JINJA CITY COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FINAL

JINJA CITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION STRATEGY
FY2025/2026 – 2029/2030.

Vision

"Sustainable and prosperous urban community with excellence in tourism, commerce and industry by the year 2040"

Theme:

"Strengthening Jinja's Competitiveness for Sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth, Employment and sustainable Wealth Creation

July, 2025

Executive Summary

Climate change poses a significant threat to Jinja City, exacerbating vulnerabilities such as erratic rainfall, flooding along the Nile and Lake Victoria shores, landslides, and impacts on livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, and tourism. This Climate Action Plan outlines a localized, actionable strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable development, aligning with Uganda's national commitments under the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to cut emissions by 24.7% below business-as-usual by 2030. Jinja City aims for substantial emissions reductions by 2030 through priority actions in high-impact sectors, with a long-term vision toward low-carbon growth supported by renewable energy expansion and nature-based solutions. The plan emphasizes co-benefits like improved air quality, green jobs, public health, and equity for vulnerable communities, including women, youth, and low-income residents.

Key strategies target Jinja's context: advancing clean transport with electric motorcycles, boda-bodas, and public systems while expanding solar-powered infrastructure; promoting energy efficiency in industries and buildings, waste-to-energy initiatives, and renewable adoption to reduce reliance on fossil fuels; improving solid waste management through recycling, composting, and circular economy practices to curb methane emissions; protecting and restoring wetlands, urban forests, and the Nile shoreline for carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, and biodiversity. Resilience measures address flooding, heat, and water security via early warning systems, green infrastructure, and community preparedness. Implementation involves phased actions with partnerships (national government, donors, and private sector), annual tracking through emissions monitoring and indicators, and inclusive stakeholder engagement to build a resilient, prosperous, and sustainable Jinja City.

Message from the City Planner

Climate change is no longer a distant or abstract threat; it is a present and growing reality whose impacts are increasingly evident in our city. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, flooding, prolonged dry spells, declining air quality, and pressure on urban infrastructure threaten livelihoods, public health, ecosystems, and sustainable economic growth. As a city, we recognize that the consequences of inaction are tragic particularly for vulnerable communities, future generations, and our natural environment.

This Climate Change Action Plan therefore represents a deliberate and urgent response to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and promote sustainable urban development. The plan provides a strategic framework for coordinated action across key sectors, including energy, transport, waste management, land use, water resources, and public health. It emphasizes evidence-based planning, inclusive stakeholder engagement, innovation, and partnerships with national institutions, development partners, the private sector, and communities. Implementation of this Action Plan will require collective responsibility, sustained investment, and strong political and technical commitment. By acting decisively today, we can reduce climate-related risks, unlock green economic opportunities, and safeguard the well-being of our citizens. This is anchored in our 5-year Development Plan under the program 3, Environment, Natural Resources, Climate Change and Land Management that aims to stop and reverse the degradation of Water Resources, Environment, Natural Resources as well as the effects of Climate Change on economic growth and livelihood security.

On behalf of the City, I wish to thank our partners in this initiative like the European Union that have supported us in the implementation of greening, governance and resilience, Ministry of Energy through the NAMA project, Actogether, Cities Alliance and Ecopastile in the recycling of plastic waste, DataCities Consortium in regards to Solid Waste Management that has a direct influence on climate change action strategies.

The City remains committed to building a climate-resilient, low-carbon, and inclusive urban future one that balances economic growth with environmental stewardship and social equity.

Kayongo Christine Cynthia.

City Planner.

A message from the City Town Clerk

Jinja City and its Metropolitan area is home to 400,134 people. This population is projected to grow to over 1 million people over the next 3 decades. The explosion in our City Population, if well managed, can be turned into an economic dividend. It will have significant impacts on resources, particularly for climate and environment. Today the world is facing one of the greatest challenges of our generation - **Climate Change**!

However, many actions are being undertaken locally to manage climate change notably proper solid waste, promotion of clean energy, increase usage of renewable energy and reduce GhG emissions, ensuring cleanliness and maintenance of the lakes shores and river banks, control of water and air pollution, greening and beautification of the City and the monthly cleaning campaigns, among others.

