

## LEARN Webinar

### Cross-city Policy Dialogue 1

**Theme:** Scaling up local actions shaping climate trajectories in East African Cities

**Date:** 31 July 2024

**Time:** 3.00 – 5.00 pm (EAT)



### Background

In the face of climate change, cities in East Africa are grappling with a range of challenges, from flooding and sea-level rise to extreme heat and drought. To address these issues, there is a growing recognition of the importance of locally led adaptation strategies that empower communities and leverage their unique knowledge and resources. As hubs of economic and social activity, cities in East Africa have a unique opportunity to spearhead innovative solutions that can be replicated and scaled up across the region and beyond. By leveraging the collective energy and ingenuity of local communities, and aligning these efforts with national and global frameworks, East African cities can emerge as powerful catalysts for climate action, serving as models for other regions to emulate.

Achieving meaningful, sustained climate action at the local level, however, requires a shift from top-down technocentric approaches toward the adoption of innovative, integrated strategies that address the constraints imposed by economic, cultural, and political dynamics. As East African cities continue to grapple with the dual challenges of climate change and rapid urbanization, the current moment presents a unique window of opportunity to chart a more resilient, sustainable path forward.

The proposed webinar brings together diverse actors/stakeholders to share experiences showcasing successful examples of locally led climate adaptation in East African cities and exploring the necessary conditions to support scaling up. This would include highlighting the value of local innovation, knowledge, and expertise in building climate resilience. The webinar would also engage with government and global climate frameworks representatives to discuss the role of government, international and transnational cooperation in supporting and amplifying locally led initiatives and explore strategies for overcoming financial and institutional barriers that often impede their progress.

### Objectives

The objectives of this webinar event are:

- i) To showcase locally led climate adaptation initiatives in East African cities that are being or have potential to be scaled up.
- ii) To facilitate a policy dialogue on the role of national and global frameworks in supporting and amplifying local climate action efforts.

### Agenda

Time	Agenda item
10 minutes	Welcome and opening remarks
25 minutes	<b>Presentations:</b> Showcasing locally led adaptation initiatives in 3 East African cities.
15 minutes	<b>Reactions</b>
25 minutes	<b>Policy panel discussion:</b> Support for scaling up local climate actions
20 minutes	Q&A and open discussion
10 Minutes	Key take aways and closing remarks

### Moderator

The webinar will be moderated by Prof. Shuaib Lwasa, Professor of Urban Resilience and Global Development at ISS-EUR, and founding coordinator of the Urban Action Research Lab.

### Web event format and logistical considerations

The event is organised by the [Leiden-Delft-Erasmus-East Africa Research Network \(LEARN\)](#). The 2 hours 15-minute webinar will take place via Zoom.

The meeting will be held in English. Participation requires online registration here: <https://forms.gle/THxT56dgrbfnytF76>. The calendar invite and meeting link will be shared in due course upon registration.

### Post event

A rapporteur summary will be distributed to all participants. The discourse and recommendations arising from the webinar will inform subsequent cross-city exchanges and policy briefs.