



PROGRAMME

Register for RISE Africa 2021 Action Festival and sign up for multiple sessions at once [here](#), or sign up for individual sessions below.

Core Sessions

Africa is the 21st century changemaker – global outcomes of sustainable urban development

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

24 May 2021 - 10:30 - 12:30 Central African Time

African Union Agenda 2063 offers a roadmap for our continent's future. The Africa we want is a global powerhouse, standing out champion of just, inclusive communities and leading innovative sustainable solutions that reframes resource production and consumption. The Africa we want develops inclusive green industries that foster economic recovery and support youth employment and the empowerment of women, building strong regional collaboration and solidarity. The Africa we want hosts thriving cities that preserve cultural identities and work with and for their people.

Africa is the next global changemaker, whose development will determine whether we meet regional and global sustainability and equity goals. In this session, we explore key trends, movements and developments in our cities that are influencing global agendas. We unpack the emergence of new regional strategies and goals such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, the implementation of Agenda 2063, and the localisation of the SDG's and Paris Agreement. Through the lenses of urbanisation, youth and women's participation, trade and governance, we deliberate on the development trajectory of Africa, and the vital role of its cities. [REGISTER](#)

Shaping and owning African urban narratives through literature, art and movement building

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

25 May 2021 - 10:30 - 12:30 Central African Time

What is the role of art, literature, imagery, dance, and voice in drawing attention to, and shaping, urban identities, cultures, lifestyles, aspirations and urban environments? Who are the influencers who can shape new movements for African urban sustainability? How can creative expression and narrative be used as the basis for city and community building? How can storytelling complement scientific approaches for sustainable urban development?

Amid myriad negative urban motifs of African cities, this session tangles with questions of representation, participation and voice in defining African urban narratives, and draws out how celebration can be a valuable approach to reclaiming visions of African cities. The session highlights voices from the creative sphere and how they can or are contributing to shaping and owning urban African narratives using media, literature, photography and artistic expressions. [REGISTER](#)

Building the future now – How our cities are pushing the boundaries of planning, governance, finance and technology

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

26 May 2021 - 10:30 - 12:30 Central African Time

The opportunity to shape sustainable and resilient urban futures that we want starts with planning and action in the present. For these plans to come to fruition, there is need for conducive enabling environments that empower urban citizens, leaders, private entities, and other stakeholders to collaborate and take action.

Whereas the combination of finance, governance and three elements

can lead to positive outcomes, sometimes if they are misused, could lead to widening the inequality gaps, inhibit access to social, economic and political opportunities (particularly decision-making) and the ability to participate in, and leverage, the benefits associated with urban living.

This session will highlight the initiatives, opportunities, processes and projects that are underway in cities more especially emphasizing the importance of good governance, accessible finance and technology in shaping the outcomes as well as the kind of sustainable and equitable African city that we aspire to live and thrive in. [REGISTER](#)

Next Urban Champions* - meet the innovators, practitioners and thinkers who are revolutionising African cities!

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

27 May 2021 - 10:30 - 12:30 Central African Time

The world as we know it is changing drastically due to influences such as COVID-19, urbanisation and climate change, requiring the world to adapt and be proactive about shaping sustainable, stable futures for all. African cities are not locked into traditional thinking – rather, our cities can benefit from lessons in other places and can define their own development trajectories. This new era provides space for African solutions led by innovators, entrepreneurs practitioners and urban champions.

Innovative thinkers and practitioners are questioning the stated norms, dreaming of new futures, rejecting the status quo and bringing forward fresh local ideas. They are making impactful changes and bringing actions to life to shape sustainable, inclusive urban futures.

This session will showcase a number of urban champions from across the African continent who are transforming African cities. We highlight works in emerging sectors such as mobility, health, food, waste, procurement, and more. Come, engage and be inspired by these Next Urban Champions – and join the movement. [REGISTER](#)

Celebrating our urban imaginaries: a joint reflection and commitment to action

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

28 May 2021 - 10:30 - 12:30 Central African Time

The closing RISE Africa Session invites you to join us to synthesise and reflect on the RISE Africa Festival and chart a route for future RISE Africa community activities. [REGISTER](#)

Networking Sessions

24-28 May 2021 - 12:30-13:00 Central African Time

These daily sessions are informal opportunities to meet fellow practitioners from around the continent. They will take place for half an hour each day of the festival. Join us, bring your lunch, share your ideas and projects, and exchange contact details if desired. We will have speed networking, micro-introductions, topic boards, and more. [REGISTER](#)

Festival Sessions

DAY ONE

MONDAY 24 MAY 2021

Let's play CITOPOLY! The boardgame for overcoming institutional bottlenecks and delivering social value Action Session

Hosted by: South African Cities Network
24 May 2021 - 13:00-15:00 Central African Time