The involvement of Special Interest Groups such as People with Disabilities, Youths and Women, school going children play a pivotal role in shaping and implementing this plan. The actions have been designed to attract new green businesses, create local green jobs, make our businesses more competitive and help communities to thrive.

I call upon all Jinja City residents, businesses, partners and communities to join us in taking action to make Jinja a great city today and for the future generations and the city is committed to offer both technical and policy direction to achieve this plan.

Kiseka Godfrey

City Town Clerk

Message from the Mayor

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and its effects are already being felt within our city through increased flooding, prolonged dry spells, rising temperatures, environmental degradation, and growing pressure on urban infrastructure and public health. These impacts threaten our development gains, livelihoods, and the well-being of both present and future generations.

As City leadership, we acknowledge that responding to climate change is not optional it is an urgent responsibility. This Climate Change Action Plan demonstrates our firm commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable city that can withstand climate shocks while pursuing economic growth and social development.

The Action Plan provides a clear and coordinated framework for mitigation and adaptation actions across key sectors, including energy, transport, waste management, land use, water resources, housing, and public health. It aligns with national priorities under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) and contributes to Uganda's commitments under global climate agreements.

Successful implementation of this plan will require strong partnerships among government institutions, development partners, the private sector, civil society, and our communities. I therefore call upon all stakeholders to take collective ownership of this Action Plan and to actively participate in its implementation. Together, we can transform climate challenges into opportunities for green growth, job creation, innovation, and improved quality of life. As City Mayor, I reaffirm our commitment to providing the leadership, policy direction, and support necessary to ensure that this Climate Change Action Plan delivers tangible and lasting benefits for our city.

For a resilient, prosperous, and sustainable urban future, the time to act is now.

Kasolo Alton Okocha.

