



PROGRAMME

2nd African Forum On Urban Forests

Green Horizons: Shaping the future resilience of African cities through urban forests

18 March 2025 - 21 March 2025

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we reserve the right to change the speakers' times and topics



VENUE

*The Forum, The Campus, Bryanston
and Diepsloot Memorial Park*



DAY 1 TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025: CLIMATE-PROOFING CITIES

Venue: The Forum, The Campus, Bryanston

Chair: Ms Thami Nkadimeng, CEO, Thami Nkadimeng Group

This sub-theme prioritises climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, positioning urban forests as essential tools for enhancing the climate resilience of African cities.

08h00-09h00	Registration and welcome refreshments	
09h00-09h30	Chairperson's opening remarks followed by Abafazi Bengoma, Artistic Drumming	
09h30-10h00	<p>South African government host institutions opening address</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ass Prof Solomon Newete, Agricultural Research Council, Wits University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sello Enoch Dada Morero, Executive Mayor, City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality • Cllr Kenalemang Rose Phukuntsi, National Working Group on Environmental Planning and Climate Resilience, South African Local Government Association (SALGA) • Ms Shyla Mary Peters, Member of the Executive Council for Environment, Gauteng Provincial Government • Deputy Minister: Ms Bernice Swarts, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Republic of South Africa
10h00-10h30	<p>Co-organisers opening address</p> <p>Rapporteur: Cllr Jongizizwe Dlabathi, South African Local Government Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tiina Vahanen, Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO • Dr Babagana Ahmadu, FAO Representative in South Africa • Mr Thanduxolo Mendrew, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo and Centre on African Public Spaces • Ms Beryl Nozipho Khanyile, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
10h30-11h00	<p>Setting the scene: The FAO Green Cities Initiative</p> <p><i>Regional perspective of urban forestry across Africa</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Simone Borelli, Urban Forestry Officer and Coordinator of the FAO Green Cities Initiative, FAO • Dr Jessica Thorn, University of Namibia, Imperial College London
11h00-11h30	Tea break	
11h30-13h00	<p>High level political dialogue: Building resilience through urban forests in African cities</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Mthobeli Kolisa, South African Local Government Association</p> <p>Rapporteur: Prof Collins Adjei Mensa, University of Cape Coast</p>	<p>Setting the scene: Cllr Nasiphi Moya, Executive Mayor, City of Tshwane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor, City of Banjul, The Gambia • Mr Julio Parruque, Mayor of Matola City Council, Mozambique • Cllr Cyril Xaba, Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, South Africa • Mr Adama Sarr, Mayor of Keur Massar Nord, Dakar, Senegal

13h00-14h00	Lunch break hosted by Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	
14h00-15h30	<p>Parallel session 1.1 The deluge strikes back: Fighting floods with nature</p> <p>Moderator: Elhadi Adam, Wits Business School Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment</p> <p>Rapporteur: Daulphin Razafipahatelo, University of Antananarivo</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ebony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the role of vegetated areas in flood mitigation: A study of green infrastructure in peri-urban Antananarivo, Madagascar Daulphin Razafipahatelo, University of Antananarivo • Assessing community-based approaches for nature-based climate solutions in flood-prone areas of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Agnes Kapinga, Tengeru Institute of Community Development • Turning the tide: Revolutionizing Yaoundé, Cameroon with sponge city and eco-street innovations, Cameroon Pierre-Marie Bissek, Tebis Architects & Partners • Planning for optimal ecosystem services in urban areas, Nairobi, Kenya Ruth Mwai, Architectural Association of Kenya, The International Federation of Landscape Architects - Africa • Evaluating the effectiveness of nature-based solutions for flood mitigation, heat reduction, and erosion control in informal settlements, North and Central Namibia Giesberta Shaanika, University of Namibia, Ecole Nationale d'Administration • Climate change, demographic growth and urban reforestation, Burundi (French) Olivier Dismas Ndayambaje, Ecole Nationale d'Administration
	<p>Parallel session 1.2 Lord of the trees: The carbon sequestration quest</p> <p>Moderator: Bertrand Nero, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology</p> <p>Rapporteur: Moussa Soule, University Dan Dicko Dankoulodo of Maradi</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Indigo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban tree diversity, carbon stocks and sequestration potential in five Grand Nokoué cities, Benin Blewa Kehounbiova Audrey Tohoun, West African Science Service Center for Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) • Can home gardens mitigate household greenhouse gas emissions? Evidence from Obuasi municipality, Ghana Bertrand Nero, Department of Forest Resources Technology • Spatial analysis and use of ecosystem services of urban forests in residential areas in Osogbo, Nigeria Akinleye Oyegbami, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta
	<p>Parallel session 1.3 Too hot to handle: Urban forests to mitigate heat stress</p> <p>Moderator: Patrick Opoku, University of Science and Technology</p> <p>Rapporteur: Sondes Fkiri, National Institute of Rural Engineering Water and Forest</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ultramarine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land surface cover dynamics and land surface temperature between 2011-2021 and its implications for sustainable urban planning in Hawass City, Ethiopia Tikabo Gebreyesus Gerezgher, University of Bonn • Relief from urban heat: Insights from Johannesburg's ecosystem goods and services Assessment in Johannesburg, South Africa Tendamudzimu Mathagu, Head of Biodiversity Conservation, City of Johannesburg • Assessing the impact of land cover land use changes on urban heat islands in Bulawayo metropolitan city, Zimbabwe Sethi Sibanda, Lupane State University • Future scenarios of urban green infrastructure and temperature regulation in Madagascar in Antananarivo, Madagascar Rui Han, University of York • A systematic review of land cover changes induced climate change effects in West Africa, Ghana Abdel Nassirou Yahaya Seydou, West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL-CCLU)
15h30-16h00	Tea break	

