

eMag of Climate Action in Africa

#2 Sustainable Habitats in Africa

Thursday 2 May 2024



In partnership with **Afrik 21**

The Observatory's Lens: Sustainable Habitats and Climate Change in Africa

Méline Assè-Wassa Sama, Climate Chance



Méline Assè-Wassa Sama, Project Officer for Climate Action in Africa at Climate Chance, presents the updated version of the Observatory of Climate Action in Africa's study on Sustainable Habitats and Climate Change in Africa as well as the Yaounde Roadmap for Sustainable Habitats, adopted in October 2023.

Méline outlined five main challenges regarding sustainable habitats and climate change in Africa.

1. Urban planning: a challenge for African cities exposed to climate change

The lack of urban planning in African cities has created a shortage of decent and affordable habitats leading to a rise of informal housing, which is considered more affordable.

2. African cities struggle to mobilise financing

This problem is outlined by two main factors: the under financing of local governments by States and weak taxation systems encountered by local governments.

3. Under-exploited traditional building materials and processes

The building sector is one of the most energy-intensive in Africa, especially in urban areas. However, there exist traditional methods based on circular models which are being under-exploited.

4. African cities face a major energy deficit

On the one hand, Africa faces immense opportunities in the renewable energy sector, but access to electricity is the lowest in the world, especially in cities.

5. Land governance at the heart of many shortcomings in African cities

This challenges links all the previous ones, and has an impact on its inhabitants and the development of cities.

The Yaounde Roadmap for Sustainable Habitats in Africa

The five challenges outlined in the analysis note served as a framework for the Yaounde Roadmap, adopted at the Climate Chance Africa Summit 2023 in Yaounde by numerous non-state and local actor networks in Africa:

- Strengthening the means of action of local governments
- Planning and land governance at the heart of strategies
- Expanding the supply of housing
- Elaborating a comprehensive urban energy and climate strategy
- Minimizing local vulnerabilities
- Strengthening and adapting finance flows



Read the analysis note: "[Sustainable habitat and climate change in Africa](#)"



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Press Review

Mélaine Assè-Wassa Sama, Climate Chance

Afrik21

Mélaine presents four news articles, written and selected by Afrik21, around sustainable habitats and climate change in Africa.

For 4 climate actors, sustainable housing is the key to successful urban development

Four climate actors, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), and the French Development Agency (AFD), emphasise the significance of energy-efficient buildings. The actors highlight key strategies such as promoting renewable energy integration, enhancing building standards, and fostering international cooperation. They stress the necessity of sustainable housing to mitigate climate change and achieve resilient urban development.



Mouatassim Charai: "Recycled materials for eco-efficient buildings"

In Morocco, Mouatassim Charai, president of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM), is promoting an initiative of eco-efficient buildings using recycled materials. Charai aims to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the construction sector. By utilising recycled materials such as plastic waste and rubber tires, Charai emphasises the reduction of construction costs and environmental impact. The initiative aligns with Morocco's national strategies for sustainable development and supports the country's commitment to environmental governance.



Interview with the IFC: "EDGE has already certified \$73B in green real estate assets"

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) discusses its EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) certification program, which has certified \$73 billion in green real estate assets. The IFC highlights EDGE's role in promoting sustainable building practices globally, particularly in emerging markets. The programme has had an impact on reducing energy and water consumption and contributed to mitigating climate change. This certification can help drive investment towards environmentally friendly real estate projects and foster sustainable development worldwide.



A meeting in Paris on March 7 on eco-construction and decarbonization of buildings

The first World Forum on Buildings and Climate, took place on March 7 and 8 in Paris, France. The event brought together various stakeholders, including government officials, industry representatives, and experts, to discuss strategies for promoting sustainable construction and reducing carbon emissions in the building sector. The key topics addressed included energy-efficient building techniques, the use of renewable materials, and policy measures to incentivise green building practices. The meeting highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation in achieving environmentally friendly construction and advancing the goals of decarbonisation.



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Putting the Yaounde Roadmap into action

Brilé Anderson, Environmental Economist, Sahel and West Africa Club, OECD



As an active participant in the elaboration of the Yaounde Roadmap, Brilé provides examples on how the recommendations of the roadmap have been implemented.

Strengthening the means of action of local governments

Regarding urban mobility, Accra, Ghana, risks continuing down a path that is less sustainable and less inclusive. Together with Greater Accra Passenger Transport Executive (GAPTE), the SWAC are working to make urban mobility more sustainable through 3 phases:

- Phase 1: Modernising accessibility
- Phase 2: Elaborating improvement scenarios
- Phase 3: in May 2024, multi-governance actors will participate in a workshop and engage in dialogue to decide on the best scenario to improve Accra's urban mobility.

Planning and land governance at the heart of strategies

The SWAC gave a workshop to the African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) on how to use open data sources to assess the resilience of cities and inform land policy and funding.

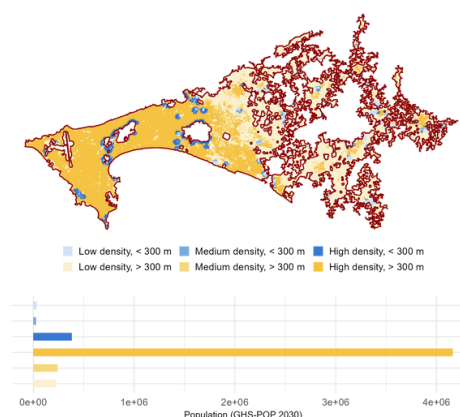
The SWAC regularly offers mini workshops on these type of skills. At the Climate Chance Africa Conference 2023, they gave a workshop on how to use data to evaluate the impacts of future flooding events.

