



THE ARIN END YEAR INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIVE CONFERENCE

‘EVIDENCE-DRIVEN SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM GLOBAL INTRACTABLE CHALLENGES’

ONLINE 25, 26, & 29 NOVEMBER 2021

[Register >>](#)

[Day 1: Highlights on Evidence-Based Policy Making in Africa](#)

[Day 2: Partnerships for Evidence-Based Policymaking \(EBPM\)](#)

[Day 3: Case Example of Evidence Pathways](#)

**Climate Change, Health (COVID-19) and
Disaster Risk Reduction**



**Dr. Joanes Atela -
Convener, ARIN**

Welcome Message

A heartfelt welcome to the ARIN International Reflective Conference on Evidence-driven Sustainable Recovery from Global Intractable Challenges

On behalf of the Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN), I'm delighted to welcome you all, to this year's virtual conference.

As the world reconfigures its efforts towards addressing the changing nature of global challenges such as health-related challenges, climate change, and others, sustainable recovery from these challenges has become a major agenda. In many developing contexts such as Africa, efforts to recover from global intractable challenges have been marred with significant 'rush' to return to economic normalcy, leading to increased risk accumulation, greenhouse gas emission, health hazards, disaster risks among others. African countries are currently re-engaging the world in green recovery dialogue in line with the SDGs.

In the year 2021, the Africa Research and Impact Network has engaged more than 3000 research, policy and practice experts through over 30 Science-Policy dialogues aimed at discussing Africa's options for tackling these global intractable challenges in a sustainable way. A number of insights have emerged from the dialogue series that needs to be consolidated for progressive action.

About the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)

The ARIN is a network of over 200 researchers and policy makers across 36 African countries aimed at promoting research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices. The ARIN provides one of the unique convening platforms for science-policy interface in Africa building on evidence. It recognises that Africa is home to multiple researchers, innovation and best policy practices but these remain poorly shared, learnt from to inform impactful Research and Development Agenda. The ARIN therefore provides a peer review platform where best research and impact practices from different African contexts are shared, profiled and leveraged to inform transformative policy actions.

The 2021 ARIN Reflective Conference

The ARIN 2021 International Reflective Conference themed, ***Evidence-driven Sustainable Recovery from Global Intractable Challenges*** builds on synthesis and insights from over 30 science-policy (S-P) convenings undertaken across the three challenge areas: health, climate change and disaster risks.

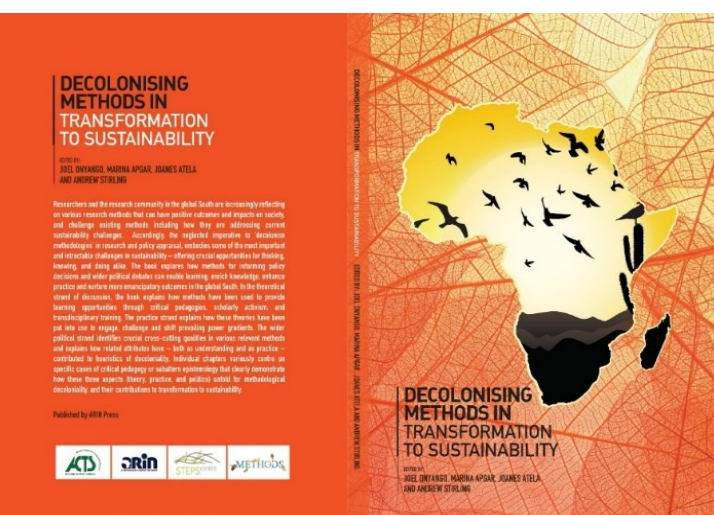
The conference is scheduled for **25, 26, and 29 November 2021** and is intended to

(1) showcase the key highlights from the Science-Policy (S-P) convenings

(2) explore action agenda to strengthen the evidence-based policy-making (EBPM) in Africa towards addressing the three challenge areas and their interactions.