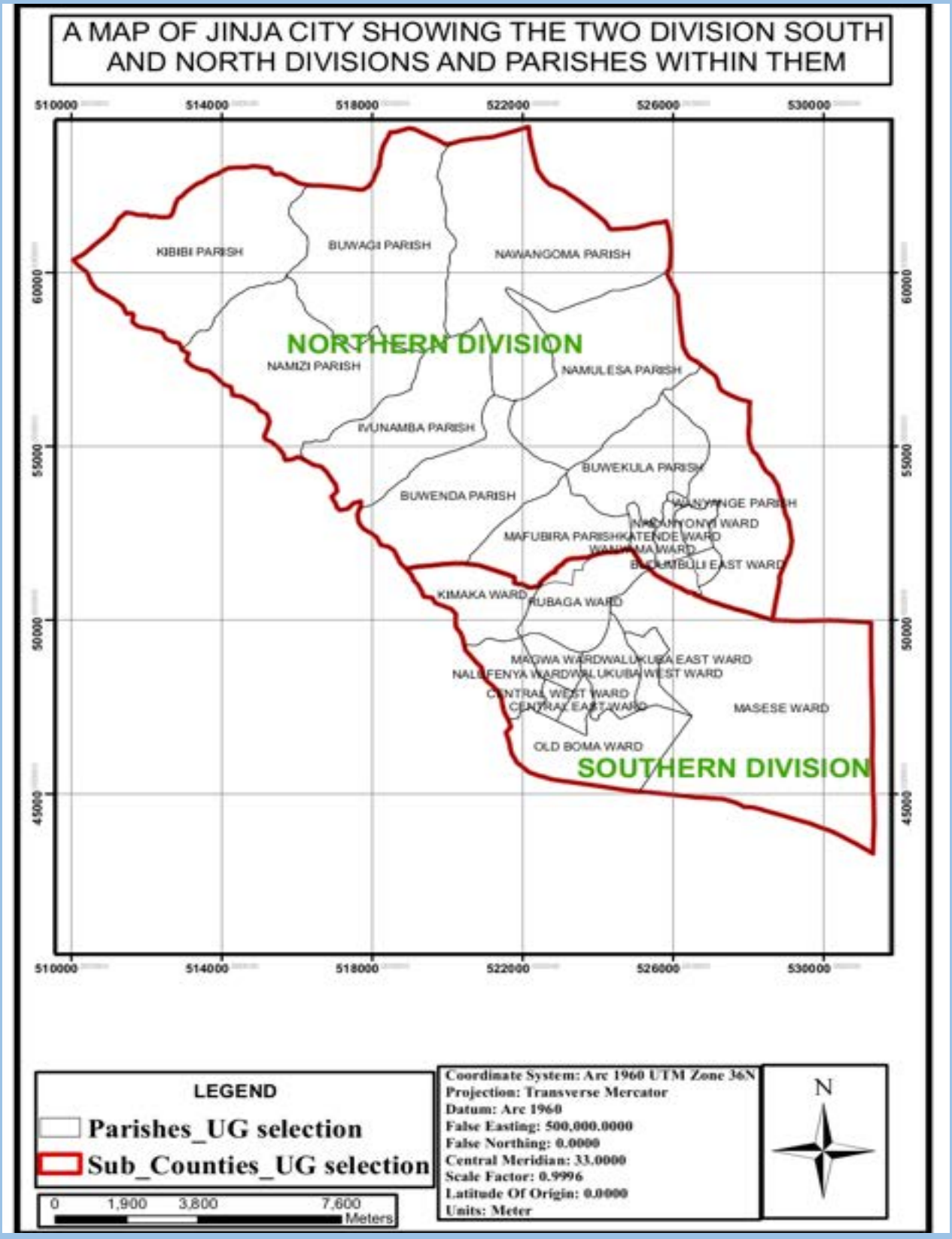
Mayor Jinja City

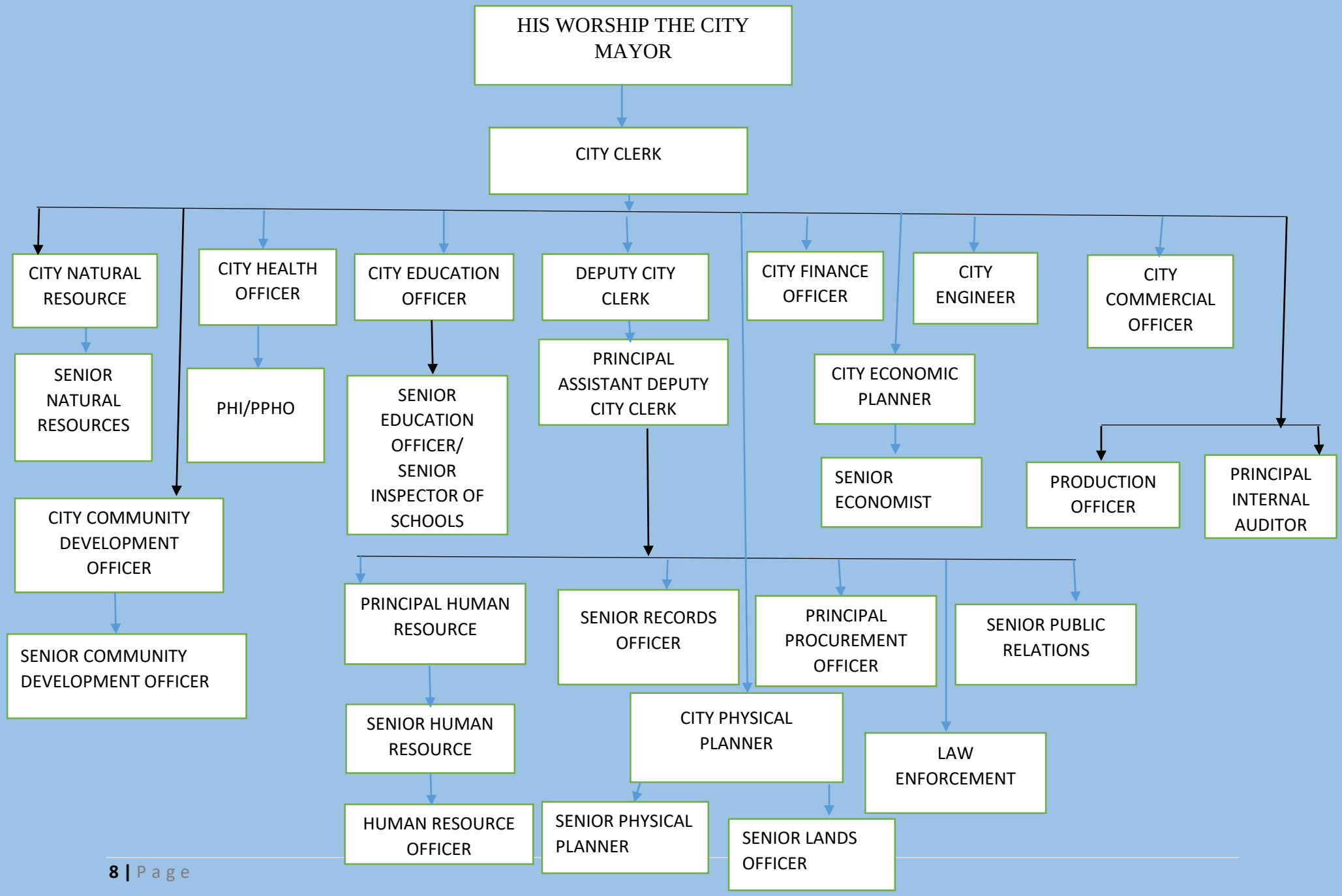
Jinja City Profile

Jinja City lies in the south east of Uganda, 54 miles (87 km) North East of the capital, Kampala. It is located on the shores of Lake Victoria, near to the source of the White Nile. The city is the chief town of Jinja District, and is considered the capital of the Kingdom of Busoga. Before 1906, Jinja was a fishing village that benefited from being located on long-distance trade routes. The origin of the name “Jinja” comes from the language of the two tribes (the Buganda and the Basoga) that lived on either side of the River Nile in the area. In both languages “Jinja” means “Rock”. In most of Africa, rivers like the Nile hindered migration, this explains the ethnic boundaries along the Nile as one moves north from the river’s source on the northern shores of Lake Victoria. The British used this reference to name the town they established – “Jinja” The town remained the capital of Busoga region, and in 1956, it was granted municipality status. Jinja was the industrial heart of Uganda between 1954 and the late 1970s – supported by power from the hydro –electric Nalubaale Power Station at the Owen Falls Dam, which was completed in 1954. It’s bordered by Jinja district in the north, Njeru Municipality in the west, Jinja District in the east and Lake Victoria in the south which is shared by Mukono district and Bugiri districts, It covers an area of approximately 215 square kilometers. The town site takes the form of a tapering plateau, which sits approximately 1,230 meters above sea level at its highest point. In the Eastern and Southern parts of the City, there’s the Lake Victoria shoreline, which runs for about 10km. There’s also a riverbank on the western part of the city. The Nile is the main river draining the city. The river originates and runs within the boundaries of Jinja city for a distance covering at least a width of 200m and maximum of 400m at its widest point.

As part of the qualifications to become a city, Jinja expanded to include the former Jinja Municipality, Bugembe Town Council, Mafubira sub-county and Budondo sub-county. The estimated population of the new city, as of January 2026, is about 400,000 residents.

