



**MIASA Thematic Conference 2022**  
**African Cities: Climate Change and the Search for Resilience**  
**University Eduardo Mondlane Maputo**  
**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**  
**October 24-26, 2022**



## Introduction

Whilst there is compelling evidence to prove that urbanization in Africa has significantly boosted development, the urbanization experience is largely a story of increasing urban poverty, poor land use planning, and inadequate socio-economic infrastructure. The urbanization pressure faced by African countries is exacerbated by the changing climate and also contributes to it. It is a challenge that concerns the entire urban environment, including conflicting imaginations of how African cities of the future should look like. While the issue of how African cities can adapt to their environment has a long history, the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards in the last decades have increased posing a threat to African cities and a realization of meaningful progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Sub-Saharan region. Global warming is making cities warmer and the urbanization process is intensifying. Coastal erosion due to rising sea levels is threatening several coastal cities in Africa, exposing them to episodic floods. Extreme weather events such as drought are forcing rural farmers to migrate to urban centers while perennial floods are displacing poorly planned neighborhoods and poor urbanists. As per the report led by Funke (2018), the dramatic situation brought by natural disasters has increased Internally Displaced Persons. Hence, population mobility is increasingly driven by climate change, particularly mobility toward the cities contributing to worsening living conditions.

Many urban dwellers in Africa today live in areas vulnerable to environmental hazards. The poor state of sanitation, ground sealing, the cutting of trees, built-up of green spaces, and agricultural lands with structures, air pollution from waste and fumes from automobiles, the use of air-conditioning systems, fuel-generators, and pollution of water bodies and wetlands are all contributing to harming the environment and the vulnerability of city dwellers (Addae & Oppelt, 2019). The poor land-use practices, more and more tarred roads with no or only a few trees, and non-adapted building materials have increased land surface temperature and contributed to the urban heat island effect. The consequences of the connections between climate change and the urban heat island effect are expected to increase the risk of poor health in cities (Kumar, 2021), while those who have the necessary revenues use more and more climate-unfriendly devices. Climate change could also affect the economic and political stability of cities in addition to negative effects on public health (Raimundo, 2021), thus the need to ascertain the linkages in these areas, its impact on lives, and the gendered implications.

However, recent urbanization and development models have sidelined discussions and development of models and strategies for this triad of urbanization, development, and climate nexus which has set Africa under insurmountable pressure and efforts at building resilience.

This conference thus seeks to open an interdisciplinary dialogue and solicit models, strategies, and prescriptions for dealing with Africa's urbanization, development, and climate pressure. It also seeks to highlight local initiatives aimed at building climate resilient cities in Africa. The key questions that the conference seeks to address include:

- To what extent is the nexus between the urbanization process and climate change impacting the lives and livelihoods of urban residents in Africa?
- Which sustainable urbanization initiatives/ indigenous knowledge/strategies exist in building climate resilient urban communities?

- What lessons could be learned from these strategies/initiatives to build sustainable cities in Africa?

**Plenary Themes:**

- a. Existing climate change models and the implications for African Cities
- b. Urbanization and climate change impact on vulnerable populations in Africa -rural vs urban.
- c. Building sustainable cities in Africa – method and strategies

**Axis and Sub-themes:**

1. Population, Urbanisation and Climate Change Nexus  
Issues:
  - Urbanisation and extreme weather events/Climate change and urban vulnerability
  - Urbanisation, migration, and climate change
  - Urbanisation, gender, and climate change
  
2. Urbanisation, Climate Change, and Societal Responses  
Issues:
  - Climate change, urban vulnerabilities, and institutional response
  - Indigenous/local knowledge in building climate-resilient society
  - Resilience to climate change: Gender perspectives
  
3. Building Climate-Resilient Urban Societies  
Issues:
  - Building climate smart /sustainable cities
  - Climate-smart agriculture (in cities)
  - Gender and climate

**Conveners:**

Prof Ines Macamo Raimundo, Department of Geography, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo Mozambique