Citopoly is accessible to all and sheds light on systemic, institutional and societal issues facing built environment practitioners and the network of implementers in built environment projects (civil society, private sector, politicians etc). It brings together different perspectives and nuances on obstacles faced in building societal vs institutional value and is a great conversation starter for how all of society can work together for better outcomes. Since it is based on learning from a project of case studies, it's a great way to democratize knowledge and for people to absorb its key messages in a fun way. [REGISTER](#)

Resilient Freetown: a virtual city tour

Field Trip or Tour

Hosted by: Catholic Relief Services
24 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), through funding from the European Union Delegation, is implementing the #EUStandsWithSalone - Supporting Freetonians confront COVID-19. This is a 2.23 million euros program with a 12 month duration. It is intended to support the efforts of Freetonians to prevent and manage the COVID-19 outbreak in Freetown with a special focus on 350,000 residents in informal settlements. The program is alignment with the Freetown City Council's COVID-19 response plan and is holistic in nature with interventions ranging from provision of handwashing stations, setting new isolation & containment centers, local production and distribution of masks, training for emergency response staff, clearing of water drainages to mitigate against flood risks, promotion of urban farming, as well as multi-media campaigns.

The proposed virtual tour will take participants from all over the world to various project sites across Freetown to learn about how the Freetown City Council and partners have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and are moving towards a resilient recovery. [REGISTER](#)

Creating Circular Economy Frameworks for your City Governments Training

Hosted by: Ellen MacArthur Foundation
24 May 2021 - 13:00-15:30 Central African Time

This training session will equip city government officials and city change makers with an understanding of:

- (i) why we need to change the way urban systems are planned, designed, and financed, and how they are made, used, and repurposed;
- (ii) how the circular economy can help to address mayoral priorities such as housing, mobility, job creation & economic development as well as tackling global challenges like climate change;
- (iii) how the circular economy can be used as a framework to reimagine our cities;
- (iv) examples of the circular economy in practise at the local-level supported by city governments; and
- (v) how city governments are uniquely positioned to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. [REGISTER](#)

Transforming City Underpasses: The case of Cape Town's Tienie Meyer Underpass

Tour and Action session

Hosted by: The Greater Tygerberg Partnership
24 May 2021 - 13:00-16:00 Central African Time

Globally, underpasses are being transformed into active, bright communal urban spaces. In Bellville, Cape Town, the Tienie Meyer underpass is a dark, unsafe environment for pedestrians, commuters and traders.

Bellville is Cape Town's secondary city. The Bellville public transport interchange (PTI) hosts around 400 000 trips every day, with commuters and travellers arriving on multiple modes of transport from across the Cape Town metropole. The underpass is located adjacent to the PTI,

and is a pedestrian route leading from the PTI into the Bellville CBD. In addition, Bellville hosts an active informal trading economy, and around 500 students who live in residences throughout the year.

Transforming the Tienie Meyer underpass from a dark, hostile, unsafe underpass into a positive, welcoming and attractive pedestrian-friendly space on an important pedestrian route from one of the busiest public transport interchanges in the Western Cape

The underpass holds the potential for opportunities for economic activity and life in public spaces. This session seeks radical, creative but implementable solutions to bring the underpass to life, using colour, texture, infrastructure and lighting.

The outcomes from the session will be used to inform the development of a cohesive public realm strategy in Bellville. Importantly, the session will encourage the participation of members of the Bellville community who come from all walks of life. [REGISTER](#)

Financing Gender-Sensitive Climate Action in African Cities Action Session

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa
24 May 2021 - 15:00-17:00 Central African Time

Across societies the impacts of climate change affect women and men differently, and evidences show that women are disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of climate change, especially in the African continent. A Yale study shows that countries with more female politicians and a more balanced female representation in national parliaments pass more ambitious and stringent climate change policies. Therefore, there is a need to encourage the participation of women in politics and in leadership roles with the local authorities and communities, especially to develop gendered sensitive approach to climate change.

The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) and the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) acknowledges those challenges and the crucial role women have in climate change adaptation and mitigation through their knowledge and understanding of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions and to come up with practical solutions. By proposing to mainstream gender and climate action into urban policy, through developing gender-segregated data, gender relevant climate action and promoting inclusive participatory processes, these initiatives highlight the need to incorporate gender equality and women empowerment into the operational responses to climate change at the local level, to develop more resilient and low carbon cities. However, cities in Sub-Saharan Africa lack funding and financial support for developing climate action, and especially financing gender relevant climate action in order to reverse the underinvestment in gender equality in the economic infrastructure sectors, and to improve opportunities for women to participate in the green economy.