Map of Jinja City




HIS WORSHIP THE CITY MAYOR
CITY CLERK
CITY NATURAL RESOURCE
CITY HEALTH OFFICER
CITY EDUCATION OFFICER
DEPUTY CITY CLERK
CITY FINANCE OFFICER
CITY ENGINEER
CITY COMMERCIAL OFFICER
SENIOR NATURAL RESOURCES
PHI/PPHO
SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER/ SENIOR INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS
PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT DEPUTY CITY CLERK
CITY ECONOMIC PLANNER
SENIOR ECONOMIST
PRODUCTION OFFICER
PRINCIPAL INTERNAL AUDITOR
CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
PRINCIPAL HUMAN RESOURCE
SENIOR RECORDS OFFICER
PRINCIPAL PROCUREMENT OFFICER
SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS
SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCE
CITY PHYSICAL PLANNER
LAW ENFORCEMENT
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
SENIOR PHYSICAL PLANNER
SENIOR LANDS OFFICER

Jinja City is administered by the different on behalf of the central government. It is divided into two urban divisions Northern and Southern Division, twenty six wards and One hundred forty one cells.

JINJA CITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

The **Jinja City Climate Change Action** strategy is a plan aimed at mainstreaming climate change response in all the city services in order to put the city on a low carbon development path. The Jinja City Climate Change Action strategy is Jinja City flagship Programme for the city to achieve its sustainability ambitions.

- The strategy addresses three issues:
- The short and long-term adaptation of the city to climate change impacts.
- Charting a low emissions development path for the City.
- Transforming the threat of climate change into an opportunity for residents.

The strategy has been developed through a transversal and participatory approach involving all stakeholders. The guiding principle is that of shared responsibility which ensures that climate change is fully integrated in all development policies and service delivery at all levels whilst supporting citizens to take action.

The **Jinja Climate Change Action** Strategy is aligned to the Jinja City 5 year Development Plan 2025/2026- 2029/2030. Whose vision is to transform Jinja City into a vibrant, attractive and Sustainable City.

The strategy is also contributing to the goals of the Uganda Vision 2040, the National Development Plan IV, and the National Climate Change Policy & Strategy.

The Climate Change Action Plan Problem

Jinja, like the rest of the world, is experiencing climate changes mostly with increased temperatures and more intense rainy seasons which are less predictable and more erratic leading to flooding and food insecurity. Recorded temperature has increased by 1.6_0 over the last 50 years. Although the precipitation levels have not changed significantly, the patterns have become more erratic.

Weaknesses

The consequences of climate change mean the city is more exposed to certain risks and disasters such as floods especially along the shores of the Nile River and Lake Victoria and heat hotspots as temperatures rise. Without control and protection mechanisms for land use and built environment, the problems will worsen. The city will be exposed to severe climate change shocks and stresses that will impact on its functioning and the livelihoods of residents, particularly the vulnerable urban poor.

Energy and Green House Gas Emissions (GhG)

An energy and GhG profile is a quantitative and qualitative assessment/inventory of the current energy production & consumptions and the current levels of emissions of greenhouse gasses for the city. The objective of the GhG balance is to identify the different sources of GhG emissions in order to characterize the main stakes, the trends and potential mitigation measures. Because they are related, the GhG balance includes an energy balance that is why it is common to talk about “energy and GhG” balance. The energy balance provides a snapshot of the current as well as the projected sources and uses of energy. On the other hand the GhG balance shows the level and sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

The GhG balance is the first such exercise for Jinja City. Until now the GhG balance was only conducted at national level in the context of the ratification of the UNFCC and the Paris agreement of 2016. The Kampala GhG balance exercise is a voluntary and proactive commitment by Jinja City to bring local solutions to a global problem working together with the Government.

This first exercise allows Jinja City to start the construction of its own inventory system consistent with the national framework. Jinja City will improve year after year the elaboration process but also the precision of the assumptions and data. For the current

balance, efforts have been made to find the most recent data and to take into account the existing literature. The balances will be updated on a regular basis to assess progress.

