



AFRICA RESEARCH AND IMPACT NETWORK (ARIN) PRESS



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1.0 Rationale for the Establishment of ARIN Press

The Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) is an International impact platform bringing together a network of scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners drawn from think tanks, research organisations, academia, and public agencies across Africa and the diaspora working or having an interest in Africa. ARIN network aims at

a.)Consolidating evidence from various African contexts and leveraging these to support policies and capacity-building;

b.)Promoting research excellence and sharing best research and impact practices; and

c.)Facilitating peer-to-peer learning among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working in Africa. ARIN has vast experience in generating and consolidating evidence on what works or not, focusing on the key strategic sectors or themes of paramount importance to Africa.

ARIN has delivered several multi-disciplinary research projects, high-level multi-stakeholder policy labs, conferences, dialogues, consultancies, and capacity building, some of which involve overall planning and facilitation. ARIN has performed high-level policy dialogues and capacity building in various fields, which include climate change (e.g., climate risk assessment in arid and semi-arid urban areas; climate negotiations and policy influence at all levels, climate finance access and planning, etc.), agri-food systems, health, disaster risk reduction, and energy, among others.

ARIN's thematic focus is tailored to address sectors identified by African countries as key development frontiers in the Agenda 2063, the SDGs, and other relevant development frameworks. The thematic areas of focus with their analytical approaches are illustrated in Figure 1.

Thematic areas

- 1.Sustainable Development
- 2.Climate Change and Energy
- 3.Cities and Resilience
- 4.Agriculture and Forestry
- 5.Mining Trade and Industry
- 6.Technology and Development



Figure 1: Thematic representation of the ARIN areas of research focus

1.2 ARIN Press: Catalysing African Knowledge for Policy, Practice, and Impact

ARIN Press is the official publishing and knowledge dissemination arm of the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN). Established as a strategic pillar of ARIN's vision to decolonise knowledge production, ARIN Press is committed to amplifying African research voices, reshaping global and regional policy dialogues, and promoting inclusive, evidence-informed responses to the continent's most urgent challenges.

These challenges include, but are not limited to, climate change adaptation, sustainability transitions, biodiversity conservation, innovation systems, and development practice.

Through its publications, ARIN Press seeks to bridge the gap between research and action by translating knowledge into accessible, policy-relevant formats that inform decision-making, inspire public discourse, and support practitioner learning. It serves as both a platform and a catalyst, curating high-quality, African-led insights and ensuring they are visible, credible, and impactful within and beyond the continent.

1.2.1 Why ARIN Press? Bridging the Gap Between Research and Action

Across the African continent, a persistent gap remains between academic research and its practical application in policy, development, and community contexts. Too often, African-generated knowledge is:

- Locked behind paywalls, limiting public access;
- Presented in highly technical language, diminishing its usability by non-specialists;
- Disconnected from the lived realities and knowledge systems of local communities.

ARIN Press was established to address this gap by offering a flexible, context-responsive alternative to conventional academic publishing. It is intentionally designed to be inclusive, accessible, and action-oriented, ensuring that knowledge does not remain confined to institutions or academic journals.

By centring African perspectives and privileging grounded, context-rich narratives, ARIN Press fosters homegrown leadership in knowledge production. It convenes a diverse community of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, donors, and communities, committed to translating evidence into practical impact. In doing so, ARIN Press helps reposition African knowledge as central, not peripheral, to global and regional development discourse.

1.2.2 What ARIN Press Offers

ARIN Press serves as a dynamic platform for African scholars, practitioners, and policy actors to contribute to the continent's development discourse through timely, accessible, and action-oriented knowledge products.

It offers contributors the opportunity to:

- Share policy-relevant insights in clear, non-technical language that reaches beyond academic audiences;
- Publish reflections, working papers, policy briefs, and synthesis reports rooted in practice and local realities;
- Engage in real-time knowledge exchange on critical themes such as climate resilience, environmental governance, digital innovation, and sustainable development;
- Bridge the gap between evidence and implementation by ensuring that research is both visible and usable by policymakers, funders, practitioners, and communities.

1.2.3 A Complement, not a Competitor to the Traditional Publishing

While ARIN Press upholds the principles of academic rigour, it also recognises the need for more flexible and responsive forms of publishing that can keep pace with dynamic policy environments and urgent development challenges.

Rather than competing with traditional academic journals, ARIN Press seeks to complement them by:

- Creating space for emerging ideas, experiential insights, and practice-based evidence that may not yet meet the criteria for peer-reviewed publication;
- Encouraging narrative, thematic, and reflexive writing styles that allow African researchers and practitioners to communicate their work in grounded, compelling, and contextually relevant ways;
- Elevating non-traditional knowledge formats and voices, especially those from underrepresented communities, that tend to be overlooked in conventional scholarly outlets.

In doing so, ARIN Press contributes to a more inclusive, agile, and impactful knowledge ecosystem, where research informs action, and African experiences shape both scholarship and solutions.