This session, through a discussion between female experts and political leaders, will explore the existing ways to finance gender sensitive climate projects, discuss what needs to be done to raise awareness of available financial and technical support for gender integration; funding policies that facilitate the implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and action; and the gender gap in access to and benefit from climate finance in order to facilitate access to finance for gender relevant climate action, and how to integrate these recommendations into the REFELA and the CoM SSA initiatives. [REGISTER](#)

Reimagining urban water and sanitation service delivery: Innovations to shift the Status-Quo

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa in partnership with Water Research Commission (WRC)
24 May 2021 - 15:00-17:30 Central African Time

Access to water and sanitation services in urban settlements is vastly unequal with formal housing providing potable water from taps and flush toilets while informal settlements may have shared or no facilities. With this status quo having persisted over the years how far have we come:

- are we discussing this and moving towards a solution of bridging the gap between the two?
- have we done enough to provide solutions?
- are we hearing equally from the have's and have nots'?

The session aims to reflect on the current experiences of urban informal and formal settlements and the inherent challenges and opportunities

and share solutions to improve access to quality of water and sanitation through appropriate innovations. [REGISTER](#)

Urban Artificial Intelligence (AI): Enabling Just Cities in Africa

Action Session

Hosted by: *smart & future cities laboratory for sustainable urban development - the Cairo charter project*
24 May 2021 - 15:00-17:00 Central African Time

Technology companies are planning with governments in African cities to construct and advance smart city technologies. In Egypt, the government is already planning for 20 smart cities where digitized infrastructure, services and planning will be implemented. With the advent of Covid-19, prospects for new digital services and infrastructural transformations have been accelerated, while bringing new opportunities to combine more disruptive innovations in urban planning with advanced technological capacity.

In this context, a team from the Urban AI network in collaboration with the Smart and Future Cities Laboratory for Sustainable Urban Solution (SFCL Lab), an urban planning innovation hub at Cairo's Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams university, are working on developing a framework for Urban AI focused on ecological capacity and environmental and social justice. The aim of the framework is to ensure and guide equitable and ethical distribution of forward resources. This charter can be deployed in urban planning, design, and policy projects across Cairo, the continent and beyond.

In this workshop, we seek insights and discussions at the intersection of AI and urbanism, to support the development of an African urbanism AI charter via a design research method combining experts and community innovators focused on the following questions: How can AI play a role in enabling smart cities in Africa to be not only technologically equipped but ecologically sustainable, environmentally ethical, and socially just? How might AI applications across scales support, and be accountable for, environmental justice and social equity? What guiding principles can support planners, regulators, and innovators in doing this work? The workshop will co-construct insight and ideation for a broader Urban AI framework for Africa, building on insights and applications from the communities and cultures represented by the workshop participants.

[REGISTER](#)

Memories and the City - a virtual tour of a Lagos building

Field Trip or Tour

Hosted by: *Open House Architectural Foundation*
24 May 2021 - 15:00-17:00 Central African Time

Taking a tour of a fascinating building in the city of Lagos, to explore the memories this building holds and continues to share. [REGISTER](#)

What is Net Zero? Bringing African buildings into the future

Training

Hosted by: *Marc Sherratt, Sustainability Architects (MSSA)*
24 May 2021 - 17:00-18:30 Central African Time

This session will cover the overall definitions of Net Zero in terms of the Green Building Council of South Africa's four categories being Carbon, Waste, Ecology and Water, and how these apply to African buildings of the future. [REGISTER](#)



DAY TWO - AFRICA DAY TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021

Africa's Great Green Wall: Can cities take it to new heights?

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: *ICLEI*
25 May 2021 - 13:00-15:00 Central African Time

This interactive session will introduce the phenomenon known as the The Great Green Wall or Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel and investigate and explore the crucial role that cities can potentially play. Cities, being at the forefront of development and modern life as we know it could be the link needed to elevate the GGW initiative. This session will highlight the benefits of having cities and their stakeholders as key enablers to the success of the GGW initiative, in addition to why they need to be considered important connectors in the initiatives long-term success.

The kickstart of the Decade of Action provides an ideal opportunity to link and merge forces across boundaries towards collaborative action. The GGW objectives stretch beyond just the planting of trees, as it is also envisaged that the holistic social change will emerge seeing increase in food security, reduced poverty and resilience to climate change are essential co-benefits. Linked to this is the realisation and drive towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level. The high-level objectives of the GGW initiative encapsulates those of the SDGs, highlighting the importance of the continued need for biodiversity and natures for a sustainable urban future.

The GGW as a mosaic of green and productive landscapes also draws direct ties to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration toward preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people. [REGISTER](#)

Mapping Voices: What's the story behind Food, Water and Energy in your city?

