

State of the Cities in Africa Project

The Third Urban Conference of the South African Cities Network

Ntombini Marrengane

25 November 2009



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Mission/Purpose:

- **To facilitate critical urban research and policy discourses for the promotion of vibrant, democratic & sustainable urban development in the global South from an African perspective.**

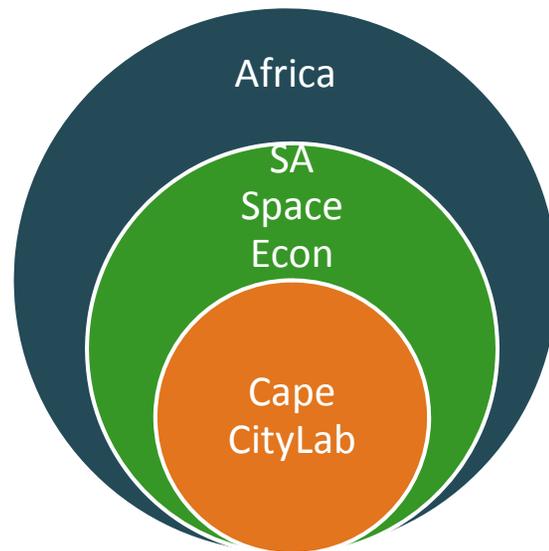
Normative base:

- Sustainability; social justice; participatory democracy; cosmopolitanism

Core identity:

- ACC is a knowledge institution focussed on the production of new and relevant knowledge linked to a human capital development agenda (scholars, practitioners and thought leaders) that gives practical expression to the 'afropolitan' agenda of UCT.

Applied Urban Research



Academic Research

- African urbanism
- Urban culture & inclusion
- Food security
- New regionalism
- Housing finance for the poor
- Relational urban governance
- Alternative planning
- Spatial inequality
- Urban water management

Teaching

- MA
- PhD Seminar

Publishing

- Books
- Journal articles

Knowledge networks

- policy influence oriented
- enrolling top scholars and students

Public discourse

- Seminars
- Print, radio and television media

Africa

African Association of Planning Schools

Curriculum
renewal

Case study
development

African State of Cities

Baseline data

Priority issues

Advocacy

Thematic research

Informal
econ

African
urbanism

African
Cities
Reader

Urban
Innovations
advocacy

Purpose of SOCR

- Leveraging the work that has been carried out to date in sub-Saharan Africa funded by the Cities Alliance to recognise trends in urbanisation and the need for strategic poverty reduction in urban spaces -- including support for the creation of the SACN and publication of well received SOCRs
- To build capacity to respond effectively to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by African urban policy-makers, planners and development practitioners
- To develop a systematic process for gathering and analysing detailed information and data on national urban realities within African cities
- To catalyze and facilitate the development of an African urban knowledge base and network over 10-years through the production of 30 SOCRs based on the urban realities of Sub-Saharan Africa countries on a demand-driven basis

Association of African Planning Schools

Membership

- Abia State University (Nigeria)
- Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria)
- AINS SHAMS University (Egypt)
- Ardhi University (Tanzania-Former UCLAS)
- Mzuzu University (Malawi)
- Ethiopian Civil Service College
- Catholic University (Mozambique)
- Copperbelt University (Zambia)
- Durban Institute of Technology
- National University of Rwanda
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
- Makerere University (Uganda)
- University of Nigeria
- University of the Free State
- University of Pretoria
- Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria)
- Kenyatta University (Kenya)
- Potchefstroom University
- University of Botswana
- University of Cape Town
- University of Ibadan
- University of Johannesburg
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Lagos
- University of Swaziland
- Stellenbosch University
- University of Zimbabwe
- University of Venda
- University of the Witwatersrand

Progress to Date

- In 2008 at launch of AAPS, member schools were invited to participate in a demand driven process of selection for the SOCR project
- March 2009 International consultative workshop resulting in framing document on main themes and debates to be carried across all SOCRs
- In June-August 2009, scoping studies undertaken in four countries representing East, West and Southern Africa based on interest expressed by AAPS members
- Literature reviews under preparation by AAPS member schools in each country
- November 2009 funding approved for establishment of ACC infrastructure to manage and stimulate preparation of SOCRs across the continent

Scoping Study Outputs

- Identification and mapping of relationships between national ministries, associations of local government and civil society organisations including the academic community working to provide services and conducting research in urban local governments
- Gain understanding of the political environment and assess appetite for SOCR participation
- Brief gap analysis of urban development issues in 4 countries
- Review of available data as basis for indicator selection and analysis

Data for Indicators available since 1980

- Household income and expenditure surveys
- Population and housing census
- Population of towns, villages and associated localities
- Labour force surveys
- Informal sector surveys
- Literacy surveys
- AIDS impact surveys

Looking ahead

Next six months...

- Recruit editor in chief and data specialist to complete the programme management unit at ACC
- Global advisory board established
- Selection of first round participating countries
- SOCR consultations in-country begin
- Formalise cooperation agreements with selected AAPS members, local government associations and relevant ministries and submit proposals for funding
- National advisory board established
- Development of selection criteria for inclusion of cities in partner countries based on national consultations

Next twelve months....

- Country based coordinator and interdisciplinary specialists appointed and in the field
- Technical assistance provided by UN-Habitat on urban indicators
- Data collection under way
- Regular coordination meetings with ACC secretariat
- Ongoing scoping studies and literature reviews prepared in order to identify next round of SOCR funding proposal for submission