



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN)

Transforming Research in Africa

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FOREWORD



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Africa is facing development and environmental transitions within a changing global knowledge context. These transitions are characterized by multiple shifts in development relations between African countries and the rest of the world. Specifically, the continent is a frontier for new international development partnerships, trade deals, and environmental action, owing to its abundant resource base for oil and other minerals, low carbon footprint, increasing population, among others. African Governments and Non-governmental actors are concerned about how to engage in these transitions in a manner that safeguards the continent's sustainable development agenda, inclusive economies, and rights of the marginalized populations, especially those severely affected by global challenges such as climate change, disaster risks, COVID-19, among others. The 26th and 27th Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP 26 and 27), for instance, ushered in new action agenda focusing on loss and damage and Just Transition, aimed at safeguarding the rights to development, sources of livelihood, and the low carbon transition process.

To date, Africa still engages in these debates superficially, mainly through political acknowledgments driven by strong global narratives and science. A key challenge however remains in filling the evidence gaps on the pathways to operationalise these transitions in a more inclusive and sustainable fashion. Over the last decades, Africa has experienced intense research and policy activities in various sectors especially health, agriculture, energy, science and technology, and lately climate change, among others. However, research in the continent remains uncoordinated, with little in-continent learning and poor networking among researchers. The Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) as an impact platform, brings together a network of scholars and policy makers to consolidate evidence on pathways to transitions and provide capacity and policy support, and to share and learn from best research and impact practices.

In the year 2022, the ARIN network released some thought-provoking publications and debates that need to be considered in this transition. Our keynote book '*Africa's Right to development in a carbon constrained world*', published by Macmillan Palgrave has set out key questions on just transition pathways for Africa. By engaging close to 3,000 stakeholders across Africa and beyond on these fundamental questions around Africa's transitions, we have built a solid convening space for topical issues such as locally led adaptation, knowledge translation and use, indicators and frameworks for learning science technology and innovation, climate and health systems, pro-poor integrated urban risk decision processes, among others. Our 2022 Annual Conference themed '*Just Transition for the poor*' consolidated our learnings by bringing together over 200 international stakeholders to discuss and consolidate learnings on how transitions can be strengthened to safeguard the poor and marginalized.

Overall, our work in 2022 mainly succeeded in raising fundamental questions, building frameworks, and sensitising stakeholders around the evidence needs for the transition processes. However, the challenge of creating objective evidence and consolidating this evidence to support transformative change and Africa-led thought leadership remains complex and constrained by many impediments such as limited research funding, path dependency in knowledge processes, limited co-creation and co-learning spaces especially between research, policy and practice, weak and ad-hoc partnerships, among others. In 2023, therefore, we aim to expand our partnership scope towards strengthening evidence base and frameworks for uptake, policy influence, and capacity.

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List of Abbreviations

ACTS	African Centre for Technology Studies
AFDB	African Development Bank
APFs	ARIN Policy Fellows
ARA	Adaptation Research Alliance
ARIN	Africa Research & Impact Network
ARFs	ARIN Research Fellows
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
GoK	Government of Kenya
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
KeNIA	Kenya National Innovation Agency
MECS	Modern Energy Cooking Services
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RFPs	Regional Focal Points
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
TCDSE	Tomorrow's Cities Decision Support Environment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Introduction

This report provides the key highlights and achievements realised by the Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN) during the year 2022. The report highlights some of the project activities implemented across the various ARIN thematic topics, climate change, disaster risk reduction, energy governance, science technology and innovations, among others. The report further outlines some of the impactful convenings and engagements that the network steered, including new evidence forums established to support more coordinated and consolidated evidence into policy spaces. Additionally, the report lists some of the key publications covering empirical and theoretical aspects touching on various topical issues that are critical for Africa's transition towards just and sustainable development. The report concludes by providing some reflections and lessons learnt over the year 2022, and how these lessons inform ARIN's strategic focus in the year 2023.