Action Session

Hosted by: *The Nature of Cities*
25 May 2021 - 13:00-15:00 Central African Time

This Action Session brings together people from all over the world to tell the stories of Food, Water and Energy in their cities. Tell us about a moment, an experience, a challenge, an action, an impact, a demand, a frustration, a joy, a project, a desire, and or anything that is relevant to the subject within your urban context. They can be fictional, or not, they can be written as a micro essay, a perspective or point of view, opinion piece, a statement, a poem, or any other form that facilitates expressing your story. Stories can be as short as one sentence and can be no longer than 500 words. They are crafted by participants before the session starts and, after a brief introduction from the session leaders, these stories are read and shared among all of us by each other their authors. All participants are extended an open invitation to be as creative as possible. Depending on the size of the group, we will read the stories in one large group or in smaller breakout groups to make sure all of the stories are read. These stories will then be published on a storytelling atlas hosted by The Nature of Cities as part of the Belmont Forum and Future Earth funded PEGASUS funded project, GOFWEN. We welcome all ages and backgrounds to this session. [REGISTER](#)

Learning from and across African cities: Intersectional pedagogies for transformative change

Action Session

Hosted by: *"Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality" Programme in partnership with Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre, Ardhi University, and Makerere University*
25 May 2021 - 13:00-16:00 Central African Time

African cities are learning engines, yet, their pedagogic capacity to activate transformative change is still untapped. This session reflects on transformative pedagogic practices that mobilise learning on forward-thinking ideas and impactful action for just urban development across African cities. Aiming to bridge the gap between social movements, grassroots organisations and progressive academic institutions across urban Africa, this session brings together critical actors in urban pedagogy as a 'community of practice' to share their experiences in generating transformative change through intersectional pedagogies. In doing so, participants are invited to reflect collectively on the key pedagogic principles and practices required to support the next generation of urban champions to effect radical change towards urban justice.

Rather than using teaching methods transacted in classrooms as an entry point, this workshop will stimulate thinking through a variety of urban domains, where pedagogies are practiced on the ground through mobilisation, activism and advocacy. We seek to facilitate learning across these domains to overcome the digital divide and to collectively deliberate on the underlying principles and aspirations that enable these pedagogies to be transformative. Building on this collective reflection, the output of this session will be a Decalogue or set of pedagogic principles to guide pluralistic and transdisciplinary learning processes for the next generation of urban champions in Africa. [REGISTER](#)

Designing Playful Cities with and for Children

Training

Hosted by: Play Africa

25 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

At Play Africa we believe children are able to participate meaningfully in placemaking and they have the power to be inventors, makers, designers and creators themselves.

Play Africa is creating an open-source “toolkit,” which will support local adaptation and implementation of Play Africa’s Our Ideal World curriculum. Our Ideal World is a flexible, adaptable education workshop designed by Play Africa for children between the ages of 7 and 12 that teaches creative problem solving. Play Africa’s customised curriculum uses an adaptation of the “Design Thinking” process used by the Stanford d.school to teach children to understand social challenges, and how to generate, prototype and test possible solutions that can be shared more widely.

Join us for a training in our unique child-focused approach to design thinking and placemaking with and for children. [REGISTER](#)

The 100% Renewables Cities and Regions Roadmap: Lessons from Kenya

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

25 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

Taking the learnings from the 100% Renewables Cities and Regions Roadmap (or 100% RE) project, we will host a panel discussion of our Kenyan experts and counterparts from the 100% RE project - from local authorities to national level stakeholders - and lead a discussion around some of the barriers and enablers of implementing a roadmap towards 100% renewable energy in the county of Kisumu. [REGISTER](#)

A Circulars Dialogue: Tell us what your city needs to support its Circular Economy interventions

Action Session

Hosted by: ICLEI

25 May 2021 - 15:00-17:00 Central African Time

This regional ‘Circulars Dialogues’ will be organised in the form of a roundtable inviting technical staff and stakeholders from the ‘leading cities’ of the ICLEI Circulars Africa Hub. We will hear about their planned circular economy interventions, collect needs and consolidate the support required in the form of projects plans. [REGISTER](#)

Driving electrified public transport networks in Africa: Opportunities for public-private partnerships

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: Transport for Cairo

25 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

Africa needs much more vehicle transport on its road to prosperity. Transport investments will determine whether Africa heads towards an inequitable, carbon-heavy development trap or a much more equitable zero-carbon path. In this session we explore how the aligning interests of public and private sectors in Africa present our cities with an opportunity to become global drivers of clean and equitable mobility. [REGISTER](#)

Cultural Aesthetics + Urbanization - how art, music, architecture, food, and language can drive Africa's inclusive urbanisation

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: Surge Africa

25 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

This session looks at the influence of cultural heritage in our society. The interactive session examines the role of cultural identity in how we view and interact with cultural aesthetics like art, music, architecture, food, and language. To explore ways that our intrinsic cultural values can shape the exponential growth African cities are experiencing to retain our originality and our sense of identity. The session will bring together architect, visual artist and social entrepreneurs to elaborate on the importance of infusing cultural heritage in our cities, now more than ever. Cultural Aesthetics + Urbanization will touch base on risks of urbanization to indigenous peoples which could potentially lead to marginalization, social discrimination, and displacement. We will explore measures that can be incorporated to minimize these risks, and the numerous ways adhering to heritage can pay tribute to indigenous

people through conservation of knowledge, medical skills, local arts, languages and natural resources and so on. [REGISTER](#)

