



ARIN ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	01
Message from the Advisory Board Chair	02
Executive Director's Remarks	04
Organization Overview	06
2023 Highlights	11
Our Research Portfolio	14
2023 Strategic Engagements	19
Staff Wellness	25
Future Directions and Strategic Growth	26



Acknowledgement

Our sincere gratitude to God for granting us strength and guidance throughout 2023. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to all individuals and organizations whose contributions have been instrumental to ARIN's success. Special thanks go to our dedicated team of researchers and support staff, whose steadfast commitment has driven groundbreaking discoveries and research advancements. We deeply appreciate the collaboration of our partners, whose expertise and support have strengthened our research initiatives. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the funding agencies and donors whose financial contributions enable us to pursue innovative research projects with significant societal impact. Together, we continue to push the boundaries of knowledge, addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges.





Message from the Advisory Board Chair



Prof. Felix Kalaba Kanungwe
Chair, Advisory Board

It is with great pride and a deep sense of gratitude that I present to you the 2023 Annual Report of the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN). This past year has been a testament to the resilience, innovation, and commitment of our network in fostering impactful research and bridging the gap between knowledge generation and transformative action.

The global and regional challenges of 2023, ranging from climate change to economic uncertainty, have underscored the critical need for evidence-driven policies and collaborative solutions. ARIN has responded with vigour, providing a platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to co-create knowledge that is not only relevant but also actionable.

Our work has reinforced our role as a key driver of Africa's research and development agenda, contributing meaningfully to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

In 2023, ARIN celebrated several transformative milestones that reinforced its role as a catalyst for impactful research and actionable solutions across the continent:

- Establishment of a Physical Secretariat: Marking a significant step forward, ARIN transitioned from a virtual-only presence to inaugurate its first physical office in Nairobi, Kenya. This symbolizes our growth and commitment to fostering a collaborative and accessible space for coordination, innovation, and enhanced service delivery.
- Expansion of Focus Areas: We broadened our scope by integrating Climate Change and Health into our research agenda. Recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental and public health challenges, ARIN integrated Climate Change and Health into its research agenda. This expansion reflects our dedication to addressing pressing cross-sectoral issues in a rapidly evolving field.

- Strengthened Strategic Partnerships: ARIN enhanced its collaboration with Makerere University School of Business, leading to the establishment of the Climate Finance and Sustainability (CFS) Centre. This centre will provide training and capacity support for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and the private sector on climate finance and sustainable development.
- Enhanced Institutional Visibility: ARIN's profile and reputation continued to grow, marked by key publications such as Africa's Right to Development in a Climate-Constrained World, which examines how Africa can secure a just transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. The publication is available at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-22887-2>.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of ARIN's team, the passion of our members, and the unwavering support of our partners and funders. As we reflect on 2023, we also look ahead with ambition. ARIN remains committed to championing African-led solutions to the pressing challenges of our time.

To all who have walked this journey with us, I extend my deepest appreciation. Together, we are shaping a future where research transforms lives and impacts societies. Let us continue working towards a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable Africa.



Executive Director's Remarks



Dr. Joanes Atela

Gratitude fuels our journey. I thank God for strength, our partners for the collaboration, and our team of researchers for groundbreaking discoveries. Together, we transcend limits, shaping a brighter tomorrow.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of the past year, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I present to you ARIN's 2023 Annual Report. This document encapsulates our collective journey in advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and making a meaningful impact on society.

At ARIN, we recognize that the most impactful discoveries emerge at the intersection of diverse disciplines and perspectives.

Through strategic partnerships with academia, private sector, government agencies and community organizations, we have forged meaningful collaborations that amplify the reach and relevance of our work. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our researchers, staff, partners, and stakeholders for their dedication, passion, and support. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and laid the foundation for a future filled with promise and potential.

Together as we continue pushing the boundaries of knowledge, inspiring positive change, and shaping a lasting legacy for future generations, I invite you to explore this report and join us on our journey of discovery and impact.

In 2023, ARIN played a pivotal role in enhancing well-being across Africa by pursuing evidence-based solutions to some of the continent's most pressing challenges. Our three core pillars - research, policy engagement, and knowledge exchange - enabled us to implement various initiatives successfully.

Our work in climate change and health has fostered strong collaborations between researchers and policymakers, particularly through the Wellcome Trust's Climate Change and Health Initiative, which seeks to address climate-related health threats.

The Locally Led Adaptation Metrics for Africa (LAMA) project has empowered small-scale farmers with data-driven tools for climate adaptation, ensuring that resilience-building efforts are informed by scientific evidence.

Further research has deepened our understanding of air pollution in Nairobi and its implications for public health, while our work on Loss and Damage has shed light on the challenges faced by Kenyan pastoral communities. The exploration of meso-level actors through initiatives like ACAMI has generated valuable insights into how these stakeholders can drive sustainable development. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate our commitment to evidence-based action and meaningful impact.

