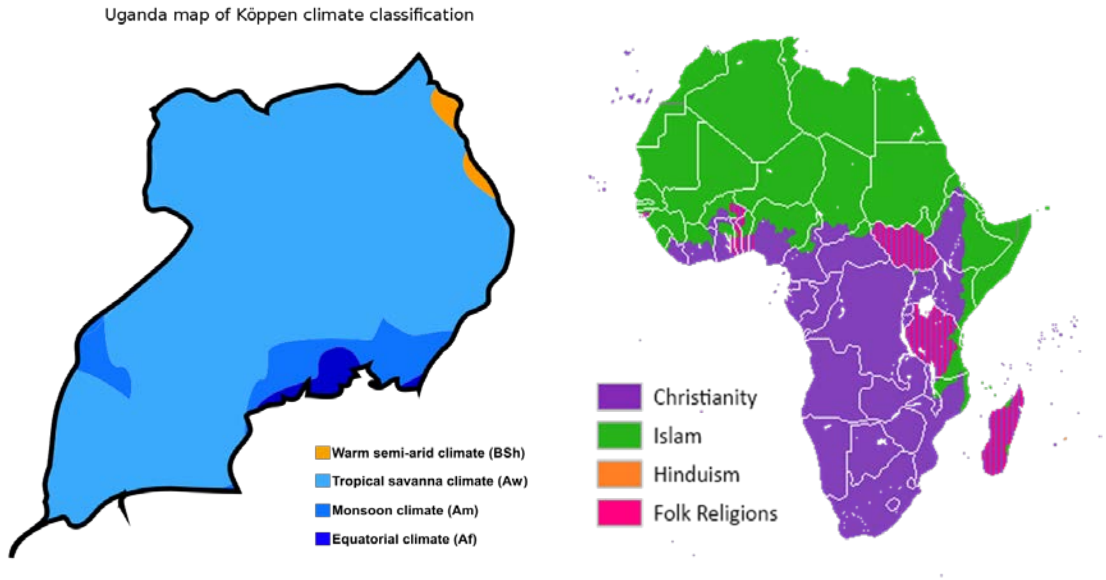


Figure 4 regionalization on the basis of climate and religion

Economic Overview

Uganda's economy has grown at a slower pace in recent years, reducing its impact on poverty. Average annual growth was 4.5% in the five years to 2015/16, compared to the 7% achieved during the 1990s and early 2000s. The economic slowdown was mainly driven by adverse weather, unrest in south Sudan, private sector credit constraints, and the poor execution of public sector projects. Amidst these, and as a reflection of an unrealized fiscal stimulus, growth slowed further to 3.5% in 2016/17.