<p>16h00-17h30</p>	<p>Parallel session 2.1 Guardians of the canopy: Indigenous restoration for adaptation</p> <p>Moderator: Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO</p> <p>Rapporteur: Tikabo Gebreyesus, University of Bonn</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ebony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of monoculture urban forests and the use of indigenous trees to mitigate climate change in Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Adelaide Chokoe, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo</i> • Analyzing tree planting projects, resource strategies, and environmental benefits in urban Africa from 2009-2021 <i>Emmanuel Lobe Ekamby, United Nations University & Bonn University</i> • Transforming urban landscape through indigenous tree planting in Bulawayo's CBD, Zimbabwe <i>Gideon Mhlanga, Green Hut Trust</i> • Potential of controlled natural tree regeneration towards urban forest management in Kampala city, Uganda <i>Marvin Bogere Kibalama, Tokyo University of Agriculture</i> • The urban forest's structure, composition and tree-related microhabitats in Greater Kumasi, Ghana <i>Angela Beckmann-Wübbel, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)</i> • Urban Forest Regeneration as a catalyst to Combatting landslides in Bamenda Escarpment, Cameroon <i>Jacob Ngock Nwachan, Bamenda City Council</i>
	<p>Parallel session 2.2 Living labs: Experimenting with alternative urban futures</p> <p>Moderator: Patrick Likongwe, Leadership for Environment and Development, University of Malawi</p> <p>Rapporteur: Elhadi Adam, Wits Business School, Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Indigo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclaiming urban landscapes for climate resilience and social healing: The miyawaki method as a path to sustainable peace in Cape Town, South Africa <i>Aghmad Gamielidien, Founder and Lead Forest Maker, Mzansi Organics, SUGi Project, University of Western Cape</i> • Cooling effects of agricultural vs. non-agricultural urban green infrastructure in diverse neighbourhoods in Antananarivo, Madagascar <i>Rui Han, University of York</i>
	<p>Parallel session 2.3 Gaia's return: Biodiversity inventories of urban greening</p> <p>Moderator: Vhalinavho Khavhagali, IUCN representative for South Africa</p> <p>Rapporteur: Lungile Mtshali, City of Johannesburg</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ultramarine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the biodiversity and carbon sequestration potential of urban trees and its challenges: the case of Rama town, Tigray, northern Ethiopia <i>Negasi Solomon Gebru, Tigray Institute of Policy Studies</i> • Tree inventory management system: the key to urban forest management, South Africa <i>Riaan van Zyl, Consultant in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture - Self Employed</i> • Impacts of urban woody diversity on avifauna in the City of Maradi, South Central Niger (French) <i>Mahaman Nana Bassaria, Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi (UDDM)</i> • Woody species in homes of the Zaria II neighborhood, Maradi: Importance, diversity, and mortality factors, Maradi, Niger (French) <i>Adamou Bara Farida, Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi (UDDM)</i> • The Forest of Freedom: Greening Democracy and Cultivating Heritage <i>Bishop Ngobeli, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo</i>