The emissions were computed using the global protocol for community (GPC) scale GHG emission inventories 2020, consistent with the methodology used at the national level. The default emission factors from the IPCCC tables were used. Both direct and indirect emissions were taken into account. The emissions were computed at three levels:

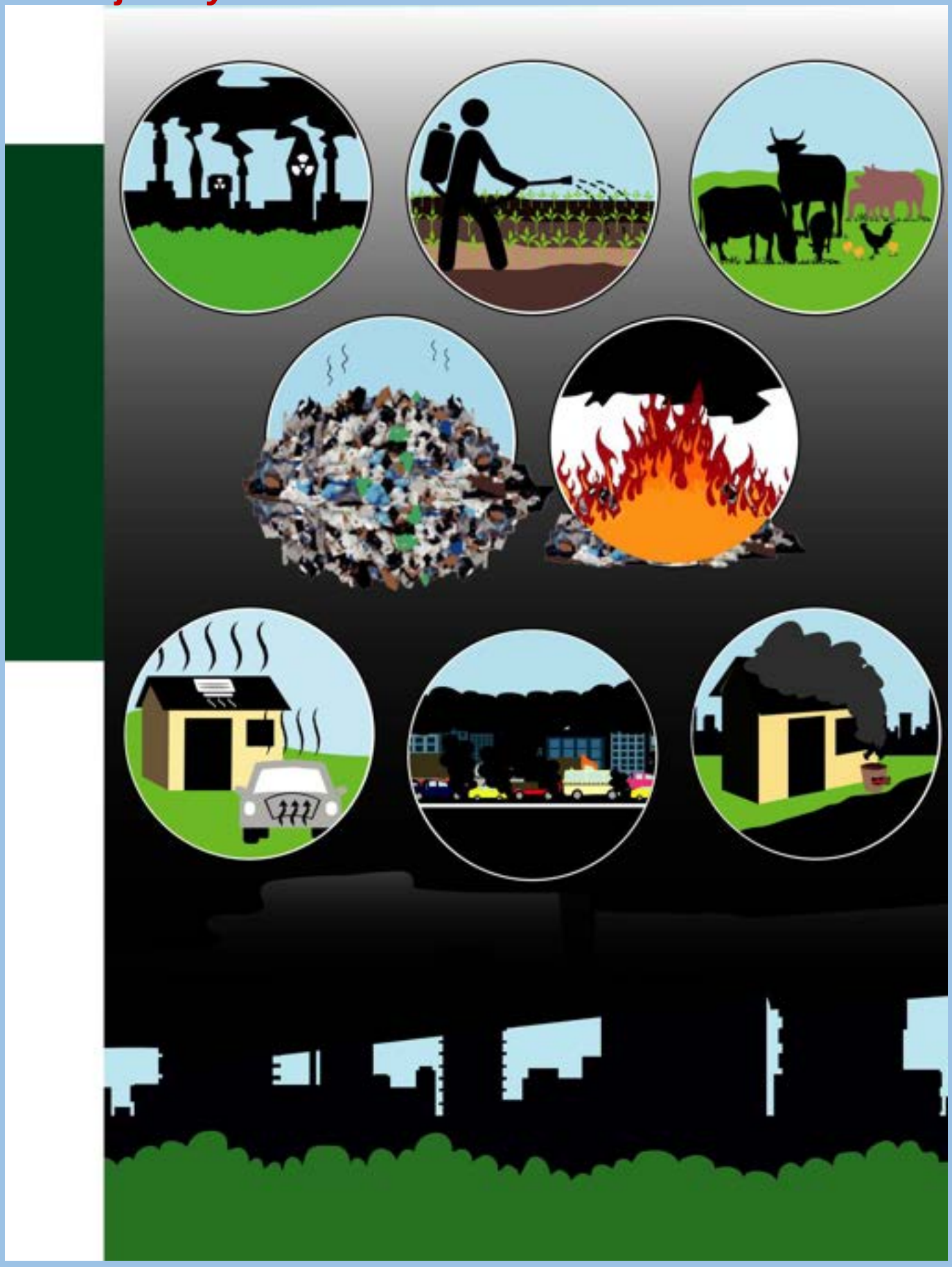
- Jinja City - administrative assets, facilities and services
- Jinja City - geographical boundaries of the City
- The Two Divisions that make up Jinja City – Jinja Northern Division and Jinja Southern Division

To be effective, the **Jinja City Climate Change Action** Strategy should address the whole territory of the City and the two divisions. Therefore the action plan first targets the functioning of the administration, the management of its energy/GhG emissions, the efficiency of its public buildings, car fleet and assets, public procurement etc. Then working with all stakeholders and sister administrations of Northern and Southern Division to address the stakes in the divisions.