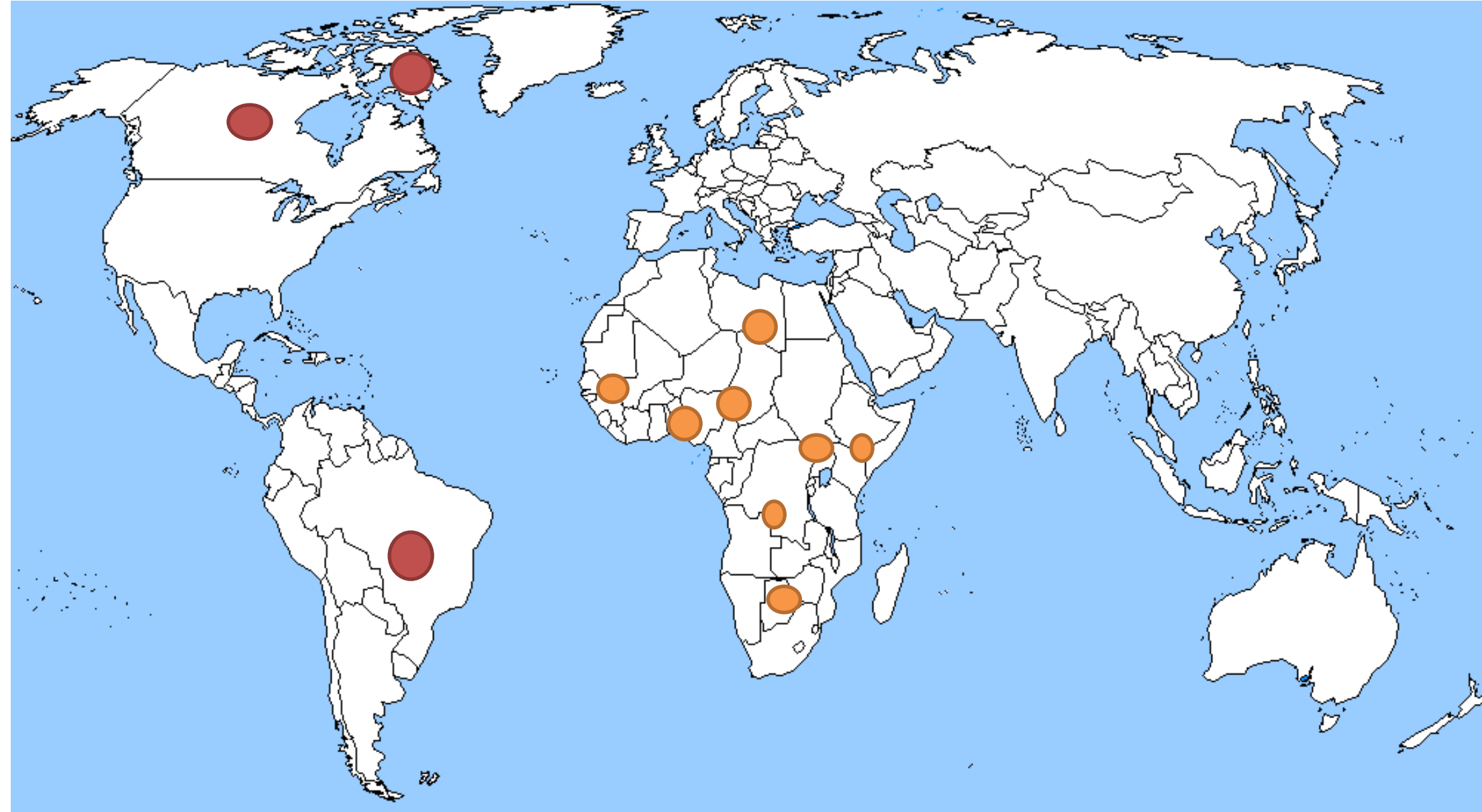
Last Conference Edition:

Virtual/Nairobi, Kenya 2019 : Africa on the Post Covid-19 world: Lessons for Policy & Research



REGIONS REPRESENTED

- Africa Regional Focal Points
- The Diaspora



Conference Program: Day 1: 25 November 2021

Highlights of Key Insights from the ARIN Science-Policy Convenings

Session Chair : Prof. Felix Kalaba, ARIN Focal Point, Southern Africa

The session will begin with a presentation on some of the emerging trends in EBPM in Africa, towards addressing climate change, DRR and Health challenge (specifically COVID-19). Presentations will also highlight the status of evidence and associated gaps as well as how this evidence is used to shape policies and actions and the associated implications. The high-level presentations will be followed by a high-level panel discussion reflecting on the issues of EBPM and associated opportunities and challenges within and across the various global challenge targeting: climate change, disaster risk reduction, and COVID-19

[Register here](#)



Conference Program for Day 1: 25 November 2021

Understanding evidence-based Policymaking in Africa in Response to Global Challenges-Highlights from ARIN2021 Science Policy Convenings