	<p>Parallel session 2.4 The good, the bad and the bugly: Ecosystem disservices, pests and diseases</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Elize van Staden, University of South Africa</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Christian Toochi Egbuche, Federal University of Technology Owerri</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Aquamarine</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting Africa's urban forests from insect pests and diseases, lessons learnt, South Africa <i>Brett Hurley, University of Pretoria</i> • The influence of environmental factors and socio-economic status on urban residents' experiences of and vulnerability to ecosystem disservices: the case of four cities, South Africa <i>Gisele Sinasson, Rhodes University</i> • Detecting and mapping a Polyphagous shot hole borer infestation on urban trees using Sentinel 2 data, Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Marko Freddy Mudede, University of the Witwatersrand</i> • Restoring green spaces in low-income high-density suburbs: Lessons from the greening Kuwadzana Project, Harare, Zimbabwe <i>Tafadzwa Gwini, University of Zimbabwe</i> • Monitoring a polyphagous shot hole borer infestation in Johannesburg's urban forest using Google Street View <i>Solomon Newete, Agricultural Research Council – Natural Resource and Engineering (ARC-NRE)</i>
<p>17h30-19h00</p> <p>Side events Breakaway Room: <i>Indigo</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ebony</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ivory</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ultramarine</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Aquamarine</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoJ Spatial Development Framework 2040 (2024): On Urban Resilience <i>Avive Mandyanda, CoJ Developments Planning: City Transformation and Spatial Planning</i> • Engaging and empowering communities through tree planting, education & awareness to ensure a sustainable green canopy in the City of Johannesburg as part of the 10 million tree planting project – South Africa <i>Elize van Staden, Unisa and Sinah Magolo, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo</i> • Building resilient urban futures: Implementing NbS at multiple scales <i>Amanda Gcanga, World Resources Institute</i> • Amidst collective ecologies of dreams, rivers, snakes, people: building skate culture towards SKATEPARKIptown, Soweto, with Sovereignty, messiness and love <i>Thabang Nkwanyana, 1955 Creative Collaboration</i> • CitiesAdapt: Strengthening Climate Resilience in Cities <i>Keobakile Lenyibi, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, CitiesAdapt, South Africa</i>
<p>19h30-22h00</p> <p>Reception dinner hosted by Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p>		<p><i>Tribute to the late Prof Wangari Maathai and the former Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Amos Masondo</i></p>

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2025: EQUITABLE ACCESS, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING

Venue: The Forum, The Campus, Bryanston

Chair: Ms Joy Mutai, Associate Programme Management Officer, UN-Habitat

Equitable access, health and well-being: Urban forests play a pivotal role in enhancing public health and well-being by providing accessible green spaces that encourage physical activity, promote mental health, and foster social cohesion.

08h30-09h00	Early morning refreshments	
09h00-09h30	<p>Chairperson's opening remarks and setting the scene</p> <p>Praise Singer: Xolani Magengenene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Gadirobe Mothibi, Executive Director, City of Johannesburg's Health Department
09h30-09h50	Keynote intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of urban forests in reducing health disparities and building climate-resilient communities Prof Tolullah Oni, Clinical Professor, University of Cambridge and Founder/CEO, UrbanBetter
09h50-10h10	Keynote intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning's role in addressing disparities and ensuring equitable access to urban forest health benefits Dr Msizi Myeza, CEO, Council for the Built Environment
10h10-10h30	Tea break	
10h30-12h00	<p>Parallel session 3.1 Nourishing cities: Urban forests for food security</p> <p>Moderator: Tinashe Mushayanyama, Director, City of Johannesburg</p> <p>Rapporteur: Catherine Masao, University of Dar es Salaam</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ebony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the breadbasket of the city through a youth-led urban agricultural programme in Bamenda, Cameroon Jacob Ngock Nwachan, Bamenda City Council • Urban agriculture as a strategy for enhancing climate resilience and food security in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Wilson Masele, University of Dar es Salaam • Socio-spatial dynamics in wild plant foraging practices in two medium-sized South African towns: How do foragers adapt and respond to change? Hesekia Garekae, University of Botswana • Integrating fruit-bearing trees into Kigali's urban forests, Rwanda Elias Nelly Bapfakurera, University of Rwanda • Urban agriculture: Overview of scientific research, current situation, and research needs for the protection of Togolese cities, Togo (French) Clément Gbongbon, Université de Lomé • Farmers' perceptions of the ecological impacts of a living hedge of Dan Ankara in Tessaoua, Maradi Region, Niger (French) Mamadou Ibrahim, André Salifou University • The edible forest in urban areas, Togo (French) Adande Michée, Centre d'Excellence Régional sur les Sciences Aviaires
	<p>Parallel session 3.2 Environmental justice and legacy effects of colonial and apartheid eras</p> <p>Moderator: Amira Osman, Tshwane University of Technology</p> <p>Rapporteur: Giesberta Shaanika, University of Namibia</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Aquamarine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The colonial ontologies and climate vulnerability: A planetary health perspective of Johannesburg, South Africa Jonathan Melamdowitz, Erasmus University Rotterdam • Street tree communities reflect socioeconomic inequalities and legacy effects of colonial planning in Nairobi, Kenya Alice Gerow, Yale University • Fostering a sense of belonging through green infrastructure and community integration, in Cape Town's Central Business District, South Africa Ashley Mogoje, Development Action Group • Green infrastructure in promoting human well-being and mitigating crime in the Eastern Cape, South Africa Tshepiso Seboko, Rhodes University • Prospect to achieving equitable urban tree canopy distribution in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria Oyinlola Abiodun Fasoro, University of Ibadan

