



Association of African Planning Schools



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## PROPOSAL TO ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION (AND CITIES ALLIANCE): MAY 2011

### REVITALISING PLANNING EDUCATION IN AFRICA THROUGH AAPS (PHASE 2) AND SDI COLLABORATION, AND SCALING UP URBAN APPLIED RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

#### Background

The rate of growth of the African urban population is the highest in the world (at over 3% p.a.). In practice what African demographic transitions mean is not just many more millions of people in cities, but a totally different urban social, economic and spatial or settlement structure, all of which are poorly understood. Notwithstanding the obvious importance of major emerging metropolitan cores to national identity and economic profile, national governments are sometimes reluctant to acknowledge and facilitate urban growth. This relative neglect of the urbanization process manifests itself in serious urban dysfunctionality. The UN-Habitat's *Global Report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities* (2009) provides a clear exposition of this problematic internal management of cities, especially in Africa, a view that is widely reflected in the academic literature.

***The aim of this project is to address the blockage of properly trained urban planning and management professionals in Africa, able to respond to new 21<sup>st</sup> century urban issues, and to support the development on the continent of centres of excellence focused on urban research. The primary vehicle for the project is the partnership between the African Centre for Cities and the Association of African Planning Schools as well as between the planning schools association and Slum Dwellers International.***

The African Centre for Cities (ACC) was established in 2008 at the University of Cape Town specifically to address this issue. It is unique in that it commits itself to knowledge production through policy innovation, knowledge networks and interrogation of the theory-practice interface with regard to the urban realm. ACC research into African urbanism combined with applied research and advocacy on sustainable human settlements, urban informality, urban food security, and the South African space economy, all contribute to a rich knowledge base and the development of research capacity that enables an integrated approach to problem solving. As an action-oriented think-tank, the ACC engages

with the academic, policy and practical dimensions of human settlements at a number of scales: Cape Town (as a laboratory for testing ideas), South Africa and the continent of Africa. It has also cemented links with other regions of the Global South (India and Brazil specifically).

### *The Association of African Planning Schools*

The Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS), a 42-member peer-to-peer network of mostly Anglophone African universities that teach urban and regional planning, founded in 1999, is an important component of the ACC's work with knowledge networks. African planning schools operate in a context in which urban planning practices, national planning legislation and planning curricula remain largely inherited from their older colonial past, and continue to promote ideas and policies transferred from the global north. As such, many of these ideas and practices are inappropriate in contexts characterised by rapid growth, poverty and informality. Reforming planning education is therefore core to ensuring that future urban practitioners respond to city challenges meaningfully. Fundamental shifts are needed in the materials covered in urban training programs and in the methods used to prepare practitioners. This is the aim of much of the AAPS work.

The AAPS has recently concluded two projects that address these issues. Phase 1 of the 'Revitalising Planning Education' Project (2008-2010), funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, addressed the following objectives:

- Curricula reform: how best to incorporate teaching content and methodologies that respond to current African human settlement issues. This required engagement with the many dimensions of cities on the continent and has implications for the training of planners, the legislative environment within which planners practice as well as the research capacity of planning educators. Planning academics require resources to engage regional and local planning experiences. Learning from this through research which then informs practice is one objective. Dissemination of this learning is necessary to enable the continued relevance of planning education.
- Facilitating research and publication of the many dimensions of urbanity by African scholars and practitioners. Incorporating this learning into curricula was an extension of this aim. At the inaugural workshop of the AAPS in Cape Town in October 2008 substantial discussion focused on the value of using case study research in achieving these objectives. The second AAPS project (2009-2010) aimed to achieve research output and teaching reform through case research: this has resulted in a set of guidelines on case study teaching and a book is in preparation.

Key outputs of the two Phase 1 AAPS projects include a post-graduate curricular frame developed at the biennial meeting of the Association in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in October 2010, identifying urban themes around which groupings of interested academics can work together, teaching toolkits available online that address gaps in planning school curricula, guidelines for case research, and development of the AAPS online portal and mailing list (see [www.africanplanningschools.org.za/](http://www.africanplanningschools.org.za/)), and the launch of an initiative to raise interest in changing planning law in Africa. Funding has been secured from Urban LandMark (funded by DFID) to develop a new knowledge portal with resources for urban African

teaching and research. This will be done in partnership with the Urban Wiki Board (a WBI initiated project) and the Cities Alliance funded State of the Cities Report project currently undertaken by the ACC.

Elections were held within AAPS early in 2011 to establish a new steering committee of six members (chair Vanessa Watson and co-chair Babtunde Agbola) ready to develop a constitution and find ways to place AAPS on a long-term, sustainable footing.

Particularly significant was the MoU signed at the end of 2010 between AAPS and SDI (Slum Dwellers International) agreeing that the two bodies would work together. The MoU states as its purpose:

*To promote the collaboration of SDI and SDI country-based affiliates with members of the AAPS in order to promote initiatives, plans and policies which encourage pro-poor and inclusive cities and towns in Africa. The Partnership recognizes that planners play an important role in either facilitating or hindering the inclusion and improvement of informal settlements and slums, and that the education of planners has a fundamental impact on both their values and understanding, responses and practices, in relation to urban informality. The Partnership recognizes that one of the most effective ways to change the mind-sets of student planners is to offer them direct experiential exposure to, and interaction with, the conditions and residents of informal settlements and slums.*