Decolonizing urban taboos through celebration - a reflection on improving water and sanitation

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: OVERDUE “Tackling the sanitation taboo across urban Africa”
25 May 2021 - 17:00-18:30 Central African Time

This session explores the potential of celebration and performance to catalyse public discussion and action around urban taboos in African cities. Calls to decolonize public debates in urban Africa have made the case for re-centering discussions on matters essential to the women, men, girls and boys, who make and inhabit urban spaces. Numerous participatory approaches and bottom-up processes have been set up to voice endogenous concerns and re-ground interventions amidst tremendous power asymmetries, and exogenous constraints. But what about urban taboos, understood both as subjects which are difficult to debate publicly and as social norms which govern acceptable behaviours? By nature, taboos are often unspoken. They might serve purposes of protection and cleanness or restrict some practices and relations. They might silence the existence and experience of residents and institutions to the profit of some and the detriment of others. In most cases they do not make it to political agendas, and are thus reproduced, carried over generations, without public and collective reappraisal.

In this session we propose to explore celebration and performance as means to decolonize discussions and tackle taboos across African cities. The session will draw on insights from the OVERDUE project, which interrogates sanitation taboos in urban Africa, and has to this end organized sanitation festivals in the cities of Beira, Mwanza and Freetown. The session will further engage in a dialogue with other experiences of celebration and performance which have catalysed public discussions on taboos surrounding disability, sexual violence, racism, homosexuality, menstrual pain, death, and infertility. [REGISTER](#)

Co-developing climate information for decision making through podcasts: Experience from 9 southern African cities

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: START International

25 May 2021 - 17:00-18:30 Central African Time

This session focuses on a podcast series being produced by START, the STARTcast, which highlights learnings from the Future Resilience for African Cities And Lands (FRACTAL) program (2015-2021), and especially on the transdisciplinary approaches implemented across all aspects of the program. Throughout the project, FRACTAL has worked to consider how decision makers in nine southern African cities can access and use robust, timely climate information in order to help them make sound climate resilience and adaptation planning decisions.

STARTcast season 2 is currently in production and the first episode is due to be aired in May 2021. Topics for the season include: climate information distillation and climate risk narratives; city learning labs; establishing a network of embedded researchers; and implementing city learning exchanges. FRACTAL has applied various transdisciplinary approaches throughout these activities, and these are being unpacked over the course of the series. The season will also feature insights from FRACTAL’s funders as well as highlights of transdisciplinary research pursued in other Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) projects.

For this RISE session, START and our partners at FRACTAL have a dual aim of spotlighting the rich diversity of transdisciplinary work that the FRACTAL project has implemented in African cities and to explore the development of a podcast as a medium to share impactful learning and research results. Using soundbites from the podcast, the session will demonstrate how the podcasts were engendered as a creative output through which learnings from the FRACTAL project could be shared with a wider audience. [REGISTER](#)

We are all Africans (WAAA) Podcast: The Power of Storytelling

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: SUBTILE

25 May 2021 - 17:00-18:30 Central African Time

A safe space for Africans with a wide range of backgrounds to discuss their being in a globalized world. [REGISTER](#)



DAY THREE WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

Advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus: Responding to Rapid Urban Population Growth and Displacement

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: UN-Habitat and MMC (Mayors Migration Council)
26 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

Some cities in Burkina Faso and other African cities have tripled or doubled their population within the last year, due to increased violence and armed conflict. In addition of climate change impacts in the region, many people have seek refuge in cities. In a huge wave of solidarity, many displaced persons, refugees and people in vulnerable situations find themselves in tents or other informal dwellings, often in underserved, unplanned or risk-prone areas of cities. The lack of access to basic services, to health and education services as well as food insecurity has put many IDPs in vulnerable situations. As the situation becomes protracted, local authorities with very limited resources are struggling to provide for the people in need. Humanitarian actors, in cooperation with governments at different levels, have provided fast track humanitarian aid, but as the situation continues to aggravate, innovative approaches, that ensure more sustainable solutions for the inclusion of displaced people in cities will need to be found – aiming to not only improve the situation of displaced, but also of host communities, including environmental considerations and resilience to climate change impacts, which are also strongly impacting cities in West and Central Africa (drought and flooding). Participatory planning processes will also support the re-establishment of social cohesion, as all voices will be heard. [REGISTER](#)

LAUNCH: Masters in Sustainable Urban Practice

Hosted by: African Centre for Cities

26 May 2021 – 13:00-14:00 Central African Time

The complex, multi-dimensional demands of our rapidly urbanising world require holistic, inter-disciplinary thinking and practice. However traditional professional paradigms and often-siloed institutions seem doomed to replicate the entrenched patterns and practices of path-dependent urban infrastructure provision and management.

