

SymbioCity
Kenya

Miji
Endelevu



KIMININI

A Green Vibrant Town
with Opportunities for All



KIMININI: A GREEN VIBRANT TOWN WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

This vision was formulated through an Urban Sustainability Review (USR), as part of the SymbioCity Kenya programme. It summarises what residents want for their town – a greener, cleaner, more environmentally friendly and more inclusive Kiminini. A place where everyone is welcome and where there is space for inhabitants to conduct their businesses and have a fulfilling social life.

The Urban Sustainability Review is a consultative way of identifying how an urban area can develop in a sustainable direction. It explores urban systems such as waste, water, public space and mobility, viewing them as integrated parts of the whole urban fabric.

The USR tells us where we are and where we want to go as a town, pointing out priorities that can be addressed immediately, and those that will take more time and resources.

The key conclusions of Kiminini's Urban Sustainability Review are summarised herein. The full report is available on www.symbiocitykenya.org.



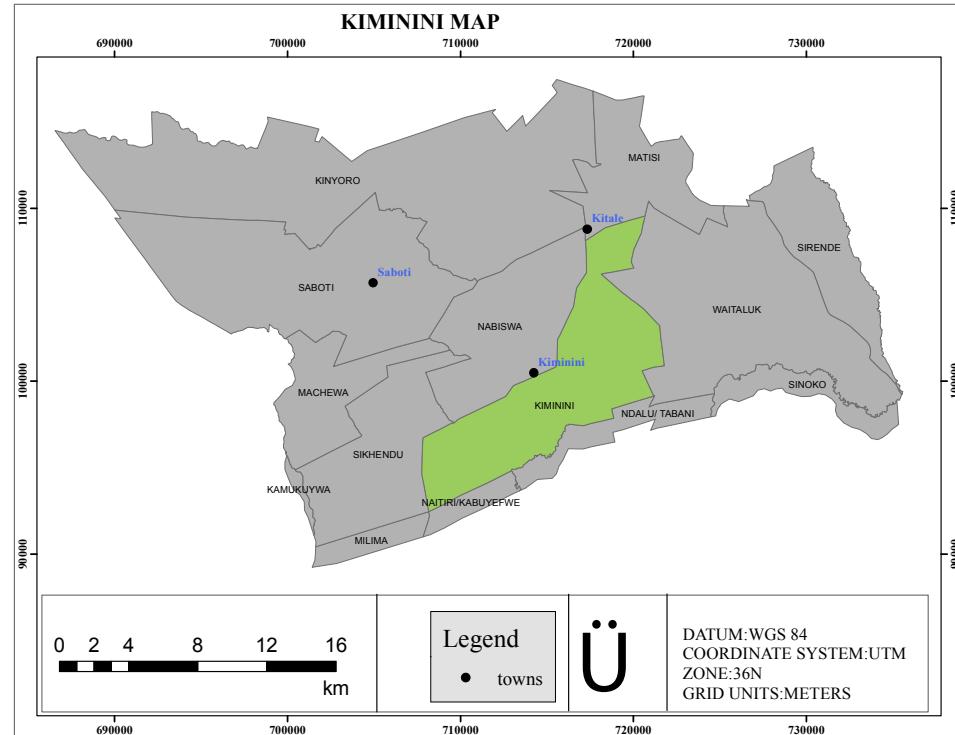
The SymbioCity Working Group in Kiminini, with members from both Trans Nzoia County and from Kiminini, has from the very start worked closely with the town residents. Representatives from different interest groups have shared their views on the present state of the town and on what is needed for it to become a more liveable place for all.

In addition to workshops, interactive exhibitions have continuously filled the walls of the Ward Administration's office in Kiminini with residents' ideas and wishes. One of the exhibitions prompted some 200 people to contribute with their rankings on statements such as "more trees", "no animals in town", "safe town at night", and "more playgrounds." There has also been photo sessions with youths from Kiminini visually giving their interpretation of what Kiminini is and should be in the future.

During this journey of engaging the public, it has become clear that Kiminini has a tight-knit community with a willingness to improve their town and livelihoods.



ABOUT KIMININI



Kiminini is a small yet busy town around 20 km from the County capital, Kitale. Although without formal town status, it is Trans Nzoia’s second major hub in terms of population (around 15,000 inhabitants in the wider Kiminini urban area) and revenue collection.

With devolution and the expansion of the Kitale–Webuye road, Kiminini is undergoing unprecedented growth. It is an agricultural centre, attracting traders from neighbouring areas, and has a lot of potential for commercial activities.

However, there is an increase in the urban population which the available basic facilities and infrastructure cannot accommodate. Today Kiminini faces challenges such as deficient waste management and unemployment. More than half of the residents work in the informal sector, but even amongst these many are underemployed.