#### *ACC and urban research on the African continent*

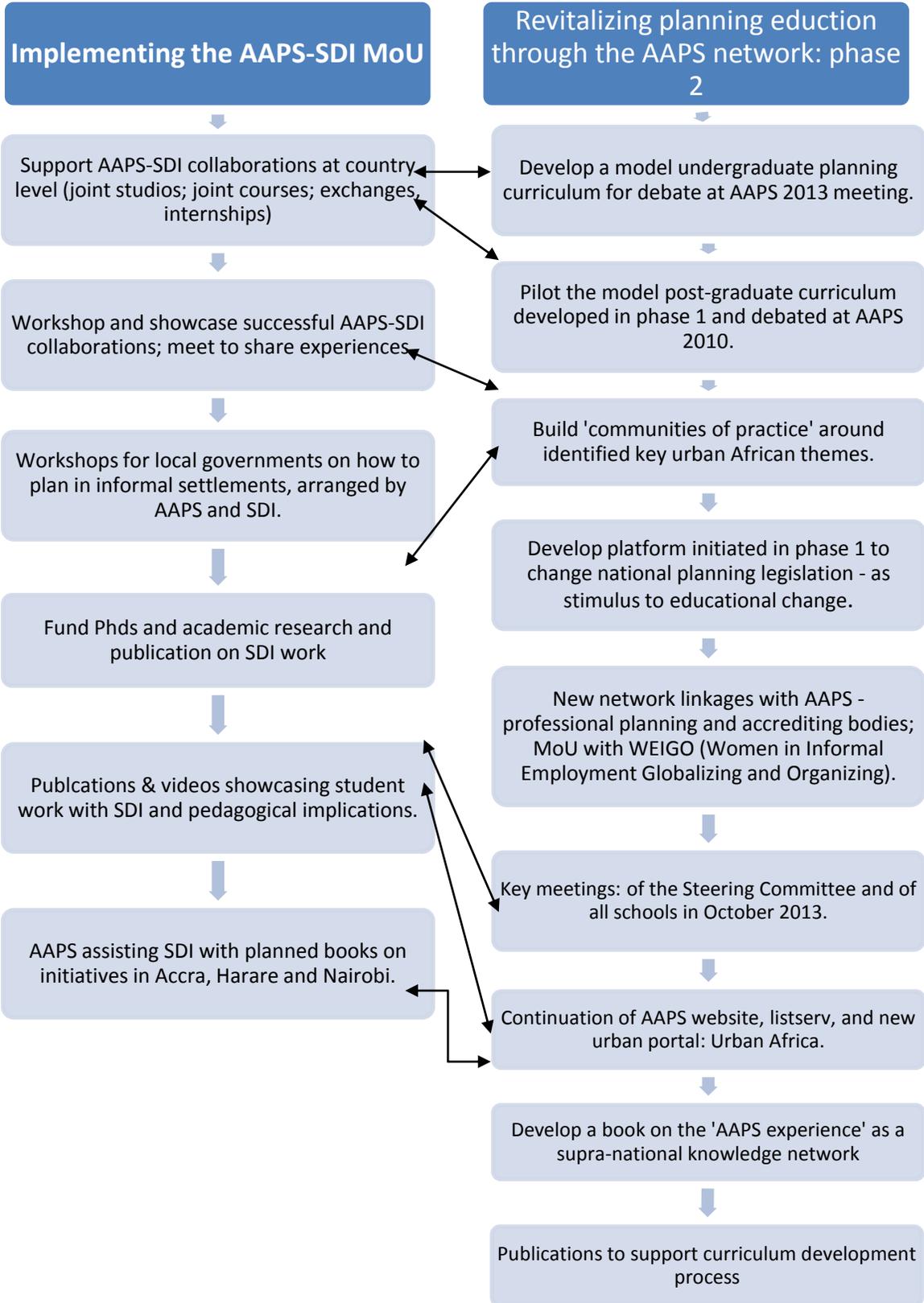
Over the last three years the ACC has established itself as a leading centre of urban research on the continent, but it is of serious concern that there are few other centres of major stature and that urban research is poorly supported, fragmented, and has low profile. Certain donor agencies have recently sidelined urban research and it is not easy for existing centres on the continent to upscale and effectively shift policy positions on urban issues. It is possible that innovative ways of operating adopted by the ACC (ways of building inter-disciplinarity, partnerships with the public sector and civil society organizations, the building of knowledge networks) could be found useful by other emergent urban centres on the continent. In addition, a co-ordinated approach to major donor agencies on the part of existing and emergent urban research centres in Africa could help to improve the interest of donors in urban work and connect them to work currently underway but not always sufficiently visible.

This proposal sets out two areas of important work for the period mid-2011 to mid-2013:

- Revitalising planning education in Africa in partnership with SDI, while building and solidifying the AAPS network.
- Scaling up urban-related applied research and practice on the continent to deal with Africa's 21<sup>st</sup> century urban issues: the emergent centre programme.

## **1. Revitalizing planning education in partnership with SDI, while strengthening the AAPS network**

These two areas of work, while listed separately below, strongly interrelate and reinforce each other:



## 1.1 Implementing the AAPS-SDI MoU

The long term aim of this MoU is to support a transformational agenda which promotes the idea of inclusive cities. This is a core element of SDI's work. A central aim of the AAPS' Revitalizing Planning Education in Africa Project is to open the way for planning curricula to prepare planning students to address the key issues of 21<sup>st</sup> century African cities: high on this list of key issues is understanding and responding to informality, in a way which promotes inclusive cities. The agendas of the two organizations therefore align closely and both stand to gain significantly from the MoU.

In the case of SDI, the shorter term gains will be the expertise of planning staff and students contributing to the upgrade initiatives of SDI affiliates (mapping, enumeration, costing, infrastructure and shelter proposals); research and documentation by academic staff and post-graduate students of SDI initiatives; providing a linking mechanism to municipal professional staff; and assistance to SDI staff through student internships. The longer term gains for SDI will be planning professionals located in municipalities and private practices that understand and are sympathetic to the needs of shack dwellers and can support an inclusive cities agenda from within the public sector. It is also possible that planning graduates will work for SDI, as has already happened in Nairobi. Case study research and publication of SDI initiatives by planning academics will offer a useful objective and critical perspective on SDI work as a supplement to outcomes published by SDI itself. SDI is currently prioritising action in four African cities and it would be important to try to link AAPS-SDI initiatives to these sites.

In the case of AAPS, the shorter term gains will be an experiential learning process for planning students who will be able to engage with 'live' studio projects in informal settlements; a sensitization of students to the challenges of carrying out informal upgrade, which can rarely be learned from text books; a teaching resource offered by SDI in terms of this proposal; and new opportunities for case study research and publication, and exchange. In the longer term planning schools will gain new teaching materials and direction for curricula change, improved status and respect regarding their own and their graduates' ability to deal with informal upgrade and the inclusive city agenda more broadly, new relationships with municipalities and hopefully ongoing relationships with communities.

The lessons from the joint studios will be up-scaled through planned workshops which bring together schools, SDI staff, community members and municipal officials from a number of completed studios, to compare and assess their experiences, and ultimately to disseminate the findings of these workshop to the whole AAPS membership. The inclusion of planning staff on SDI exchange visits where possible will expand the exposure of planning academics to SDI projects. Further up-scaling of this initiative is planned through a meeting in July 2011 between SDI representatives and members of planning school organizations from other parts of the world.

The principle of planning schools working with CBOs is also currently being expanded as a result of discussions with WEIGO (Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing) to sign an MoU with AAPS similar to the one signed with SDI. Where possible both SDI and WEIGO affiliates will be drawn into joint planning studios.

The studios and workshops will also offer a lobbying opportunity for AAPS and SDI in their engagement with governments and other stakeholders. Municipal officials can be invited to final student presentations to get exposure to this way of working, and the studios and workshops themselves can be publicised more broadly to draw attention to the inclusive city agenda.