Energy needs affect all sectors and as demand increases this will be the major player in both systems' efficiency and use of renewable sources. Population growth which has doubled over the last 20 years indicates the need to focus in this area to both change human behavior and create sustainable alternatives.

Likewise transport needs will increase yet infrastructure plans cannot support this rapid growth so alternative responses need to be sought. Waste management is already seeking to maximize efficiency by generating energy and industry regulation will require cost as well as energy efficiency. Industrial growth and development will need to adopt renewable energies to meet the demands. Green energy incentives need to be developed to promote green investment.

Jinja City causes of Green House Gas Emissions



Energy

The city's energy supply is dominated by biomas and hydroelectricity for cooking, lighting and industry and petroleum for transportation. Emissions associated with electricity production are small as over 92% of the electricity is supplied by hydroelectricity. The main source of energy for household cooking is biomass (firewood & charcoal) which are high emitters of GhG but also of particles which seriously affect public health. The use of oil for transportation (diesel) produces the same concerns.

Waste

Management of the volume of waste and poor disposal practices.

Mobility

Use of old vehicles, small omnibuses, congestion and heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Land use

Lack of integrated detailed neighborhood plans, poor construction practices, energy inefficient buildings, low use of renewables, few green spaces, environmental degradation.

Mitigation options:

The best option is to start with energy efficiency in all sectors.

- Energy cook stoves in institutions and households estimated to reduce energy Consumption by 20-40%.
- Introduction of alternative cook fuels like briquettes.
- Improvement in road infrastructure coupled with good driving practices.
- Restrictions on importation and use of second hand vehicles estimated to reduce energy consumption by 25-30%.
- Fuel switching to low carbon intensity fuels at households in the long-term.
- Air quality monitoring system.
- Improve accessibility, connectivity and transit option in the city.

As biomass will still remain an important source of fuel, there is an opportunity to promote forestation and afforestation to supply biomass to the city. In the transport sector fuel switching to blended fuel is feasible. It will reduce gasoline consumption by 5-20% depending on availability of ethanol. The use of biodiesel may be considered for the medium to long term. The use of mass transit systems such light rail will also reduce fuel

consumption substantially. The government is investing heavily in road and energy infrastructure and the use of thermal power will be limited. There are possibilities of generating energy from waste and solar energy on a large scale with projected capacity of over 10MW.

Why the Climate Change Action Plan

For Jinja City, it is estimated that the cost of adaptation to climate change will increase significantly from about US$ 2 million in 2025 to between US$ 20 – 25 million by 2030. This money can be saved by taking action now:

Adaptation - reduce impacts/ loses/ vulnerability and enhance resilience of communities and key infrastructure (like roads, drainages, electricity supply network), reduce the city's vulnerability to charcoal, fuel, food and water supply shocks, energy security/ renewable energy.

Mitigation - avoid causes by reducing emissions from major contributing sectors like industries and motorized transport.

Opportunities- from challenges by saving resources, material re-use/ recycling, improved energy efficiency, investing in the green economy and creating green jobs.