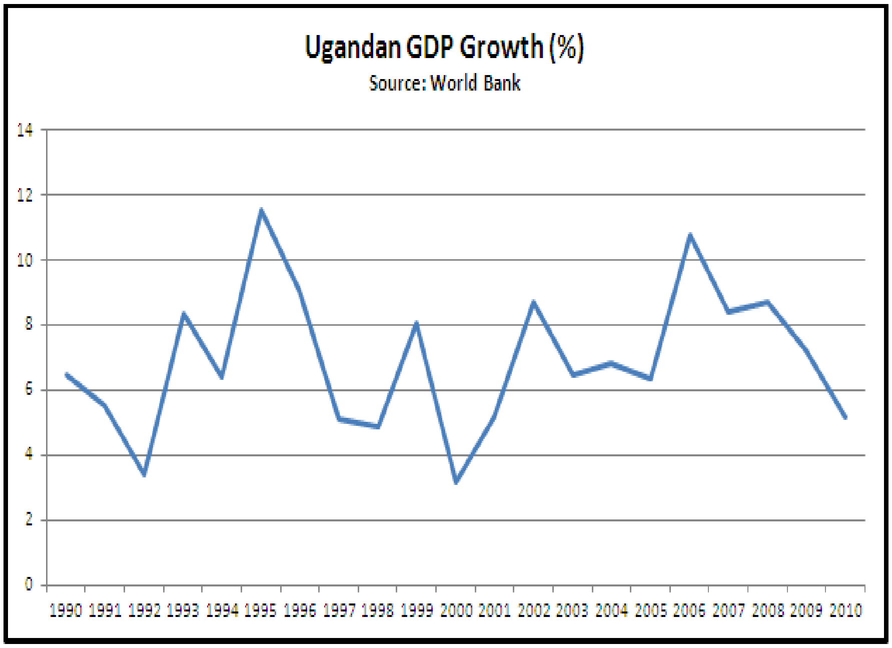


Figure 5 Uganda GDP Growth

The economy may recover to above 5% in 2017/18 and to 6% in 2018/19, if weather conditions improve, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows accelerate, the banking system stabilizes, and budgeted, capital spending is executed without delays. Meanwhile, low business confidence, the ongoing strife in South Sudan and its subduing of segments of exports, and high credit costs all continue to weigh on private domestic investment. At the same time, private foreign investment in the oil sector could help support the recovery of growth, following the issuance of exploration permits.

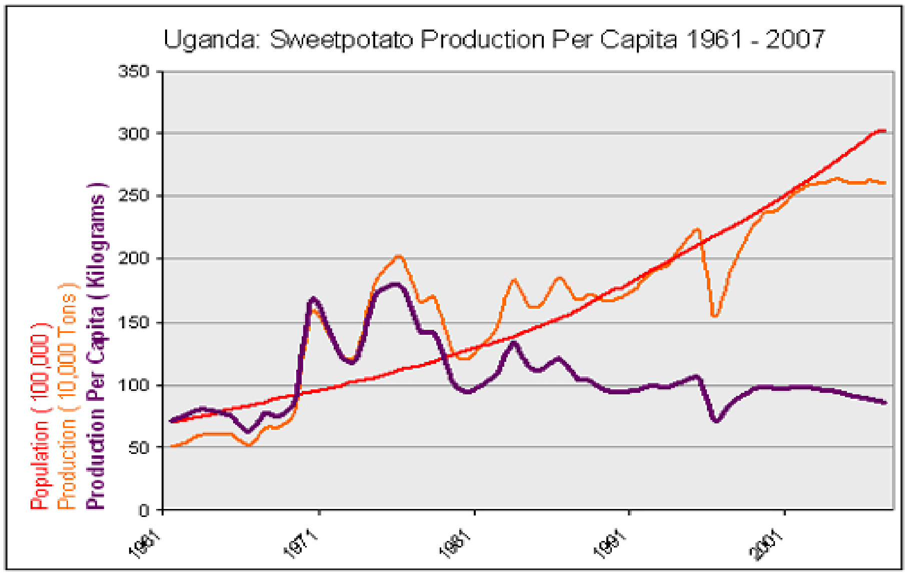


Figure 6

The most critical risk to this outlook is regional instability, particularly in South Sudan and any election-related disturbances that take place in Kenya. Reliance on rain-fed agriculture remains a downside risk to real GDP growth, the poor's income, as well as export earnings. The latter could be impacted by a flaring up of conflict in South Sudan, and any renewed refugee inflows that would add to the estimated 1 million South Sudanese already in the country. Meanwhile, further delays in the completion of a public investment program would prevent the productivity that could be gained from enhanced infrastructure, while acceleration in domestic arrears would have an adverse impact on private investment and worsen the credit challenge.

Infrastructure

Uganda has made substantial progress on its infrastructure agenda in recent years. The early and successful ICT reform detonated a huge expansion in mobile coverage and penetration resulting in a highly competitive market. Power sector restructuring has paved the way for a rapid doubling of power generation capacity. Uganda is doing well on the water and sanitation MDGs, and has made effective use of performance contracting to improve utility performance. However, a number of important challenges remain. Despite reforms, the power sector continues to hemorrhage resources due to under-pricing and high distribution losses, while electrification rates are still very low. Providing adequate resources for road maintenance remains a challenge, and further investment is needed to increase rural connectivity and improve road safety. Addressing Uganda's infrastructure challenges will require sustained expenditure of around $1.4 billion per year over the next decade, strongly skewed towards capital expenditure. Uganda already spends approximately $1 billion per year on infrastructure, equivalent to about 11 percent of GDP. A further $0.3 billion a year is lost to inefficiencies, the bulk of which are associated with underpricing and distribution losses in the power sector.

- **China Uganda Agricultural Industrial Park**

The Government of Uganda (government) has partnered with Kehong Group China for the construction of a $220 million China-Uganda Agricultural Industrial park, which was recently commissioned by the President.

The Park is set on 1000 acres and will provide more than 25 000 employment opportunities on completion. There have also been outlines for plans to establish industrial parks in four other districts.