In sum, this initiative aims to achieve the following objectives through defined strategies to produce clear outcomes:

Objectives	Activities	Outcomes
Student experiential learning in SDI sites to produce more capable and respected professionals able to promote the inclusive city agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint studios with SDI</li> <li>• Internships with SDI</li> <li>• Updated coursework</li> <li>• Bring slum-dwellers into teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student expertise enhanced</li> <li>• Deeper student understanding</li> <li>• Increasingly inclusive city plans and projects</li> </ul>
Promote student and academic learning about wider range of upgrade initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student and staff exchanges between cities and countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved understanding as a result of peer-to-peer learning</li> </ul>
Research and teaching case studies on SDI initiatives to improve publication and teaching inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding to planning staff and PhD students doing case research on SDI initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider documentation and dissemination of successful cases</li> <li>• Production of dissertations, articles and teaching cases for the AAPS network</li> <li>• Planning and academic perspective on SDI work</li> </ul>
Shift thinking of professionals already in municipalities regarding slum upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint workshops with SDI, municipality and school to debate upgrade and inclusion options</li> <li>• Connect all three across cities where this has occurred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better student awareness of how to connect varying agendas</li> <li>• Professional public sector planners more aware of SDI work and agenda</li> <li>• Potential partnerships of SDI and local government</li> </ul>
Planning technical and strategic input by schools to boost SDI initiatives and proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint studios</li> <li>• Academic and student research on SDI initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More robust and feasible SDI proposals regarding upgrade initiatives</li> <li>• Improved documented input on past initiatives to future SDI projects</li> </ul>
Improved capacity of SDI staff in community engagement and project development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student interns</li> <li>• Graduate employment with SDI</li> <li>• Joint studios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDI more effective and capable of assisting communities</li> </ul>
Improved documentation and learning about SDI successes and failures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic and student research and publication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better learning from past outcomes to improve future community initiatives.</li> </ul>
Production of city plans which promote the idea of inclusive cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New student and staff learning exposures and involvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning graduates attuned to the inclusive cities agenda with necessary skills and sensitivities.</li> </ul>

Funding for these initiatives will come from both the Rockefeller Foundation / Cities Alliance grant and from SDI.

The key activities to be funded are therefore:

- Joint studios of one month each at six planning schools, facilitated by an SDI staff member with a planning staff member (payment of travelling and S&T expenses of facilitator).
- Two cross-city workshops involving those involved in completed joint studios to share experiences. Municipalities to be drawn into these.
- Funding for staff and/or student documentation and research linked to each joint studio
- Funding for academic staff working with SDI to document SDI experiences

Items to be funded by SDI:

- Salary of SDI staff member facilitating studios
- Funds for documentation / publication and videoing of joint studios and other planning staff assistance on research on SDI initiatives.
- Planning staff (and possibly student) visits to SDI projects in Africa, but possibly to other parts of the world as well.
- Contribution to workshops (SDI and community attendance)

Funding for joint studios and documentation may come from Weigo as well where these organizations can be involved.

*Monitoring and evaluation:*

The relationship between AAPS and SDI is a new and developing one. It is still not clear to what extent individual planning schools and SDI affiliates will find common ground and commit to working together. It is intended to review the project at a half-way point (**June 2012**) to decide if the project has been working sufficiently well for it to continue. Indicators of success will be:

- Three joint studios completed successfully
- Positive response to joint studios from planning school (staff and student) and SDI affiliate and interest in repeating it
- Successful documentation of joint studios which can be disseminated
- Some response to incentives to undertake research / publication on SDI work
- Some academic staff involvement on SDI exchanges
- Plans in place for first workshop meeting of involved schools and SDI affiliates

Longer term indicators of success will be:

- sustained relationships between planning schools and SDI (and WEIGO) affiliates
- planning graduates supporting inclusive city agendas in their professional practice
- planning curricula which incorporate an understanding of informality
- a growing volume of research and publication on SDI and other upgrade initiatives
- more viable plans developed by SDI affiliate communities
- a growing relationship between planning schools, municipalities, SDI and professional planning organizations

## 1.2 Revitalizing planning education in Africa through the AAPS network: Phase 2

Phase 1 of this project, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation (2008-2010), was highly successful in growing and maturing the AAPS network, greatly increasing interaction and information flow between member schools, fashioning common objectives for educational innovation, producing educational toolkits and teaching case studies, and launching an initiative to change national planning legislation. It must be recognized that building networks of the scale of AAPS and shifting long-held teaching philosophies requires long-term and sustained action: this is not a quick-fix project. A stronger AAPS network is a pre-condition for the collaboration with SDI as well as other ACC projects which use the AAPS network as a backbone (see Annex A).

Hence phase 2 of the project is about keeping the network interested and interactive, about taking projects initiated in phase 1 a step further into implementation, and about new logical extensions to phase 1 work. ***There will be significant reinforcement of this from the SDI-related work, as well as from the third element of this proposal: building urban research on the continent.*** The AAPS phase 2 work involves the following:

- **Continuation and cementing of phase 1 projects:**
  - The model **post-graduate planning curriculum** will be piloted and tested. Copperbelt (Zambia) planning school volunteered to do this and the new masters programme at Zambia University – currently developing its curriculum – is already drawing on AAPS work. SDI related activities will reinforce this.
  - Research connections around common critical urban African themes (informality; climate change; land; urban infrastructure; actor collaboration), which structured paper presentation at the AAPS 2010 meeting, need to be taken the next step by building these ‘**communities of practice**’. Theme-based research workshops will be organized, drawing in other stakeholders (SDI, the public sector, planning practitioners) where relevant.
  - **Changing planning legislation in Africa.** On the basis of work already done by African land-law expert Mr Stephen Berrisford in 2010, a workshop on legislative change will be held in 2011 (which could be held at Bellagio). Negotiations are already underway with UN Habitat to partner on this process. The importance of this work is that conservative planning education is usually justified on the basis of needing to train planners to operate conservative legislation – changing the legislation would be a key incentive to change curricula. Planning law is also of central concern to SDI as it is most often used to implement informal settlement eviction and destruction.
  - **AAPS website and listserv.** This needs to be continually updated with new information (conferences, bursaries, research grants, publications) and new resources. It will be strengthened by the new urban Africa portal (currently funded by WBI and Urban Landmark) and will need further financial support once the initial grant has come to an end.
  - **Case studies for teaching and research.** While the case study project comes to an end in May 2011 (with the publication and guidelines products finalised over the next few

months), South African based funding was secured to hold a workshop with IIHS (India), Brazil and the Kisumu planning school, hosted by ACC, in March 2011, and case research production is being planned using other sources of funding. In this project cases can be identified which also include SDI interventions and funds have been allocated to link with each school studio to write up a case study for teaching and publication.

- **AAPS 2012 all-schools meeting.** This would be the third all-schools meeting – previously they were held in 2008 (Cape Town) and 2010 (Dar es Salaam). These are vitally important events for establishing connectivity and a sense of identity amongst network members, for consulting and taking decisions on new curricula ideas, and for debating institution building (formalising of management structures, office-holders, membership fees etc). In 2012 it will be important to report back on the piloted masters curriculum, debate a proposal for an undergraduate curriculum which will be developed before the meeting, report on themed research groups and the other AAPS projects. In 2010 the all-schools meeting was instrumental in cementing relations between AAPS and SDI, and in 2012 it would be important to include SDI as well as WEIGO representatives.
- **New initiatives:**
  - **Developing a draft undergraduate model planning curriculum.** This is a logical extension to the earlier work of developing and piloting a model masters curriculum. Ideas will be circulated in the network before the 2012 all-schools meeting and a draft will be discussed at this event. Community service learning (drawing on the AAPS-SDI MoU) will be important here.
  - **Exploring the possibility of signing an MoU with WEIGO (Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing).** WEIGO is a global NGO supporting informal workers. It already has close links to ACC as its policy co-ordinating arm is located within ACC. WEIGO, like SDI, has the objective of changing planning professionals and promoting inclusive city planning, and has already expressed interest in developing a relationship with AAPS<sup>1</sup>.
  - **A book/publication on the AAPS experiment.** We believe that the AAPS project offers unique insights into building international knowledge networks as a mechanism for bringing about social change. The role of communications infrastructure is obviously an important catalyst for this but is shaped by local contextual realities. We believe this could make an important contribution at both the theoretical and practical level.
  - **New web-based knowledge platform (UrbanAfrica).** This is being established with seed funding from Urban Landmark. It will be a web-based, interactive portal linked to the existing AAPS website and hosting resources and information for the planning schools. In the second half of 2011 it will launch student competitions using mobile phone inputs, and student prize and technology enhancement to enable mobile phone

