

## Improving the lives of local communities through public sanitation works and treatment of erosion in Congo

Multiple feasibility studies are being prepared laying the groundwork for the implementation of the EU's Resilient Cities programme in Nyaki and Owando, two cities facing similar modernisation challenges.



Marketplace in Nyaki, Congo



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The Congo is characterised by wide economic disparities across its territories. Not only are there significant differences between urban and rural areas, the north and south, and primary versus secondary cities, but there are also notable inequalities among rural areas themselves in terms of population density, agricultural production, and the presence of large natural resources. To address these disparities, together with the EU, the Government of the Republic of Congo has designated economic and commercial governance as well as local development as the two key focal points of its 2014-2020 National Indicative Programme (NIP). The majority of the NIP's financial resources (€77 million, i.e. 75% of the total) is allocated to local development, of which "Resilient Cities" is the main programme.

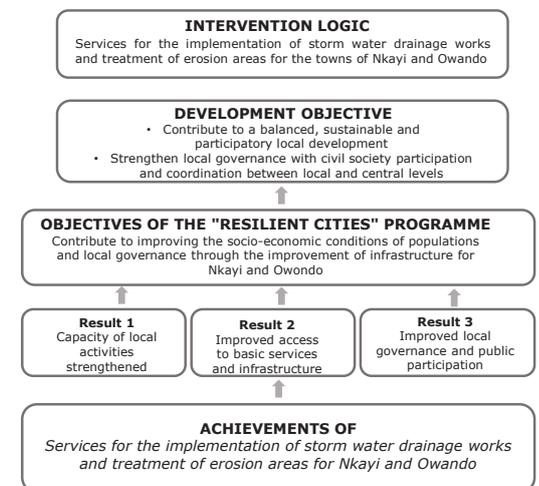
In its approach to sustainable and participatory local development, the EU emphasises the role of local authorities, placing them in charge but encouraging the emergence of an effective system of coordination with other levels of governance, from central authorities to civil society. In this EU-funded project – which specifically targets the secondary cities of Nyaki and Owando with 71,500 and 21,000 inhabitants, respectively – sanitation and erosion control have been selected as areas where more participatory governance can lead to improved living conditions for the local population.

In order for the necessary urban planning works to occur in the most efficient and effective and least intrusive manner, NIRAS will conduct multiple feasibility studies on behalf of the EU.

### Secondary cities, primary problems

Building on the momentum of the recent approval of the master plans for Nyaki and Owando – which have made it possible to identify and prioritise the work necessary to improve the rainwater management system and the treatment of erosion zones – and the accelerated municipalisation policy implemented in Congo between 2004 and 2016, this project supports the objective of the Resilient Cities framework (see intervention logic below).

Both cities are experiencing similar challenges when it comes to modernisation. The most recent urban plans date back to 1983 and 1981 for Nyaki and Owando, respectively. Nyaki is heavily affected by flood-



Implementation of the "Resilient Cities" Programme

**Donor**  
European Commission

**Client**  
EU Delegation to Congo

**Location**  
Cities of Nyaki and Okando

**Contract value**  
€428,000

**Duration**  
April 2019 – June 2020



Owando is a commune of the Cuvette department, located along National Road 2 north of Brazzaville, with a surface area of 30,900 ha, of which 785 ha are urbanised. It has about 21,000 inhabitants. It is located on the plain, bordered by low-lying hills. The commune has a sub-equatorial climate and heavy rainfall (1,600 to 1,800 mm per year). It is bordered by the Kouyou River and by a marshy area that constrains the development of the city.

Nkayi is the most populated town in the department of Bouenza (about 71,500 inhabitants), located between Pointe Noire and Brazzaville, along National Road 1 and the Congo Ocean Railway (CFCO). Situated on a plateau, at altitudes between 140m and 186m, it covers an area of 1817 Ha, of which 1050 Ha is urban. It is bordered by two rivers, the Divouba and the Louari, which are located below the urbanisation areas and therefore do not cause flooding in these areas.



ding, mainly due to the absence of an outlet and/or the low slope of gutters, the presence of low points and hydraulic barriers in the town. Owando frequently experiences overflowing gutters or road flooding. Both have extensive erosion and, in both locations, discharges of solid waste and untreated wastewater as well as sand intrusion threaten the proper functioning of the drainage channels, which are often obstructed. Drainage operations are not frequent enough to alleviate the problem, and solid waste management is not organised.

#### Project deliverables

In support of the preparation for and the implementation of the EU's Resilient Cities programme in Congo, NIRAS is preparing five engineering studies - including a pre-project summary, a detailed pre-project design, a business consultation file, an environmental and social impact assessment, and an environmental and social management plan - and providing assistance to the contracting authority for the contracting of the project management and short list of companies for the works contract.

These deliverables will contribute to the expected results of the Resilient Cities programme, namely, by

ensuring: the urban planning capacity of local authorities is strengthened; access to basic services and infrastructure is improved through the establishment of sustainable systems for the management of wastewater, rainwater and solid waste; and local governance and community participation are enhanced.

