



UComNetSus-Africa Project  
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## Building Urban Community Networks for Sustainable Cities in Africa (UComNetSus)

### ~ Brief introduction ~

#### Background

UComNetSus-Africa project is one of the 13 projects that were competitively selected for funding by the Belmont Forum for the 2020 call. The project is funded under the theme 'Pathways to Sustainability' with an emphasis on Collaborative Research Actions (CRA) by multidisciplinary and multinational experts. The project focuses on the sustainability of six African cities namely, Kumasi, Lagos, Kigali, Dar es Salaam, Mombasa, and Nairobi. Dr. Peter W. Wangai, Department of Environmental Studies & Community Development at Kenyatta University is coordinating project activities by eight partner organisations namely; the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana), Georgetown University (USA), Nature Cares Resource Centre (Nigeria), University of Rwanda (Rwanda), University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and Kenyatta University, South Eastern Kenya University and University of Embu in Kenya.

#### Problem

Africa is rapidly urbanising. Urban problems such as informal settlements, poor sanitation, motorized and human traffic, pollution and waste have emerged. Further, there is increased poverty and degradation, and a decline in human wellbeing, especially in the cities. Counteractively, researchers and practitioners have previously attempted to address the problems. However, the attempts have been frustrated by the complexity of the problems. This is because urban problems are socioecological in nature and defy solutions formulated along disciplinary and departmental lines.

#### Overall strategy

The project is thus applying transdisciplinary approach in finding practical solutions for the sustainability of African cities. As a first step, the project will mobilize stakeholders in African cities, who will form a model "urban community of practice". This will enable co-conceptualization of urban problems, co-designing of methodological approach, co-creativity and co-implementation of the solutions. On long-term, the project will minimize trade-offs, while optimizing synergies and interconnectedness in the realization of the sustainable development goals. Ultimately, the project will build urban resilience against global environmental crises and improve human wellbeing in cities.

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*Sustainability of Cities is our mission*



University of Dar es Salaam





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### Specific strategy for Nairobi case study

A one-day stakeholder workshop is planned in Nairobi on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The workshop will engage key stakeholders from the Nairobi city County on environmental, social, and economic issues facing the city residents. It will be an opportunity for co-learning from each other owing to the short-term, midterm and/or long-term experiences gathered while working for the public, private or non-governmental sectors in the city. The mode of delivery will be through group discussions on various thematic areas, group reporting, ranking and matrix exercises, localizing challenges and opportunities, *et cetera*.

### Ethical considerations

The project activities are guided by the ethical consideration covered in the Kenyatta University research and partnership policies.

### Conclusion

It is our hope that the above information is useful in understanding the project. We look forward to working closely with you on the project. For further questions, you can use the email address indicated below.

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