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The Social Challenges of Global Change

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Time: Monday 27 April, 14:00 - 15:30. Session: A030

Is Africa prepared for a fast-paced urbanization?; The demographic shift in the context of an urbanizing world and global environmental change

Location: World Conference Center Bonn, Room C

Convenors: Shuaib Lwasa and Paul Mukwaya, International Potato Center-Urban Harvest, Uganda

One of the realities the human race is facing in this era is that majority of the world's population live in urban areas for the first time in history. Where as urbanization has had positive impacts on the quality of life in many societies, the problems created in some regions such as Africa could easily prevent and undermine the accomplished or potential gains. Africa's rate and levels of urbanization are by far exceeding the absorptive capacity in terms of labour, shelter, sanitation, infrastructure, public health and environmental sustainability, the challenges are daunting. 38% of Africa's population is urban and this is projected to increase to 51% by 2030 changing by 114% faster than the global south average of 73%. Because of this demographic shift, opportunities created have improved quality of life but the challenges are also growing exponentially. This session will address the urbanization issues in the context of global environmental change, urban growth, the drivers of urbanization, processes that continue to shape urban development, institutions and urbanization pathways and how such institutions influence sustainable urban development. The session also targets knowledge sharing on the coupling of urban social and environmental sustainability focusing on urban ecosystem changes, GHG's, the challenges and impact pathways for a sustainable urbanization in Africa. The session will contribute to the discourse on rethinking Africa's urbanization in view of Global North and other Global South urbanization experiences with in-depth analytical papers at micro, meso, macro to regional-level experiences.

Ethnicity, Urbanization, Urban Landlord/Tenants Relationship and Conflicts in Africa - Nigeria

Presenter: Abidemi Asiyanbola, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria

Authors: ABIDEMI ASIYANBOLA (1)

OLABISI ONABANJO UNIVERSITY, AGO-IWOYE, OGUN STATE, Nigeria (1)

Observation from literature shows that the role of ethnicity as mobilizing agent is among the most important ques-

tions of this century as conflicts linked to ethnicity have led to significant loss of life and injuries in many cities, and become major elements in impoverishment, undermining human security and sustainable urban development. Literature on this issue in Africa is relatively weak in terms of systematically providing empirical evidence to substantiate claims. The paper present preliminary report of survey study carried out on urban ethno-communal conflict in Ife-Modakeke:Nigeria. The study shows that given the circumstance that led to the birth of Modakeke; the status of Modakeke and that of its people has always been a source of dispute and conflict due to issues relating to landlord/tenant relationship or indigene/non-indigene issues. In both communities ethnic attachment is high, and, inter-personal relationship among the people of the two communities is not that very cordial. Significant relationship is found between inter-personal relationship and age, age of the youngest child, land ownership, if most important organization belonged to is ethnic organization, and having relative in the other community. Negative relationship is found between ethnic attachment and inter-personal relationships among the people of the two communities. This result suggest that for sustainable peace to be attained there is the need to pursue policies that encourages social integration, as well as policies that discourages strong ethnic attachment and the spread of ethnically related organizations in the two communities.

Population growth and urban agriculture

Presenter: Humphrey Ngala Ndi, University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon

Authors: Humphrey Ngala Ndi (1)

National Institute of Cartography, Yaounde, Central Province, Cameroon (1), University of Yaounde 1, Yaounde, Central Province, Cameroon (2)

Cities are rapidly expanding in Africa, and in many countries, more than 50 per cent of the population already lives in the urban areas. A large proportion of this population is made up of poor first generation migrants with very little or no formal education that can increase their selectivity in the relatively more well paid urban formal sector. Their livelihoods are generally, therefore sought for in the urban informal sector. Urban agriculture has therefore become either a full-time or part-time activity for many urban African families.

There is however, a concern that irrigated urban agriculture could increase the risk of malaria in urban areas by creating new habitats in irrigated areas where malaria mosquitoes can breed. It is urgently important to establish the possible link between urban agriculture and malaria risk given the phenomenal rise in urban populations in Africa. This study therefore investigates the impact of urban agriculture on the risks of malaria transmission in Yaoundé, the capital city of Cameroon in order to suggest practical recommendations towards effective malaria prevention for urban agriculture in Yaoundé in particular and the other cities in Cameroon in general.



