

 3rd International Conference
on Inclusive Cities

We are pleased to inform you about
the next INCLUSIVE CITIES conference



10-12 2025
SEPTEMBER

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA | WEBINAR

**CALL FOR
PAPERS**

<https://inclusivecities.ukzn.ac.za/>

THEME RESILIENT CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND BEYOND

BACKGROUND

Climate change poses significant and complex challenges to cities and communities worldwide. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity increasingly threaten infrastructure, economies, and the well-being of urban populations. The need for resilient cities and communities, those capable of withstanding, adapting to, and recovering from these shocks and stresses, has never been more critical. However, cities remain central to addressing climate change through mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building initiatives.

Following the success of the first two international conferences co-organised by University of KwaZulu-Natal with its partners, the 3rd International Conference theme is **Resilient Cities and Communities: Adapting to Climate Change and Beyond**.

The conference will provide a global platform to share knowledge, innovative solutions, and good practices on urban resilience, which address the urgent need for cities and communities to adapt to climate change impacts and support inclusive and sustainable development.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitate the exchange of cutting-edge research, practical tools, and innovative approaches to enhance urban resilience.
- **Policy Dialogue:** Foster discussions on effective policies and governance structures that promote local, national, and international climate adaptation and resilience.
- **Inclusive Strategies:** Highlight the importance of inclusive and equitable approaches to resilience-building, ensuring that vulnerable populations are prioritized in climate change adaptation efforts. Most importantly vulnerable focus on vulnerable persons, unplanned and informal settlements. This also ensures that focus is given to post-disaster recovery and alternative service delivery for vulnerable groups.
- **Technological Innovation:** Showcase the role of technology and data-driven solutions in enhancing urban resilience and disaster preparedness.
- **Community Engagement:** Emphasize the importance of community participation and engagement in resilience planning and implementation. This is critical to achieving a sustainable and collaborative approach to climate change mitigation and response.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Strengthen collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including government departments, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector, to advance the resilience agenda.

SUBMISSIONS OF ABSTRACTS AND PANEL PROPOSALS

ABSTRACTS AND PANEL PROPOSALS

Should be emailed to
Mbambu Gevina matebherem@ukzn.ac.za

COPYING IN:
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BY 30 JULY 2025

PLEASE INCLUDE:

Title of paper
Name(s) of author(s)
Affiliation(s)
Email address (es)
200-word abstract

PROPOSALS FOR PANELS, WORKSHOPS/OTHER ACTIVITIES

Should be emailed to
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Please include all the relevant details and indicate a contact person, contact number and email address.

**Notifications of acceptance of
abstracts/panels/workshops
will go out by the end of July 2025.**

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SUB THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

- **People working with and/or in the changing climate:** This sub-theme will examine the human aspect of climate change by focusing on the contributions, challenges, and opportunities for people, individually and collectively, who are engaged in climate adaptation and resilience work. It acknowledges that people are not simply victims of climate change but active agents of change.
- **Climate extremes and shocks:** This sub-theme relates to the rising occurrence and severity of extreme climate-related events, such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, and coastal surges, and their devastating effects on cities and communities. It calls for preventative action as part of preparedness, response, and recovery from these shocks. It touches on climate related events across the globe.
- **Unplanned and informal spaces in the changing climate:** This sub-theme will look at the challenges of unplanned urban development and informal settlements concerning climate change. It acknowledges that quick urbanization and inadequate planning will likely intensify the vulnerability to climate impacts and hinder resilience-building efforts. It will touch on the traditional approaches that informal settlers adopt in the face of the changing climate.
- **Climate education and policies:** This sub-theme will address the critical role of education and policy in fostering climate awareness, promoting sustainable behaviours, and driving systemic change. It recognizes that effective climate action requires informed citizens, skilled professionals, and supportive policy frameworks. The need for reconceptualise climate change education and the emerging ideas towards climate change advocacy and sensitisation.
- **Post-disaster Recovery, and Reconstruction:** This sub-theme will focus on the mechanism that individual, and various private and public actors have adopted as a coping and recovery strategy after the disaster. The interest is to learn from various recovery and reconstruction programmes and projects across the globe.
- **Climate change and the future city:** This sub-theme will explore the long-term implications of climate change for urban development and envision the future city as a resilient, sustainable, and liveable environment. It encourages innovative thinking and transformative solutions to address the challenges of a changing climate.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

This year conference will be hybrid (on-site and online). The conference will take place from **10-12 September 2025** at the School of Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. It will feature keynote speeches by renowned experts, plenary sessions to discuss overarching themes, panel discussions to delve deeper into specific topics, and paper presentations to share research findings and innovative practices. Participants will have ample opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration.

PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS

RESEARCH INSTITUTE, GOVERNMENT AND COUNCIL	ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS
National Research Foundation	University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
eThekweni Municipality	University of Venda, South Africa
SARCHI Chair for Inclusive Cities	University of Johannesburg, South Africa
South Africa Council of Planners	Mzuzu University, Malawi
South African Cities Network	Sustainable Futures Institute, Nexus International University, Kampala, Uganda
	Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria
	Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies

CONCLUSION

The 3rd International Conference on Resilient Cities and Communities: Adapting to Climate Change and Beyond is an important opportunity to tackle the urgent global challenges climate change causes. The conference will stimulate efforts to create sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities by bringing together various stakeholders to share approaches and forge joint partnerships.

The SARCHI Chair for Inclusive Cities and its partners invite all researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders to participate in this important discussion to help build a climate-resilient future for everyone. Together, we can change how cities and communities respond to climate change for a safer, inclusive, and sustainable future for future generations.



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REGISTRATION

Registration will be available from 30th of JUNE 2025.

More details will be provided on acceptance of abstracts.

PUBLICATIONS

Accepted manuscripts will be published in a book project.

One of the intentions of this conference is to select the best papers and publish an edited book. A scientific committee will be tasked with this process.

Authors of all selected papers will be requested to revise their papers in line with the comments provided by reviewers. The plan of the committee is to have an edited book on the conference to theme to be published by Taylor and Francis.

QUERIES

All queries can be directed to:

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PLEASE INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL

Professor Magidimisha-Chipungu - magidimishah@ukzn.ac.za

ORGANISERS

The local organising committee (LOC) consists of:

Prof Hangwelani Magidimisha-Chipungu, Professor Lovemore Chipungu, Dr Ayobami Popoola, Mr Ndwadwe Bongumusa, Dr Emaculate Ingwani, Professor Mtafu Manda, Dr Ockert Pretorius, Mr Edmore Mutsaa, Prof James Chakwizira, Dr Zakhi Mukhize, Prof Gumbo Trynos, Prof Chukwuemeka Diji, Mr Gbenga Morenikeji, and Dr Samuel Medayese.