1.3 Why ARIN Press Matters

Africa holds a vast and diverse reservoir of research, lived experiences, and practical knowledge across critical areas such as climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Yet, much of this knowledge remains undocumented, inaccessible, or marginalised within mainstream global discourse.

ARIN Press seeks to change this narrative. It provides a platform to challenge dominant assumptions, amplify underrepresented voices, and centre African perspectives in ways that are accessible, relevant, and impactful.

It also serves as a vital springboard for emerging and early-career researchers, many of whom may not yet have traditional academic publications but have critical insights, field-based experience, and community-rooted knowledge that deserve wider recognition.

Publishing through ARIN Press ensures contributors benefit from high visibility and strategic dissemination. Articles are actively shared across ARIN's extensive networks, through collaborative partnerships, and via targeted social media channels. This guarantees that contributions reach policymakers, practitioners, donors, and other influential actors driving development across the continent.

Whether you are a researcher, practitioner, or storyteller, ARIN Press offers a unique space to contribute meaningfully to Africa's climate and development dialogue on your terms.

1.4 ARIN Knowledge Products

The Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) produces a diverse range of knowledge products that are instrumental in communicating insights, documenting progress, and amplifying the impact of its projects and partnerships. These outputs support strategic engagement with a broad spectrum of audiences, from community beneficiaries to research collaborators, development practitioners, high-level policymakers, and funders.

ARIN's knowledge products are not simply deliverables; they are strategic tools for learning, influence, and engagement. By producing timely, accessible, and audience-responsive knowledge, ARIN ensures that findings from research and practice reach the right stakeholders at the right moment, and in the right format, to inform real-world decisions.

Effective knowledge sharing is not just about what is communicated, but also how and when it is shared. ARIN carefully aligns the release and promotion of knowledge products with project milestones, key decision-making windows, and moments of public discourse. Major publications are launched at dedicated events, serving as convening platforms for stakeholders, funders, and experts. In other instances, ARIN leverages policy dialogues, learning workshops, conferences, and high-level visits to disseminate insights and spark targeted discussions.

Core ARIN Knowledge Products

Below is an overview of the key knowledge outputs that ARIN currently produces or is strengthening to improve communication with stakeholders and the wider public:

a.) Project Research Reports

Comprehensive documentation of research activities, methods, community engagement, and findings throughout the project cycle. These include:

- Inception reports outlining research design and stakeholder plans
- Mid-term reviews capturing progress and emerging insights
- Final evaluations detailing impact, lessons learned, and recommendations
- Community-engaged research reports co-produced with local actors

b.) Policy Briefs

Concise, action-oriented summaries that translate evidence into practical recommendations for policymakers and other decision-makers.

c.) Books and Book Chapters

Produced through open calls and curated by ARIN's Board or thematic leads. These are published via ARIN Press or in collaboration with partners such as Taylor & Francis, under a formal ARIN book series.

d.) Position Papers

Evidence-based papers presenting ARIN's perspectives on emerging or contested issues. Used to shape narratives, influence debate, and engage stakeholders.

e.) Newsletters

Regular updates (monthly, quarterly, or annually) that highlight ARIN's activities, upcoming opportunities, and thought leadership.

f.) Blog Posts

Informal yet insightful reflections based on fieldwork, researcher experiences, or learning events, designed to engage wider audiences beyond academia

g.) News Briefs

Short, digestible updates capturing key developments, project milestones, or new opportunities. Tailored for website and social media dissemination.

h.) Technical Reports

Detailed analytical publications presenting findings, methodologies, and data across ARIN's thematic areas.

i.) ARIN Review Briefs

Concise summaries developed from the weekly Friday Review Meetings, interactive learning sessions where ARIN Fellows and affiliated researchers share ongoing or completed work. The briefs distil key insights, lessons, and feedback from these discussions, supporting institutional learning and informing future research and engagement.

j.) Manuscripts and Journal Articles

ARIN actively supports the development of peer-reviewed papers emerging from its research projects, ranging from review articles, methodology papers, to thematic studies targeting both academic and practitioner-oriented journals. These publications aim to contribute to global scholarship while grounding research in African contexts and realities.

Looking ahead, ARIN is in the process of establishing its own peer-reviewed, open-access journal under ARIN Press, designed to showcase high-impact, interdisciplinary research outputs from Africa and beyond. The journal will provide a platform for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to publish rigorous, relevant, and timely work that advances knowledge, informs policy, and supports transformative change on the continent. This initiative reinforces ARIN's commitment to strengthening African-led knowledge ecosystems, ensuring that locally generated evidence is globally visible and academically recognised.

k.) Impact Stories

Narrative case studies and human-interest stories highlighting how ARIN's work is making a tangible difference in communities and institutions.

l.) Project Dashboards & Websites

Interactive platforms such as the LAMA Dashboard and project-specific microsites are designed to visualise data, track progress, and host dynamic content for learning and accountability.

m.) Photos, Videos, and Infographics

Compelling visual content designed for ARIN's digital platforms (LinkedIn, Bluesky, X, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok). All media are ethically sourced and shared with full consent.