Prof Charlotte Wrigley-Asante, Department of Geography and Resource Management, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Prof Alex Barimah Owusu, Department of Geography and Resource Management, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

The conference takes place in the framework of the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) which was funded in 2018 at the University of Ghana in Legon/Accra. The conference is part of the outreach program of MIASA in collaboration with the University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo and the Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main in Germany. MIASA is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research. For more information, please consult: <https://www.ug.edu.gh/mias-africa/node/1>

## **Program**

### **Day 1, 24 October 2022, Axis 1: Population, Urbanisation and Climate Change Nexus**

- 9:00-10:00 Welcome Addresses and Introduction by:  
Samuel Quive, Prof and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo  
Susann Baller and Grace Diabah, Directors of MIASA, University of Ghana, Accra (online)  
Marko Scholze, Coordinator for the MIASA outreach program, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main  
Conveners: Ines Macamo Raimundo, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo; Charlotte Wrigley Asante and Alex Barimah Owusu, both University of Ghana, Legon/Accra  
Morning Sessions, Chair: Ines Macamo Raimundo
- 10:00-11:00 Keynote 1:  
Amy Stambach: *African Cities: Climate Change and the Need for Accountability*
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30-13:00 Panel 1, Axis 1  
Gracious Maviza: *Differential Vulnerabilities of Female Street Entrepreneurs in Cities in the Face of Urbanization and Climate Change*  
Serigne Momar Sarr: *Urban Modernization: When Dakar Makes its Floods*  
Henrique Cau and Patricio Langa: *Family Farming and Climate Change Resilience: Understanding the Urban through the Rural*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break  
Afternoon Sessions, Chair: Alex Barimah Owusu
- 14:00-15:30 Panel 2, Axis 1  
Ambe J. Njoh: *Impact of Urbanization, Forests and Elevation on Climate Change in Africa*  
Ratsaramiafara Mamie Albertine: *Climate Change and Cities: Human Behavior Towards Urbanization, Vulnerability and Resilience Concepts in Developing Countries (Madagascar)*  
Joram Tarusarira: *Centering Sacred Worldviews against Climate-Induced Rural to Urban Migration*
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00-17:00 General Plenary Discussion on Axis 1
- 19:00 Welcome Dinner

## **Day 2, 25 October 2022, Axis 2: Urbanization, Climate Change and Societal Responses**

Morning Session, Chair: Charlotte Wrigley-Asante

9:00-10:00 Keynote 2:

Danny Mulala Simatele: *“Unlocking the Locked”*: Securing the participation of Marginalized Groups in Climate Change Governance in African urban centres – Lessons from South Africa

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Panel 3, Axis 2

Kayode Michael Samuel and Samuel Ayoola Adejube: *Redefining the Resilient Gasping Lagos Megacity: An Eco-musicological Discourse of Selected Works of Lágbájá*

Michaela Meurer and Sara Lüttich: *Towards Multiple Climate Change Conceptions and Diverging Resilience Strategies – Empirical Insights from Malawi and Mozambique*

Moubassiré Sigué: *Sustainable Cities and Communities through the Prism of an Internalization of Gendered Social Logics*

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session, Chair: Ines Macamo Raimundo

13:00-14:30 Panel 4, Axis 2

Taku Catherine Arrey-Ngang: *Urbanization And Climate Change: A Gender Perspective Of Resilience*

Etsong A. Mbang: *Fragility of African Middle Classes and Urban Risks*

Alouis Chilunjika and Pulane Mahase: *Building Climate Change Adaptability through Integrating Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge Systems in Lesotho*

14:30-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-16:00 Poster Session “Research on Climate Change in Mozambique”

Arcelia Elisa Mondlane Antonio, Sonia Cintura, Berta Joaquina Macamo, Rachid Madingue, Remigio Carlos Murela Nloco, Salomao Manuel Nicasse, Evaristo Daimone Saene