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<sup>1</sup> At the World Planning Schools Congress in Perth in July 2011 both SDI and WEIGO reps have been invited to speak on a roundtable on global networks. This invitation has been instigated by AAPS. The aim is to upscale the AAPS – SDI and (hopefully) WEIGO collaboration to other parts of the world where these NGOs and planning school associations are active (particularly Asia and Latin America).

uploads. It will also introduce a 'stringer' project (or view from the street' and will offer student stipends to support street journalism in four cities linked to the ACC State of the Cities project in these cities.

- **African Cities Reader 111.** In light of the positive reception of the first two volumes, a portion of the underspend from the AAPS 2010 project (2007 SRC 144) will be allocated to get the third Reader underway. The available funds will be insufficient to cover the full cost of production, but sufficient to launch the call for papers and complete the editorial process. We can then use the strength of the first two versions of the Reader to leverage additional funding to see this volume through to printing and dissemination. The time frame for the work: Issue the Call for submissions: 1 August 2011; Collate and edit the issue: 2012. Publish the online version: February 2013; Print version (if additional funding is sourced), by May 2013. This will be distributed to planning schools, as were the last two volumes.
- **Edited volume on African Urban Development Policy Challenges.** At the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010, the African Centre for Cities (ACC) convened a seminar on "African Urban Futures: Promoting Urbanization Strategies". The intent was to disseminate the findings of the work sponsored by Rockefeller Foundation through the African urban innovations workshop in October 2008. It was very well attended and resonated with the broader need for more systematic engagement with the unique challenges that emanate from differential urbanisation processes in Africa.

On this occasion, ACC launched three essays: "Towards An Agenda For Action On African Urbanization", by Edgar Pieterse; "Infrastructure, Real Economies, and Social Transformation: Assembling the Components for Regional Urban Development In Africa", by AbdouMaliq Simone; "National Urban Development Strategies", by Sue Parnell and David Simon. Over and above these papers, the ACC has generated a wide-ranging applied urban research programme over the past few years. We now have a number of papers from specialists dealing with urban debates at the continental scale that warrant dissemination into the various scholarly and policy knowledge networks around the world. Fourteen chapters are planned. The intention will be to complete production by July 2012 and launch it at the next World Urban Forum later in 2012.

### *Monitoring and evaluation:*

By June 2012 progress can be judged against the following criteria:

- Implementation of the post-graduate masters programme (or elements of it) will be underway at a volunteer school.
- Two communities of practice workshops will have been held and research and publication strategies will be in place
- The planning law lobby will have met once and will have worked out a strategy to guide future action. An input will have been planned for the 2012 World Urban Forum. One further case study will have been documented. At this point this element of the project will be assessed to consider if should go further.
- The AAPS website will be attracting a growing number of hits, and will be supported by the Urban Africa platform pilot. The listserv will have grown.
- The African Cities Reader will be near completion and the edited volume on African urban development policy challenges will be complete (second half of 2012).
- Planning for the 2012 all-schools meeting will be underway
- Drafting an undergraduate curriculum will be completed and a draft circulated
- An MoU will have been signed with WEIGO and action will have been undertaken to begin collaborative work (initially through SDI joint studios)
- Steadily improving functionality of Urban Africa platform with growing internet participation and hits.

By June 2013 (six months before final reporting on the project) the following criteria will indicate success:

- The post-graduate curriculum testing will have been reported to the 2012 all-schools workshop and adjustments will have been incorporated
- The third of the communities of practice meetings will have been held. Publications from the first two will in press or in print.
- Urban Africa will have been evaluated and either continued and increased, or terminated.
- The WEIGO collaboration will have developed and collaboration will be operating between a number of AAPS schools and WEIGO affiliates. WEIGO will have started contributing financially to these.
- The undergraduate planning curriculum discussed at AAPS 2012 will be in the process of being tested in a volunteer school
- AAPS as an organization will have grown slightly (most schools are already members) and will have developed a strategy for future financial sustainability. This will undoubtedly involve some fund raising, but should begin to draw on member resources.
- AAPS as an organization should have strengthened and show an increasing number of inter-school linkages (staff and student exchanges; research collaborations etc).
- A book on the AAPS experience will have been planned

## 2. Scaling up urban-related applied research and practice on the continent to deal with Africa's 21<sup>st</sup> century urban issues: the emergent centre programme.

The aim of this part of the proposal is to put forward a strategy to support the strengthening of practice and policy related urban research on the African continent. It stems from our conviction that unless we are able to dramatically ramp-up the research capacity latent in African universities and think-tanks there is simply no way that African governments will be able to understand and manage the dramatic urbanisation wave that is unfolding across the continent over the next three decades. In ACCs long-term strategy it states clearly that our most important contribution is to foster and promote durable knowledge institutions that can deal with the system pressures that will stem from rapid urbanization in contexts where governments are already struggling to manage large-scale settlement and economic informality. In this context we believe that relevant research by definition must be attuned to practical solutions with an understanding of how one navigates the policy environment in order to make an impact. The learning that emerge from such engagements further informs and deepens ongoing research activity. There are very few urban institutions with this kind of disposition on the landscape yet they are fundamental to addressing the implications of sustained urbanisation unfolding within already high levels of poverty and structural exclusion from opportunities. Furthermore, the forging of such institutions require strong champions that are adept at building coalitions of action. It is clear to us that this analysis is a broadly shared view, yet it is difficult to find any concrete views on how such intellectual capacity will systematically be built over the next decade.

Given ACCs current positioning and need for strong partners to collaborate with on a continental basis, we want to undertake a project to raise the debate and foster action amongst key stakeholders in the field, including: UN-Habitat, African Development Bank, Economic Commission for Africa, NEPAD within the African Union, Southern African Development Bank, Cities Alliance, World Bank, World Bank Institute. However, we can only do this effectively if we can offer some evidence about the state of policy action and research production nodes on the continent, and where there is potential to invest. Through our work over the past three years we are now known by these bodies and have sufficient access to engage them pro-actively on how best to promote endogenous research capacity on urban questions. In light of this we propose a project with a number of inter-related elements.

- 1. A survey of the institutional urban research and policy landscape in Africa.** This will be a desktop assessment of urban research hubs which have emerged in Africa; these may be centres involved in general or sector specific research, but the research will be urban and will be practice-relevant. The top (6-10) emergent research centres with promising growth prospects will be identified. We will cross-reference the views of leading African scholars (including Africanist scholars in other parts of the world), leading policy actors who produce applied knowledge and training in the field, donors who work on urban-related fields and interested in strengthening research capacity in general in African universities, key private actors who rely on local expertise to inform their urban infrastructure investments strategies, etc. In addition we will obviously draw heavily on the

networks that ACC already participates in or steers, e.g. AAPS and African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN).

