



**vliruos** | sharing minds,  
changing lives



## African Centre for Sustainable Cities Studies (ACS)

### Call for Abstracts

## International Conference on Resilient and Sustainable Cities

**Theme: A Multi-Stakeholder and Interdisciplinary Approach to Strengthening Sustainable Urban Growth in African Cities**

### Introduction

Ardhi University, through the African Centre for Sustainable Cities Studies (ACS) warmly invites submissions of papers, posters, workshops, panels, side events and innovation exhibitions for the **"International Conference on Resilient and Sustainable Cities"**, scheduled for **23 - 25 February, 2027** in **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**.

The conference aims to provide a dynamic platform for educators, researchers, scholars, practitioners, innovators, students and communities to come together to share, exchange, and critically discuss the latest developments, experiences, and insights on resilient and sustainable urban development, as well as pathways for advancing the agenda. This international conference will showcase cutting-edge, original and innovative research and practical solutions for achieving sustainability goals within a multidisciplinary context. In particular, it will present contributions that explore sustainability through the lenses of digital and AI-enabled smart cities, local knowledge systems, participatory governance and sustainable resource management and innovation, alongside innovation exhibitions and poster presentations.

Participation: Conference **registration will be free** for participants presenting accepted papers, posters or exhibitions; however, *all travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the participants*.

### Conference Tracks

#### Track 1: Digital and AI-enabled Smart Cities

Track chairs: Dr. Godfrey Luwemba, Ardhi University, Tanzania, email: [godfrey.luwemba@aru.ac.tz](mailto:godfrey.luwemba@aru.ac.tz) and Prof. Joep Crompvoets, KU Leuven, Belgium, email: [joep.crompvoets@kuleuven.be](mailto:joep.crompvoets@kuleuven.be)

The *digital and AI-enabled smart cities* track is a dynamic and forward-looking forum bringing together academics, industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators to explore the transformative role of digital intelligence in shaping the cities of tomorrow. As African cities face unprecedented urbanization pressures, this track spotlights how Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), digital twins, blockchain, and data-driven governance can be harnessed to build urban environments that are not only smarter, but more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. Through keynote addresses, interactive panel discussions, live demonstrations, and networking opportunities, participants will engage with cutting-edge research, real-world applications, and emerging frameworks tailored to the unique opportunities and challenges of rapidly growing cities particularly across the African continent. The track welcomes contributions that critically examine, theorize, and demonstrate how digital and AI-enabled solutions can generate tangible value in sustainable urban development from smart infrastructure and mobility to climate-responsive planning, digital governance, and data equity.

We invite paper proposals on the following topics, but not limited to:

- i. Transformation to Digital and AI-Enabled Smart and Sustainable Cities
- ii. Sustainable and Smart Infrastructure
- iii. Smart Urban Mobility and Transportation
- iv. Smart Urban Planning and Design
- v. Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence for Urban Insights
- vi. Cyber-Physical Systems and Connectivity
- vii. Smart Governance and Citizen Participation
- viii. Public Safety and Emergency Management
- ix. Health and Well-being in Smart Cities



## Track 2: Inclusive Futures: Gender, Equity and Participation

Track chairs: Dr. Nelly Babere, Ardhi University, Tanzania, email: [nelly.babele@aru.ac.tz](mailto:nelly.babele@aru.ac.tz), Prof. Nathalie Holvoet, University of Antwerp, Belgium, email: [nathalie.holvoet@uantwerpen.be](mailto:nathalie.holvoet@uantwerpen.be) and Prof. Elke Emmers, Hasselt University, Belgium, email: [elke.emmers@uhasselt.be](mailto:elke.emmers@uhasselt.be)

Global transformations driven by urbanisation and migration create new opportunities. They also deepen inequalities. Participation, representation, and equitable access to development benefits are central to sustainable futures. This track invites critical examination of inclusive and participatory futures. It explores how such futures can be conceptualised, designed, and realised. These questions are urgent in a time of major social, economic, environmental, and technological change. The track recognises that inclusion goes beyond representation. It includes meaningful participation in decision-making, knowledge production and the co-creation of solutions. It brings together perspectives from many fields. These include the social and economic sciences, humanities, public policy, public health, education, urban and environmental studies, law, and related areas. The track seeks to promote interdisciplinary dialogue. It focuses on the institutions, practices, and innovations that shape inclusive development. Particular attention will be given to gender, race, class, age, disability, geography, and other dimensions of identity and power. These factors influence experiences of opportunity, vulnerability, agency and belonging. The track welcomes theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions. These should advance understanding of equity and participation. They should also generate evidence to inform policy and practice.