1.5 Reviewers and Editors for ARIN Press

To uphold the quality, rigour, and relevance of its knowledge outputs, ARIN Press employs a structured and inclusive editorial framework. This ensures all publications meet the highest standards of scholarship, ethics, and usability while remaining accessible and policy-responsive.

1.5.1 Review Mechanism

The ARIN Press review process is led by two key teams:

a) Internal Reviewers Team (IRT)

The Internal Reviewers Team is composed of key members from the ARIN Secretariat and thematic leadership. This team conducts the first-level review and quality assurance for a wide range of ARIN knowledge products that require timely, practice-based inputs.

Team Members Include:

- Executive Director
- Director of Programmes
- Fellowship Manager
- Communications Manager
- Research Associates across ARIN's thematic clusters

Scope of Review:

- Blogs and opinion articles
- Policy briefs
- Technical reports
- Position papers
- News briefs and synthesis notes
- Books and Book chapters

The IRT ensures that these knowledge outputs are:

- Factually accurate and evidence-based
- Consistent with ARIN's editorial tone and style
- Accessible, timely, and relevant for policy engagement

b.) External Reviewers Team (ERT)

The External Reviewers Team comprises leading professionals and scholars with thematic expertise, as guided by ARIN's Review Policy. This team plays a critical role in the peer review of in-depth scholarly outputs.

Engagement Structure:

- ERT members are appointed based on the thematic focus of each publication or call for papers (e.g. books, journals, strategic reports).
- Reviews are carried out voluntarily but recognised through:

- ➔ Certificates of review
- ➔ Acknowledgement in selected publications (where appropriate)
- ➔ Opportunities to participate in ARIN's knowledge-sharing events

1.5.2 Editors of ARIN Press

Editors are the custodians of quality, credibility, and strategic dissemination within ARIN Press. They play a central role in coordinating the editorial and peer-review process, supporting contributors, and expanding the reach and influence of ARIN publications.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

1. Author Support and Manuscript Development

- Guide authors on submission formats, referencing, and stylistic expectations
- Provide editorial feedback to enhance clarity, coherence, and audience alignment
- Support early-career contributors unfamiliar with the publishing process

2. Reviewer Management and Quality Assurance

Maintain a pool of qualified reviewers from diverse geographies and disciplines

Assign reviewers based on subject matter expertise

Monitor deadlines and ensure review quality and fairness

3. Upholding Editorial and Ethical Standards

- Ensure all publications meet ARIN's Editorial Style Guide
- Employ plagiarism detection tools (e.g. Turnitin, iThenticate)
- Uphold transparency and manage conflicts of interest
- Maintain editorial independence aligned with ARIN's values

4. Dissemination, Reach, and Impact

- Develop targeted dissemination strategies for each knowledge product
- Leverage digital platforms, social media, partner networks, and regional/global conferences to maximise visibility
- Collaborate with media to generate interest and policy uptake
- Track publication reach and impact metrics, including:
 - ➔ Downloads and page views
 - ➔ Citations and media mentions
 - ➔ Social media engagement

5. Open Access and Accessibility

- Promote open-access publishing models
- Facilitate multilingual editions where appropriate
- Encourage inclusive outputs reflecting indigenous and community knowledge

6. Capacity Building and Mentorship

- Facilitate writing workshops, webinars, and author training sessions
- Develop resources and toolkits for effective research communication and publishing
- Mentor early-career researchers to contribute confidently to scholarly and policy discourses

1.5.3 Copyright and Identification

To ensure proper documentation and traceability of ARIN Press publications, the editorial team will also coordinate the following:

a.) Copyright Management:

All contributors are required to sign a copyright release form, in line with ARIN's publishing policies. Authors retain non-exclusive rights, allowing future use of their content while ensuring ARIN's right to disseminate.

b.) ISBN and ISSN registration

ISBN (International Standard Book Number)

Used for books, monographs, and standalone reports, ARIN Press has obtained ISBNs via the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS), ensuring formal cataloguing and global indexing. ISBNs will be assigned to:

- Edited books and book chapters
- Technical reports
- Policy monographs and synthesis volumes

Benefits:

- Enables citation and inclusion in global databases
- Differentiates digital, print, and revised editions
- Enhances discoverability and scholarly recognition

ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)

Applied to recurring publications such as:

- ARIN Policy Brief Series
- Working Paper Series
- Thematic bulletins and knowledge digests
- The planned ARIN Journal

Benefits:

- Ensures discoverability and consistent branding
- Facilitates academic indexing and library classification
- Supports archiving and long-term access

c.) Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

To further strengthen digital visibility, ARIN Press will assign DOIs to selected publications in collaboration with indexing platforms, enhancing academic traceability and impact tracking.



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