Beyond project implementation, ARIN has been instrumental in shaping the discourse on climate action and sustainable development. Our active participation in key forums such as the Resilience Evidence Forum 2023, ECAS 2023, Adaptation Futures, the Bonn UN Climate Change Conference, and COP28 has enabled us to influence policy discussions, advocate for practical solutions, and contribute to decision-making at regional and global levels.

Our commitment to ensuring equitable climate action is evident in our advocacy for Loss and Damage solutions, the integration of local expertise, and the development of innovative tools such as the Global Stocktake Explorer. These efforts reaffirm our role as a thought leader in climate governance and sustainable development.

Recognizing the power of collaboration in accelerating progress, ARIN continues to position itself as a vibrant hub for knowledge exchange. The ARIN Friday Review Series has provided an invaluable platform for researchers, academics, policymakers, and practitioners to engage in constructive dialogue, share expertise, and co-create solutions that address Africa's most pressing challenges.

With gratitude and optimism, I look forward to another year of impact, collaboration, and transformative research.

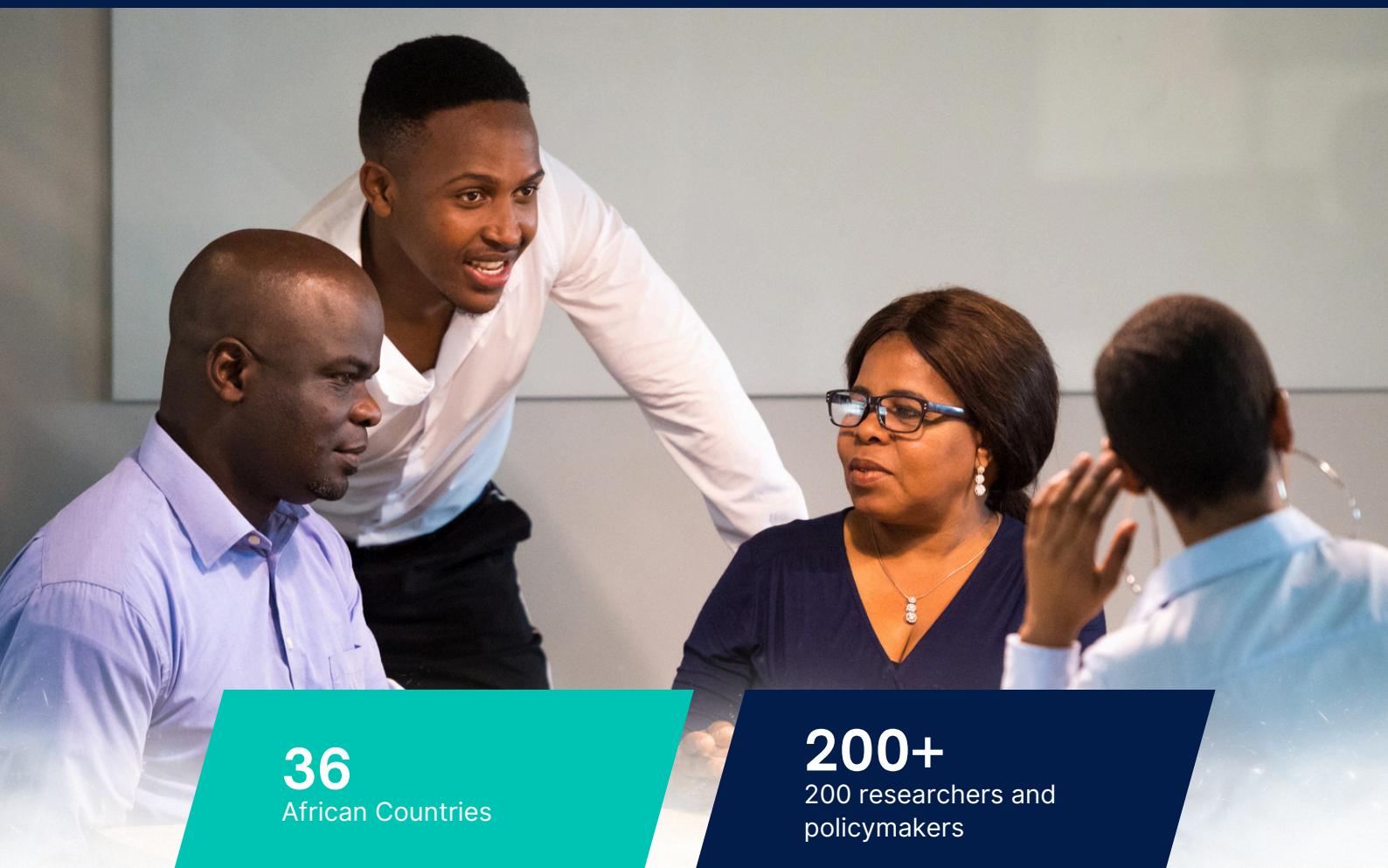


Organization Overview

The Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) is a think tank comprising over 200 researchers and policymakers, with national focal points across 36 African countries. ARIN is dedicated to:

- Consolidating evidence from diverse African contexts and leveraging it to support policy development and capacity building.
- Promoting research excellence and the sharing of best practices in research and impact.