1.1. About ARIN

The Africa Research and Impact Network is an International Think Tank designed as a network of over 200 researchers and policymakers, with National Focal Points across 36 African countries aimed at; i) consolidating evidence from various African contexts and leveraging these to support policies and capacity building, and ii) promoting research excellence and sharing on best research and impact practices. ARIN has vast experience in generating and consolidating evidence on what works or not, focusing on the key strategic sectors or themes within the global research and development agenda. The ARIN provides a unique convening platform for the science-policy interface in Africa, building on research evidence. It recognizes that Africa is home to multiple researchers, innovation, and best policy practices, but these remain poorly shared and utilised 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 action.

1.2. Our Mission

ARIN's mission is to promote research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices, by providing platforms for science-policy interface in Africa, building on research evidence.

1.3. Our Focus

ARIN's thematic focus is tailored towards addressing sectors identified by African countries as key development frontiers. These thematic areas might slightly vary from country to country in terms of prioritization. Within the thematic areas, the ARIN focuses on:

- a. Analysing and forecasting research and development needs for the continent
- b. Supporting contextual knowledge systems and learnings
- c. Profiling models of best research and policy practices from various parts of the African continent and sharing these at the sub-continent and continental levels
- d. Convening evidence and impact dialogues
- e. Supporting the capacity of individuals and institutions on transformative research and impact pathways
- f. Establishing knowledge convening platforms/databases for access by different stakeholders
- g. Undertaking strategic consultations for governments, donors, and NGOs



Figure 1: Thematic areas and the crosscutting analytical approaches

1.4. Expected Outcomes of ARIN activities

- a. Learning Frameworks for research excellence
- b. Research and policy thought leadership
- c. Transformative policies
- d. Research Impact
- e. Enhanced capabilities

1.5. Organization Structure of the ARIN

ARIN comprises an Advisory Committee, the Secretariat, and regional focal points, and affiliated fellows, researchers, and policymakers.

- a. **Advisory Board:** Comprises individuals with enormous experience, expertise, as well as networks within the key areas of focus for ARIN. The experts are drawn from academia/think tanks, policy/government, the private sector, and donor agencies. The Board is responsible for providing strategic advice and direction for the network.
- b. **The Secretariat:** This is the central arm of the Network from where activities are coordinated and facilitated. The Secretariat is headed by the Executive Director, supported a Research Manager in charge of administrative activities including financial management and communication. There are four (4) strategic advisors (Thematic Heads) across the various strategic thematic areas. To enable the delivery/implementation of various research projects, the secretariat comprises several research associates aligned to the different thematic areas. Other members of the secretariat include a finance and administration officer, a procurement officer, and a communication specialist. The Secretariat is currently based in Nairobi and has recently settled in its new office situated at the ACK Garden House in UpperHill, Nairobi.
- c. **ARIN Regional Focal Points:** There are four (4) regional focal points (RFPs) representing the Eastern, Southern, Western, and Central Africa/Francophone and one (1) diaspora link. The RFPs are the links to the continental researchers and are expected to lead regional recruitment of competent fellows in addition to convening regional research dialogues that feed into the

continental dialogues. The RFPs are also the technical leaders mandated to develop regional research positions and engagements at the continental level. In addition, they are expected to lead the fundraising and consultancy assignments in the respective countries. The RFPs are provided with framework contracts that enable them to pursue various research activities/projects under ARIN, and also represent ARIN perspectives globally.

- d. **ARIN Country Focal Points (CFPs):** These include key research and/or policy fellows that represent specific countries in the ARIN network and partnerships. The CFPs are responsible for working with the ARIN fellows in the respective countries to map country positions, best practices, emerging knowledge areas on various topical areas of interest, and feeding into the regional and continental perspectives respectively.
- e. **ARIN Fellows:** These include talented ARIN Research Fellows (ARFs) and ARIN Policy Fellows (APFs) recruited from various countries across the four ARIN focal regions. The Fellows are experts and technocrats in various thematic areas and are recruited into the positions following a formal competitive process. The fellows contribute to demonstrated research excellence and evidence-based policy thinking and engage in periodic/regular intellectual discussions and research/policy reviews within their respective regions. The fellows also engage in fundraising and implementation of research projects under the Network, providing expert base for effective delivery of empirical research.