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African cities, urban planning and matters of urban forestry – A qualitative study <i>Rouve Bingle, Stellenbosch University</i> • Availability and quality of open public spaces in the seven new cities, Uganda <i>David Ouma Balikowa, African Public Spaces Network</i>
	<p>Parallel session 3.3 Growing knowledge: Urban forests as classrooms</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Khululekile Mase, Head of Department, Gauteng Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Nicolette Pingo, City of Johannesburg</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Indigo</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow-a-classroom project to expand urban canopy in public schools, Kenya <i>George Ndege, Architectural Association of Kenya</i> • Knowledge transfer, a useful tool to sustain Africa's urban green spaces: A systematic review, Ghana <i>Collins Adjei Mensah, University of Cape Coast</i> • Schoolyards as urban forests in Niamey city, Niger: Diversity and ecosystem services <i>Moussa Soulé, Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi</i> • The green ambiance: Advocating for green spaces through urban school compounds, Uganda <i>Irene Nagudi, Kichini Gardeners Initiative</i> • Initiative for the tree: A youth-led urban forestry education initiative, Niger (French) <i>Sakina Mamane Bawa, Initiative Pour l'Arbre</i>
	<p>Parallel session 3.4 Contagion: Transmitting healthy practices for public health and wellbeing</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Prof Collins Adjei Mensa, University of Cape Coast</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Wilson Masele, University of Dar es Salaam</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ultramarine</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring equitable access, health, and well-being: A study of evidence-based strategies and practices for designing and managing urban forests, Ghana <i>Patrick Opoku, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology</i> • Public health and ecological consequences of invasive plant species in landfills in Gauteng Province, South Africa <i>Mutavhatsindi Tshinakaho, University of Johannesburg</i> • How urban redevelopment is changing the health outlook in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia <i>Ledet Muleta, Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor's Office</i> • Urban residents' perceptions and experiences of access to health clinic gardens for general well-being in the North-West province, South Africa <i>Nanamhla Gwedla, Rhodes University</i> • Climate resilience for Hyderabad metropolitan area of India and public well-being by sustainable management of urban reserve forest ecosystems <i>Chandrashekar Reddy Gopidi, Forest Development Corporation</i> • The impact of homelessness in the public open spaces. Case study in City of Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Bishop Ngobeli, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo</i>
12h00-13h00	Lunch break hosted by Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	
13h00-14h30	<p>Roundtable discussion Sacred ground, common future: Environmental justice inequalities in access and legacy effects of colonial and apartheid eras</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Dr Jessica Thorn, Lecturer, University of Namibia, Imperial College London</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Ms Nicolette Pingo, City of Johannesburg</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Malaika Mahlatsi, University of Johannesburg, Examining the legacy of colonialism and apartheid: Spatial environmental inequalities and their ongoing impact on marginalized communities • Gogo Nomsa Sibeko, Nature speaks and responds, The role of traditional healers in the preservation of urban forests, biodiversity, rivers, and wetlands • Ms Regina Opondo, Kounkey Design Initiative, Embracing informality in African cities: Integrating nature into urban development • Ms Natasha Malunga, House of Arts Association, Connecting urban forests to livelihoods and food production: Ensuring opportunities for youth and sustainable growth • Ms Ichrak Klai, MENA Justice Climate Platform, Democratising Decision-Making and Policy Development in Urban Forests and Greening Initiatives • Mr Makgafela Thaba, City of Johannesburg, Building strong and collaborative city-community partnerships

Parallel session 4.1**Greening the margins: Urban forests in informal settlements****Moderator:** *Diale Lodi, JoziMyJozi***Rapporteur:** *Gerson Nethavhani, Gauteng Provincial Department of Environment***Breakaway Room:** *Ebony*

- **Community-led ecosystem-based adaptation planning in river restoration initiatives in urban informal settlements, Kenya**
Michelle Koyaro Matengo, Shack Dwellers International Kenya
- **Climate justice and informal traders access to urban green space, Namibia**
Tapiwa Maruza, Namibia University of Science and Technology
- **Exploring green infrastructure within low-income informal urban areas in two cities, Nigerian**
Olumuyiwa Adegun, Federal University of Technology
- **Incorporating urban green infrastructure in informal settlement upgrading, A case of Baruti and Sigara sub-ward, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**
Michael Mdongwe, University of Dar es Salaam
- **A systematic review of green-blue infrastructure ecosystem services in informal settlements in sub-Saharan Africa**
Johannes Andreas, University of Namibia

Parallel session 4.2**Guardians of the canopy: The role of traditional and ecological knowledge, gender and youth****Moderator:** *Tamsin Faragher, Principal Resilience Officer, International Federation of Landscape Architects***Rapporteur:** *Patrick Opoku, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology***Breakaway Room:** *Ivory*