Time (Eat Africa Time)	Description	Speakers
1400 - 1425	Conference Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Joanes Atela – Convener, ARIN○ Hon Dr. Chris K. Kiptoo, CBS , Principal Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.○ Prof Cosmas Ochieng, WRI
1425 - 1500	Key Highlights from the ARIN Science- Policy Convenings 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Change• Health (COVID-19)• Disaster Risk Reduction• Methods for sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof. Felix Kalaba, ARIN Focal Point, Southern Africa○ Ms. Norah Ndege, ARIN○ Mr. Charles Tonui, ARIN○ Dr. Joel Onyango, ARIN /ACTS
1500 - 1600	Reflective Keynote address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence gaps and synergies between the global interactable Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof Lenore Maderson, University of the Witwatersrand○ Aynur Kadihasanoglu, Global Disaster Preparedness Center○ Prof. Shuaib Lwasa, Global Adaptation Center○ Dr. Marina Apgar, IDS – University of Sussex○ Prof Saleem Huq, ICCCAD
1600 - 1620	Reflections / Q & A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ALL



Conference Program for Day 2: 26 November 2021

Partnerships for Addressing Evidence-Based Policy Making (EBPM)

Co-hosted with Africa UniNet

Session Chair: Julia Lichtkoppler, OeaD – Africa UniNet

This session is co-hosted by African UniNet (www.africa-uninet.at). The session aims to explore opportunities and options for strengthening the EBPM in Africa. The session will start with a reflective panel session on the consequences of Covid-19 for the university and research sector and reflect on the importance of partnerships in addressing the pandemic. This will be followed by the reflections from two key experts on how partnership could be better designed to respond to the COVID-19 and other global Challenges in a Synergistics manner. The panel session will be followed by highlight launch of two book volumes from the ARIN focusing on the Science and Policy Lessons from COVID-19 and Decolonising Research Methods for Transition to Sustainability. The book authors will provide brief perspectives on the nature of evidence enshrined in their respective chapters followed by editorial commentary.

[Register here](#)



Conference Program for Day 2: 26 November 2021

Partnerships for Addressing Evidence-Based Policy Making (EBPM)

Time (Eat Africa Time)	Description	Speakers
1300 - 1320	Welcome & Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Joanes Atela – Convener, ARIN○ Dr. Andreas Obrecht – Convener, OeAD
1320 - 1330	Reflection of previous day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Kennedy Mbeva, ARIN, Oxford University
Reflective Panel Discussion : Moderator Dr. Joel Onyango		
1330 - 1430	Implications of COVID-19 on Higher Education & Research in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Joanes Atela, ARIN○ Prof. Nzula Kitaka, Vice-President - Africa UniNet○ Dr. Janestic Twikirize, Makerere University
1430- 1450	Keynote Reflection on the Role of Partnerships in addressing the Evidence Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof Sam Kinyanjui, KEMRI, Oxford University○ Prof. Mark Pelling, Kings College London
1450-1550	Launch Book Volumes <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ COVID-19 lessons for Africa Research and Policy Agenda○ Challenging Sustainability Methods in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Joanes Atela, ARIN○ Prof. Mark Pelling , Kings College London○ Dr. Joel Onyango, ARIN/ACTS
1550 – 1600	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Summary of key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Asenath Maobe, ARIN
1600 – 1610	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof. Felix Kalaba

Conference Program Day 3: 29 November 2021

Exemplifying Cases through Governing the Socio-Technical Transformations Pathways to Policy

Session Chair: Dr Joel Onyango

The purpose of the session is to use the case of governing the socio-technical transformations to evaluate and validate the key factors in different imaginations of transformation, and policy influence based on experiences from a diverse set of stakeholders.

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Conference Program Day 3: 29 November 2021

Exemplifying Cases through Governing the Socio-Technical Transformations Pathways to Policy

Time (Eat Africa Time)	Description	Speakers
1100 – 1110	Recap of previous days insights, welcome, and facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Kennedy Liti Mbeva, ○ ARIN & Oxford University
1110 – 1140	Keynote Address: The Role of Evidence for Decision-Making in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prof. Felix Kalaba, ARIN Focal Point, ○ Southern Africa
Discussants		
1140 – 1300	Evidence from Governance of Socio-Technical Transformations: Urban Imaginaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prof. Andrew Stirling, ○ Dr. Joel Onyango, ○ Dr. Rose Cairns ○ Dr. Phillip Johnstone
1300 – 1310	Way forward & Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Joanes Atela
*****End of the Conference*****		
1400 – 1700	Group Reflections: Mapping Pathways to Policy in Urban, Agriculture, and Energy Transformations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Joel Onyango ○ Dr. Asenath Maobe ○ Dr. Kennedy Liti, ○ Salome Okoth, ○ Maureen Kabasa