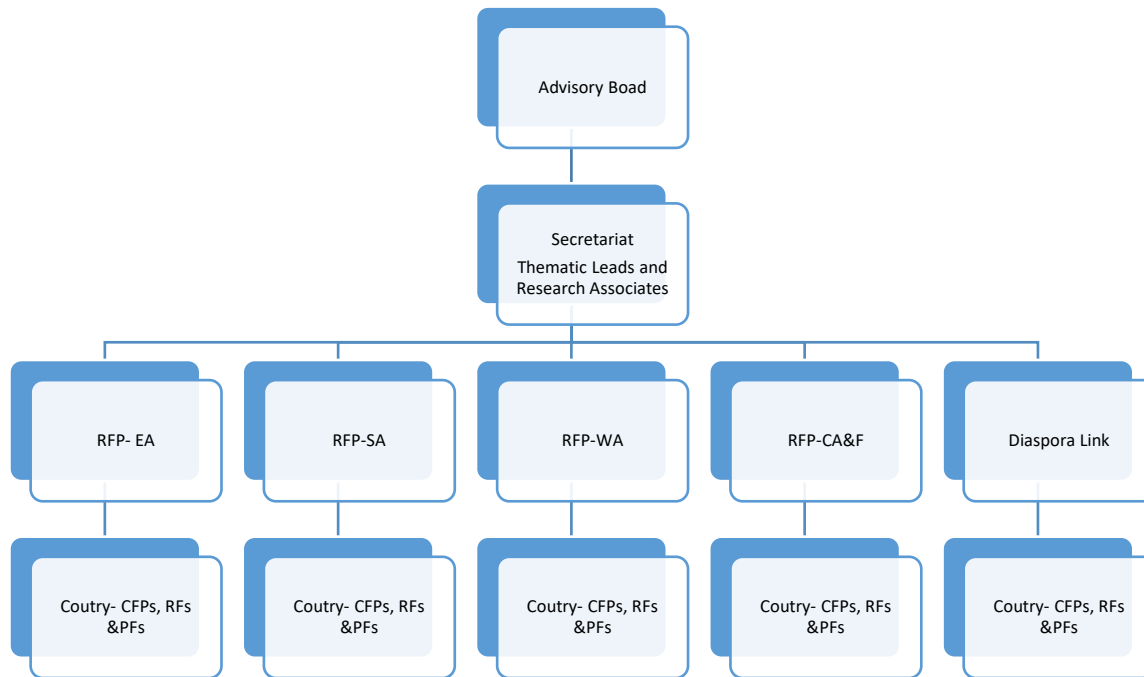


Figure 2: ARIN Organogram

2. Activities Implemented in 2022

2.1. Research Projects

Climate Change Theme

a. Adaptation Metrics: Urgency with inclusion in global climate adaptation finance (2022-2025)

Funded by UKRI and implemented in partnership with University College London and Practical Action, Nepal, this project aims to use adaptation measurement systems to open a research frontier on the interactions between local, national and international decision-making cultures, values and tools that occur as countries adapt to the impacts of climate change under conditions of policy urgency, exploring how these interactions shape adaptation action and possible development future. In 2022, the project implemented-landscape assessment of adaptation metrics approaches in Africa; [Read More](#).

b. Accelerating Climate Action through Meso-Level Initiatives (ACAMI) (2023-2025)

This project aims to understand the functionality of Meso-level organisations in supporting adaptation for smallholder producers and to develop metrics on effectiveness of these MLOs in providing climate advisory services. The project is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Implemented by the Arizona States University, Africa Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) and ARIN.