Under the project, China will work with over a million farmers to improve rice farming, poultry, livestock, grain processing, and oil and food processing. The project will also focus on seed treatment, machinery and agricultural technology training

- **Ugandan rail network development**

Under the railway subsector, emphasis is mainly on accelerating interventions to revitalise railway transport in Uganda. These will include the design and construction of the Tanga-Arusha-Musoma railway line and the New Kampala Port, as well as the acceleration of the rehabilitation of Tororo-Packwach and Kampala Kasese railway lines. The implementation of the joint Memorandum of Understanding signed between the government, Sudan and South Sudan is also underway. This involves plans for the joint design of the Gulu-Atiak-Nimule-Juba railway line. The redesign of the Kampala–Malaba railway line (251 km) into a standard gauge line is also earmarked as a project to be accelerated.

Methodology

The overall objective of this study is to examine the constraints and potential to urban planning and management in secondary towns in Uganda. Specifically, the study aims to examine the current urban planning strategies and management styles in secondary towns in Uganda, examine the effectiveness of the current planning and management systems in promoting orderly urban development and providing basic infrastructure, and identify and examine the best practices from international experiences that are transferable to Uganda for better planning and management of secondary towns. Data is collected from different sources and from websites and is analyzed to examine the time to time changes in Uganda.

Analysis

1. APPLYING RANK SIZE RULE

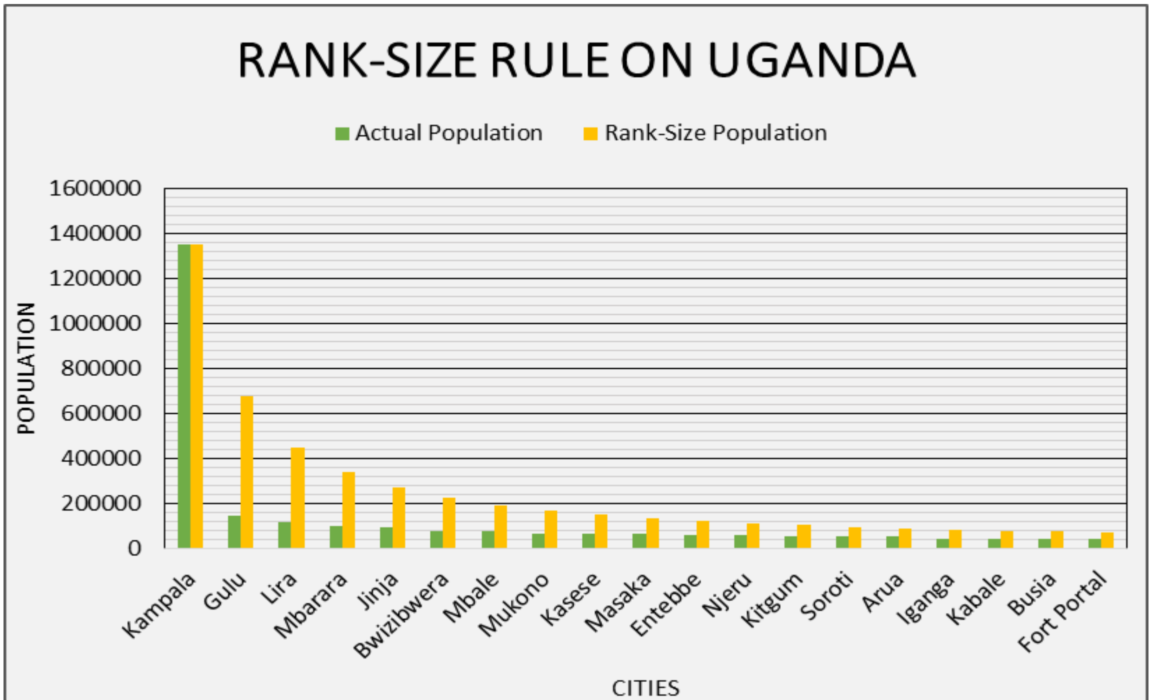


Figure 7

2. Applying rule of primate city

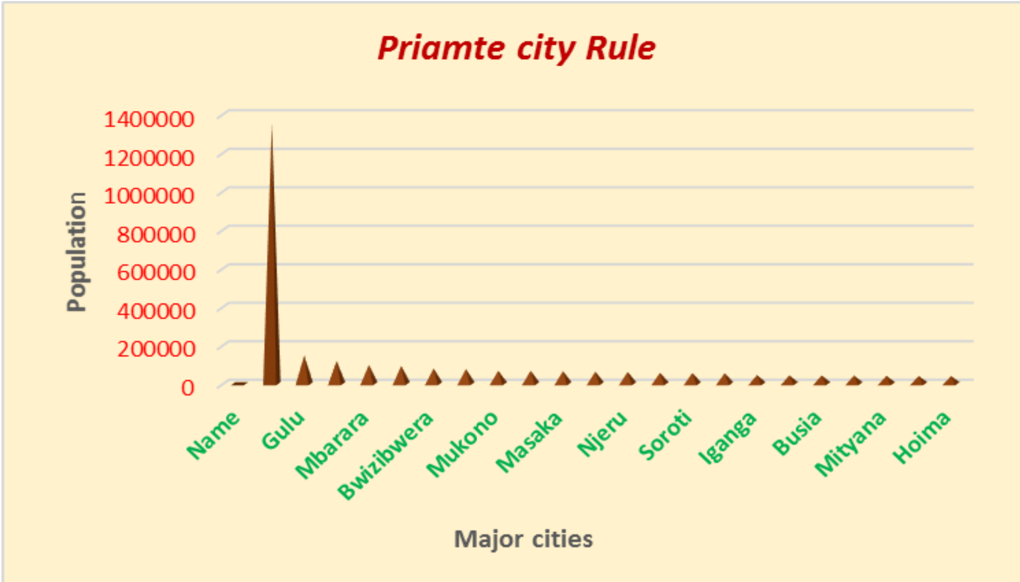


Figure 8 uganda lack primate city

By reserachers '2020

3. Growth pole centers in Uganda

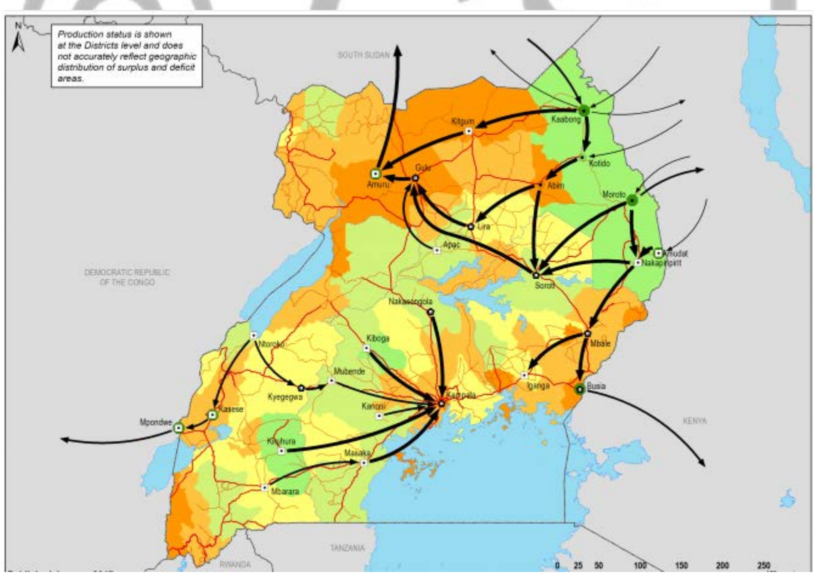
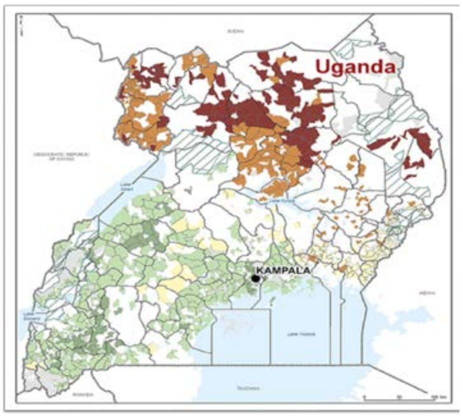


Figure 9

Applying Industrial Location Theory

Alfred Weber formulated a theory of industrial location in which an industry is located where the transportation costs of raw materials and final product is a minimum. He singled out two special cases. In one the weight of the final product is less than the weight of the raw material going into making the product. This is the weight losing case. In the other the final product is heavier than the raw material that requires transport. Usually this is a case of some ubiquitous (everywhere available) raw material such as water being incorporated into the product. This is called the weight-gaining case.