- **Community driven reforestation in the Buffelsdraai Community Reforestation Project, Durban, South Africa**
Thembelihle Mlokoti, eThekweni Municipality
- **Fostering equitable access to health and well-being through the ethnobotany and conservation of succulent plants in Same District, Tanzania**
Antonia Mpagike, University of Dar Es Salaam
- **Brakes and levers to the success of an alluvial forest restoration operation in the lower Ouémé valley in Benin as part of the MYP 5 program (French)**
Dahodo Médard, ONG Credel
- **Transforming communities and women through storytelling and urban greening in Johannesburg, South Africa**
Christina Vestey, Seed Community
- **We plant trees for our lost brothers” - synergies between youth-led climate change adaptation and environmental justice activism along the Nairobi rivers, Kenya**
Stine Kronsted Pedersen, Urban Design Lead

Parallel session 4.3**Pamoja: Participation, collective action and citizen science****Moderator:** *Nosipho Hlatshwayo, CEO, South African Cities Network***Rapporteur:** *Johannes Andreas, University of Namibia***Breakaway Room:** *Indigo*

- **Citizen science for the management and early detection of invasive alien plants, Kloofendal Nature Reserve, Johannesburg, South Africa**
Takalani Nelufule, University of South Africa
- **Investigating the potential of citizen science as a participatory approach to assess ecosystem services in order to support decision-making at different policy levels – A Swiss example**
Jerylee Wilkes-Allemann, Bern University of Applied Sciences
- **Peri-urban mangrove forests and adjacent communities’ perception of the impact of degradation on livelihoods in Tudor Creek, Mombasa, Kenya**
Risper Oteke, University of Dar es Salaam
- **Agrisilviculture adoption key drivers in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa: A community-driven approach, South Africa**
Phokele Maponya, Agricultural Research Council

	<p>Parallel session 4.4 Con air: Prospects for enhancing air quality</p> <p>Moderator: Sharon Ogoti, Urban Designer, UN-Habitat</p> <p>Rapporteur: Alivony Ravelomanantsoa, University of Antananarivo</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ultramarine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming urban air quality: Green infrastructure strategies for the urban centers, Ethiopia <i>Tikabo Gebreyesus Gerezgher, University of Bonn</i> • The impact of green infrastructure on air pollution and respiratory health in Antananarivo, Madagascar <i>Alivony Ravelomanantsoa, University of Antananarivo</i> • How greenspaces are used and accessed to limit COVID-19 infection and severity, South Africa <i>Bopaki Phogole, University of Johannesburg</i> • Energy access and firewood dependency in Windhoek's informal settlements, Namibia: Implications for biodiversity conservation and sustainability, Namibia <i>John Mfuno, University of Namibia</i>
16h00-16h30	Tea break	
16h30-18h00	<p>Side events</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Indigo</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Aquamarine</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ivory</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ebony</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ultramarine</p> <p>Poster session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivating resilient communities: Sustainable agriculture for food security and urban Forests, Johannesburg <i>Tinashe Mushayanyama, City of Johannesburg</i> • Urban forests for townships <i>Asanda Ngoasheng, Rehumanising Dialogue</i> • Precision advocacy for greener, healthier cities <i>Yeukai Tizora, UrbanBetter</i> • Mapping and monitoring urban forests: Open-access solutions for climate resilience and green equity in African Cities <i>Jorge Patiño and Daniel Padde, OECD Sahel and West Africa Club</i> • Ongoing efforts for a more resilient Dakar, Senegal: Developing a blue-green infrastructure network and multifunctional greenbelt, Research and youth activism, and everything trees <i>Robert Levinthal, University of Pennsylvania</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring how urban forests mitigate the urban heat effect in three Moroccan cities <i>Alanda Kamana, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University</i> • Cities for All in Africa: Lesson learnt from Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Accra <i>Thelma Kadiramwando, University of Johannesburg</i> • Leveraging urban forests, green spaces, and biodiversity strategies for sustainable Algerian Cities <i>Ferrah Imene, Food and Agriculture Organization</i> • Optimizing benefits of plant-based greening infrastructure for human and ecosystem health, climate proofing and sustainable city landscapes in the humid tropics <i>Samuel Agele, Federal University of Technology</i> • Gillooly's farm: Public private partnership to revitalise an urban park in Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Clare Chappel, University of the Witwatersrand</i> • The restorative power of trees: Healing the trauma of living in inner city Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Clare Chappel, University of the Witwatersrand</i> • Climate-proofing African cities: Strategies for building resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change in South Africa <i>Gugulethu Faith Hlabangana, Africa Voluntary Carbon Credits Market Forum</i> • Afro futurist perspectives on reforesting Johannesburg's inner city: The Drill Hall case study, South Africa <i>Siwe Ntombela, Exotically Divine Pulse</i> • Cooling Morocco's cities: Exploring the climate-calming capabilities of how urban forests mitigate the urban heat effect in three Moroccan cities <i>Alanda Kamana, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University</i> • Harnessing urban forests for local development in Nairobi, Kenya <i>Maureen Bett, Nairobi City County Govey</i>