c. Situational Analysis for Transnational Cooperative Climate Initiatives in Africa, 2022-2023

The project aims at mapping the landscape of sectoral and cooperative climate action across Africa, both for garnering a better understanding of existing efforts, as well as identifying areas of further strengthening. In 2022, the project executed desk-based reviews and online survey with sectoral initiatives across Africa and developed a draft report to be finalized in 2023. The project is funded by the Global Centre on Adaptation through the 'Future of Climate Cooperation' initiative, and implemented by ARIN ; [Read more](#).

d. Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) Shared Learning on Climate Risks (2021-2023)

The project aims to develop shared learning between frontier organizations working with local communities on risks and risk assessment tools and approaches. In 2022, the project finalized a review of climate risk tools currently deployed in various settings, both urban and rural areas and will be published in 2023. The project is funded by the Adaptation Research Alliance and implemented by ARIN (lead); [Read more](#).

e. Political Economy Analysis on Air Quality in Nairobi City (2022-2023)

This project aims to understand the political economy of air quality governance in Nairobi and to identify niches and partnerships for potential interventions. In 2022, the study applied the policy process analytical framework to assess the various air pollution sources, actors involved in the governance process and opportunities for intervention. The project is funded by the World Resource Institute and implemented by ARIN (lead).

f. Understanding Loss, and Damage, as a Climate Justice in Kenya

This project aimed to understand the pathways to understanding loss and damage among pastoral communities in Kenya and to identify opportunities for enhancing climate justice. In 2022, the project undertook focused groups discussions with different community groups in five ASAL counties of Kenya, a

draft report developed. The project is funded by Oxfam and implemented by the Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) in partnership with ARIN.

g. East Africa Economic Outlook

This project aimed to contribute to the East Africa Economic Outlook especially on areas of just transition pathways and financing. In 2022, the project contributed two chapters to the 2022 Economic outlook 'Climate Resilience and a Just Energy Transition' and Financing Just Transition Pathways'. The project was funded by the Africa Development Bank (AFDB) and implemented by ARIN.

Cities Theme

a. Tomorrow's Cities- Nairobi Risk Hub (2020-2024)

The Tomorrow Cities Project, implemented by the ARIN Network in partnership with the University of Edinburgh and several other partners, is implementing the Tomorrow's Cities Decision Support Environment (TCDSE) framework aimed at enhancing pro-poor urban planning through a four stage process: Future Visioning, Visioning Scenarios, Computational Modelling, and Risk agreement. The TCDSE process allows communities to be the central stakeholders in decision-making processes shaping the future of their city. In 2022, the project developed vision scenarios and risk proof plans, risk models with communities in Kibera. [Read more](#)

b. Sustaining and Strengthening City Climate Action in the COVID-19 crisis for a green and climate-resilient recovery (ClimateCitiesRecovery)

This project aims to shed light on those factors that can be harnessed, and actions that can be taken, by individual cities and networks of cities, to support a green and climate-resilient COVID-19 recovery. In 2022, the project undertook key informant interviews and online assessment on opportunities for green recovery and city resilience. The project is funded by Volkswagen Foundation and implemented by The German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) (lead), ARIN, The Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford (BSG) , The University of Middlesex (MDX); [Read more](#)

Energy Theme

a. Modern Cooking Technologies (E-cooking/Biogas) In Kenya (2020-2024)

This project aims to expand the adoption of electric cooking in Africa. In 2022, the project implemented studies on household experiences in using multiple electric appliances to meet the household cooking needs in Kenya, developed impact study booklet on how local community champions who have embraced clean cooking technologies and experiencing change ([read here](#)), and a technical progress report ([read here](#)). The project is funded by FCDO through Loughborough University, and partners such as ESMAP, UKAID, Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN) and the African Centre of Technology Studies (ACTS); [Read more](#).