16:00-17:00 General Plenary Discussion on Axis 2

Free Evening

### **Day 3, 26 October 2022, Axis 3: Building Climate Resilient Urban Societies**

Morning Sessions, Chair: Alex Barimah Owusu

9:00-10:00 Keynote 3:

Nana Ama Klutse Brown: *Building Climate Resilient Cities*

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Panel 5, Axis 3

Elis Mavie and Simão Manuel Beira Rodrigues Dias: *Participatory Planning and Urban Resilience: Exploring Urban Tools to Address Vulnerabilities in Informal Settlements-The Case of Chamanculo C"*

Adam Kyomuhendo: *Strategic Litigation as a Tool of Resilience against Climate Change: Some Reflections*

Clayton Vhumbunu: *Climate-Smart Urban Agriculture in Windhoek, Namibia*

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

Afternoon Sessions, Chair: Charlotte Wrigley-Asante

13:00-14:30 Panel 4, Axis 2

Tadey Pirc: *Towards a Post-Rationalist Concept of Development: Hybrid Landscapes and the Future of African Cities*

Yaw Agyeman Bofo: *Exploring Stakeholders' Perceptions on the Viability and Barriers to the Adoption of Vertical and Rooftop Farming in Accra, Ghana*

Pauline Mateveke Kazembe: *Gender, Urbanization and Climate Change: Depictions from Selected Zimbabwean Women Creative Writers*

14:30-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-16:00 General Plenary discussion on Axis 3, Final Remarks and Closing

16:00 City Tour Maputo

19:00 Farewell Dinner

## Participants (in alphabetical order)

1. Samuel Ayoola Adejube, PhD-candidate, African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
2. Arcelia Elisa Mondlane Antonio, PhD-candidate in Population and Development, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
3. Prof Carlos Arnaldo, Centre for African Studies, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
4. Dr Taku Catherine Arrey-Ngang, Literary Studies, Cameroon Women for Peace Movement (CAWOPEM), HIBMAT, University Buea, Cameroon
5. Dr Yaw Agyeman Boafo, Climate Change and Sustainability Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
6. Prof Nana Ama Klutse Brown, Physics, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
7. Henrique Simione Cau, PhD-candidate in Development and Society, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
8. Angela Chade, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), Maputo, Mozambique
9. Dr Alouis Chilunjika, Public Management and Governance, National University of Lesotho, Maseru, Lesotho
10. Sonia Cintura, PhD-candidate, Development Studies, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
11. Simão Manuel Beira Rodrigues Dias, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), Maputo, Mozambique
12. Siyaxola Gadu, PhD-candidate, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
13. Dr Rogers J. M. Hansine, Geography, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
14. Omar Khan, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), Maputo, Mozambique
15. Dr Pauline Mateveke Kazembe, English Studies, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
16. Adam Kyomuhendo, PhD-candidate, Law, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
17. Prof Patricio Langa, Sociology / Education, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
18. Sara Lüttich, PhD-candidate, Sociology, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany
19. Dr Gracious Maviza, Development Studies, National University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe / University of Johannesburg, South Africa
20. Prof Ambe Jonathan Njoh, Geoscience/ Planning Studies/ International Affairs, University of South Florida, USA
21. Prof Alex Barimah Owusu, Geography and Resource Management, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
22. Berta Joaquina Macamo, PhD-candidate, Technology, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
23. Rachid Madingue, PhD-candidate, Population and Development, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
24. Sara Márquez Martín, Architects without Borders Spain (ASF-Es), Maputo, Mozambique
25. Elis Mavie, Architect and Urban Planner, WSUP (water and sanitation for the urban poor) Maputo, Mozambique
26. Salomao Manuel Nicasse, PhD-candidate, Anthropology, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique
27. Etsong A. Mbang, PhD-candidate, Sociology, University of Coimbra, Portugal
28. Dr Michaela Meurer, Anthropology, Philipps University Marburg, Germany
29. Remigio Carlos Murela Nloco, PhD-candidate, Population and Development, University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique