

PRESS RELEASE BY MAPPING FOR COMMUNITIES, MAPPING FOR CHANGE, SCIENCE FOR CHANGE & THE D-NOSES PROJECT



Awful smell engulfs downtown Kampala

By Francis Emorut Added 8th June 2018 11:03 AM

The unpleasant smell forced some pedestrians to hold their noses with handkerchiefs as they rushed to catch nearby bus and taxis to their destinations.



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Kampala takes a step forward in tackling odour pollution

'Kampala NOSES' is a project which aims to raise awareness about odour pollution, a worldwide problem affecting citizens which is currently under-regulated. Until spring 2021, Kampala will be one of the ten cities in the world to develop and test a new approach to tackle odour pollution based on the engagement of communities and the collaboration of industries and the public administration. Co-funded by the European Union and the Regional Government of Barcelona (Spain), the findings of Kampala NOSES project will help to shape new odour regulations and guidelines worldwide.

Odour pollution is a global issue affecting any other capital cities such as Kampala. It is the second cause of environmental complaints after noise worldwide (DUNOD, 2005) and yet remains relatively ignored in environmental regulations. Few are the reasons for this lack of action: traditional odour pollution management ([chemical analysis](#), [artificial olfaction](#), etc.) is costly and difficult, there is a lack of standardisation in odour emission levels and human perception is complex and difficult to emulate.



As many other communities across the globe, Kampala citizens have also been complaining about odour issues. In an attempt to tackle this issue, the Kampala Capital City Authority and the National Environmental Management Authority have partnered up with a local NGO, Mapping for Communities and two international organisations, Mapping for Change (UK) and Science for Change (Spain).

While Uganda does not have any national standards for nuisance odour levels, measurements at the landfill recorded high levels of nuisance odour at 7 OU. According to a survey of regulatory agencies worldwide, an acceptable odour range is considered to be 2 OU to 7 OU (AWE, 2013). Due to the overwhelming complaints both formally and informally from citizens from different sources, the Kampala NOSES project is born to introduce new ways to record and monitor odour issues in our city Kampala which shall be accessible to all. The “*Kampala NOSES*” project is a pilot project that seeks to introduce novel ways with which to monitor and record odour issues across Kampala, with a longer-term vision of implementing new environmental reporting and governance mechanisms that are accessible to all.

Kampala joins an international network which seeks to introduce novel ways to monitor and record odour issues. Until spring 2021, it will be one of the ten cities in the world to develop and test a new approach to tackle odour pollution based on the community engagement and the collaboration of industries and the public administration. The findings will help to shape new odour regulations and guidelines which are currently scarce. The project has been funded by AMB - Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona - and co-funded by the Horizon 2020 program of the European Union - the D-NOSES project (dnoses.eu). The local partner-Mapping for Communities in partnership with KCCA is teaming up with Mapping for Change (UK) and Science for Change (Spain) to launch the “*Kampala NOSES*” project. After the success of the Science for My Health program which tackled air pollution monitoring in our city, Mapping for Communities and the Kampala Capital City Authority have started a new collaboration to implement the Kampala NOSES project - which will kick off this week, the 12th February 2020, in the first conference on “*Effective Local Action on Odour for Kampala*” that will take place at the Namirembe Guest House from 9.30h to 15.30h directed at local stakeholders to analyze the particular situation of Kampala regarding odour pollution.

The Kampala NOSES project aims at:

1. **Increasing awareness and capacities of the local authorities and NGOs** in order to influence in public policies related to odour pollution issues at Kampala
2. **Improving the monitoring of odour pollution in Kampala** by using the participative mapping from a citizen science approach through **scientific education in the schools of Kampala**
3. Designing a **pilot strategy** based on the mapping carried out in order to **tackle odour pollution in municipal markets.**

After the first conference on “*Effective Local Action on Odour for Kampala*”, the program will continue performing science education activities in 10 schools in Kampala. Children will participate in designing a methodology adapted to the local context of Kampala to record odour episodes and they will be trained in monitoring odours using participatory mapping. Furthermore, this will further contribute to the design with all stakeholders of a pilot strategy to tackle odour pollution in municipal markets.



Notes to Editors

- ***About Mapping for Communities***

Carries out research and development of new technologies, tools, platforms and processes aimed at creating improvements for the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities to achieve social and environmental sustainability

Contact: @MappingforCommunities

Mapping for Communities Facebook: @MappingforCommunities

- ***About Mapping for Change (UK)***

Mapping for Change has over 10 years' operational experience delivering citizen science projects across Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. Experience rooted in the co-design of engagement strategies and geospatial technologies to facilitate dialogue and implementation of actions at multi stakeholder levels. Works with grassroots community initiatives, international institutions and policy think tanks.

Contact: info@mappingforchange.org.uk

Mapping for Change webpage: mappingforchange.org.uk

- ***About Science for Change***

An SME born from the will to tackle societal challenges affecting communities using innovative solutions based on citizen science, participatory strategies, community engagement and co-creation processes to facilitate social innovation. It focuses on socio-environmental issues affecting citizens, or any other matters of concern, and uses a methodology based on a quadruple helix model of stakeholder engagement (public authorities and policy makers, industries and SMEs, academia, and communities, NGOs and CSOs, amongst others), to promote dialogue, increase transparency, and to co-design innovative solutions that are relevant to all the stakeholders involved.

Contact: hello@scienceforchange.eu

Science for Change webpage: scienceforchange.eu

- ***About D-NOSES (Distributed Network of Odour Sensing, Empowerment and Sustainability)***

Empowering citizens with Responsible Research and Innovation, citizen science and co-creation tools to design odour pollution control measures at local, national and global levels with CSOs, NGOs, local public authorities, odour emitting industries and academia. The overall aim of D-NOSES is to introduce odour pollution in the policy agendas at a global scale in the medium to long term (5-8 years), based on a bottom-up approach and a multi-level governance model sustained by an improved knowledge base.



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The International Odour Observatory: odourobbservatory.org

OdourCollect App: odourcollect.eu

D-NOSES webpage: dnoses.eu