Regional Distribution of Industries



The regional distribution of firms follows a similar pattern to that of other industries. The UBOS (2007) survey shows that Kampala had the highest number of construction firms accounting for 63 per cent. This was followed by western and northern regions each with 11 per cent. The central region had 9 per cent and the eastern region had the lowest proportion of construction firms accounting for only 6 per cent. When Kampala is considered as part of the central region, then the region ends up with close to three quarters of the construction firms in Uganda. The distribution is thus skewed regionally. The importance of industrialization in the process of economic transformation and development is widely recognized. Industrialization for example not only provides synergies with other domestic sectors but also tends to be associated with favourable balance of payments outcomes. Uganda’s desire to industrialize should thus be understood in this context.

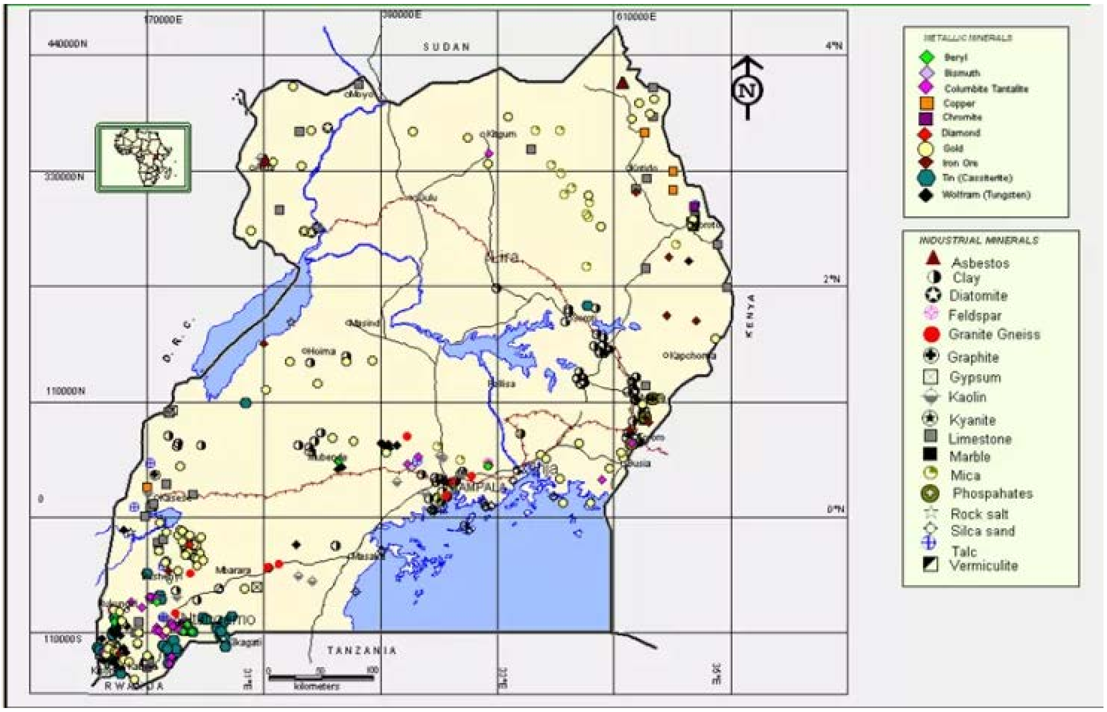


Figure 10 mineral ocurence

A stable macroeconomic environment increases investor confidence and facilitates long-term planning. It is thus an important prerequisite in the promotion of market-led industrialization. A stable macroeconomic environment in turn requires consistent alignment of monetary and fiscal policies. The competiveness of a country's products and the level of the exchange rate also bear a close conceptual relationship. The main goal of monetary policy since the early 1990s in Uganda has been attainment of a low and stable general price level. The Bank of Uganda uses a monetary targeting approach to monetary policy under which it monitors developments in the base money and weekly indicators of inflation and Treasury bill rates (Katarikawe and Sebudde 2000). The restoration of the productive capacity of the economy coupled with prudent monetary policy implementation have resulted in a decline in the inflation rate from a peak of 250 per cent in 1987 to an average of less than 5 per cent between 2000 and 2010.

