Accra

Accra and its economic region is home to 4.6 million people, comprising 16 percent of Ghana’s population and contributing 25 percent to the country’s GDP. While the city faces numerous challenges related to rapid population growth and urban sprawl, those challenges are further complicated by climatic factors, including heavy rainfalls leading to regular floods. The city’s existing drainage systems are largely insufficient. Floods regularly damage critical urban infrastructure and create obstacles for high value denser development.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

01 Targeted improvements of water management systems such as extension and widening of main drains reduces Accra’s vulnerability to flood risks and climate change.

02 Given that Accra is proving itself as an emerging economic hub for entire West Africa, investments in climate resilience meet rapid market response in terms of increased economic and property development activity.

03 Replacing open drains – that are yet customary for Accra – with covered collectors frees up developable land, which may appear particularly feasible in and around the Central Business District.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

Greater Accra drainage infrastructure development plan has been elaborated; it includes coordinated measures in upstream, midstream and downstream sections of the city’s drainage basin.

Pilot area for exploring opportunities for private capital mobilization is identified. It comprises 47 hectares of underused land and open drains in the downstream section, close to Accra’s Central Business District.

CRP’s VISION:

CRP aims to facilitate a dialogue between the city and the private investors so that the latter would find feasible to cover drainage infrastructure upgrades in exchange for land and construction rights on the Accra’s evolving real estate market. Government with help of IFIs will co-invest and aid feasibility of private sector infrastructure investments.

In addition to private capital mobilization CRP provides technical assistance to Accra for managing emergency preparedness and response as well as for deploying geospatial technologies in urban resilience.

World Bank launches a lending program titled “Greater Accra Resilience and Integrated Development Project”, pending approval of The World Bank’s Board of Executive directors in September 2018.