Health Theme

b. Re-Addressing Equity through Evidence-Driven Response to Covid-19 in Africa (2021-2023)

This project aims to strengthen opportunities for the uptake of research evidence on COVID-19 by engaging and sensitizing knowledge users (especially policy makers) to the existence of and usefulness of this evidence, while documenting experiences and learnings towards a strengthened foundation for knowledge and practice in Africa. In 2022, the project implemented evidence synthesis across set priority areas agreed

with the EAC. The project is funded by IDRC, led by ARIN and working with the East African Community (EAC) [Read more](#).

c. Africa Population Consortium Cohort (2021-2023)

The project aims to deliver the formative phase for the Wellcome Trust Programme on the Africa Population Cohort Consortium (APCC). This includes a long and medium-term research vision for the APCC and the blueprint for an African-led network of LPS leveraging and building on existing resources and infrastructure. The project will provide strategic directions and recommendations for upscaling population health research and extend its application by using complex systems thinking and integrating a whole range of research possibilities. In 2022, ARIN led stakeholder mapping for the programme and will produce a stakeholder engagement strategy in 2023. The project is funded by Wellcome Trust and led by APHRC. Other partners include AFIDEP and South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN). [Read more](#)

STI Theme

a. Institutional Commercialization Support Project (2021-2022)

This project aimed to strengthen the capacity of Kenya's research institutions in commercializing knowledge products (Ips) through capacity support and linkages to the relevant market environment with contributions to job creation and the overall economic growth of Kenya. In 2022, the project developed recommendations for research commercialisation in Kenya. The project is funded by FCDO-EARIH and implemented by ARIN(lead) and the Kenya Innovation Agency (KeNIA) [Read more](#).

b. Kenya Innovation Outlook Study (2021-2023)

This project aims to co-develop contextual frameworks and indicators for measuring innovation together with stakeholders in Kenya, providing a template for bi-annual innovation assessment in Kenya. In 2022, the project developed the innovation framework and indicators and a final report that was launched by the President of Kenya during the 2022 Kenya Innovation Week. The project is funded by FCDO-EARIH and implemented by ARIN(lead) and the Kenya Innovation Agency (KeNIA) [Read more](#).

a. Operationalisation of Online Bridge for Strengthening the Collaboration Between Industry and Academia in Kenya Innovation (2021-2023)

This project aims to create an online platform for connecting the existing, emerging, and future prototypes in Kenya to a virtual marketplace where these prototypes can be linked to investments/partnership and capacity building opportunities that could transform the prototypes into commercially viable products with contribution to job creation and overall economic growth of Kenya. In 2022, the project delivered online platform for KeNIA and held sensitization webinars and interviews. The project is funded by FCDP-EARIH and implemented by ARIN and KeNIA; [Read more](#)

b. Technology Governance for Zambia (2022)

This project involved a rapid assessment of Zambia's emerging technology landscape and governance, more specifically decision-making processes, prospects and funding mechanisms and seeks to identify opportunities for ushering in effective international partnerships to support Zambia's technological pursuit. In 2022, a final report (see here) was developed and disseminated to Zambian stakeholders. The project is funded by FCDO and implemented by ARIN.

2.2. Capacity Building

a. NDC-Bilingual Finance Fellowship Programme

This programme aims to strengthen capacity of African researchers and policy makers on developing effective strategies for NDC financing. The programme involved a 2-year online and on-site training of 100 fellows drawn from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa. In 2022, the project implemented a summer school for 50 fellows drawn from 21 African countries (read here). The programme is funded by IDRC and implemented by the Frankfurt Scholl and ARIN; [Read more](#).

b. ARIN Fellowship 2022

The ARIN Fellowship programme brings together a network of fellows drawn from different African countries and working on different research fields relevant to ARIN's thematic research areas. In 2022, a new generation of fellows were recruited from over 300 applications received and a capacity building and engagement plan co-developed with the fellows and implemented small grants (leveraged from other projects) with 20 fellows. The programme is currently unfunded, and plans are underway to mobilise funding.