APPLYING VON THUNEN MODEL

The model generated four concentric rings of agricultural activity. Dairying and intensive farming lies closest to the city. Since vegetables, fruit, milk and other dairy products must get to market quickly, they would be produced close to the city. Timber and firewood would be produced for fuel and building materials in the second ring. Wood was a very important fuel for heating and cooking and is very heavy and difficult to transport so it is located close to the city.

The third zone consists of extensive fields crops such as grain. Since grains last longer than dairy products and are much lighter than fuel, reducing transport costs, they can be located further from the city.

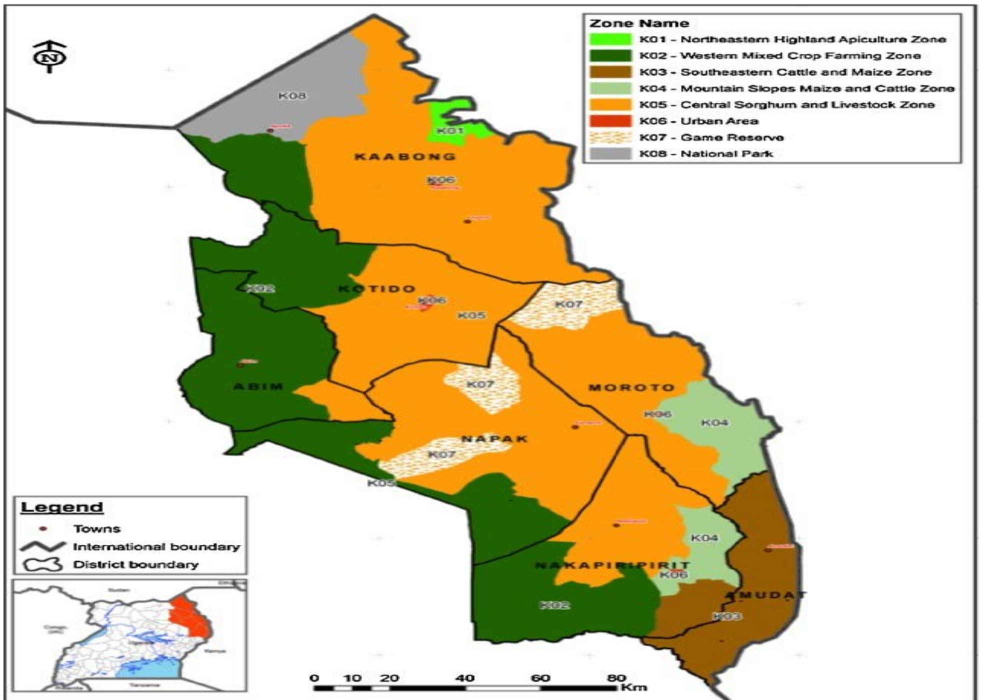


Figure 11

Uganda Vision 2040

The Uganda Vision 2040 The Uganda Vision 2040 provides the overall guiding framework on sustainable development and socioeconomic transformation for Uganda. The Uganda Vision 2040 document was prudently and comprehensively drafted to capture issues of sustainable development that are reiterated by the 2030 Agenda The Vision intends to transform Uganda from a peasant to modern and prosperous country by 2040. This involves changing from a predominantly low income to a competitive upper middle income county within 30 years, reaching a per capita income of USD 9,500. The Uganda Vision is conceptualized around strengthening fundamentals to harness opportunities. The opportunities highlighted therein are natural resources such as oil and gas, water resources, minerals, and tourism, agriculture whose gains can only be harnessed through strengthening infrastructure (energy, transport, water, ICT and oil and gas), human capital development, and a stable macroeconomic environment. The

Uganda Vision has targets whose achievement will inevitably contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore pertinent to synchronize national targets and indicators that will monitor SDGs with the national targets in the National Vision.

Climate Change adaptation and mitigation

The high reliance on climate change sensitive sectors coupled with limited ability to cope makes Uganda one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Notably, the severity of the effects of climate change are unevenly distributed across different age groups, genders, economic and social classes making the elderly, people with disabilities, women, youth and children the most vulnerable. Albeit fair progress has been registered in containing the effects of climate change at the policy, planning, legal and institutional levels, more needs to be done in terms of climate change finance readiness and enhancing the financial and technical capacity of implementing institutions at sector and local government level. The national strategy on climate change is building national resilience and pursuit of development along a low carbon development path. Although aligned, the climate change interventions are generic thereby losing sight of specific interventions tailored to the needs of the aforementioned most vulnerable groups.