- **Making the Mali's urban forests profitable in the face of climate change**
Doumbia Mohamed dit Kila, École Nationale des Ingénieurs
- **Urban forests as green infrastructure in Abuja, Nigeria**
Christian Tooche Egbuche, Federal University of Technology Owerri
- **Roots of opportunity: Growing South Africa's economy through urban forests**
Letlotlo Manake, University of Johannesburg
- **Exploring the challenges of urban forest management in Ekurhuleni informal settlements, South Africa**
Mbali Pridy Mbonani, Southern African Association of Science and Technology Centres
- **Urban connectedness matters: Why some schools excel, and others struggle to engage with climate change in Singida, Tanzania**
Nyerere Jackson Mwera, Ardhi University
- **Economic behaviour and livestock production in the forestry zones of Abuja, Nigeria**
Michael Oke, Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation
- **Repositioning's of cutting down of trees and using firewood as cooking and the health implications: A case studies of Gbessa community of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria**
Michael Oke, Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation
- **Towards resilient African cities: Strategies for addressing climate change, Burkina Faso (French)**
Zidouemba Wendpayangde Dimitri, National Assembly of Burkina Faso
- **Analysis of the integration of climate change into the development planning of the rural commune of Gangara, Niger (French)**
Badamassi Malam Abdou Moutari
- **Forestry policy in urban areas in the face of climate change: Case of the city of Bujumbura, Burundi (French)**
Ndayizamba Aimé, National School of Administration
- **Water for the future: Achieving water resilience & community upliftment through the strategic landscaping of locket forests and native grassland**
Tam Scheidegger, Water for the Future
- **IMVELO - Immersive Virtual Environment and Learning Orbitarium**
Owami Ralesesane Mbele, University of the Witwatersrand

18h00-20h00

Cocktail reception hosted by Absa

African Women in Urban Greening and Sustainability Social Evening

- **MC:** Pam Yako, Managing Director, Zenande Leadership
- **Welcoming remarks:** Cllr Loyiso Masuku, MMC for Group Corporate and Shared Services, City of Johannesburg
- **Message from the sponsor;** Ms Yolisa Tyantsi, Managing Executive Strategy and Sustainability Office, Absa

DAY 3 THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2025: MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR URBAN FORESTS

Venue: The Forum, The Campus, Bryanston

Chair: Mr Simone Borelli, Urban Forestry Officer and Coordinator of the FAO Green Cities Initiative, FAO

A thriving urban forestry sector necessitates sustainable financing and investment to unlock its full potential.

08h00-09h00	Early morning refreshments	
09h00-09h15	Chairperson's opening remarks and setting the scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Tshepo Makola, Acting City Manager, City of Johannesburg Ms Beryl Noziphlo Khanyile, Director, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
09h15-09h30	Keynote intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban green and climate finance mapping study: Key discoveries and strategic implications Dr Sylvester Horvey and Dr Melody Mandevere, Researchers, Wits Business School Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment
09h30-11h00	<p>Roundtable discussion: Unlocking financial resources for urban forests and green spaces in African cities</p> <p>Moderator: Prof Bhekinkosi Moyo, Director, Wits Business School's Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment</p> <p>Rapporteur: Dr Soalandy Rakotondramanga FAO African Regional Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Zuko Godlimpi, South African Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ms Ane Cuadrado Galardi, Urban Development Specialist, African Development Bank Mr Olympus Manthata, Head of Climate and Environmental Finance, Development Bank of Southern Africa Mr André Oberholzer, Group Head Corporate Affairs, South African Pulp and Paper Industries Limited, SAPPI Mr Isaac Mugumbule, Supervisor Landscape, Kampala City Council Authority Ms Nokutula Mhene, Project Management Specialist, United Nations Development Programme Ms Wrenelle Stander, Chief Executive Officer, WESGRO
11h00-11h30	Tea break	
11h30-13h00	<p>Parallel session 5.1 Lion's share: Equitable finance and local economic development for African prosperity</p> <p>Moderator: Mzukisi Gwata, City Of Johannesburg</p> <p>Rapporteur: Daniel Padde, Kampala Capital City Authority</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Indigo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate-proofing Cameroonian cities of Douala and Yaoundé: Leveraging climate finance for resilient and sustainable infrastructure, Cameroon Abdel Mounde, UN-Habitat Unlocking Nairobi's urban forests: Economic opportunities and public-private partnerships for a resilient future in Nairobi, Kenya Kelvin Pushati Lemein, Nairobi City County Government Willingness to pay for ecotourism in Maradi and Tibiri-Gobir cities in Niger based on green spaces valorisation Jangorzo Salifou Nouhou, Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi A socio-economic valuation of green spaces in Nairobi, Kenya Alphayo Lutta, Stockholm Environment Institute Urban forests for human well-being and climate change action. A case study of Giraffe Centre Sanctuary, Kenya Mitchell Akinyi, Kenya Forestry Research Institute The business case for butterfly sanctuaries in urban forests in Ghana, Madagascar and South Africa Natsai Nhemachena, Construction Infrastructure Academy
	<p>Parallel session 5.2 Ubuntu and the urban forest: Governance of nature-based solutions</p> <p>Moderator: Solomon Newete, Agricultural Research Council, Wits University</p> <p>Rapporteur: Adelaide Chokoe, City of Johannesburg</p> <p>Breakaway Room: Ebony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the 3+30+300 guideline for developing green and bioculturally diverse communities Cecil Konijnendijk, Nature Based Solutions Institute / University of British Columbia Towards a blue - green infrastructure master plan for Kampala, Uganda Daniel Padde, Kampala Capital City and Makerere University Socio-economic and institutional factors influencing the success of ecosystem-based adaptation interventions in Nyagatare District, Eastern of Rwanda Irafasha Felicien, Assistant Lecturer Management, governance and challenges of urban green infrastructure in three rapidly growing cities of Tigray, Ethiopia Muluberhan Biedemariam, Mekelle University and Aksum University A human rights-based approach to mainstreaming nature-based solutions: Lessons from the urban natural assets programme in Bo City, Sierra Leone and Cape Coast, Ghana Bongiwe Simka, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