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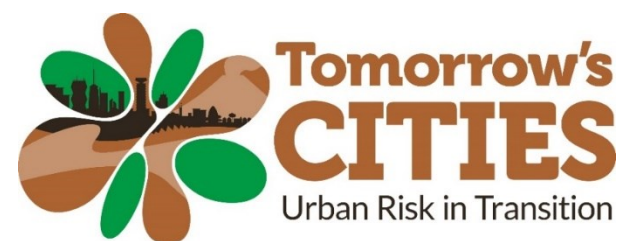
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 **<http://www.arin-africa.org>**

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Our Partners



Speakers' Biographies



Dr. Joanes Atela is the Convener of the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN). He is a Development Policy expert with over fifteen (15) years experience in research and offering technical support to African Governments in resilience, sustainable development, and knowledge management. He is also the current Director: Impact and Partnerships, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and the Lead of the Nairobi Risk Hub - part of the Tomorrow's Cities UKRI GCRF Urban Disaster Risk Hub. Joanes is currently a Member of the Advisory Group to the United Kingdom– Research and Innovation (UKRI)- Global Challenges Research Fund. He is also Scientific Advisory Panel Member for the Stockholm at 50+ under the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Lead of the High Level Panel Africa Union Green Innovation Framework. Joanes' multi-level (e.g., local, national, regional and global) and cross-disciplinary (technical and policy ecosystems) understanding of knowledge management issues provides him with in-depth skills to develop locally grounded research and policy actions with global impacts.



Dr. Kennedy Mbeva is the Advisory Committee Member, the African Research and Impact Network (ARIN) and a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at Oxford University. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Melbourne and is a Research Fellow at the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI). His PhD research explored the linkage politics of trade policy and international environmental governance. As a scholar, he has given lectures in various parts of the world, contributed to scientific reports such as the IPCC, and serving in Kenya's official delegation to the annual UN climate change negotiations.



Prof. Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng is a global development and environmental specialist. Prior to joining WRI, he was the Director of the African Natural Resources Centre at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Cosmas has held teaching, research and policy positions in a number of think tanks, universities, international organizations and NGOs. These include: Boston University, Lancaster University, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Action Aid International, Eco-Agriculture Partners, and International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR). Cosmas holds a DPhil in Development Studies from Oxford University, an MPhil in Development Studies from Cambridge University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyatta University.



Dr. Chris K. Kiptoo, CBS is the Kenya's Principal Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Prior to his current position, he was the immediate Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives. Among the many accomplishments, he was able to oversee the conclusions of the negotiations, signing and Ratification of the East Africa Community (EAC) – European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement(EPA) (EAC – EU EPA), development of the National Trade Policy (NTP) which was jointly undertaken together by the National Government and County Governments, and the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC).



Prof. Felix is the chair of the ARIN Advisory Board and the Focal Point for the Southern Africa region. He is an Associate Professor of Environment and Development at the Copperbelt University in Zambia. He holds a PhD in Environment from the University of Leeds, an MSc in Forest Science, and a BSc in Forestry. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Copperbelt University, Kitwe, Zambia.



Prof. Lenore Maderson is a distinguished professor of Public Health and Medical Anthropology in the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She was previously professor at Queensland (1988-1998), Melbourne (1999-2005) and Monash universities (2006-2013). Her work is concerned with inequality and the social context of infectious and chronic diseases. She is the author and/or editor of multiple works, including *Surface Tensions* (2011), *Connected Lives* (edited with Nolwazi Mkhwanazi, 2020), and *Viral Loads* (edited with Nancy J. Burke and Ayo Wahlberg, 2021), which examines how COVID-19 exploits and magnifies inequality. In 2021, she was Team Leader, Social Sciences and Health Policy Research, Science Policy Engagement to Support Evidence-Informed Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Africa.



Aynur Kadihasanoglu is a Senior Advisor, Urban Disaster Risks & Resilience at the American Red-Cross where she leads the organization in developing a knowledge base for better understanding and operating effectively in urban context. She works in close collaboration with global partners and field teams in developing innovative approaches, analytical and assessment tools and methodologies and improve partnerships and collaboration to help building resilient urban communities. She has previously been consulted for the IFRC and UNICEF in Urban DRR.