Green Growth Development

Uganda is also developing a green growth development strategy to operationalize green growth initiatives espoused in the Uganda Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20). The strategy describes how Uganda will pursue sustainable production and consumption patterns, create green jobs, mitigate and adapt to climate change and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. This however requires leap frogging in terms of technology to embrace clean technologies that are more efficient, effective and emit less greenhouse gases. Capacity building in terms of skilling the youth in utilisation of green technologies is pertinent in this endeavor. Equally important is appropriate technology transfer to ensure leap frogging and pursuit of development along a low carbon path.

Sustainable Development

Uganda embraced the principles for sustainable development as stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships to “Ensure that No One is Left Behind”. It builds on the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms. Building on this progress, the 2030 Agenda therefore, presents Uganda with an opportunity to refocus its development agenda, address the bottlenecks that hamper development, learn from, and network with other countries, and accelerate national efforts towards achieving a middle income status, while pursuing sustainable and inclusive development within the framework of the Uganda Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (NDP II)

- Share experiences on adoption and integration of sustainable development in national planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting frameworks and map out means for further integration.
- Share on how Uganda is positioning itself to realign the institutional, legal and policy frameworks and systems to support implementation of the Agenda.
- Share opportunities that the 2030 Agenda presents to Uganda's development as well as challenges that could impede implementation of the Agenda, while identifying the next steps to tap into opportunities and address remaining challenges.
- Galvanize national ownership and implementation for the localization of 2030 Agenda as a mechanism of national accountability.

UGANDA: Albertine Region Sustainable Development Project

The objective of the albertine region sustainable development project for uganda is to improve regional and local access to infrastructure, markets, and skills development in the albertine region. The project has three components. The first component, regional access and connectivity aims to improve overall accessibility to the albertine region, reduce travel times, and improve access to markets and services. Connecting the districts in western Uganda.

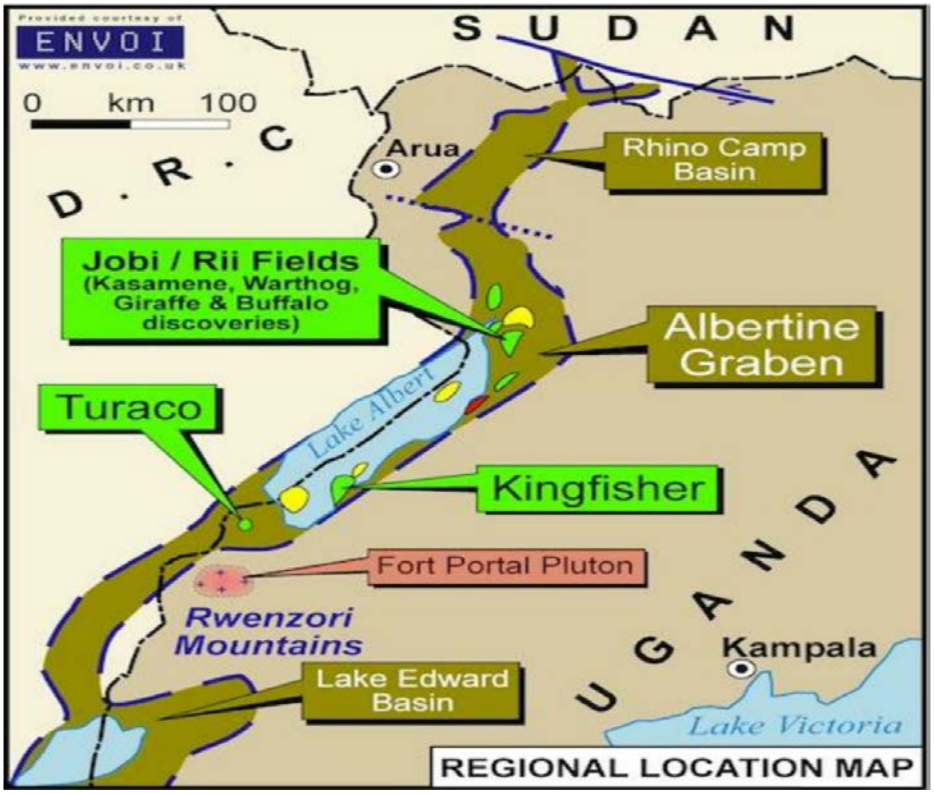


Figure 12

The second component comprises of following three sub-components:

1. physical planning;
2. local infrastructure;
3. Technical assistance and oversight.