To overcome the often-fragmented ways in which urban questions are framed, institutionalised, and engaged by varied levels of government, citizens, civil society organisations, and private sector actors, we need a new kind of urban practitioner, who can work across practices, professional norms, hierarchies, sectors and urban problems.

To meet this need, the African Centre for Cities (ACC), UCT, launches a new Masters in Sustainable Urban Practice, which seeks to cultivate urban integrators who are able to discern opportunities for integration, and can build the necessary coalitions for change; who are confident in varied cultures of communication and can build bridges between sectors, fields, and scales of urban practice.

Join ACC for the launch of the programme as Prof Edgar Pieterse, director of the African Centre for Cities, and South African Research Chair in Urban Policy, and programme convener Dr Mercy Brown-Luthango introduce this exciting new degree. [REGISTER](#)

Building healthy relationships between civil society and local governments to boost climate action

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

26 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) and Local Governments both have a vital role to play in local climate action that is equitable and inclusive because they operate at the local and hyperlocal level. CSO's are well placed to advocate for the rights of citizens and the access to city resources for marginalised and disadvantaged groups, while local governments have the mandate to drive policy and institutional processes that enable livable, safe and healthy cities. Both actors bring valuable insights and a comparison of lived experiences and expert knowledge which are important for sustainable, inclusive and contextually appropriate local climate action. However, effective inclusion of urban communities and social movement groups in local planning and decision making is not the norm.

This is often due to the government not having the mechanisms and/or resources to engage effectively with diverse communities and civil

society groups. Sadly, there are multiple examples in African cities of “closing or shrinking civic space”, which restricts the possibility of civil society's ability to influence decision making and to voice opinions and insights. Improved and enabling processes and conditions for civil and social society movement engagement in urban decision making is therefore desperately needed.

This session will explore the multi-level governance processes required to build systems for meaningful collaboration between local governments and civil society organisations for collective change. The session forms part of the Scaling up and Empowering Movements for Climate Change Advocacy (SEMCCA) project, hosted by ICLEI Africa and funded by Urban Movements Innovation Fund (UMIF). [REGISTER](#)

Forecast based financing for disaster prone cities

Training

Hosted by: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

26 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

From cyclones to droughts, African cities have suffered enormous setbacks due to predictable natural hazards. In this session we will explore an innovative approach to disaster preparedness that uses impact based forecasting coupled anticipatory financing mechanism for early actions. [REGISTER](#)

The role of Higher Education in the transition to a Circular Economy Action Session

Hosted by: Ellen MacArthur Foundation

26 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

Are you working in or with an African University or Higher Education Institution? Join the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the African Leadership University to discuss how, together, we can harness the power of higher education to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in African cities.

Across the globe, universities and higher education institutions are embracing the circular economy and helping to lead and influence the necessary global transition. This is being seen in not only what they teach or the research being undertaken but how they manage their campuses and the role students are playing in driving forward this agenda. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has been working with a global higher education network for the past 10 years and has now partnered with the African Leadership University to help support the key role higher education can play in African cities. This interactive session will engage participants on how to harness the power of higher education in achieving circular economy and sustainable cities across the African continent.

Participants in this session will hear insights from across the world on the role the sector is playing in this transition and from the African Leadership University on their plans to embed a circular economy throughout each student's journey. There will be an opportunity to share what's happening at other higher education institutions across the continent and for participants to help shape and develop a circular economy higher education network for Africa.

Through a 2yr MAVA funded project, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the African Leadership University will work together to explore the higher education circular economy ambitions in Africa, understand the available learning opportunities, deliver a series of learning / programmes and build a network for the sector. [REGISTER](#)

Creating Freetown's Regional Water Fund: Investing in Nature Based solutions

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: Catholic Relief Services

26 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

Over the past two years, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been working with more than a dozen local and national partners in Sierra Leone to lay the groundwork for the Western Area Peninsula Water Fund, which will facilitate investments in nature-based solutions for the protection and restoration of the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP), ensuring sustainability of the Western Area Peninsula's water supply for future generations.

As a first step towards establishing the Water Fund, a Business Case demonstrating the potential economic impact and expected benefits of a water fund supporting land conservation measures in and around the WAPNP has been developed. Additionally, a number of pilot demonstration projects are currently underway and the governance

structure of the Water Fund is being established.