- 2. A literature review of published urban research produced during 2000-2011.** This step will be vital to make sure that we can identify the leading urban scholars who may or may not be based in applied urban departments such as planning, architecture or engineering. Urban scholarship and excellence exist across a wide spectrum of fields and disciplines and it will be important to take a wide view to ensure we can also identify individuals and clusters of excellence that may be missed in the survey of urban research hubs. This holds the potential to be an enormous undertaking. We will therefore identify 6-8 key thematic area to focus the literature review. For example, we will reinforce the categories used by AAPS: informality, spatial planning, infrastructure, access to land, governance and actor collaboration, climate change; and enhance them with themes from other ACC programmes such as finance (public and private), migration, urban food security, statistical systems, and so forth. This resource will also be an excellent informant of our existing Africa programmes such as AAPS, AFSUN, State of African Cities, and so on. It will also enrich the MPhil programme that the ACC runs at the University of Cape Town. We will make it available as a public resource through the nascent UrbanAfrica portal that we are in the process of establishing. We anticipate that this will be of interest to a range of stakeholders, including those institutions mapped in this exercise, but also donors.
- 3. An assessment and evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses and value-add of the ACC.** It is possible that some useful strategies and tactics have been used in the establishment of the ACC, and this needs to be explored and tested. To date the ACC has not been subject to a professional, external, institutional evaluation. A smaller scale study was undertaken by the Research Office of the University in late 2010 but this was to address particular questions of the university. This can certainly serve as an informant but a more in-depth study will be required. An external expert team with a strong grounding in institutional practice, as well as with understanding of the context and sector within which the ACC operates, will be commissioned to assess how the ACC has managed to establish itself within three years, and also what obstacles it has encountered. Generalizable lessons and insights will be identified. At the core of this external assessment—which we believe will also contribute tremendously to the resilience of ACC—is a desire to crystallize a generic organisational model or approach that should inform future efforts to nurture and grow similar independent, university-based applied urban research centres. One of the key dimensions of this “working model” would be to distill how we add value to the work of our partners in government and civil society, which goes well beyond the financial investment certain government and private sectors bodies may make into ACC. This evaluative analysis can then be explored and tested with potential actors that we identified in steps 1 and 2 above.

It is hoped that this external evaluation will yield sufficient insights to form the basis of a publication on the ACC experience, and the extent to which this is generalizable to other contexts.

In the following step we identify process mechanisms on how to bring the first three elements together.

- 4. Building urban centres in Africa Workshop:** Current directors or champions of the top eight to ten research centres will be invited to a workshop, along with representatives of donor and funding agencies interested in supporting urban research in Africa. The meeting will debate the ingredients of success for urban research in Africa and attempt to match interests of donors with those of researchers, as well as possible strategies involving collaboration and partnerships. The workshop will be organised to start with a focus on what the key trends are; what the current level of response is; what data, analytical and training capacity is required to build the systems to address the challenges associated with urbanisation; what role key applied urban research centres can play. Throughout we will maintain the necessary focus on the practice dimensions of engaging with urbanisation challenges. Once there is broad agreement on these parameters, then a more focussed discussion can start on the right mix and range of institutional models and incentives that need to be developed. From there, even more concrete ideas can emerge about how a coordinated approach can prod and evolve a network of urban research centres of excellence over a ten year period: 2012-2022.

This meeting will provide an opportunity to take further the work completed under the 2008-2010 Rockefeller grant which funded the African Urban Innovations Workshop in Cape Town in 2008. This workshop (which included donor agencies thought leaders from the continent) produced a report entitled *An Agenda for Action on African Urbanization* (Edgar Pieterse, Nov 2008). The necessary research and action identified in this report can be updated and implemented in terms of this 2011-2013 project.

- 5. A Training programme for potential research centre leaders:** In parallel to the steps above, ACC will also design a new curriculum to run a 8 day intensive training programme for potential leaders of these research centres. This will be offered to a select group of people that are seen as potential champions/drivers of these new centres (which could already exist of course even if in a different form). There are core elements to this training intervention: 1) providing a basic grounding in the key urban development issues as it manifests in the African context; 2) providing a solid foundation in the establishment and management of applied research centres; 3) leadership in the context of multi-actor systems in which urban research findings need to find resonance. The pedagogy will be designed in a manner that allows the participants to bring their own experience and institutional priorities into the learning environment to ensure that the training is as grounding and relevant to their own work as possible. A critical secondary outcome of this intervention would be to foster a strong inter-personal network amongst these leaders and managers which will be essential for advancing the broader agenda of promoting effective public policy responses to the challenges of urbanisation in Africa. ACC will design and deliver the course and host the participants at the University of Cape Town. This intervention will be followed-up with the next element of the project.

**6. Advice and support.** Experience and learning from other contexts inform us that if one is to invest in the growth of institutions, it is vital to create a support service (for at least first two years) that offers the leaders of the new organisations a port of call if they run into implementation difficulties. The support will range from providing access to a range of generic materials that can be made available through a shared electronic platform, as well as technical advice on research design and drafting questions, and coaching support for the leaders. ACC will not necessarily have the skills in-house but will take responsibility to find the right support for particular questions or challenges that may arise as the new centres get their programmes underway. However, ACC will offer an advice and support service for a defined period to assist with the formation period but the understanding would be that after this period, these organisations will have to be self sufficient. Finally, it is important to stress that we regard the advice and support service as light-touch. ACC is not in a position to provide hand-holding and on-the-ground mentorship but can be more of a backstop for these organisations.

All of this work needs to proceed with due sensitivity to what the ACC can achieve outside of its institutional location and how a South Africa based initiative might be regarded on the rest of the continent.

This project has risks attached. A risk assessment identifies the following areas of concern:

- The review of emerging urban research centres on the continent may indicate very few likely candidates.
- Should good candidates emerge, a meeting between these and donor agencies may produce very little in the way of a good match of interests and future funding arrangements
- Due to either or both of the above there may be little interest from emerging centres to attend a training workshop on research centre development.

For these reasons there will be review and assessment points established at critical points over the two year period of the project. At these points it may be necessary to change direction. Review and assessment dates:

- February 2012 (once the survey of existing centres has been completed)
- October 2012 (once a meeting between centres and donors has been held and interest in a training workshop has been assessed).

#### *Monitoring and evaluation*

The following criteria indicate measures of success and will occur in the following months:

February 2012:

- The desktop survey of African urban research centres and literature review will have yielded ten or more centres with good potential for future growth and development, and their associated champions.
- The external evaluation of ACC will be complete and will have yielded generalizable ingredients for successful research centres on the African continent.

- Donor representatives will have been contacted and sufficient will have agreed to send representatives to a meeting with research centres.