ARIN identifies and nurtures key research talents, fostering flexible and innovative contributions to Africa's research transformation, policy analysis, and capacity building. It provides a peer review platform where best research and impact practices from various African contexts are shared, profiled, and leveraged to inform transformative policy action. ARIN has pioneered groundbreaking research in climate change, knowledge management, science, technology, and innovation.



Strategic Focus

Our strategic focus positions ARIN as a vital player in amplifying Africa's voice in global research and development dialogues while driving transformative change on the continent.

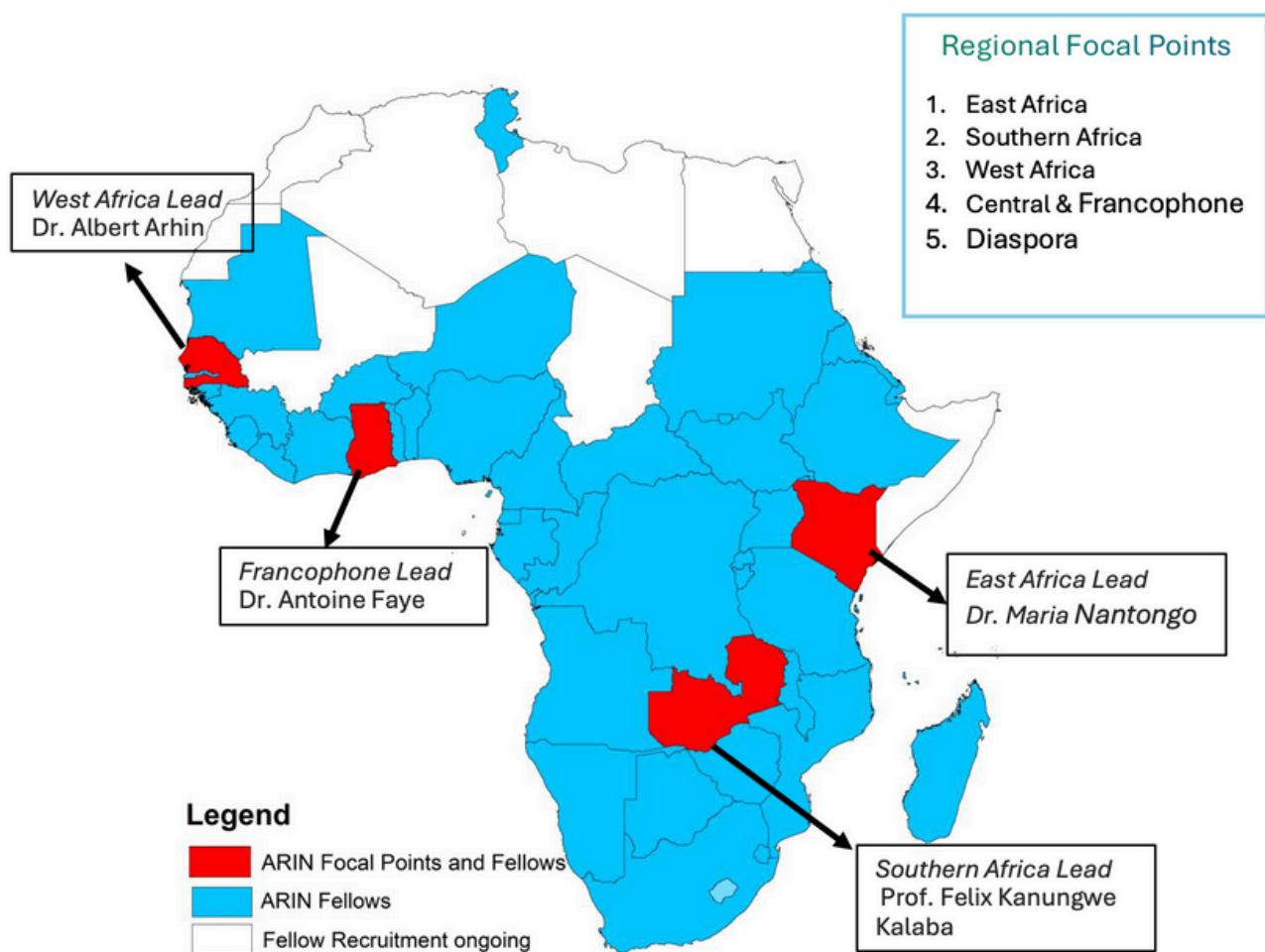
1. Advancing Research Excellence: ARIN builds the capacity for African researchers to produce high-quality, impactful studies that address local, national, and regional priorities, and facilitates collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to enhance the credibility and utility of research outputs.
2. Enhancing Policy and Practice Influence: ARIN bridges the gap between research and policy decision-making, ensuring that evidence-based strategies are adopted by governments, private sector actors, and civil society. By facilitating the co-creation of knowledge through partnerships with stakeholders, ARIN ensures that research addresses real-world challenges. Through dialogues, workshops, and conferences, the network disseminates findings and promotes the uptake of evidence in policymaking.
3. Capacity Building and Mentorship: Through initiatives such as the ARIN Fellowship, the network nurtures emerging scholars and thought leaders in Africa, equipping them with the skills and expertise to conduct impactful research.
4. Promoting Inclusive and Collaborative Networks: ARIN fosters partnerships with institutions across Africa and globally, creating synergies to address shared development challenges. The network promotes diversity and inclusion in research, ensuring that marginalized voices are represented in knowledge production and policy influence.
5. Climate Action and Sustainability: ARIN drives innovative research and sustainable solutions in climate change adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development. It supports evidence generation to strengthen Africa's role in global climate governance.
6. Impact-Oriented Research: ARIN encourages research designs that prioritize measurable societal impacts, aligning research agendas with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