2.3. Convenings

Evidence Forums

In 2022, ARIN led and contributed to a number of convenings on aimed at consolidating evidence:

- a. The Africa Platform on Adaptation Metrics (APAM). ARIN in collaboration with the International Platform for Adaptation Metrics (IPAM), and with the support from UKRI established the Africa Platform for Adaptation Metrics whose focus was to consolidate methods, tools, and indicators on adaptation measurements from different stakeholders and projects and to consolidate adaptation metrics frameworks for African NDCs and the AGN.
- b. ARIN jointly with the [Adaptation Research Alliance](#) and other strategic adaptation stakeholders co-hosted 12 [side-events](#) at [UNFCCC COP27](#) 2022
- c. ARIN convened various pre-COP27 events prior to the [UNFCCC COP27 African Region Resilience Hub](#) events.
- d. ARIN in partnership with the UK's Research and Innovation (UKRI) co-led [Africa-led pre-COP26 for Sub-Saharan Africa](#) which brought together several UKRI-funded and other donor-funded research projects and stakeholders to share and translate climate research outputs to inform Africa's climate position and global climate discussions.
- e. The ARIN has been actively contributing to the Global Goal on Adaptation discussion and has provided insights on the role of locally-led adaptation and how they could be captured. Watch some of the insights here: <https://youtu.be/Rt46QkF5vuI>
- f. ARIN is currently part of the [Resilience Evidence Forum](#) Advisory Group convened by the Global Resilience Partnership. Other members of the advisory group are CDKN and South North, among others. The forum aims to gather evidence on resilience to inform ideas for the COP 28 resilience hub and broader global stock take. This initiative will form part of the evidence base for the forum.
- g. The ARIN is part of the convening committee for Gobeshona and has been co-hosting and leading sessions during the Conference.
- h. ARIN through the Tomorrow's Cities project, convened a joint research workshop with the Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP) programme under the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, Kenya. The BCRUP identified ARIN to lead the research working group from the BCRUP initiative.
- i. ARIN has worked with both national and county governments and other private organizations to influence the development of several policies meant to encourage transformative change in different sectors. For example, through the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Program, ARIN has worked with relevant partners to promote the adoption of electric cooking. Between April and June 2022, ARIN and its partners in the clean cooking space spearheaded the launch of four regional hubs meant to create awareness on e-cooking. Through the extensive noise that was been made on the technology, the Ministry of Energy is now in the process of developing an [e-cooking](#)

[strategy](#) that will encourage cooking with electricity. Likewise, ARIN is supporting the development of various county energy plans.

- j. ARIN contributed to developing the first Kenya Inaugural Innovation Outlook which has influenced the development of the country's ten-year innovation masterplan.
- k. ARIN contributed significantly to consolidating experiences on locally-led adaptation and resilience building in Africa and worked together with various partners to convene over 10 side events at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC.
- l. ARIN also contributed to the Global Stock Take submissions under the Adaptation Research Alliance.

ARIN Expert Mentors programme

The Africa Research and Impact Network planned a series of Monthly Mentorship seminars and Open Dialogues for Africa's Early Career Researchers (ECRs) focusing on systemic challenges facing Africa's research systems, and how these challenges can be resolved. The dialogues were founded on the fact that Africa is increasingly becoming a frontier for knowledge towards tackling major global intractable challenges including climate change, pandemics, and disaster risks, among others. Yet, over time, the continent's research systems, that it, think tanks, research capacity, and the funding landscape, have not transformed to match this growing complexity of challenges and threats to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2022, the ARIN Network held seven monthly mentorship dialogues which constituted speakers in research and policy, donors, private sector players, and government officials. The recordings and briefs from the mentorship can be accessed through this [link](#).

