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EDITORIAL: RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION: INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR INCLUSIVE URBAN FUTURES IN AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

The accelerating pace of urbanization across Africa presents both unprecedented opportunities and formidable challenges for building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities. As urban populations expand rapidly, the urgency to create built environments that serve diverse populations while addressing climate vulnerabilities has never been greater. The issue 9 Volume 5 of the *Journal of Inclusive Cities and Built Environment* assembles critical research exploring the nexus between technology integration, environmental management, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable infrastructure development across diverse African contexts. The papers collectively demonstrate how innovative approaches to urban planning and governance can advance equitable, climate-resilient, and inclusive transformations.

Climate Vulnerability and Environmental Management

The vulnerability of African cities to climate-induced hazards features prominently across several contributions. Khendlo, Goodary, and Beeharry's work on land cover change in Malawi's Chikwawa District reveals alarming rates of deforestation and water depletion that exacerbate climate vulnerability. Through CA-Markov chain modeling, they project land-use scenarios to 2065, providing valuable insights for policy intervention and sustainable land management. Together, these studies reinforce the growing consensus on the need for integrated climate adaptation strategies in Africa's rapidly urbanizing regions.

Technological Transformation and Digital Integration

The transformative potential of technology in reshaping urban development processes is another dominant theme. Oladotun et al. explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can revolutionize stakeholder engagement in Ibadan, Nigeria, showing that AI tools can foster inclusive participation and enable real-time data analysis. Their proposed *Ibadan City Management Policy Framework* represents an innovative model for institutionalizing digital participation in governance. This emphasis on digital transformation extends to the construction sector. Ogunbode et al. examine strategic IT integration in Nigeria's construction industry, identifying three progressive approaches; Operational, Tactical, and Transformative. Their findings highlight the importance of aligning technology use with strategic goals to enhance collaboration and quality outcomes. These studies affirm digital transformation as a key enabler of improved governance and service delivery.

Infrastructure, Mobility, and Sustainable Pathways

Infrastructure development and sustainable mobility emerge as vital pathways toward inclusive urban futures. Oyebamiji et al. provide a comprehensive examination of sustainable mobility across Sub-Saharan Africa, showcasing initiatives such as Dar es Salaam's BRT, Addis Ababa's LRT, and Cape Town's renewable energy programs. Their analysis demonstrates how engineering innovations can concurrently promote climate mitigation and social inclusion. The growing emphasis on renewable energy, non-motorized transport, and climate-resilient infrastructure reflects the holistic integration of environmental, economic, and social priorities.

Spatial and Economic Dimensions of Urban Development

Mohammed, Saidu, and Sheriff apply GIS-AHP methodologies to commercial property investment in Bida, Nigeria, illustrating how spatial analytics can guide rational investment decisions and mitigate exclusionary development patterns. Their findings reinforce the potential of geospatial technologies to promote equitable and evidence-based urban development

Implementation and Governance Challenges

Two studies in this issue provide practical insights into the institutional and implementation challenges of urban development. Meketa's investigation into road construction performance in Butajira, Ethiopia, identifies core issues of project management, coordination, and organizational culture. Similarly, Unah's analysis of uncontrolled physical development in Kano Metropolis exposes planning deficits and regulatory weaknesses that fuel urban sprawl. Both studies highlight the urgent need to strengthen institutional capacity, inter-agency coordination, and policy frameworks which are key ingredients for effective and sustainable urban governance

Conclusion

Collectively, the papers in this volume underscore that achieving inclusive and sustainable urban futures in Africa demands multidimensional strategies that integrate technological innovation, evidence-based planning, participatory governance, and robust institutional frameworks. The insights offered herein provide valuable guidance for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners committed to shaping cities that are not only resilient and efficient but also just, inclusive, and adaptive in the face of global change.

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