ARIN Strategic Presence in Africa

ARIN has established a robust and expanding presence across Africa, positioning itself as a hub for research excellence and impact-driven solutions. Operating across four African regions, as illustrated in the map below, ARIN strengthens its reach through a commitment to training and mentoring the next generation of African researchers.

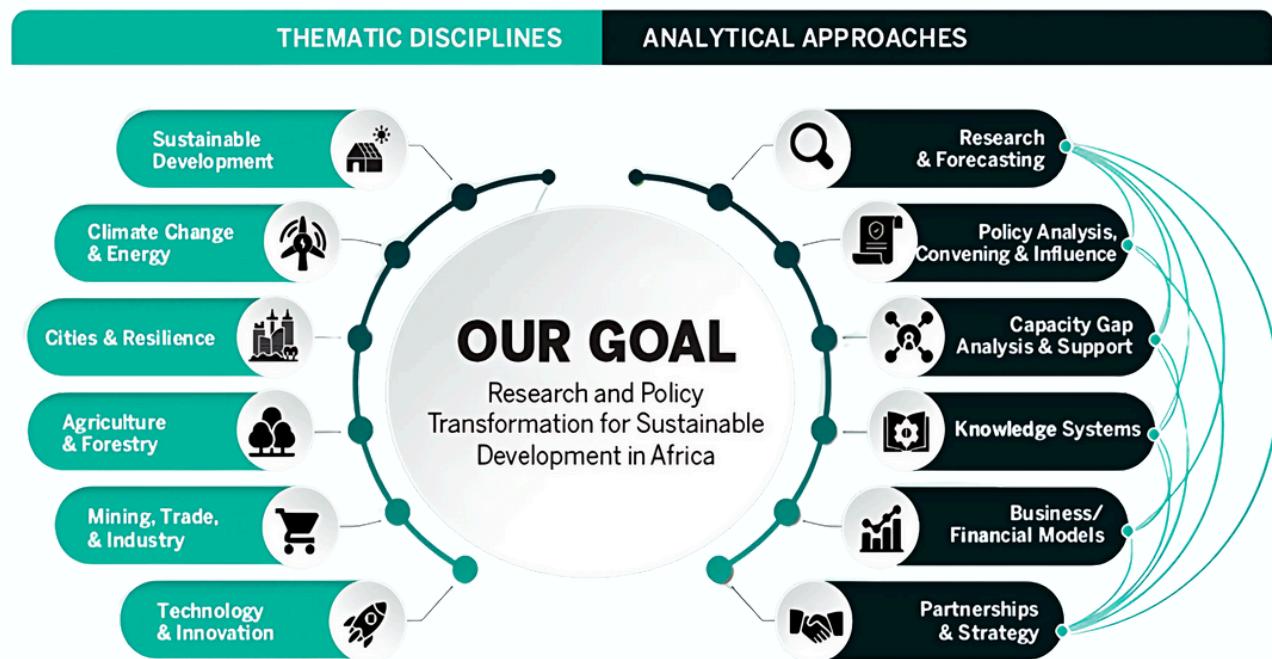
Through workshops, webinars, and conferences—facilitated by designated focal points in each region—ARIN fosters continuous learning and innovation across the continent. Leveraging technology, the network maintains a dynamic virtual presence, connecting stakeholders from all corners of Africa and beyond. Its online platforms ensure widespread participation, accessibility, and inclusiveness in its programs.

In 2023, ARIN reinforced its operations by opening its first physical office in Nairobi, Kenya. This office serves as a central hub for coordination, collaboration, and capacity building, enhancing ARIN's ability to convene stakeholders and host events that shape Africa's research and development agenda.



ARIN adopts a dynamic and multidisciplinary approach to addressing Africa's most pressing challenges. Its thematic areas are strategically designed to align with the continent's development priorities and global sustainability goals.

A significant addition to ARIN's research portfolio is the recently integrated Climate Change and Health agenda, underscoring the network's commitment to tackling the interlinked challenges of environmental and public health systems. This expansion marks an exciting entry into a rapidly evolving and critical field of inquiry, reinforcing ARIN's role in driving evidence-based solutions for a sustainable and resilient future.



Through these thematic areas, ARIN remains committed to addressing Africa's complex, interrelated challenges, and driving transformative impact through research, innovation, and policy engagement.

Governance

ARIN's Board of Management comprises a diverse and dynamic team of professionals dedicated to providing strategic direction, oversight, and governance. Their leadership ensures that ARIN remains steadfast in its mission to advance research excellence and deliver impactful solutions across Africa.