October 2012:

- A successful workshop between donor agencies and emerging centres will have been held and there will be a degree of agreement about a future research agenda for urban research and policy on the continent.
- There will be donor interest in connecting with some or all of the emerging research centres.
- Sufficient urban research centres and their associated champions will have indicated an interest in attending a training workshop and taking forward the broader institution-building agenda.

July 2013 (end of project)

- The training workshop will have been held and research centres will have been making use of the advice and support function offered by ACC and the Urban Africa platform as a host for published material and interaction.
- Centres will be communicating more with each other and with ACC, sharing information and ideas.
- Some research projects proposed to donors will have been successfully funded.

## Staffing of the projects

### Principle Investigators (Project leaders):

- AAPS and SDI project: Professor Vanessa Watson (African Centre for Cities executive and School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, University of Cape Town)
- Research Centres project: Professor Edgar Pieterse (Director: African Centre for Cities)

Watson and Pieterse will take overall responsibility for the projects, and will give strategic and conceptual direction. They will give direction to other ACC staff working on these projects and will be directly involved in project activities at key events and meetings.

### Support staff:

- Professor Gordon Pirie (incoming deputy director of the ACC). Will oversee the survey and literature review of the urban research centres project.
- Dr Nancy Odendaal (senior lecturer, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics), was the full-time project manager on the AAPS project in 2009-2010, will devote some 6 hours a week to the AAPS-SDI projects.
- Mr James Duminy (masters degrees in city planning and history). Has functioned as the research assistant on the AAPS project in 2010. Will be appointed a full-time research assistant in ACC for two years, with involvement in all three of the projects.

**SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS AND REPORTING:**

CLAIM DATE AND AMOUNT	REPORTS ON DELIVERABLES
<p><b>JULY 2011</b>                                 \$ 274,010</p>	
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2011</b></p>	<p><b>Inception memo<sup>2</sup></b></p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>                         \$ 382,086</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(- \$ 65,000 claim from Cities Alliance)</p>	<p><b>Interim progress report on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African research centre survey</li> <li>• ACC evaluation</li> <li>• Literature review Africa urban researchers</li> <li>• First assessment of research centre project viability</li> <li>• AAPS-SDI studio 1 completed</li> <li>• Urban wiki set up</li> <li>• Activities underway but not completed: community of practice meeting; masters curriculum piloting; undergrad curriculum development; AAPS-SDI studio documenting; African Cities Reader and Africa Innovations publication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>JANUARY 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Interim financial<sup>3</sup> and narrative<sup>4</sup> reports</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>OCTOBER 2012</b>                         \$ 330,539</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(- \$ 65,000 claim from Cities Alliance)</p>	<p><b>Interim narrative report<sup>5</sup></b>, which covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting of emergent centres and donors</li> <li>• Publication on state of urban research on African continent</li> <li>• Support for urban wiki to profile centres</li> <li>• Two communities of practice meetings;</li> <li>• Masters curriculum piloting</li> <li>• Undergrad curriculum for discussion at AAPS 2012</li> <li>• Reader and Innovations publications (should be complete)</li> <li>• Law workshop</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The *inception memo*, which typically comes after the initial three months, is meant to provide a point for early reflections on challenges that have arisen with the start of the grant. It is also a point to note any changes in terms of work-planning, timelines, or priorities.

<sup>3</sup> *Interim financial reports* should include a report-out on actual expenditure against projected. Where there are changes, it is important to note these in a narrative description.

<sup>4</sup> *Interim narrative reports* should include a status update, including a summary of work completed to date, an indication of changes and delays that have arisen, including any changes with budget implications; a look ahead toward priorities and work-plans in next 6 months, and reflections on key successes and challenges.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans for AAPS workshop</li> <li>• Three joint AAPS-SDI studios in 2012 and final documentation on first two</li> <li>• SA workshop with SDI, municipalities</li> </ul>
<b>JANUARY 2013</b>		<b>Interim financial<sup>6</sup> and narrative<sup>7</sup> reports</b>
<b>JULY 2013</b>	<b>no claim</b>	<b>Interim narrative report<sup>8</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research centres training workshop and uptake of advisory service</li> <li>• Urban wiki supporting research centres</li> <li>• AAPS 2012 meeting</li> <li>• Feedback on masters pilot curriculum and position on undergrad curriculum</li> <li>• Third communities of practice meeting</li> <li>• Progress with AAPS book</li> <li>• Two joint AAPS-SDI studios</li> <li>• Overall SDI-AAPS workshop</li> <li>• Final report on documenting of studios – all 6</li> <li>• Planning law case study and workshop</li> </ul>
<b>DECEMBER 2013</b>		<b>Grant term ends</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2014</b>		<b>FINAL NARRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS</b>
<b>Total claim: \$986,635</b> <b>(incl \$ 130,000 Cities Alliance)</b>		

- \$ 800,000 + \$ 130,000 (CA) + \$ 56,635 (underspend from SRC 2007 144) = \$ 986,635
- Total request to the Rockefeller Foundation = \$856,635

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<sup>6</sup> ibid note 3.

<sup>7</sup> ibid note 4.

<sup>8</sup> ibid note 4.

## Annex A: Other ACC projects which link to the AAPS network

# Africa Projects



The ACC is involved in a number of projects that engage partners on the African Continent.

### 1. ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN PLANNING SCHOOLS (AAPS)

AAPS is a network of university based departments and programmes offering degrees in city and regional planning. It is a member of GPEAN (the Global Planning Education Association Network) which links 9 planning school associations across the globe. The network began in 1999, but the inaugural meeting was held in Cape Town in October 2008, organised by the ACC. This was a three-day event, with some 30 participants. 21 planning schools were represented, as well as outside experts and facilitators. (The numbers have subsequently swelled; see Table 1 below.) This was a successful workshop and achieved its intentions: discussed planning curricula in the context of changing urban environments; discussed a way forward for the project; discussed the future of AAPS. Workshop papers were professionally edited and are now available on the AAPS web site which was established in December 2008: [www.africanplanningschools.org.za](http://www.africanplanningschools.org.za) and published in a special issue of the *Journal of Lands and Built Environment*. Nancy Odendaal was appointed as the full-time Project Coordinator from July 2009. The AAPS mailing list now has 182 members, AAPS is on Facebook and has 171 members.