We invite paper proposals on the following topics, but not limited to:

- i. Gender equality, care economies and women's leadership
- ii. Gender equality, safety and freedom from violence
- iii. Intersectionality, identity and social justice
- iv. Democratic participation and inclusive governance
- v. Equity in education, health and social protection
- vi. Youth agency and intergenerational inclusion
- vii. Disability rights and accessibility
- viii. Climate justice and gender-responsive adaptation
- ix. Inclusive urbanisation and spatial equity
- x. Migration, displacement and belonging
- xi. Digital technologies, AI and inclusion
- xii. Citizen science, community-based and participatory research approaches
- xiii. Indigenous, local and marginalised knowledge systems
- xiv. Measuring and evaluating inclusion and equity
- xv. Decolonising development and knowledge production

## Track 3: Governance and Climate Action

Track chairs: Dr. Luitfred Kissoly, Ardhi University, Tanzania, email: [kissoly.donacian@aru.ac.tz](mailto:kissoly.donacian@aru.ac.tz), Prof. Liesbeth Huybrechts, Hasselt University, Belgium, email: [liesbeth.huybrechts@uhasselt.be](mailto:liesbeth.huybrechts@uhasselt.be), and Prof. Oswald Devisch, Hasselt University, Belgium, email: [oswald.devisch@uhasselt.be](mailto:oswald.devisch@uhasselt.be)

Cities are increasingly at the centre of debates on sustainability, resilience, and climate action. They are sites of economic growth, infrastructure development, service delivery, social change, and environmental pressure. At the same time, many cities face growing challenges linked to rapid urbanisation, informality, land-use change, flooding, heat stress, waste management, resource constraints, and uneven institutional capacity. Addressing these challenges requires attention not only to climate-related risks, but also to the governance systems through which urban development is planned, financed, regulated, implemented, and sustained. This track focuses on governance and climate action in building resilient and sustainable cities. It invites contributions that examine how urban institutions, policies, actors, resources, technologies, and knowledge systems shape the capacity of cities to respond to ongoing and emerging challenges while advancing wider sustainability goals. The track is interested in governance as a foundation for effective urban management, climate action as a growing priority for sustainable cities, and the ways in which the two intersect in practice. Contributions may focus on governance issues in sustainable city development, climate-related challenges facing cities, or the integration of governance and climate action in planning, implementation, financing, accountability and innovation.

We invite paper proposals on the following topics, but not limited to:

- i. Urban governance, institutional capacity, and leadership for sustainable city development.
- ii. Decentralisation, local government roles, and public policy coordination in urban management.



- iii. Urban land governance, spatial planning, infrastructure, and municipal services.
- iv. Inclusive governance for informal settlements, vulnerable groups, financing urban development, housing and service delivery
- v. Public-Private Partnerships in urban development and services
- vi. Sustainable urban food systems, urban agriculture, food provisioning, value chains and livelihoods
- vii. Urban transport, informal transport, digital transport solutions, e-mobility, charging infrastructure, barriers to electric vehicle adoption, digital ticketing, traffic monitoring, and smart parking
- viii. Urban heat, flooding, extreme weather events, and disaster risk reduction in cities.
- ix. Green spaces, urban ecosystems, nature-based solutions, and climate-sensitive urban services.
- x. Partnerships for sustainable and climate resilient urban development, including policy, planning, implementation and monitoring.
- xi. Financing urban climate action, climate-resilient infrastructure, and locally grounded adaptation measures.
- xii. Data, technology, local knowledge, and evidence-based climate governance.
- xiii. Community participation and awareness in urban climate resilience
- xiv. Legal frameworks, and regulatory instruments for sustainable and climate-resilient urban development.

## Track 4: Sustainable Resource Management and Innovation

Track chairs: Dr. Nyangi Chacha, Ardhi University, Tanzania email: [nyangi.chacha2@aru.ac.tz](mailto:nyangi.chacha2@aru.ac.tz) and Prof. Patrick Willems, KU Leuven, Belgium, email: [patrick.willems@kuleuven.be](mailto:patrick.willems@kuleuven.be)

Effective resource management is central to achieving sustainable socioeconomic development, environmental protection, and improved community livelihoods. Rapid population growth and urbanization continue to intensify pressure on natural resources, energy systems, water and land, while increasing waste generation and environmental pollution, thereby heightening risks to human health, climate stability, and resource security. This track brings together researchers, scientists, policymakers, industry actors, and entrepreneurs to explore innovative and integrated approaches to managing resources across circular economy systems, water and land management, sustainable energy, waste and pollution control, and resilient urban infrastructure. It provides a platform to share advances in technology, nature-based solutions, and digital innovations, alongside governance frameworks, policy instruments, and socio-economic perspectives that drive sustainable resource use. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary solutions that enhance efficiency, resilience, and inclusivity in managing resources for sustainable cities and communities. The track will provide:

- Knowledge exchange on innovative solutions for sustainable resource systems, including circular economy, renewable energy, waste, and water–land management.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration among researchers, policymakers, industry, and communities for sustainable cities and resource governance.
- Improved understanding of integrated approaches such as the energy–water–food nexus, nature-based solutions, and environmental-economic linkages.
- Enhanced policy and governance insights to support effective frameworks, inclusivity, and evidence-based resource management decisions.
- Promotion of resilient and inclusive systems that reduce pollution, address climate challenges, and improve community livelihoods.