The third component, deals with skills access and upgrading, and to design & upgrade business, technical and vocational education, and training opportunities. Quality in the oil and gas sector, make it more in line with private sector demands, and provide greater access to people living in the Albertine region.

LVFO Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in Lake Victoria

The lake Victoria fisheries organization (LVFO) is a regional organization formed in 1994 by the three east African partner states of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, to jointly coordinate and manage the fisheries resources of lake Victoria. The objective of the LVFO is to foster

cooperation among the partner states by harmonizing, developing, adopting and coordinating management measures for sustainable and optimal utilization of the fisheries resources of lake Victoria for maximum socio-economic benefits.

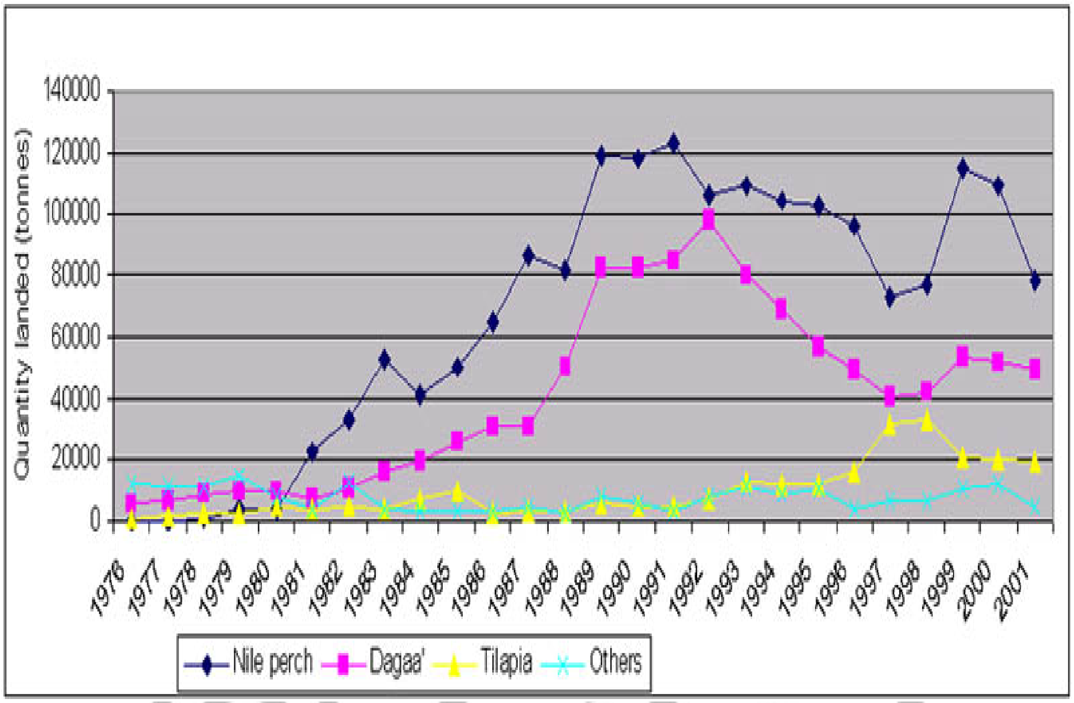


Figure 13

Conclusion

Enormous changes in Uganda have been occurred in urban and regional planning in recent years, this research review attempts to trace some of these developments from a methodological point of view. In particular, scientific models of the planning process and regional development models of the urban system have been developed in depth, and many of these ideas have found their way into practice through the preparation of Plans. Uganda is still in the category of low developed countries, with most of the social and economic indicators still lagging behind many countries and thus all the SDGs are in line with Uganda's current and future development needs and aspirations in pursuit of a middle income status by 2020. This research review therefore demonstrates Uganda's readiness to implement Agenda 2030. However, as has been highlighted in the report, even with the necessary planning, policy and legal frameworks and institutions in place to enhance implementation, there are challenges and capacity gaps that remain which must be addressed in order to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. The government of Uganda re-affirms its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development which has been integrated in the national development and planning frameworks and monitoring systems as well as policy documents. The government recognizes the remaining challenges that require concerted efforts and partnerships to facilitate attainment of the desired development goals and targets. Uganda intends to partner with the international community in delivering this global development agenda.

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