Minimising local vulnerabilities

The SWAC and Digital Earth Africa are creating a code to evaluate the possible impacts of trees as a Nature-based Solution to the heat island effect.

Through this code, they are able to identify areas which would most benefit and least benefit from the cooling effect of trees as a tool to target certain areas.

The goal of this initiative is to make the code accessible to everyone, as well as to help cities use the tool and adapt it to their own contexts.



Example of Dakar



If we can better understand reality, we can more effectively mobilise funds to implement the Yaounde Roadmap.



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Implementation of the Yaounde Roadmap by Fouban

Patricia Tomaino Ndam Njoyan, Mayor, Municipality of Fouban, Cameroon



Patricia Tomaino Ndam Njoyan is the Mayor of Fouban, a municipality in Cameroon. She has played a central role since the adoption of the Yaounde Roadmap and gives us concrete examples of its implementation in Fouban.

The Yaounde Roadmap has been part of the Fouban Municipality's action plan since the beginning of the mayor's term of office, from 2020-2025.

Recommendation #1: Strengthening the means of action of local governments

The framework of the 2019 law on the General Code of Decentralised Local Authorities allows Cameroon's municipalities and regions to act at the local level. However, implementing decrees are still lacking. The mayor of Fouban is involved in lobbying the legislature to strengthen local action.

Recommendation #2: Planning and land governance at the heart of strategies

This is being implemented in Fouban through the Land Use Plan (POS), participatory mapping, an investment programme and land tenure security through Requests for Public Use.

An urban planning agency has been established in Fouban to prepare the plans and implement the above elements.

The aim of our community is to make people aware of the importance of their actions and to get them actively involved in the sustainable development of Fouban.

Recommendation #3: Expanding the supply of housing

A new urban housing project is underway to decongest the historic centre and develop new urban attractions. The district of Fouban 3, for example, is designed to accommodate around 11,850 residents on 923 plots, built using ecological and local materials. 27% of the total area is dedicated to green spaces.

Recommendation #4: Elaborating a comprehensive urban energy and climate strategy

In 2021, 110 solar-powered street lights will be installed along the main road. Then, in 2023, Fouban signed an agreement with What Water to finance solar-powered standpipes for drinking water.

Recommendation #5: Minimizing local vulnerabilities

Fouban is developing natural hazard maps to reduce the vulnerability of areas.

Recommendation #6: Strengthening and adapting finance flow

The local authority has partnered with a Cameroonian start-up (MB Système) to facilitate the collection of local taxes to fund sustainable housing in Fouban.



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A new paradigm: post-growth architecture

Cyrille Moukoko Ndoumbe, Architect, Research Professor at ESSACA. Founder of ArBiO & Partners – BiO³, Cameroon



Cyrille Moukoko Ndoumbe presents his research on a sustainable and ethical development model for Africa, based on bioethics, frugal and regenerative architecture and the valorisation of local resources.

What are the key elements of this new paradigm that your research focuses on?

Bioethical principles :

- Develop bioethical paradigms that respect life and the environment in consultation with local stakeholders, including communities, experts and policy makers.
- These principles should promote biodiversity, conservation of ecosystems, equity in resource use and respect for human rights and local communities.

Post-growth architecture:

- Promoting post-growth architecture, which includes buildings designed to minimise environmental impact and improve the well-being of their occupants.
- Use of local and sustainable materials, energy efficient design and integration of local cultural elements.

Implementation will require close cooperation between governments, local communities and civil society organisations, as well as continued investment in education and training.



Developing local resources:

- Supporting the use and development of local human and geobiological resources to build community resilience and promote an inclusive economy.
- Developing marketing opportunities for local products and training local actors in sustainable resource management.

Citizen-based local management of commons:

- Implementing participatory management of natural and cultural resources, promoting the involvement of citizens in decisions on their use and conservation.
- Local and regional authorities have a crucial role to play in facilitating this participation and providing the resources needed for effective management.

African identity regeneration :

- Process of identity regeneration that values and promotes local cultures, traditions and knowledge while adapting to modern challenges.
- The importance of education and the role of African intellectuals in promoting African identity.

Some research projects, currently being implemented: [Triplex in Yaounde](#), [Duplex in Yaounde](#), [Villa in Yaounde](#), [School in Kribi](#)



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What are the next steps in the acceleration of sustainable habitats for all in Africa?

Open discussion with the 3 speakers

How can we continue to implement the recommendations made in the Yaounde Roadmap?



Patricia Tomaïno Ndam Njoyan

You always have to start with the legal framework and the ownership of the cities.

- 1.If the law is clear, local authorities can collect local taxes for their urban planning projects, organise themselves and provide themselves with human and material resources. That is why the by-laws are so important.
- 2.Land is also very important. Autonomy for local authorities without land for their projects is an illusion.

=> These two points will automatically trigger the other points of the Yaounde Roadmap.



Cyrille Moukoko Ndoumbe

Proper governance and real decentralisation are needed if we are to achieve the goals of the Yaounde Roadmap and diversify our solutions.



Brilé Anderson

With adequate funding, the other recommendations of the Yaounde Roadmap will see the light of day. In addition, the use of a database must be central to decision making.

Watch the replay of eMag #2 on sustainable habitats in Africa. Click [here](#).



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Next Events

eMag of Adaptation in Europe

Join us on Thursday 30 May 2024 from 3PM to 4:15PM (CEST) for the [eMag on Social Justice in Adaptation Policies](#)

[Register here](#)

eMag of Climate Action in Africa

Join us on Thursday, 27th June 2024 from 3PM to 4:15PM (CEST) for the [eMag on Climate and Biodiversity in Africa](#)

[Register here](#)



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