We invite paper proposals on the following topics, but not limited to:

- i. Sustainable Resource Systems and Circular Economy
- ii. Water, Land and Environmental Systems Management
- iii. Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience
- iv. Waste Management and Pollution Control
- v. Sustainable Cities, Infrastructure, and Built Environment
- vi. *Governance, Policy, and Resource Management*

## Poster Presentations

Chair: Dr. Atupelye Komba, Ardhi University, Tanzania, email: [atupelye.komba@aru.ac.tz](mailto:atupelye.komba@aru.ac.tz)

Resilient and sustainable cities are not merely future aspirations; they are urgent priorities of today. Recognizing the vital role of students in shaping urban futures, we invite them to showcase their innovative research through poster presentations, with opportunities for brief oral highlights. Submissions should present original ideas, emerging research, or case studies that contribute to advancing sustainability and resilience in urban development. The poster sessions aim to foster creativity, critical thinking, and knowledge exchange, with a strong emphasis on originality, innovation, and potential impact. We particularly encourage contributions that engage with themes such as digital



and AI-enabled smart cities, local knowledge systems, participatory governance, and sustainable resource management and innovation. We welcome posters that stimulate dialogue, share practical insights and inspire forward-looking solutions for sustainable city development.

## Innovation Exhibitions / Demos

Chair: Dr. Eunice Likotiko, Ardhi University, Tanzania, email: [eunice.likotiko@aru.ac.tz](mailto:eunice.likotiko@aru.ac.tz)

Innovation exhibition aims presentations and showcasing of research, products, technologies, and services developments that foster discussion and dialogues towards addressing sustainable cities challenges in Tanzania and East Africa region. The focus aligns with the four thematic areas of the conference including: local knowledge systems, participation and governance, resource management and innovative digital technologies. Therefore, researchers, professionals, and industry experts are invited to submit a brief description of their research outputs, technologies, or innovative products and services for presentation and exhibition at the conference. This include but not limited to architectural, spatial planning, and civil engineering models and services; land surveying and administration technologies and models for solving land development and real estate issues including conflicts; social and economic models and services for addressing sustainable cities challenges; environmental related products, technologies and services including alternative energy, resources recovery, green technologies, water and wastewater treatment, remediation and restoration. Others are geoinformatics, ICT, and Artificial Intelligence models and technologies for addressing sustainable cities challenges.

The description should include the following:

- ❖ Title - A clear and concise name that reflects the innovation, solution, or initiative.
- ❖ The sustainable cities challenge addressed - A brief description of the specific urban challenge or problem the initiative seeks to address
- ❖ Objective - The main goal(s) of the initiative, clearly stating the intended outcomes or impact.
- ❖ Development process – A description of how the product, technology, service was developed)
- ❖ How it works - An explanation of the operational mechanism of the solution, outlining how users interact with it and how it functions in practice.
- ❖ Problem – Solution linkage - A clear demonstration of how the product, technology, or service effectively addresses the identified challenge
- ❖ Cost implications - An overview of the financial requirements, including development, implementation, and operational costs, as well as affordability and scalability considerations.
- ❖ Sustainability - An assessment of the long-term viability of the initiative, including environmental, social, institutional, and economic sustainability aspects.

## Key Dates

**Abstracts submission deadline:** 28.09.2026

**Poster presentation /innovation exhibitions/demos submission deadline:** 15.12.2026

## Abstract Submission

Submit your conference abstract proposal via online submission system [HERE](#)

## Sponsorship and Conference Information

For support and further information about conference activities, contact the Conference Coordinator:  
Dr. Deodatus Patrick Shayo, email: [dpshayo@gmail.com](mailto:dpshayo@gmail.com) / [deodatus.shayo@aru.ac.tz](mailto:deodatus.shayo@aru.ac.tz) or Call/WhatsApp  
M. +255 754 591 559

For more Conference Information and Updates Visit our Conference Website [CLICK HERE](#)

Also visit: <https://acs.aru.ac.tz/>

Read the previous conference proceedings. [Click Here](#)