	<p>Parallel session 5.3 The green mile: Monitoring and mapping changes in the urban canopy</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Pumeza Nodada, Forestry Management, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Emmanuel Samson Lobe Ekamby, University of Bonn</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ultramarine</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping the evolution of urban green spaces in Nairobi's Langata constituency using Sentinel-2 imagery and machine learning <i>Pamela Ochungo, Technical University of Kenya</i> • The role of digital tools in supporting environmental service delivery in Gauteng Province, South Africa <i>Neggie Bakwunye, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</i> • An analysis of tools, policies and actions for reducing environmental disparities, Italy <i>Livia Shamir, Stefano Boeri Architetti</i> • Evaluating the balance between green space and urban infrastructure using Google Earth Engine in Kigali, Rwanda <i>Muvunyi Germain, INES Ruhengeri</i> • Evaluation of the design and management of urban parklands to render recreational and ecosystem services, South Africa <i>Bianca Mulder, Stellenbosch University</i>
<p>13h00-14h00</p>	<p>Lunch break hosted by Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p>	
<p>14h00-15h30</p>	<p>Side events</p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ebony</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ultramarine</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Ivory</i></p> <p>Breakaway Room: <i>Indigo</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species selection for sustainable urban green spaces. <i>Charity Mumbi Mwangi, World Resources Institute</i> • Towards resilient cities: Private sector partnerships for sustainable urban parks in Africa <i>Tariq Toffa, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, Centre on African Public Spaces, Re:think/design</i> • The importance of municipal greening programmes to promote safe and healthy communities <i>Dorah Kiki, South African Local Government Association</i> • The business case for Bafut Ngemba Forest Reserve <i>Nwachan Jacob Ngoek, Bamenda City Council</i>
	<p>Poster Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring how urban forests mitigate the urban heat effect in three Moroccan cities <i>Alanda Kamana, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University</i> • Cities for All in Africa: Lesson learnt from Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Accra <i>Thelma Kadiramwando, University of Johannesburg</i> • Leveraging urban forests, green spaces, and biodiversity strategies for sustainable Algerian Cities <i>Ferrah Imene, Food and Agriculture Organization</i> • Optimizing benefits of plant-based greening infrastructure for human and ecosystem health, climate proofing and sustainable city landscapes in the humid tropics <i>Samuel Agele, Federal University of Technology</i> • Gillooly's farm: Public private partnership to revitalise an urban park in Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Clare Chappel, University of the Witwatersrand</i> • The restorative power of trees: Healing the trauma of living in inner city Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Clare Chappel, University of the Witwatersrand</i> • Climate-proofing African cities: Strategies for building resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change in South Africa <i>Gugulethu Faith Hlabangana, Africa Voluntary Carbon Credits Market Forum</i> • Afro futurist perspectives on reforesting Johannesburg's inner city: The Drill Hall case study, South Africa <i>Siwe Ntombela, Exotically Divine Pulse</i>

