



AFRICAN FORUM
ON URBAN FORESTS

2nd African Forum On Urban Forests

Green Horizons: Shaping the Future Resilience of African Cities through Urban Forests

18 March 2025 - 21 March 2025



in partnership with:



Building Resilient Urban Futures: Implementing Nature-based Solutions at Multiple Scales

SIDE SESSION
18 March 2025



PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
18h00 – 18h10	Welcome	Regina Opondo (KDI)
18h10 – 18H25	Setting the scene: Green-grey Infrastructure/NBS for urban areas	Diana Mawoko (WRI)
18h25 – 18h30	Move to Case Study Corner	Nikara Mahadeo (WRI)
18h30 - 18h45	Case Studies	Sabrina Ohler – KDI Alemakef Tassew – WRI
18h50 – 19h20	Panel Discussion: <i>Chanel Pather – JICP</i> <i>Vhalinavho Khavhagali – IUCN</i> <i>Sharon Ogoti – UN Habitat</i>	Moderator: Regina Opondo (KDI)
19h20 – 19h30	Regional urban NbS – Community of Practice	Frank Kiriimi (KDI)
19h30	Closing	Diana Mawoko (WRI)



SETTING THE SCENE: Green-grey Infrastructure/NBS for urban areas

Diana Mawoko





WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

afr100



GGI & NBS for Urban Resilience

Alignment to AFR100

LAND DEGRADATION IS A GLOBAL CRISIS

48%

of forests have
been lost or
degraded

1/3

of all people are
affected by land
degradation,
especially the poor

33%

of agricultural soils
are moderately or
severely degraded

AFR100 PROMOTES RESTORATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT CAN IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS OF 235 MILLION AFRICANS



Potential to impact 1 in 5 African people, with broad indirect impacts across African communities

34 AFR100 COUNTRIES



RESTORATION DELIVERS CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS



- Restoration + conservation are **~30% of the solution** needed to slow warming by 2030
- AFR100's goal of restoring 100 million hectares could sequester **up to 0.49 GtCO₂e annually**
- Every \$1 invested in restoration can yield **\$7-30 in benefits**

WHY URBAN RESTORATION MATTERS

- Africa's cities are rapidly growing, leading to increased environmental stress (flooding, heat islands, biodiversity loss, pollution).
- Traditional grey infrastructure (concrete-based) is insufficient to address these challenges.
- Green-Grey Infrastructure (GGI) & NBS provide hybrid solutions that integrate natural and built environments to enhance urban resilience.

HOW GGI & NBS ALIGN WITH AFR100 GOALS

- How GGI & NBS Align with AFR100 Goals:
 - Expands restoration to urban landscapes, making cities part of Africa's broader land restoration agenda.
 - Strengthens ecosystem services within cities (e.g., stormwater management, air quality, biodiversity corridors).
 - Creates socio-economic benefits—green jobs, climate adaptation, and improved well-being for urban communities.
- Opportunities for Scaling in AFR100 Countries:
 - Linking urban restoration with national FLR strategies.
 - Integrating GGI/NBS into climate adaptation and sustainable development plans.

THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- The key to successful restoration projects is **local involvement**
- Community-based organizations across Africa have **worked directly with smallholder farmers** to restore land and fight climate change
- By focusing on native trees and engaging closely with communities, they can ensure that the **climate mitigation and adaptation benefits** of restoration are maximized and protected
- 100s of these project developers are doing good work – but they still **lack funding**





Nguni Nursery

Entrepreneur Siyabulela Sokomani is growing high-quality native trees for South African restoration projects

- Growing **150,000 trees** now
- **25 staff** and expanding
- Long-term funding by One Tree Planted
- Cape Town premier visited last week



For more information:

Diana Mawoko

diana.Mawoko@wri.org

CASE STUDIES

Nikara Mahadeo



CASE STUDIES

Choose between one of the two case studies and move to the relevant corner to hear more

CASE STUDY 1

Sabrina Ohler (KDI)

Neighbourhood level

NBS GGI planning and implementation at the neighbourhood level - underserviced communities

CASE STUDY 2

Alemakef Tassew (WRI)

Scaling up NBS to city-level

Strategy (guidelines and regulations), policy/community of practice, & implementation



PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Regina/Sabrina

PANELISTS:

Chanel Pather – JICP

Vhalinavho Khavhagali – IUCN

Sharon Ogoti – UN Habitat

Arthur Adeya – KDI (?)



Regional urban NbS Community of Practice

Frank Kirimi



CLOSING

Diana Mawoko



Thank You for joining us !