Prof. Shuaib Lwasa is the principal researcher on adaptation, governance and transformation at the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA). Shuaib has over 22 years of experience in university teaching and research as Professor of Urban Sustainability at Makerere University, Uganda. He has worked extensively on interdisciplinary research projects focused not just on African cities but also in South Asia. His publications are in the areas of urban mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, urban environmental management, spatial planning, disaster risk reduction, and urban sustainability. Shuaib is a coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC WG III Chapter 8 “Urban Systems and Human Settlements” and Lead Author for the IPCC Special report on Land and Climate Change. He is the Past-Chair of the interdisciplinary research programme on Integrated Research on Disaster Risk.



Prof. Andy Stirling is Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, where he co-directs the 'STEPS Centre'. Working on issues of power, uncertainty and diversity in science and technology, he has served on a number of the UK and EU governmental advisory committees



Mark Pelling is Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography. Before this, he was based at the departments of Geography at University of Liverpool and University of Guyana. He has served as a coordinating Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report and Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) and as Lead Author on its Fifth Assessment Report. He chairs the Centre for Integrated Research on Risk and Resilience, and is currently seconded for half his time to the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund as a Resilience Challenge Lead. He is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Development Team for the Future Earth Risk Knowledge Action Network.



Prof. Nzula Kitaka is an associate professor and a researcher of “Aquatic/Water Science at Egerton University, Kenya. She is the current director, Board of Postgraduate studies (BPGS), Egerton University, a position she has held since July 2016. She has supervised several masters and a couple of ongoing PhD students. She has published widely in peer reviewed journals, publications, and book chapters. She is also a reviewer to a couple of journals. Currently, Prof Kitaka is the Vice President of Africa-UniNet; a Research consortium of 50 African and Austrian Universities and a member of the Advisory Board for Water-WISER CDT, which is a consortium of UK Universities to train PhD students in WASH since 2019. she is one of the directors of Local Ocean Conservation (LOC-WTW) protecting Sea Turtles along the Kenyan coast.



Dr. Janestic Mwende TWIKIRIZE is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, Makerere University, Uganda. She holds a PhD in Social Work and Social Development. Dr Twikirize served as the Vice President of the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA) and as a board member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) from 2012 to 2018. She is a member of the editorial board of the Journal International Social Work. She is the East Africa Regional Coordinator of PROSOWO, a six-member institutional academic partnership project to professionalise social work in East Africa. She has served as a Visiting Lecturer at Gothenburg University, Sweden, and University of Stavanger, Norway. Her research areas and published works focus on social work in Africa, indigenisation of social work, gender and child rights.



Prof. Sam Kinyanjui is the Head of Training and Capacity Building at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Programme in Kenya and the Director for the Initiative to Develop African Research Leaders (IDeAL). Prior to the current position, he spent 16 years doing research on the immunology and molecular biology of malaria parasites. During this period, he developed a strong interest in capacity building for health research in Africa. As the Head of Training and Capacity Building at the KWTRP in Kenya, he provides scientific and strategic guidance for academic training towards research leadership.



Ms. Julia Lichtkoppler is a program officer at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD). She is affiliated with the University of Vienna and is currently leading the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development – APPEAR. Julia is coordinating the Austrian-African Research Network (Africa UNINET).



Dr. Marina Apgar is a human ecologist with 20 years experience working directly with marginalised communities in international development. This cuts across the research-practice divide, supporting locally defined development pathways. She has worked extensively with indigenous peoples in Latin America, and collaborated with the Guna people of Panama during her doctoral research. Her research focused on the social and cultural processes that support adaptive capacity for endogenous development of their biocultural territory.



Dr. Rose Cairns is broadly interested in humanity's changing relationships with nature, and in exploring how ongoing transformations in these relationships could be shaped in ways that make them more sustainable, equitable and meaningful. She draws inspiration as well as theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches from political ecology, critical policy studies, and environmental governance. Her research has spanned a number of empirical areas relevant to global sustainability over recent years, including: biodiversity conservation, climate change, geoengineering, the food/energy/water 'nexus', sustainable agriculture and urban digital infrastructures. Within these diverse areas, she takes a critical approach to policy processes, examining questions of power, language and framing in the construction of expertise, unpacking dominant policy narratives, and examining the institutions through which the worlds of science and policy are mediated.



