



Advancing Africa's response to urban climate and health risks.

www.cascade.org.za

The Cascading Climate and Health Risk in African Cities (CASCADE) consortium was officially launched in 2023 to tackle the pressing urban health challenges exacerbated by climate change and rapid urbanisation.

Our overarching objective is to advance our understanding of urban health challenges in African cities and support practical, impactful responses at the city-level.

Our consortium is spread across the African continent, including **Kampala, Harare, Accra, Johannesburg, and Cape Town**. These partners allow us to address regional challenges with local-based and context-driven responses.



In partnership with scientists, policymakers, and communities, we aim to deepen understanding of complex and cascading climate health risks in African cities, and co-produce knowledge to respond to these risks. To this end **CASCADE** is committed to fostering research skills, knowledge exchange, and scientific leadership through a collaborative, transdisciplinary approach.

Our Approach

Our vision is centered on improving the lives of people across Africa.

Supported by programs like the **Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science Africa II**, the consortium is committed to empowering a new generation of researchers, enhancing their ability to contribute to Africa's resilience to climate and health challenges.

By focusing on the **capacity strengthening of our young researchers**, **CASCADE** ensures the sustainability of its initiatives and the ongoing evolution of scientific expertise in urban health and climate resilience for our continent.



Key Research Focus

CASCADE focuses on three key research areas to guide its efforts:



Urban Climate Risk Pathways



Urban Climate Health Interventions



Urban Climate Health Governance



Why cities?

African cities have been identified as a critical focus of opportunity and risk.

The dynamics of rapidly expanding and evolving urban landscapes, encompassing changes in spaces, livelihoods, economics, and governance, intersect with local, regional, and global climate shifts. This intersection could reverse progress made in alleviating human health burdens across the continent. The complexity of these interactions may be greater than we previously thought. Understanding these complex dynamics therefore requires working across and beyond disciplines.

A transdisciplinary approach is therefore central to CASCADE, fostering a collaborative spirit between academic and non-academic stakeholders, and blending various perspectives on climate change and human health.

This collective effort seeks to deepen our understanding of and highlight actionable and effective responses to improve the lives of people across Africa.

CASCADE City Learning Labs

CASCADE will use **City Learning Labs** as its primary mechanism of community engagement and learning. As a powerful and inclusive process designed to address complex urban challenges, these labs bring together a diverse group of participants such as researchers, counselors, city representatives, youth representatives, NGO's, and many others. This will provide an environment to help us better understand climate health risk pathways in African cities and to co-create viable solutions, collaboratively.

Each city will develop its own City Learning Lab process, dedicated to appreciating diverse perspectives and deliberating on tailored potential responses. This will aid in our understanding of different contexts and challenges across CASCADE partner cities.

Our Partners

Our work is supported by partnerships across Africa, ensuring a wide-reaching impact.

Collaborations with **major African cities** and leading academic institutions enhance our ability to work towards effective responses to the continent's climate and health challenges.



University of Ghana | Chinhoyi University of Technology | Makerere University | Global Change Institute (University of Witwatersrand) | The African Population and Health Research Center | Climate System and Analysis Group (University of Cape Town) | Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre | START International

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