This panel discussion will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, ranging from high-level government officials to community leaders, to discuss how investments in nature-based solutions facilitated through a Water Fund will help Freetown and the Western Area Peninsula tackle water scarcity and resilience challenges. [REGISTER](#)

Linking Science, Policy and Society in the pursuit of sustainable urban development

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

26 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

One of the limitations of urban development in African Cities is the siloed nature of urban planning concepts and designs. The limited interaction between Science, Policy and Societal domains in urban development, leading the precarious development, define most Cities on the continent. Even when there is some level of interaction, it is limited in its scope and nature to inspire any desired change. The lack of proactive action on urban development in Africa leading to what some scholars refer to as secondary Cities is not just about the lack of finance to roll out major infrastructure but the lack of knowledge that could inspire the new forms of change desired. The desired knowledge to bring about this change is locked up in singular domains, requiring innovative approaches to unlock. The session brings together scientist, policy and social actor to engage on the broad question of how to integrative approaches can complement each other in the pursuit of sustainable urban development in Africa. [REGISTER](#)

A New Placemaking Agenda for African Cities

Action Session

Hosted by: Our Future Cities

26 May 2021 - 15:00-17:00 Central African Time

Placemaking is integral to ensure the quality of life of residents and to create a public realm that supports both formal and informal activities, needs and expressions. This session aims to explore various ways in which public spaces have been transformed, indirectly, through other means rather than an urban planning or urban design intervention. We intend to showcase examples where placemaking is the outcome, both unplanned or spontaneous (even surprising). We also hope to learn from these projects where placemaking is the outcome of an activation, built process, active community participation, or event, rather than a by-product of technical intervention. Our goal is to celebrate place-makers and public space champions working across the African continent through various lenses and processes. Through reflecting on each project, most of which are at the community scale, we hope to provoke similar action that could be applied in different contexts. These stories provide hope for future creative idea generation around more effective public space provision and placemaking while allowing placemaking to be embedded more authentically into city life and city building. [REGISTER](#)

A new model for Urban Park Leadership in Africa: The future of Cape Town's Elizabeth Park

Field trip and Action Session (in Person)

Hosted by: The Greater Tygerberg Partnership

26 May 2021 - 15:00-18:00 Central African Time

Elizabeth Park is a large park in the centre of the Bellville CBD, in Cape Town. The park has great 'bones' but, despite extensive redevelopment programme, the park remains underused and neglected. A canal running through the park has become a litter trap, vegetation is not well maintained or has died off, and the park is often locked to prevent the space from becoming a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

This session brings together multi-disciplinary participants who will be challenged to design a bold model of park leadership supported by an activation plan that calls for it be used and ultimately for people in public space to be trusted. This vision should that can foster a landscape of trust for the park's users. Attracting partners to this type of conversation will be key.

The session is designed to attract participants that can imagine how to use great infrastructure to actively and more boldly serve communities, by creating conduits for social connections.

Given time constraints, the session will be separated into two parts, set across two different days: a walkabout and an action session.

Participants will be guided on a walk through the park to identify not only the current realities, but more importantly, the multiple opportunities that exist for a future Elizabeth Park. Participants will be encouraged to view the park's existing conditions as a blank canvas for developing an exciting, sustainable, whole-of-community future for the park.

The outcomes from the session will be used to inform a project hosted by the Greater Tygerberg Partnership to reactivate the park into a lively, safe, active public space in the heart of a busy CBD. [REGISTER](#)

Private Sector Financing Options for Resilient Urban Infrastructure Action Session

Hosted by: Private Financing Advisory Network

26 May 2021 - 17:00 Central African Time

Public funds are not sufficient for the scale of urban infrastructure that will be required for cities to deal with climate change. Innovative ways of bringing in the private sector are crucial if private funds are to be accessed. Join the Private Financing Advisory Network for an interactive discussion exploring the potential role of the private sector in building resilient urban infrastructure. [REGISTER](#)

Mind-mapping a Just Yaounde: A laboratory of bold solutions

Action Session

Hosted by: SOGEFI

26 May 2021 - 17:00-19:00 Central African Time

The purpose of this session is to bring together several actors and stakeholders in the city to find solutions capable of driving real sustainable and local development. The aim is to take into account the issues and challenges that revolve around the development of cities in order to seize opportunities for urban resilience. [REGISTER](#)

DAY FOUR

THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021

Partnering to develop shared space in Johannesburg

Field Trip or Tour

Hosted by: Centre on African Public Spaces, City of Johannesburg

27 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

Jeppe Park or as it is formally called Giliflan Park is in one of the most complex areas in the Inner City of Johannesburg. This public space has been developed over many years through extensive community activism and engagement with the City of Johannesburg to develop a public space that functions for multiple competing interest groups. During the week it is used by local schools and nursery schools, at lunch time by factory workers, in the evenings and weekends by sports groups, including skating tours and for decades on Sundays for traditional Ngoma dancing. This has resulted in a collaborative design process with an award recognition landscape design to accommodate these multiple community actions. These actions continue to shape this vital public space in an Inner City neighbourhood that has the dynamics of informal settlements, hijacked buildings, mining hostels, declining industrial employment opportunities, gender based violence and Inner City regeneration and gentrification. This park is a microcosm of the issues, challenges and successes in building shared public spaces in one of the world's most unequal societies. [REGISTER](#)

Building Localised Community Data: The case of Tanzania

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: University of Turku

27 May 2021 - 13:00-15:00 Central African Time

This session aims to uncover how the Resilience Academy has shifted the data needs-to-end user narrative through partnering with Tanzanian universities and harnessing innovating data collection processes with students to produce high-quality low-cost locally verified data and information for decision making, innovations, and more. We hope that the participants will be inspired with new ideas for cost and time-effective high-quality localized data collection, spurring local jobs and employment, that could support their programs and work. [REGISTER](#)

A photographic dialogue: exploring urban metabolism and informality through the #HiddenFlows exhibition

Action Session

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

27 May 2021 - 13:00-15:00 Central African Time

How are urban resources accessed, moved and used in your African city?