ARIN Friday Reviews

ARIN organizes weekly and monthly research reviews where African scholars and policymakers share their research findings and outputs with reviewers and peers. Through this platform, researchers have access to peer learning that enables them to understand the state of research gaps and needs. From the review sessions, the ARIN network comes up with weekly briefs highlighting key insights and recommendations from each session. In 2022, the ARIN Network convened more than 30 weekly review sessions which brought together scholars and policymakers from across Africa who presented their work for peer review by researchers and practitioners. All the briefs for 2022 are available on the [ARIN Website](#).

ARIN International 2022 International Conference

The [ARIN International Conference of 2022](#) aimed to discuss the latest findings and best practices related to just transition, in relation to critical climate concerns in the continent. Just transition emphasizes the integration of social and economic justice into climate change policy and practice. The conference provided a platform for discussing the different ways in which research, policy, and capacity building/enhancement can be integrated into just transition, and for exploring how local and vulnerable communities are affected by loss and damage. Financing mechanisms and decolonization were also discussed as crucial aspects for supporting a just transition.

The ARIN conference featured several side events that provided participants with the opportunity to delve deeper into specific issues related to just transition. The conference was a much-needed opportunity for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share ideas that can be scaled to improve the developmental agenda of the continent. As one of the main objectives of the Africa Research and Impact Network, the conference played a significant role in advancing the continent's progress toward a just and equitable transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. The implementation of just transition on the African continent is crucial for addressing the specific needs and context of the region. Additionally, the adoption of a human rights-based approach to loss and damage is necessary for ensuring that support and compensation are provided in ways that are equitable and community-driven.

3. Publications/Reports 2022

3.1. Journal Articles and Books

- *Mbeva, K., Makomere, R., Atela, J., Chengo, V., and Tonui, C (Eds).* (2023). Africa's Right to Development in a Climate-Constrained World. Contemporary African Political Economy. Palgrave Macmillan Cham. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-22887-2?sap-outbound-id=B20D012DD76B921EBB128C16B1D03F36A6A0A457>
- *Atela, J.,* Kinyanjui, S., Omwandho, E., *Randa, T.,* Ndege, N., *Akala, H.,* and Otieno, B. (2022). The Kenya Innovation Outlook Study 2022. Technical Report No. 002. Africa Research and Impact Network. Nairobi, Kenya.
- *Randa T.,* Krhoda, G. *Atela, J. Akala, H.,* (2021). Review of flood modelling and models in developing cities and informal settlements: A case of Nairobi city. Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies. 43(2022)101188.
- *Atela J.,* Nwamaka, O., *Nantongo, M.* (2022). Locally led adaptation metrics: a review of key gaps and opportunities: Discussion paper (forthcoming)
- AFDB (2022), East Africa Regional Economic Outlook Report: Chapter 2, Climate Resilience-Energy Transition Nexus in East Africa; *Atela J., and Makomere R.,* (Eds). AFDB.
- AFDB (2022), East Africa Regional Economic Outlook Report: Chapter 3: Financing Climate Resilience and Just Energy Transition: Innovative Strategies and Instruments; *Atela J., and Makomere R. and Atieno E.,* (Eds). AFDB.
- Adhikari, B., *Atela, J.,* Moosa, S., (2022). *Climate finance: the \$500 billion question*, providing framework for accelerating adaptation financing in Africa. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) *Au Courant* journal
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- Chan, S., Hale, T., Deneault, A. *Mbeva, K.,* Shrivastava M., *Chengo, V., Atela J.* (2022). Assessing the effectiveness of orchestrated climate action from five years of summits. *Nat. Clim. Chang.* **12**, 628–633 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01405-6>
- Shrivastava M., Hale, T., Chan, S., Deneault, A. *Mbeva, K., Atela J.* (2022). Mapping non-state climate action in India and Kenya: Overcoming the “Streetlight effect” in research on sub- and non-state climate action” Climate Policy (forthcoming)
- Ortiz-Miranda, D., Moreno-Pérez, O. Arnalte-Mur, L. Cerrada-Serra, P. Martinez-Gomez, V. Adolph, B. *Atela, J. Tonui, C.,* Ayambila, S., Baptista, I., Barbu, R., Bjørkhaug, H., Czekaj, M., Duckett, D., Fortes, A., Galli, F., Goussios, G., Hernández, A., Karanikolas, P., Machila, K., Oikonomopoulou, E. Yeboah, R., (2022) The future of small farms and small food businesses as actors in regional food security: A participatory scenario analysis from Europe and Africa. Journal of Rural Studies **95**, 326-335.

