Suhum Kroboe Cooaltar District is part of 138 districts in the Eastern province of Ghana, West Africa. Agriculture is the predominant economic activity and employs about 70% of the population. Other economic sectors in the district include technical and related works, transport, sales and service.

The lack of environmental regulation and land use planning initiatives in Suhum has spurred irresponsible developments which has created unchecked sprawl in the past 20 years. Also, because of its proximity to the mega-urban center of Accra, a large percentage of the young population have migrated there fueling Accra’s rapid urbanization trend. The current scenario favors neither Suhum nor Accra from a long term sustainable urban development point of view.

I see this multi-faceted dilemma as a design opportunity. My aim, therefore, is to introduce a new town planning concept that addresses the inherent problems of the existing town, putting in its place, a new model of sustainable development that will serve as a guiding principle for the town’s growth.

SMART-GROWTH PLANNING MODEL
SEFAKO GBOMITA
The Smart-Growth planning model is envisioned to be a mixed-use development that integrates residential, commercial, institutional and industrial uses. As a response to falling behind more competitive districts in the regional economy, this integrated approach to town planning will revive Suhum’s urban space as an asset—a place to generate wealth for the community and for private businesses to thrive.

The principles in the model will re-focus attention back to this once thriving farming community as a cultural hub, an agri-industrial center and a place of knowledge production. This will empower the disadvantaged people to achieve self-sufficiency per principle one of the hassett charter.
MIXED-INCOME HOUSING: A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE SOCIAL EQUITY BY ENABLING ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND DIGNIFIED HABITAT IN LINE WITH **PRINCIPLE 10 OF THE HASSELT CHARTER**

NATURAL LANDSCAPING DRIVES THE DESIGN MODEL AND ENABLES HOMES TO CONNECT THE COMMUNITY TO THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

A SUSTAINABLE FARMING STRATEGY FOR SELF-SUFFICIENT FOOD PRODUCTION

DEVELOPMENT PLAN: A STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

THE LACK OF EFFECTIVE REGULATORY POLICIES AND PLANNING INITIATIVES BY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY HAS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS HAMPERED SU-HUM'S PATH TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. IN MY OPINION, ANY ATTEMPT TO JUMP START THE TOWN'S ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH TO CREATE SOCIAL EQUITY AND URBAN INCLUSION AS OUTLINED IN **PRINCIPLE 4 OF THE HASSELT CHARTER MUST BE COLLABORATIVE**. MY DEVELOPMENT PLAN OFFERS A RATIONAL BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**
- Comprehensive Plan Principles and goals for the Town and neighborhoods
- Districts Planning Principles describe a planning strategy that results in a collaborative district plans.

**COLLABORATION AMONG**
- Residents
- Businesses
- Institutions
- Special Interest
- City Government

**DISTRICT PLAN**
- Comprehensive
- Issue-Specific

**CITY REVIEW**
- Mayoral and City Departmental Review
- City Council Review and Adoption

**IMPLEMENTATION**
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment
- Zoning
- Capital
- Other

SMART-GROWTH PLANNING MODEL
SEFAKO GBOMITA
NEW TECHNOLOGY MARKET CENTER: A RESOURCE TO OFFER EDUCATIONAL TOOL KITS AND CONNECT LOCAL BUSINESSES TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY