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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



ICAO – UN-Habitat Pilot Project

Study on the synergy between the airports and urban development in Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Johannesburg.

Global Connectivity

Air transport has become crucial segment of human transport in the 21st century. In 2014, the total economic impact of aviation reached 3.5 per cent of the world's GDP. Despite air transport's clear economic significance and demonstrated ability to serve as a foundation and catalyst for global connectivity, economic growth and urban development, only 2.6 per cent of global funding for infrastructure and services (in 2005-2015) supported aviation development. Similarly, African urban areas are growing 1.7 times faster than the urban growth rate of the world in the same period and it was estimated that by 2017, Africa's urban population will be larger than the total urban population of Europe.

The proximity of airports to major cities throughout the world has led to the creation of development corridors between the airport facilities and the core city and beyond as a means to facilitate movement of people, goods and services between the two places. Airport infrastructure is thus a key landmark and land use in the city and its environs that can be used as a nodal point to streamline and manage other land use activities along the development axis to the core city, and towards the rural interphase adjacent to the city. It is also a crucial link in connecting people to opportunity at and beyond the local level and for integration of societies.

Aviation and urban development

Aviation is a crucial aspect in urban and regional planning. It impacts on human activities and the form of development activities (including patterns of settlements and economic activity). Studying their role thereby in the development cycle will be crucial in learning the relationship between airport development and urban development and how the resultant synergies can be harnessed for socio-economic development of cities and countries.

As a means to harness the existing synergies between airports and urban development, in October 2015, ICAO and UN-Habitat initiated a pilot project aimed at promoting interconnections and interrelationship between airport and urban development in Nairobi (Joko Kenyatta International Airport and Wilson Airport), Addis Ababa (Bole International Airport), Ekurhuleni (O.R. Tambo International Airport) and Johannesburg (Lanseria International Airport) over a span of one year.

Project

The contributors to this project include Civil Aviation Authorities and airport management authorities in Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa, as well as land, planning and urban development local authorities in Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Johannesburg. Representatives of international organizations, aircraft manufactures and airlines, as well as aviation and airport planning experts, land users close to the airports and the regional centre for mapping of resources for development are also significant champions of the study.

The project objectives include identifying best practices and principles, consistent with ICAO standards and policies that will contribute to enhancing the synergy between the airports and urban development in Nairobi (Kenya), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg (South Africa), and accordingly formulate recommendations for consideration by relevant decision makers and stakeholders. Also on the basis of the outcome of the pilot project, focus will be to develop global guidelines that will assist States to enhance the synergy between airport and urban sustainable development. The implementation of the outcome of the pilot project will be jointly monitored by UN-Habitat and ICAO. Furthermore, the outcomes of this pilot project will be presented during Habitat III to be held from 17 to 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.