**Prof. Felix Kanungwe
Kalaba**
Board Chairperson



Dr. Maria Nantongo
Board Member



Dr. Kennedy Mbeva
Board Member



Dr. Joanes Atela
Executive Director



Dr. Antoinne Faye
Board Member



Dr. Albert Arhin
Board Member

Senior Management Team



Dr. Joanes Atela
Executive Director



Dr. Humprey Agevi
ARIN Press Manager



Eurallyah AKinyi
ARIN Fellowship Manager



Victoria Chengo
M&E Manager



Amon Mtunji
Finance & Admin Manager



Charles Tonui
Partnerships Manager



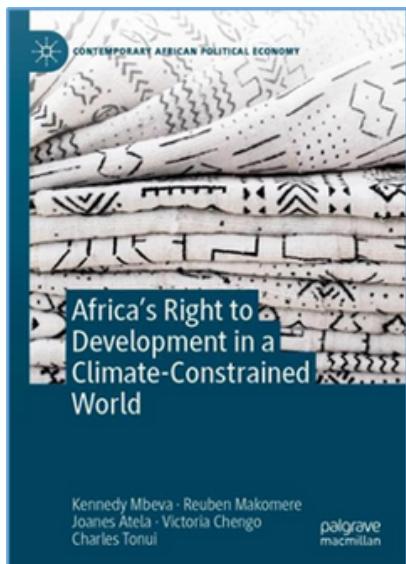
2023 Highlights

Breakthrough Publication

In 2023, ARIN celebrated a major milestone with the publication of *Africa's Right to Development in a Climate-Constrained World* ([accessible here](#)), authored by core ARIN personnel led by Dr. Kennedy Mbeva.

This seminal work critically examines Africa's pursuit of sustainable development within the constraints of a rapidly changing climate. It explores the intersection of climate justice and equity, sustainable development, global climate governance, adaptation and resilience, and human rights. The book highlights the unique challenges and opportunities African nations face in navigating global climate agreements and frameworks.

A key resource for policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners, this publication underscores the urgency of integrating Africa's development aspirations into the global climate agenda. It also provides actionable recommendations to ensure a just and sustainable future for the continent.



Africa's Right to Development in a Climate-Constrained World is more than just an academic exploration—it is a call to action for integrating equity and justice into climate and development frameworks. The book advocates for a paradigm shift that prioritizes Africa's development needs while addressing the global climate crisis fairly and inclusively.

Establishment of a Physical Office

The launch of ARIN's first physical office in 2023 marked a transformative milestone in the organization's journey. After three years of operating virtually, this strategic expansion underscored ARIN's growth and commitment to strengthening its operations and impact across Africa.

Located in Nairobi, Kenya—a recognized hub for research, innovation, and regional collaboration—the office serves as ARIN's central coordination hub. It enhances the organization's capacity to foster research excellence, facilitate impactful solutions, and convene key stakeholders from across the continent. More than just a physical space, the office provides a dynamic environment for collaboration, innovation, and capacity building, bringing together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to Africa's development.

This milestone reflects ARIN's evolution and dedication to advancing knowledge, shaping policy, and driving transformative change. It stands as a beacon of collaboration, innovation, and resilience, propelling ARIN's mission to new heights.



New Thematic Area: Climate Change and Health

ARIN has expanded its research agenda to include Climate Change and Health, reinforcing its commitment to addressing the interconnected challenges of environmental and public health systems. This marks a significant step into a rapidly evolving and critical field of inquiry.

Our inaugural research in this area, funded by the Wellcome through its Capacity & Field Development, Climate & Health Team, focused on Building Effective Communities of Practice for Transdisciplinary Research and Action in Climate Change and Health in Africa. Conducted in collaboration with the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), this study aimed to strengthen transdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge-sharing in climate-health research.

Beyond this project, ARIN has actively engaged with the Wellcome and other stakeholders through consultations to explore gaps and opportunities for advancing science-driven climate and health actions. These discussions have examined barriers to cross-sector collaboration and identified strategic investment opportunities to enhance impact in this field.

ARIN – Makerere University collaboration

In 2023, ARIN partnered with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) to establish the Climate Finance and Sustainability (CFS) Centre, a regional hub for capacity building in climate finance and sustainable development. The Centre will offer training and policy support for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and the private sector, refining expertise in sustainable financing mechanisms.



At the CFS launch in Kampala, Uganda

At the CFS launch in Kampala, Uganda, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Makerere University Business School (MUBS), ARIN (Kenya), and the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (Germany), formalizing the collaboration.