Table 1: AAPS Membership (new members since 2008 *in italics*)

<b>East-Central Africa (8)</b>	<b>Southern Africa (14)</b>	<b>North-East Africa (4)</b>	<b>West Africa (13)</b>
Kenyatta University (Kenya)	University of Witwatersrand (S Africa)	Ain Shams University (Egypt)	University of Nigeria
Nairobi University (Kenya)	University of Venda (S Africa)	<i>Ethiopian Civil Service College</i>	University of Lagos (Nigeria)
Makarere University – Department of Geography (Uganda)	University of Zimbabwe	<i>Omdurman Islamic University (Sudan)</i>	University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
	University of Stellenbosch	<i>Khartoum University</i>	Kwame Nkrumah University, Kumasi

<i>Ardhi University (Tanzania)</i>	(S Africa)	<i>(Sudan)</i>	(Ghana)
<i>Maseno University (Kenya)</i>	University of Pretoria (S Africa)		Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria)
<i>National University of Rwanda</i>	North-West University (S Africa)		<i>University for Development Studies (Ghana)</i>
<i>Institute of Rural Development Planning (Tanzania)</i>	University of Kwazulu- Natal (S Africa)		<i>Abia State University (Nigeria)</i>
<i>Mzuzu University (Malawi)</i>	Durban Institute of Technology (S Africa)		<i>Enugu State University (Nigeria)</i>
<i>Makerere University – Department of Architecture (Uganda)</i>	Copperbelt University (Zambia)		<i>Ibadan Polytechnic (Nigeria)</i>
	University of Cape Town (S Africa)		<i>Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (Nigeria)</i>
	University of Botswana		<i>Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria)</i>
	<i>University of Johannesburg (S Africa)</i>		<i>The Federal University of Technology (Nigeria)</i>
	<i>University of the Free State (S Africa)</i>		<i>Yaba College of Technology (Nigeria)</i>
	<i>Cape Peninsula University of Technology (S Africa)</i>		
	<i>Catholic University of Mozambique</i>		

From December 2009, AAPS engaged in a Case Study Research and Publication project, which entailed 3 regional training workshops in case research, compilation of a Toolkit on Case Study Research and a book documenting planning case studies in Africa (based on the workshops).

The second workshop was held in Dar es Salaam in October 2010. The conference involved a total of forty-seven participants. This number included 37 representatives of planning schools, drawn from Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This led to a Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) being signed between AAPS and SDI. The MoU makes provision for joint research and teaching initiatives between the two organisations at country and school levels. AAPS is currently negotiating a similar MoU with WEIGO and Streetnet. AAPS

is currently organized through an elected steering committee with chair and co-chair rotating every 2 years.

## **2. STATE OF CITIES IN AFRICA (SOCA) Project**

The ACC formally established its linkages with the Cities Alliance, a multi-donor trust fund dedicated to poverty reduction and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, in October 2008. The State of the Cities in Africa (SOCA) Project was initiated to address the demand for information and support from cities and practitioners to survey and define urban systems in Africa. Funded by the Cities Alliance, the SOCA Project is one attempt to respond to the demand for information using universities and other durable institutions to support skills development and information dissemination for improved urban governance. The anticipated outcomes of this project are:

- A series of baseline reports in countries across the continent over the next 10 years;
- The establishment of an African urban knowledge base; and
- The creation of a network for urban scholars and practitioners in Africa

The ACC model is to anchor the development of a State of Cities product in durable institutions through partnerships with national ministries responsible for local and urban government, national local government associations, civil society organisations focused on the needs of the urban poor and academic institutions with training programmes in urban planning and management. Hence AAPS has been the starting point for SoCA work: the aim is to use the project to build capacity in planning programmes and encourage the establishment of research centres which will have durability beyond the life of the SoCA project. Currently the ACC is working with the following academic partners:

- Departments of Planning Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
- Department of Architecture and Planning, University of Botswana
- Institute of Urban Development Studies, Ethiopian Civil Service College
- School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ardi University (Tanzania)

Other key regional stakeholders include UN-HABITAT, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa and the South African Cities Network.

## **3. ACC-WIEGO RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

The ACC has an agreement with the global research-policy network Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) to host their urban policies programme. The WIEGO network, which was established in 1997, seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. It does so through improved statistics and research; by helping to strengthen member-based organisations of informal workers; and by promoting policy dialogues.

In October 2008 the Gates Foundation, as part of a larger grant supporting the activities of MBO's, confirmed a five year grant to support WIEGO's urban policy work. Groups participating in the overall project share the following core objectives:

- To improve the organisational strength and bargaining-negotiating-advocacy capacity of the MBO's of home-based workers, street vendors, and waste pickers and to assist them in achieving supportive urban laws, regulations, and policies, as well as adequate housing, infrastructure, and other essential urban services.
- To provide the research and statistics, good practice examples, and policy analysis that the MBOs of urban working poor need to pursue their activities.
- To educate key policymakers at the local, national, and international levels by disseminating research findings, statistical data, and policy analysis to illuminate the issues faced by the urban working poor.
- To raise awareness among policymakers of the benefits of including the urban working poor within an inclusive approach to city planning.

The focus of the WIEGO-ACC work is research and then dissemination of new content through both academic publishing but also policy briefs and dialogues. The programme is called "Inclusive Cities" and focus specifically on more favourable planning and regulatory reform to support informal sector workers. Caroline Skinner, WIEGO's urban policies programme coordinator, started at the ACC on August 1, 2009. See more at: <http://www.inclusivocities.org/>

#### **4. AFRICAN FOOD SECURITY URBAN NETWORK (AFSUN)**

AFSUN was established in 2008 as a network of African and international universities, non-governmental and community organizations, and municipal governance networks. AFSUN aims to improve the knowledge base on urban food security in Africa; to build African human resource capacity and expertise in food security policy and management; to develop and advocate policy options to improve the environment within which households make decisions about food security; and to grow the capacity of community change agents to plan, implement and evaluate food security projects and programmes.

AFSUN's first project is Urban Food Security and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project includes the cities of Blantyre, Cape Town, Durban Metro, Gaborone, Harare, Johannesburg, Lusaka, Maputo, Maseru, Manzini and Windhoek. Significantly, the project is anchored by a university of each of the nine SADC countries where it operates and is firmly embedded in a co-production methodological approach. In all of the cities where the research is conducted, the universities partner with municipalities, NGOs and community organisations to ensure that the research design and findings have policy relevance and application. The first outputs of the programme have recently been published. See: [www.afsun.org](http://www.afsun.org)

Lead international partners of AFSUN are the Program in Urban Food Security (PUFS) at the University of Cape Town and the Southern African Research Centre (SARC) at Queen's University, Canada. Initially, through PUFS, ACC was simply a partner in this network but since 2010, have taken over the hosting and coordination of it along with the Canadian partners.

## **5. AFRICAN URBANISM**

This project seeks to address the continued absence of theoretical work on the nature and dynamics of urbanism in African cities characterised by large swathes of informality. Many scholars have been arguing for the better part of a decade already that dominant knowledges and discourses on the African city are largely inappropriate and wrong. These discourses mirror simplistic modernist assumptions about what constitutes a viable, legible, efficient and competitive city. From such a vantage point the African city can only be seen and read as a narrative about absence, failure and inadequacy. On the back of such conceptualisations, an entire industry of analysis and policy fixes have been spawned which perpetuates the myth that African cities can only be understood in relation to a modernist ideal that is the Northern city; essentially reproducing the arrogance of the colonialist project.

Critics of these dominant discourses point to multiple alternatives in approaching and understanding the African city. Essentially their varied and diverse work propose that one takes the African city for what it is; to start with recognising the significance of everyday practices as people actively pursue a plethora of innovative strategies to not only survive under extremely difficult material conditions but also continuously fashion new ways of being and becoming as citizens and various overlapping collectives. It is in the micro detail of these quotidian practices that one can begin to decipher the alternative logics and dynamics of African urbanisms.