Adaptive Changes

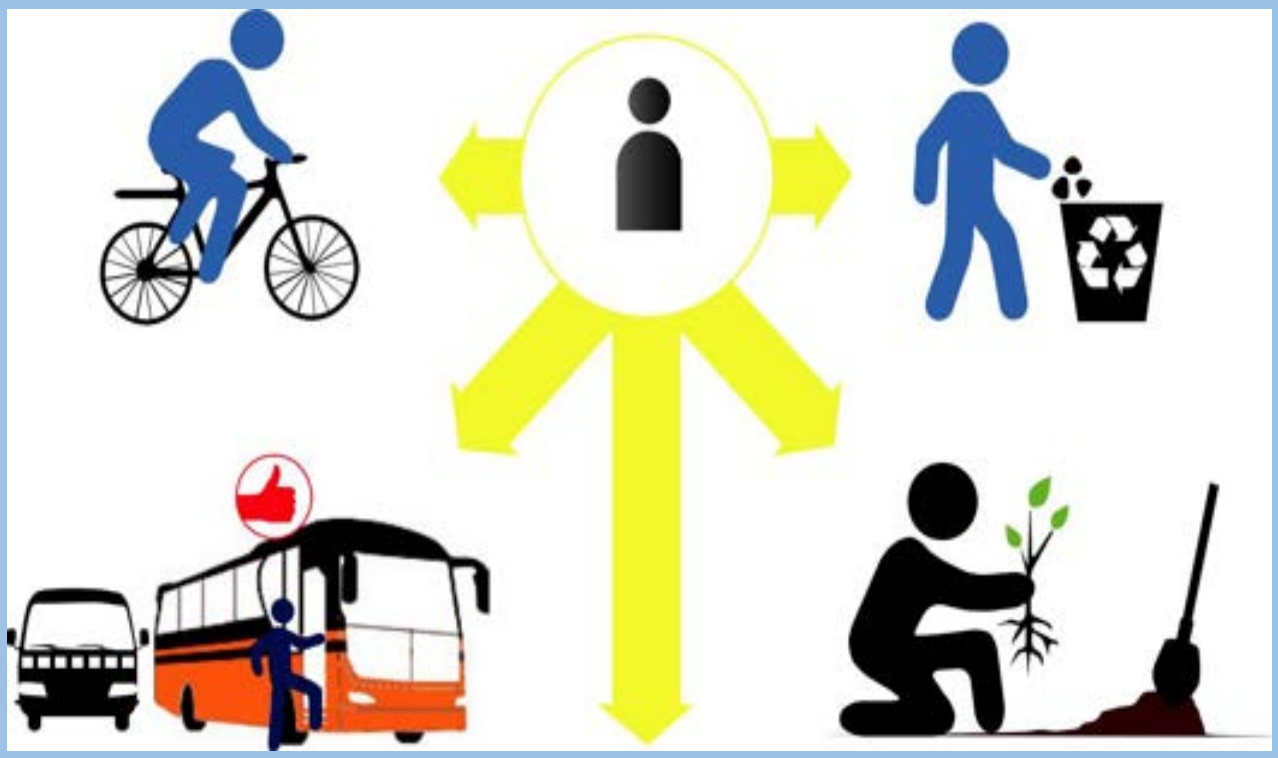
The ambition of Jinja City is to reduce our emissions by 15% on the **normalized activities** scenario. To achieve this ambition the City will focus on a paradigm shift in key sectors including transport, energy, waste, built environment and cross-sectorial pillars of communication, participation, governance, urban planning and resilience.

- Reduce the number of people exposed to climate change impacts
- Reduce losses resulting from climate change related hazards
- Well planned and integrated neighborhoods
- Reduced damage to public infrastructure and limited interruptions to city operations.
- Revitalized ecosystems and public spaces

How will this be put into practice?

- Responsible sustainable development
- For environmental and economic harmony
- Participation and shared responsibility
- Together we build a shared value of equal responsibility and a socially inclusive process.
- Integrated approach
- Mainstreaming climate change into everyday life functions for desired behavior change.

How we intend to contribute to reducing GhG emissions



How do we contribute?

In order to achieve the effective implementation of so many actions by multiple agencies and stakeholders it is essential that certain mechanisms are put in place to ensure smooth actions and maximize coordination. Jinja City is already addressing these and therefore requires commitment from partners and stakeholders for successful impact. This means coordination and involvement of all stakeholders and players like the Youths, Women, Children, People with Disabilities, Elderly, School Going Children, Opinion leaders with efforts to promote climate resilience and sustainability.

Additional ways of reducing GhG Emissions in Jinja City


POLICY
POLICY

Contact details
Ms. Kayongo Christine Cynthia
CITY PLANNER
+256774003222/ +256703818438
Ktinah2002@gmail.com