The Hidden Flows photography exhibition explored this question through crowdsourced and commissioned imagery as a way to visualise and understand the urban metabolism in African cities. Urban metabolism is the flow of resources such as food, water, energy, waste and people through the city. Informal and decentralised urban resource flows are widespread in African cities and, because of their informal nature, most of the way in which they move through cities and the infrastructures that move them go unnoticed.

The Hidden Flows photography exhibition seeks to bring to light the people, resources and infrastructures which support our lives, yet go unseen – either because they are literally buried, covered or hidden, or because we take them for granted despite them being right in front of us. It highlights that if data is required to make decisions, but no data is available to describe how private individuals enrich our urban economies, then these people and these systems are effectively rendered invisible. Hidden Flows therefore aimed to uncover and make visible these informal and hidden processes, to support alternative knowledge production and to use this qualitative data as a basis for interrogation and discussion with city decision-makers.

This workshop invites artists, photographers, urban practitioners and city officials to make meaning of the photographic data presented by the Hidden Flows photography exhibition, to explore the themes that emerge from these images, and to determine what this means for future urban policy development.

Hidden Flows forms part of a broader research project on informality and urban metabolism undertaken by Stellenbosch University Sustainability Institute, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and ICLEI Africa, and is funded by the Leading Integrated Research in Africa (LIRA) 2030. [REGISTER](#)

Develop your planguard as Ng'ambo citizen: Roleplay as a participatory design approach in Zanzibar

Action Session

Hosted by: African Architecture Matters

27 May 2021 - 13:00-14:30 Central African Time

We want to enable community actors to transform their surroundings and to become an essential part of making the city. Currently playgrounds are either non-existing or pre-fabricated, gender biased and uninviting. We believe children need safe spaces to play, an environment that stimulates curiosity, develop skills and express creativity.

Participants are invited to develop a playground and discuss key themes such as design tools, methods and materials through a fun role play activity. This session will not only explore new ideas, but will also bring to attention issues and challenges that we might encounter during our upcoming project launch. [REGISTER](#)

Slum-upgrading through integrated water, sanitation and development solutions: Lessons from Maputo and Nairobi

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor

27 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

To access the right to the city and to ensure the long-term resilience and habitability of slum settlements, a wide range of basic services, and rights must be addressed. By integrating water and sanitation solutions within wider urban development and land tenure, we can create more sustainable human settlement. Grounded in practical examples, this session will explore how integration might be achieved. [REGISTER](#)

Urban Action Karaoke: A coffee chat about building resilience on a limited budget

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

27 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

In this session, we will unveil low cost actions for local organisations and local governments wishing to implement activities that build resilience but have budget limitation. These include; Creative Communications, Nature-based Solutions, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Urban

Agriculture and much more. [REGISTER](#)

A Kraal of Many Waters - A virtual tour of Dangamvura, Zimbabwe

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: City of Mutare

27 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

A tour into Dangamvura literally translating into the kraal of many waters. An exploration in to the irony of the name and the reality on the ground. [REGISTER](#)

What does Circular Economy look like in practice in Africa? A showcase of ongoing projects and businesses

Action Session

Hosted by: Footprints Africa Limited

27 May 2021 - 15:00-16:30 Central African Time

This session will share insights from a recent circular economy report we published showcasing initiatives across Africa. The session will highlight a few business models which will be backed with stories from some entrepreneurs featured in the report. In break out rooms, participants will have the opportunity to compare the highlighted business models to initiatives from their own context. We will discuss the advantages, disadvantages and possible areas of improvement for these business models. [REGISTER](#)

Public Art as a tool for community upliftment and development

Dialogues or Performance Session

Hosted by: Baz-art

27 May 2021 - 17:00-18:30 Central African Time

Public art transforms how an area is perceived and experienced by its inhabitants as well as the wider public. Art enhances the appearance and personality of a neighbourhood, thereby increasing the local community's sense of pride and belonging.

Improvements in physical surroundings as well as emotional awareness and sentiment can help to create jobs, such as guiding tours, and support businesses. Street art adds a distinct and unique character to an area, often encouraging local and international tourism. [REGISTER](#)

For more information about RISE Africa visit our [website](#). Sign up for the RISE Africa monthly digest [here](#).