[Read more about the Centre.](#)



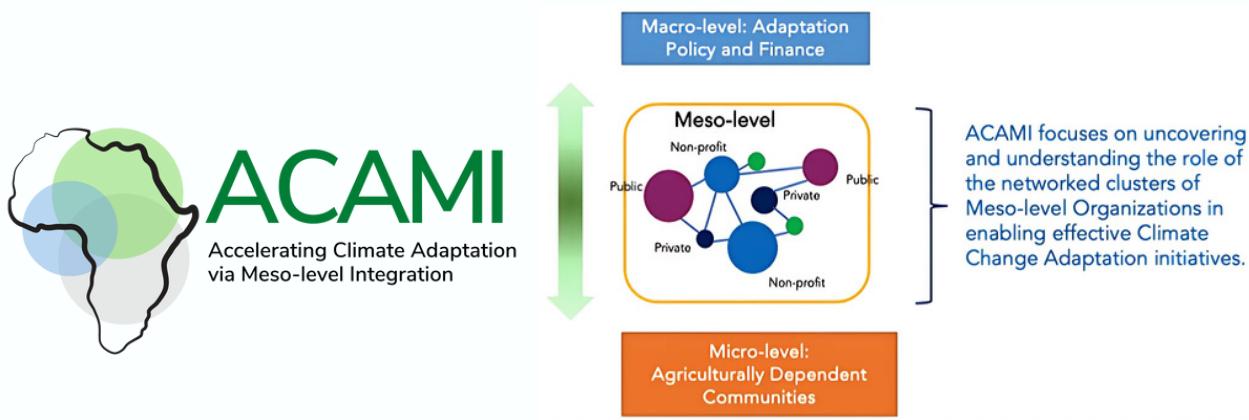
Our Research Portfolio

Climate Change Adaptation

At the heart of ARIN's research agenda is climate change adaptation, where we play a pivotal role in advancing Africa's adaptation efforts. Through multidisciplinary research, stakeholder engagement, and policy influence, we contribute to the development of resilient systems that safeguard livelihoods, ecosystems, and development gains amid the continent's unique climate challenges.

In 2023, we launched a new research project: Accelerating Climate Adaptation via Meso-level Integration ([ACAMI](#)). Climate change poses an increasing threat to Kenyan pastoral communities, with droughts, floods, and shifting weather patterns jeopardizing traditional livelihoods. While top-down interventions often fail to reach communities effectively, a critical gap exists at the meso-level—the bridge between local communities and national policies.

The ACAMI project, a collaboration between Arizona State University, the Africa Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), and ARIN, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, seeks to strengthen meso-level organizations (MLOs). These organizations play a crucial role in supporting smallholder producers by tailoring adaptation efforts to their specific needs.



So far, has developed a comprehensive database of Multi-Level Organizations (MLOs) involved in Climate Adaptation for Agriculture (CAA) projects in Kenya. To deepen insights into their institutional mandates, visions, and relevance, we have initiated preliminary engagements, including virtual convenings and an in-person workshop. These interactions have helped assess the interests and potential contributions of MLOs in supporting smallholder producers in climate adaptation efforts.

Additionally, in 2023, ARIN secured funding from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the *Locally Led Adaptation Metrics for Africa (LAMA)* research project. This initiative adopts an intersectionality approach to co-produce adaptation indicators with local communities in Kenya and Benin. The goal is to develop context-specific metrics that support the planning and financing of locally led climate actions across Africa.

While locally led adaptation (LLA) is widely recognized as an effective, efficient, and equitable means of addressing climate change, current adaptation frameworks often overlook the needs of vulnerable small-scale farmers. This gap arises from a lack of inclusive indicators and reporting mechanisms to capture LLA's relevance and impact. Moreover, many adaptation interventions fail to incorporate diverse community voices—including women, youth, the elderly, and different income groups—which limits equitable adaptation planning and financing.



Through the Locally Led Adaptation Metrics for Africa (LAMA) project, ARIN is committed to advancing Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) as a transformative approach to building climate resilience in vulnerable communities. A key focus of this initiative is the development of robust and inclusive metrics to measure and report on the effectiveness of LLA interventions.

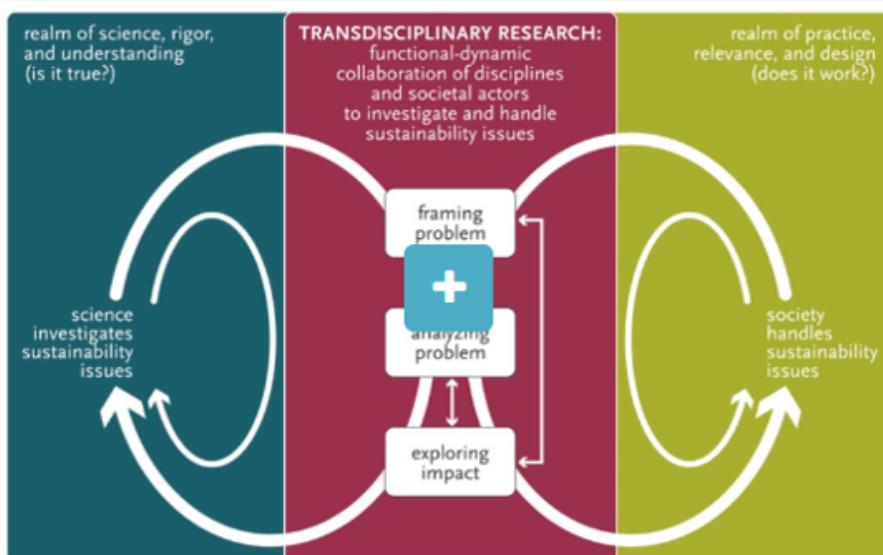
By co-producing these metrics with local stakeholders—including vulnerable groups—the project ensures their relevance, practicality, and inclusivity in decision-making processes.

