

Towards Climate-Resilient Urban Settlements? Exploring Perceptions of Urban Land and Views of Property in Sub-Saharan African Cities

With rapid urbanisation and increasing climate risks in Sub-Saharan Africa, understanding the human construction of urban landscapes has become critical to enabling urban climate-resilient transformations. This research highlights the significance of integrating local perceptions of urban land and property relations to enable the design of practical and sustainable climate-resilient strategies in Sub-Saharan African cities. The study explores perceptions of urban land, land use and property rights, and how these affect building climate-resilient settlements in Sub-Saharan African cities using Accra, Ghana, as the study context.

Why the study is relevant:

- Human activities have caused profound changes to the global environment.
- Recent extreme global environmental change impacts have underscored the urgent need to address climate change impacts in cities due to their high population density and role as economic centres.
- Enhancing the resilience of urban settlements is vital to bolstering cities' adaptive capacity to climate change.
- In Sub-Saharan African cities, urban ecosystems are increasingly depleting and normative urban planning is ineffective.
- The region's diverse and complex land tenure systems are a significant barrier to climate resilience planning and implementation.
- However, an understanding of perceptions of urban land, land use and property relations that underlie urban land tenures and shape the construction of urban environments is absent.

What we are doing:

- Engaging with key urban land management stakeholders in Accra, Ghana, through focus group discussions with residents and interviews with institutional representatives.
- An evidence review of existing climate resilience policies and regulations in Accra, Ghana.

What we aim to achieve:

- Through this research, we aim to uncover and unpack perceptions of urban land and property rights and their interconnections with the environment in Sub-Saharan African cities.
- We aim to support change towards the integration of locally situated knowledge for sustainable and culturally appropriate climate resilience strategies.
- We aim to recommend the best strategies for climate resilience planning and implementation from an urban land and property rights perspective.