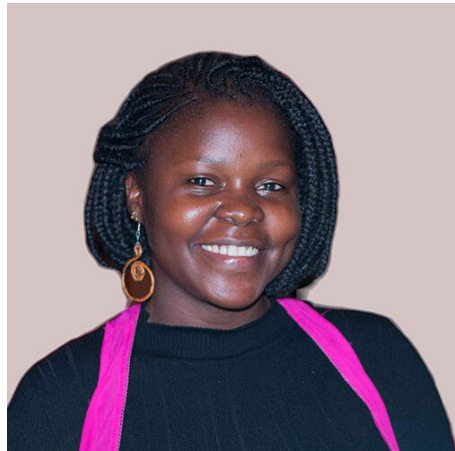
Dr Phil he is a Research Fellow with a background in Human Geography and Science and Technology Studies. He is interested in the political and democratic implications of sociotechnical change. He is the Sustainability Research Mobiliser for the University of Sussex Business School. Currently, he is working on the Deep Transitions project, looking at the role of war and warfare in socio-technical transitions. He's part of the Governance of Socio-Technical Transformations (GoST) project that looks at past and prospective transformations in agriculture, energy, and urban development.



Dr. Asenath Maobe is a post-doctoral Research Fellow on Gender under the Nairobi Risk Hub. She is also a Lecturer and Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance in the School of Business and Economics, Kisii University, Kenya. She is a holder of an Honorary Title of Best Post Doc Fellow of UNESCO from East China Normal University (ECNU), 2020. She holds a Ph.D. in Finance, an MBA in Finance, a Postgraduate Degree in International Educational Policy, Leadership and Management, and a Bachelor of Commerce-Accounting (Hons). She is a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya (CPA) and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya- ICPAK. Asenath is the incoming Asante Africa Foundation Board Treasurer, with vast experiences from academia, research, banking, and state agencies' board membership.



Ms. Nora Ndege is a fellow at ARIN and a research fellow at the African Center for Technology Studies. She is an interdisciplinary scholar with more than eight years experience in sustainable development research. She is competent in a broad array of issues around innovation (particularly agricultural innovations) and transformative knowledge systems that enhance the role of science and technology to address societal needs. Nora's career passion lies in innovative research and policy analysis that links multilevel policies to local resources and development realities – in a manner that creates sustainable development opportunities for the poor. Previously, she was engaged with the World Agroforestry Center, working with local communities to implement agricultural and development projects.



Salome Okoth is an Administrative Assistant at ARIN and for the Climate Resilient Economies Programme (CRE) at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS). Salome is passionate about sustainable development with science, technology and innovation as enablers. Her work experience is geared towards public advocacy through policy analysis, research, and stakeholder involvement with the aim of securing a conducive social, ecological and political environment in Africa. She is a seasoned professional, who is passionate about organizational resource planning and management at a strategic level. Her key responsibilities entail coordinating project activities and operations to secure excellence and efficiency.



Ms. Kabasa is a Kenyan Environmental researcher/climate change activist aiming to contribute to social, economic, and environmental development. She holds a bachelor degree in Management of Agro-ecosystems and Environment and an MSc. in Environmental Science (Applied Ecology). She has experience in field management in community-based forestry, biophysical dynamics of forest ecosystems, integrated pest management researches, and researches on invasive species. Currently, through supporting the building of climate capacities of institutions that provide climate change education, training, and education (CapCET) project in the COMESA region at the African Center for Technology Studies (ACTS).



Dr. Joel Onyango is a fellow at ARIN and the focal point for ARIN-ASH Summer School. Joel is also the Head of Programs, Climate Resilient Economies (CRE) at the African Center for Technology Studies (ACTS). He has over 10 years experience in research and management with a focus on science technology and innovation; climate change adaptation and mitigation; water quality, security, and access; food security; entrepreneurship and markets; and sustainable development. Joel obtained his PhD from IHE Delft Institute for water education in conjunction with Wageningen University, the Netherlands. His research focused on the effects of agricultural development on resource pollution and management. He holds an MSc degree – with Distinction – from UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, in Limnology and Wetland Ecosystems, and a Bachelor of Science degree, from Egerton University, Kenya, in Applied Aquatic Science.



Charles Tonui is a fellow at ARIN. He is also a research fellow at the African technology studies. As a researcher, Tonui supports action research, resource mobilization, and project management in projects under the Climate Resilience Economies program; co-convening of African Sustainability Dialogues under the African Sustainability Hub and engaging in policy impacts discussion under the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN). He actively participates in sustainability and policy discussions at a local, national, regional, and international level that aim to create awareness, enhance capacity and try to shape evidence-based policies towards building climate-resilient and sustainable economies in Africa.