This project brings together a group of African urban theorists and artists who work on 'the everyday' as a way of building a new body of theory that can better capture the specificity of urbanism on the Continent. The project commenced in April 2009 with a three-day colloquium and is envisaged to unfold over the next three years and culminate in a book and special issues of journals. Some of the leading African scholars and artists are enrolled in this path-breaking initiative. In time, an art exhibition on African Urbanism will be undertaken on the back of this philosophical enterprise.

## **6. AFRICAN CITIES READER**

We are extremely proud to report that the inaugural *African Cities Reader* was published on-line in July 2009. The first Reader boasts some of the finest writers and scholars from across the African diaspora and the Continent and will make a huge contribution to signal what a vibrant and engaged African urban studies agenda could entail. The Reader is a collection of creative work on the African city experience, some of which already published and at least 50% new work. The first edition was organised around the theme: "Pan-African Practices", and features work from an array of contributors, for example, Chris Abani, Nuruddin Farah, Gabeba Baderoon, Akin Adesokan, Lesley Lokko, Annie Paul, amongst many others who showcase their unique insights. The critical focus of the reader is on practices,

phenomenologies and spatialities and their intersections. [www.africancitiesreader.org.za](http://www.africancitiesreader.org.za) Through continued support from Rockefeller Foundation, a second Reader will be published in June 2011. The Call for Submission for the ACR III will be issued in August 2011 with an eye on publishing it by June 2013.

## **7. AFRICAN URBAN INNOVATIONS WORKSHOP**

Through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, ACC was able to convene a high level week long policy workshop with key urban development experts from across the Continent 1-5 September 2008. The innovations workshop was a great success from an administrative and operational point of the view. Through robust discussion and high quality inputs we were able to arrive at some broad agreements on what an African response to the urbanisation challenges could, ideally, contain. This was crystallised into a position paper, “Towards an Agenda for Action on Africa Urbanization” drafted by the ACC Director, Edgar Pieterse. This paper was disseminated at the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China in November 2008.

At the beginning of 2009 it was clear that this strategic intervention had positioned ACC as a knowledge player in the urban development knowledge scene on the Continent. For example, we were asked by UN-Habitat and SIDA to host the launch of the Africa chapter of SUD-Net in February 2009. Furthermore, the World Bank approached ACC to co-host the Africa launch of the World Development Report 2009, which focused on the economic role of cities in development. Internally, the work will inform ongoing engagements with key pan-Africa development agencies on critical urban policy questions. In particular we think it is vital to engage development agencies in Africa such as: African Development Bank; the African Union and especially its NEPAD Secretariat which has an infrastructure and urban focus; the Development Bank of Southern Africa; the African Ministerial Council on Housing and Urban Development; Economic Commission for Africa; United Congress of Local Government – Africa; and UN-Habitat. The purpose of the engagements is to promote an explicit endorsement of Continental, national and local urban development strategies. The means is through research papers on the implications of an effective urbanization strategy/policy at Continental, country and city levels in Africa, which can be the basis for bilateral engagements with the agencies listed above. The research has been published and was launched at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010. It is anticipated that this advocacy oriented work will pick up more substantial momentum in 2010/11 when the AAPS, State of Cities and WIEGO programmes are in full swing.

Finally, the work produced for and launched at WUF in 2010 is now forming the basis for an edited volume that will be produced by June 2012 and serve as the basis for an ACC intervention at the next WUF in 2012.

## **8. URBAN AFRICA PLATFORM**

Planning academics require resources to engage regional and local planning experiences. Building a network of planning schools is an integral part of this objective and appropriate digital tools are central to this. A web-based platform where knowledge and information resources can be collected, collated, filtered, centralised, organised would provide a valuable resource in this regard. **The UrbanWiki**

([www.urbanwiki.info](http://www.urbanwiki.info)) is a proposed knowledge portal that offers multiple access points to verifiable information and knowledge resources on urban development with an African focus. As an online platform for African urban development practitioners, the UrbanWiki is intended to enable access, promote exchange, and facilitate developing new knowledge across sectors. It combines the system technologies of Wikipedia and U-Tube to create new access points to both documented and human knowledge resources on urban development. It will build a digital entry point for knowledge sharing, interactive exchange and information dissemination. The AAPS provides an opportunity for piloting the UrbanWiki as an existing network of 42 universities across (mostly) Anglophone Africa. The UrbanWiki initiative offers the technical and conceptual means whereby digital networking can be enhanced and reinvented.

## **9. MISTRA URBAN FUTURES NETWORK**

ACC is a partner in the Mistra Urban Futures network. Mistra Urban Futures is a new global centre for sustainable urban futures, based in Gothenburg, Sweden. The centre is run by a consortium of 7 Swedish partners (Chalmers University of Technology, the University of Gothenburg, the City of Gothenburg, the Vastra Gotaland county and regional governments, the regional local government association and the national Swedish Environmental Research Institute). The broader Mistra Urban Futures network also includes 4 international partners: the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF), University of Salford, Manchester, UK; the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, China; Maseno University/ Kisumu Action Team, Kisumu, Kenya (AAPS member); and ACC. The overall approach of Mistra Urban Futures is that collaborative and transdisciplinary knowledge production and implementation that brings together academics and practitioners is necessary to be able to achieve sustainable urban futures. It is intended that various collaborative and transdisciplinary projects will be implemented in each of the partner cities over the next 10 years (a number of projects have already commenced in Gothenburg). The current arrangement for ACC is that SIDA, through Mistra Urban Futures, will provide funding of 1.5 million Swedish Kroner per year for three years to ACC, for the following: the Deputy Director post; the part-time Climate Change researcher post; an African Scholar in Residence – either ACC to Kisumu or Kisumu to ACC; an African post-doctoral fellowship; African partner engagement in research proposal preparation to ensure capacity building and representation at key meetings; various other African practitioner fellowships and exchanges; and a contribution to the urban African data collection and storage capacity at UCT.

Over and above this, during the next 3 years the Mistra Urban Futures Network will be undertaking pilot projects in the 5 partner cities to lay the foundation for the longer-term programme. There will be three stages of the pilot project: Stage 1 (start-up and contextual review, from October 2010 to June 2011) will involve initial preparatory work: mapping the context, knowledge and challenges relating to sustainability in the 5 cities and identifying key stakeholders and materials; Stage 2 (stakeholder analysis, from June 2011 to December 2012) will involve working together with a small core group of practitioners in each city to interview key stakeholders regarding issues of urban sustainability, and having a six-monthly meeting of an advisory group of academics and practitioners to guide and input into this process. Stage 3 (comparative analysis, from December 2012 to October 2013) will involve the

analysis of the interviews and writing up of journal articles and the chapter for the Mistra book and papers for a Mistra workshop and conference (and there will be exchanges between research teams in the 5 partner cities). The project will involve close collaboration between ACC and the City of Cape Town – Anna Taylor has been employed by ACC to support the City on this project and ACC will host practitioners from the City who will be involved in the research process.

The focus of the Mistra Urban Futures network on sustainable urban development and on collaborative knowledge production ties in extremely well with ACC's focus, and exchanges with the other partners in the network will add enormous value to the work of ACC.