Additionally, LLA initiatives will be strategically linked to climate finance mechanisms, such as the World Bank's Financing Locally Led Climate Actions (FLoCCA) program, to support implementation and scalability.

The project will also leverage lessons learned from LLA efforts in Kenya and other African countries to inform replication and scaling across diverse regions, amplifying impact and strengthening Africa's resilience to climate change.

Climate Change and Health

The escalating impacts of climate change on health-determining sectors such as agriculture, food security, energy, and disaster risk management demand urgent, multi-sectoral responses. The evolving climate and health policy landscape increasingly advocates for placing health at the center of climate change decisions, informing the development of integrated National Health Resilience and National Adaptation Plans. Despite this progress, collaborations between researchers, policymakers, and implementation partners remain limited. In Africa, only a fraction of multilateral climate adaptation funds is directed to the health sector, highlighting a critical funding gap in addressing climate-related health risks.



In response to these challenges, ARIN has embraced Climate Change and Health as a new thematic area to advance research, policy, and practice on the interconnections between environmental and public health systems. The inaugural research project in this field, *Building Effective Communities of Practice for Transdisciplinary Research and Action in Climate Change and Health in Africa*, is being conducted in collaboration with the Africa Population Research Centre (APHRC). The research aims to map the existing landscape of climate and health policies, actions, and key stakeholders across research, policy, and practice. It seeks to engage stakeholders to identify mechanisms that can foster climate and health literacy, awareness, and capacity-building while strengthening coordination among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from different disciplines and sectors.

Pro-poor & Inclusive Urban Resilience

Globally, over two billion people living in cities across low- to middle-income countries face multiple hazards, including floods, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and fires. These threats create cycles of destruction that disrupt lives and livelihoods. As urban areas expand at an unprecedented pace, this number is projected to double to four billion by 2050. ARIN remains deeply committed to addressing these pressing challenges through research, policy engagement, and community-driven solutions.

Since February 2019, ARIN has been an integral part of the *Tomorrow's Cities* research hub, leading [Nairobi focused research](#). The hub's mission is to shift urban risk management from crisis response to multi-hazard, risk-informed planning and decision-making in low- and middle-income countries. Operating across nine cities globally, *Tomorrow's Cities* has provided invaluable opportunities for interdisciplinary research in Nairobi. Bringing together expertise in fire and flood modeling, gender intersectionality, participatory planning, and community-led resilience initiatives under a common research agenda has been a rewarding experience. In today's interconnected world, where risks and challenges are increasingly complex, interdisciplinary research is essential for effective urban resilience planning.

In 2023, ARIN focused on deploying the *Tomorrow's Cities Decision Support Environment* (TCDSE) in Nairobi, a framework designed to facilitate inclusive decision-making and governance processes that reduce urban risks. The TCDSE was instrumental in promoting community-informed city planning in Nairobi. The Kibera informal settlement, recently designated as a Special Planning Area (SPA), served as a case study for future visioning efforts aimed at risk-proof planning, capacity building, and supporting policy and decision-making.



Together with Kibera community residents, and through the first four stages of the TCDSE, ARIN developed an open-access risk-informed urban planning tool, with flooding identified as the primary hazard of interest. This initiative has strengthened collaboration between ARIN and key urban planning stakeholders in government and beyond, including partnerships with programmes such as *Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor* (BCRUP), which was launched in 2023. ARIN will play a key research role in delivering this programme in Kenya.

At COP 28, ARIN, in collaboration with the State Department of Housing and Urban Development-Kenya, UCLG Africa, UNDRR MCR 2030 Africa Regional Office, and Slum Dwellers International-Kenya, jointly organized a side event on *Building Pro-Poor and Inclusive Urban Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa*. This event provided a platform to discuss the implementation of the BCRUP initiative and engage key actors in its operationalization in Kenya and other developing cities.

The BCRUP initiative underscores the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration to ensure successful implementation and scalability. It highlights the critical need for increased investment in climate finance to support its rollout in developing cities. The initiative serves as a platform for sharing best practices, identifying opportunities for replication, and scaling successful approaches. Additionally, empowering local communities remains fundamental to achieving sustainable and effective climate adaptation efforts in urban settings.



2023 Strategic Engagements

Africa Climate Summit 2023

ARIN played a significant role in the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, from September 4 to 6, 2023. Recognizing the critical importance of research in shaping effective climate policies, ARIN actively engaged in the summit to ensure that evidence-based insights were at the forefront of discussions.

In the lead-up to the summit, ARIN convened its continental fellows and researchers to consolidate ideas and ambitions, aiming to influence the summit's agenda by emphasizing the indispensable role of research in informing policy decisions. Key discussions focused on the role of regional societies in climate mitigation, highlighting their position as intermediaries between governments and communities most affected by climate change. Africa's rapid urban growth and its associated challenges—such as pollution, decreased resilience, and the proliferation of informal settlements—were also examined, underscoring the need for improved urban planning and pro-poor initiatives.