3.2. Blog Articles

- *Atela, J., Otieno, B.* (2022). Linking climate change and health systems: what are the research gaps? Africa Research and Impact Network, Nairobi, Kenya. <https://www.arin-africa.org/2022/02/16/linking-climate-change-and-health-systems-what-are-the-research-gaps/>
- *Akala, H., Tonui, C.* (2022) Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report: Case Of Mukuru Kwa Reuben Settlement, Nairobi, Kenya. News Brief. Africa Research and Impact Network, Nairobi, Kenya. <https://www.arin-africa.org/2022/08/17/risk-and-vulnerability-assessment-report-case-of-mukuru-kwa-reuben-settlement-nairobi-kenya/>
- *Atela, J.* et al. (2022). Innovation is a key pillar of kenya’s development blueprint. Blog. Africa Research and Impact Network, Nairobi, Kenya. <https://www.arin-africa.org/2022/08/02/innovation-is-a-key-pillar-of-kenyas-development-blueprint/>

3.3. Newsbriefs

- *Otieno, B. Atela, J. Randa, T. Aoko, L. Akala, H.* (2022) The Kenya Innovation Outlook Study. News Brief. Africa Research and Impact Network, Nairobi, Kenya. <https://www.arin-africa.org/2022/07/26/the-kenya-innovation-outlook-study/>
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3.4. News Articles

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4. Appointments

In 2022, ARIN recruited three new research associates to take up the implementation of various research projects. Additionally, a new cohort of 80 fellows were recruited to engage in peer learning and capacity-building activities for the next two years. The human resource portfolio is expected to increase in the year 2023 as the network enters into additional strategic partnerships and project implementation. The Network's staff were also nominated to various strategic forums:

- Ms Juliet Oluoch (ARIN Associate) was appointed as the UNDP Junior Woman Negotiator through the African Group of Negotiators (AGN).
- Dr. Joanes Atela (ARIN Director) was nominated as a committee member of the global resilience evidence forum.

5. Key Lessons from 2022

- a. In terms of research, Africa continues to experience an increase in research activities and evidence availability in different places, but this evidence can be more impactful only if consolidated, coordinated in a systematic manner.
- b. In terms of capacity building, project-based skill development is useful but can be unsustainable and unconsolidated. There is a need to consolidate project-based capacity-building activities into a dedicated capacity-building programmes that can support more long-term capacity development creating learning and linkages between projects as well as linking project-based capacity needs to the national priorities.
- c. In terms of policy, the continent is increasingly becoming a home of innovative policies aimed at spurring growth and tackling various developmental challenges including COVID-19 and climate change. However, there remain significant policy implementation deficits caused by policies that are not well informed by evidence on what works or not. The need for action research that bridges the gap between policies and the implementation process is key for Africa.

6. Conclusion and Strategic Focus 2023

Overall, our work in 2022 mainly succeeded in raising fundamental questions, building frameworks, and sensitising stakeholders around the evidence needs for the transition processes. However, the challenge of creating objective evidence and consolidating this evidence to support transformative change and Africa-led thought leadership remains complex and constrained by many impediments such as limited research funding, path dependency in knowledge processes, limited co-creation and co-learning spaces especially between research, policy and practice, weak and ad-hoc partnerships, among others. In 2023, therefore, we aim to expand our partnership scope towards strengthening evidence base and frameworks for uptake, policy influence, and capacity.