Agriculture is the leading sector in terms of income earnings and overall contribution to residents’ socio-economic well-being. The main products are maize, wheat and beans.

Most Kiminini residents are educated at least up until secondary school. They have great ambitions for the upcoming town but feel they cannot influence the urban development and planning.



CHALLENGES

Kiminini's key sustainability challenges include:

Inadequate solid waste management: Due to a fast growing population, there is a massive increase of solid waste production. Poor waste management has long been an eyesore and health hazard in Kiminini, with few designated disposal sites.

Inadequate waste water management: There is no form of waste water treatment, neither for households nor institutions. In central Kiminini the drainage system is very poor as manifested in water stagnating around the Cottage Hospital and within residential areas. Poor drainage leads to waterlogging which turns into breeding sites for mosquitoes, pollution of wells, stench, and pot holes on roads.

Lack of planning and enforcement of standards affects a range of functions, worsening already dysfunctional drainage, and forcing traders onto the fringes of the road outside the congested market. Poor planning makes risk management difficult, for instance in the case of a fire, and also leaves little space for social amenities like parks.

Two wards – management difficulties: Leadership from the bottom starts with ward level with Ward Administrators

overseeing the general administrative functions, including service delivery and development of policies and plans. Kiminini urban area is split in the middle by the A104 highway, and belongs to two different wards – Nabiswa and Kiminini – which poses particular challenges for coordination and management.

OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities in Kiminini are plentiful. Through the Urban Sustainability Review the following have been highlighted:

- Kiminini is an agricultural hub with real potential to grow
- The proximity to Kitale and the quick transport on the A104 highway paves way for business development
- There is strong interest among residents to improve the waste situation
- Kiminini enjoys a favourable climate when it comes to creating a pleasant town with many trees and green areas
- The Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Plan (ISUDP) that is currently being undertaken, and which is working closely with SymbioCity, will open up for a formal town status and thereby a town administration
- Kiminini has many youths and children with a desire to participate meaningfully in developing their town





Traders selling maize by the road



Kiminini youth with an empty waste bin



Kiminini Students take part in a tree growing exercise



Kiminini locals socializing



Donkeys feeding on food waste

VISION

Kiminini's vision, developed by town residents and the SymbioCity Working Group, is summarised as

“A green vibrant town with opportunities for all.”

GOALS

Under this slogan a number of more specific goals have been developed:

Goal 1: An environmentally friendly town

A clear conclusion from the USR process is that everyone is deeply concerned about the environment. Kiminini is dirty and for the inhabitants this is both an eye sore and a source of potential danger because of the spread of diseases and risks for children getting injured. **Solid waste management, liquid waste management and greening of the town are priorities.**

Goal 2: A self-sustained and decentralised town

Kiminini residents want a certified town that will be administratively self-sustaining through its own town administration and also has a higher degree of both administrative and socio-economic independency, for example with major banks represented, access to health and education, and availability of major consumer goods.

Goal 3: A market hub

Since Kiminini is an agricultural town, with most of its agricultural produce supplied to Kitale, residents want it to play a key role in agri-business in the County. Kiminini is also a gateway to Kitale from for instance neighbouring Bungoma and Kakamega Counties, through the Kitale-Webuye road, and has the perfect opportunity to become an agricultural market hub.

Goal 4: A town with basic services for all

Kiminini residents look forward to a town where they can access all basic services (including infrastructure and social services) without favouritism or discrimination. Every resident should have equal opportunities in accessing the services irrespective of their ethnicity, age, gender or religion.



WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Kiminini residents have proposed improving solid waste collection in their town and have been allocated a small fund for a so called quick win project. The project's core is awareness raising on environmental issues with focus on waste and green space, but it will also implement physical improvements, such as waste bins. It will also encourage residents to use the now mostly empty road reserves for tree nurseries and other green businesses.

This will be followed by a larger sustainable urban development solution. This change project will be identified using the findings from the Urban Sustainability Review.

The County Government of Trans Nzoia applied for and was selected as one of the seven pilot counties in Kenya for SymbioCity in 2016. Trans Nzoia County chose Kiminini to be the pilot town for the SymbioCity process.

The Kenya SymbioCity Programme builds the capacity of urban development stakeholders to guide Kenyan urban development in a more sustainable direction.

The programme is a joint initiative between and the Kenyan Council of Governors (CoG) and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). It is funded through the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi.

SymbioCity is a holistic approach to sustainable urban development. The methodology is a stepwise people-centered development process with focus on improving living conditions, health and quality of life of the citizens.



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KIMININI IS GROWING

How do we want it to look
in the future?

The SymbioCity approach has been used to develop the Urban Sustainability Review (USR), working closely with residents in Kiminini to ensure that their values, challenges and needs are reflected in the description of the town and in the formulation of the priorities for further action. The key conclusions of the USR process are summarised in this booklet.

www.symbiocitykenya.org
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