- **Cooling Morocco's cities: Exploring the climate-calming capabilities of how urban forests mitigate the urban heat effect in three Moroccan cities**
Alanda Kamana, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University
- **Harnessing urban forests for local development in Nairobi, Kenya**
Maureen Bett, Nairobi City County Govey
- **Making the Mali's urban forests profitable in the face of climate change**
Doumbia Mohamed dit Kila, École Nationale des Ingénieurs
- **Urban forests as green infrastructure in Abuja, Nigeria**
Christian Tooche Egbuche, Federal University of Technology Owerri
- **Roots of opportunity: Growing South Africa's economy through urban forests**
Letlotlo Manake, University of Johannesburg
- **Exploring the challenges of urban forest management in Ekurhuleni informal settlements, South Africa**
Mbali Pridy Mbonani, Southern African Association of Science and Technology Centres
- **Urban connectedness matters: Why some schools excel, and others struggle to engage with climate change in Singida, Tanzania**
Nyerere Jackson Mwera, Ardhi University
- **Economic behaviour and livestock production in the forestry zones of Abuja, Nigeria**
Michael Oke, Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation
- **Repositioning's of cutting down of trees and using firewood as cooking and the health implications: A case studies of Gbessa community of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria**
Michael Oke, Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation
- **Towards resilient African cities: Strategies for addressing climate change, Burkina Faso (French)**
Zidouemba Wendpayangde Dimitri, National Assembly of Burkina Faso
- **Analysis of the integration of climate change into the development planning of the rural commune of Gangara, Niger (French)**
Badamassi Malam Abdou Moutari
- **Socio-spatial and environmental transformations in the city of Agadez, Niger (French)**
Mahamadou Magagi Ibrahim, Université André Salifou de Zinder (UAS)
- **Forestry policy in urban areas in the face of climate change: Case of the city of Bujumbura, Burundi (French)**
Ndayizamba Aimé, National School of Administration
- **Water for the future: Achieving water resilience & community upliftment through the strategic landscaping of locket forests and native grassland**
Tam Scheidegger, Water for the Future
- **IMVELO - Immersive Virtual Environment and Learning Orbitorium**
Owami Ralesesane Mbele, University of the Witwatersrand

15h30-16h00	Tea break	
16h00-16h30	Keynote intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charting a way forward for urban green and climate finance in African cities: Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities <i>Ms Gcobisa Magazi, Director in the office of DDG: Public Finance, National Treasury</i> <i>Mr Elijah Ramulifho, Programme Manager: Sustainable & Resilient Cities, SA Cities Network</i>
16h30-17h30	Launch of virtual community of practice and road map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a road map for the African nature-based solutions network <i>Facilitated break out discussions of thematic working groups on capacity building, research directions, monitoring and mapping, communication, resource mobilisation</i>
17h30-18h00	Closing remarks for the forum and declaration on urban forests in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Simone Borelli, Urban Forestry Officer and Coordinator of the FAO Green Cities Initiative, FAO • Ms Thenjiwe Mjoli, Board Chairperson, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo
18h00	Free evening	



DAY 4 FRIDAY, 21 MARCH 2025: CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

Venue: Diepsloot Memorial Park

Chair: Cllr Tebogoo Nkonkou, MMC Community Development, City of Johannesburg

Tree planting ceremony led by the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in partnership with the Department of Environment Gauteng Province and co-organisers.

08h00-08h45	Registration and tea	
08h45-09h00	Arrival of dignitaries led by the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg	
09h30-10h00	Host institutions and partners opening address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Director introduces all dignitaries • Welcome and opening remarks by the Executive Mayor of City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality Cllr Sello Enoch Dada Morero • Remarks from the 2nd AFUF Conference Organisers Ms Tiina Vähänen, FAO • Remarks by the Local Organiser, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo Mr Thanduxolo Mendrew • Remarks by African Development Bank Ms Ane Cuadrado Galardi • Remarks by the Wangari Maathai Foundation Ms Njeri Kabebber • Message of Support by Member of the Executive Council for Environment Hon Ms Shyla Mary Peters • Keynote address by the Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Hon Ms Bernice Swarts, MP
10h30-11h00	Ceremonial Tree Planting	
11h00	Departure to urban forests projects-site tours	

SITE TOURS - URBAN FORESTRY PROJECTS: CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

11h30-12h30	<p>Group 1 Jukskei River Restoration, Alexandra Township (the Hub)</p> <p>Group 2 Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Emmarentia</p>	<p>To showcase: <i>River clean ups, rehabilitation, nature-based solutions and integrated greening</i></p> <p>To showcase: <i>Municipal owned Botanical Garden, theme gardens, science Centre and food resilience programmes</i></p>
13h00-13h30	Visit to project site 3 (All groups): Johannesburg Zoo polyphagous shot hole borer site	To showcase: <i>The impact of climate change on urban forests, invasive pests and the importance of tree diversity</i>
13h30-14h30	Light lunch at the Johannesburg Zoo	
15h00	Departure of delegates	

GREEN CAREERS EXPO: DIEPSLOOT MEMORIAL PARK

09h30-15h00	Green careers expo	To continue parallel to the formal address and site tours
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