Locust Invasion and Chronic Vulnerability in Niger Republic: Implications and Lessons Learned

Presenter: Oluyemi Fayomi, Covenant University, Nigeria

Authors: Oluyemi Fayomi (1)

Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria (1)

Niger Republic ranks 177 out of 177 countries in the United Nations Development Programme Human development index (2006), thus, ranking the poorest nation in the world. Nigeriens have suffered locust invasion and chronic malnutrition, rooted in structural vulnerabilities, for several decades. A series of environmental and economic disasters has further exacerbated these vulnerabilities, resulting in high levels of acute malnutrition and eventual migration to urban areas. Elevated levels of mortality, particularly among children, are also evident. According to a World Health Organization report (2005), an estimated 800,000 under five children suffered from hunger of which at least 160,000 were moderately malnourished and 32000 severely malnourished. The most affected agro pastoral regions of Tillaberi, Tahoua, Marah, Diffa, Agadez, Zinder and Gaya are the poorest and the most vulnerable areas. The United Nations humanitarian assistance focused on food supply more than health risks associated with malnutrition. There had been an increase in death from disease outbreaks among people that had been weakened by malnutrition. Children, pregnant and lactating women are mostly at risk out of which 261,300 are vulnerable pregnant and lactating women. The United Nations specialized agencies on food, health, agriculture, children and their partners should recognize that earlier interventions such as strengthening of people's livelihoods, developing national capacity for emergency response and advocacy for improved access to social services and market are critical interventions in Niger Republic, where chronic vulnerability exists. The approach that encompasses meaningful shift in policy, programming and advocacy strategies is needed.

Assessment of the Effects of Climate Change/Variability on Rice Production in Africa

Presenter: Akeem Olaniyi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

Authors: Akeem Olawale Olaniyi (1)

Osun State College of Education, Osun State, Nigeria (1)

This paper examined the impact of population and consumption on green house gases emissions in African Countries with the hope of simulating future climate change resulting from predicted levels of Green House Gases emissions. Two countries were each picked from each of West, East, South and North African. Data of their population, consumption and green house gases emissions obtained from secondary sources subjected to statistical analysis. Data of Carbon IV Oxide emissions were indication of standard of living of the countries as these increases with increased standard of living of the people in the countries. Equations were used to describe the CO₂ emission levels, consumption and population data. Predictions were made on future CO₂ emissions levels with possible population growth rate using descriptive, regression analysis and growth rate equation. The likely impact of the above on Rice production in Africa was however discussed and approaches at reducing CO₂ emission levels while increasing economic growth and development were suggested.



Promoting Good Urban Governance and Planning in Africa: Implications for the NEPAD Agenda

Presenter: Geoffrey Nwaka, Abia State University, Nigeria

Authors: Geoffrey Nwaka (1)

Abia State University Uturu, Nigeria, Uturu, Abia State., Nigeria (1)

Poverty and rapid urbanization are two of the greatest challenges facing Africa today, and cities provide an appropriate platform for advancing the NEPAD mandate to alleviate poverty, promote good governance, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The paper discusses how cities and urban slums have developed in Africa over the last 50 years, the extent to which government policies have helped or constrained the poor, and the appropriate strategies to protect urban livelihood for the poor, and also ensure a healthy and socially acceptable environment. It then examines the NEPAD Cities Programme, which seeks to develop African cities as engines of economic growth, and nodes of regional integration. It argues that in spite of continuing misgivings, NEPAD provides a potentially useful framework for dialogue between African leaders and the external collaborating partners. The NEPAD peer review mechanism (APRM) can effectively guide member countries in the reciprocal evaluation meant to help them to fulfill the commitment to peace and good governance, and to learn from each other best practices in various areas of governance, planning, and so on. Partnership is central to the APRM idea: partnership between African governments and their people; partnership between and among African governments themselves; and partnership between African governments and the foreign development partners. NEPAD also needs to draw insights from several recent global initiatives which suggest how state and local authorities, the private sector and civil society organizations, the international community and the poor themselves should collaborate to build safe, inclusive and socially equitable cities.

Managing city growth and development in Africa; challenges and opportunities

Presenter: Shuaib Lwasa, Makerere University, Uganda

Authors: Shuaib Lwasa (1)

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (1)

Africa's urbanization rate has steadily increased over the past three decades and is now faster than any region in the world. It is estimated that by 2030, over half of the African population will be living in urban areas but just in what form and nature is urbanization progressing and how prepared are city authorities and governments for this process? The urbanization process in Africa has been described as pseudo but evidence suggests that urbanization is progressing in countries where economic growth rates are also steadily increasing. Several drivers are responsible for the urbanization including; population dynamics, economic growth, legislative designation, increasing densities in rural trading but notably the mega cities such as Lagos, Cairo and Kinshasha expanding further. Although the urbanization presents opportunities in Sub-Saharan African countries, the challenges for urban development are daunting. These challenges include social service provision, sustainable economic development, housing delivery, urban governance, spatial development guidance and environmental management for disaster and risk reduction. In addition, the challenges pose sustainability concerns in social, economic, environmental and institutional contexts which require well designed impact pathways for urban development. This paper will attest to the process of city growth in Africa before giving pointers on how sustainable urban development can be achieved.