Discussions further highlighted the importance of climate finance and carbon credits, calling for enhanced adaptation and mitigation efforts, increased investment in adaptation initiatives, and robust financial mechanisms to support vulnerable communities. Agricultural transformation was also emphasized, recognizing the sector's central role in African economies and the need to engage farmers, markets, and pastoral communities in adopting sustainable, green growth practices.

ARIN Executive Director at the Africa Climate Summit 2023

These issues were prominently addressed in various side events at the summit, with ARIN's Executive Director contributing to high-level discussions. The final declaration underscored the importance of inclusive, locally driven climate solutions and recognized the role of regional societies in bridging the gap between policymakers and local communities. Leaders committed to supporting community-led adaptation efforts and strengthening regional collaboration in climate governance.

The summit also tackled Africa's rapid urbanization, advocating for sustainable urban planning that integrates resilience-building strategies. The Nairobi Declaration emphasized the need for climate-smart cities, calling for investments in low-carbon infrastructure and nature-based solutions to reduce pollution and curb the spread of informal settlements.

Additionally, leaders pushed for reforms in international financial institutions to facilitate direct climate financing for African-led initiatives. There was a strong call for fair and transparent carbon markets to ensure African nations equitably benefit from carbon credit mechanisms. Finally, the summit stressed the need to support smallholder farmers and pastoral communities through financial incentives and policy reforms, reinforcing agriculture's role in sustainable economic growth and climate resilience.

ARIN at COP 28

COP28 provided a crucial platform to amplify the voices of African communities and highlight the transformative potential of locally led adaptation (LLA). LLA prioritizes the needs and aspirations of local communities, enabling them to design and implement context-specific solutions that address their unique vulnerabilities and opportunities. With LLA at the forefront, ARIN envisions a future where communities not only adapt but also thrive in a changing climate.

Through its research and capacity-building efforts, ARIN is committed to strengthening resilience and fostering sustainable development across Africa. By empowering communities to develop innovative approaches in climate-smart agriculture, water management, and disaster preparedness, ARIN harnesses local ingenuity and enhances adaptive capacity.

Beyond LLA, ARIN engages in a range of critical initiatives that address the multifaceted impacts of climate change. Recognizing the inextricable link between climate and health, ARIN actively supports African countries in developing and implementing effective climate change and health policies. Ongoing research focuses on the health impacts of climate change, coupled with advocacy for increased investment in climate-resilient health systems to ensure communities remain healthy and resilient.

Additionally, ARIN has been at the forefront of efforts to build urban resilience in Africa. Cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and ARIN is committed to supporting them in developing and implementing effective adaptation strategies. Through its work on urban resilience, ARIN assists cities across Africa in conducting comprehensive climate risk assessments, identifying priority adaptation measures, and securing financing for implementation.



Side event posters at the COP 28 held in Dubai, 2023

ARIN Annual Conference 2023

The 3rd Annual ARIN Conference explored the pivotal role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in advancing Africa's just transition and sustainable development. Discussions focused on how STI can address pressing challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, and climate change while showcasing Africa's rich innovation potential. The conference highlighted groundbreaking contributions from African scientists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers.

The event focused on three key sub-themes:

- Harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for an Inclusive and Just Transition in Africa
- Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems Among Small-Scale Farmers Through STI (Enhancing Food Security and Rural Development)
- Integrating STI for Improved Health Outcomes in a Climate-Vulnerable Africa (Building Sustainable Healthcare Systems)

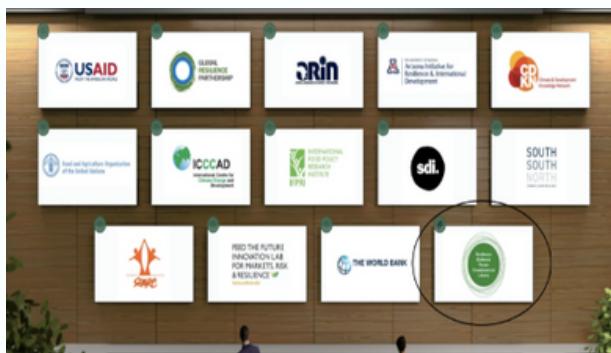
To position Africa at the forefront of an STI-driven agenda that aligns with the SDGs, the climate agenda, and Agenda 2063, African nations must adopt the following strategic approaches:

- Facilitate knowledge exchange and technology transfer between African institutions and international research centers to enhance STI capabilities and capacities.
- Engage with international organizations and donors while mobilizing domestic resources to secure sustainable and innovative financing for collaborative STI projects.
- Strengthen regional and international partnerships while fostering peer-to-peer learning within local contexts.
- Create an enabling policy environment by incentivizing research, protecting intellectual property rights, and promoting public-private partnerships.
- Successful STI projects across Africa can serve as valuable case studies, offering insights into effective strategies and policy frameworks.

As Africa advances on this transformative journey, continuous monitoring and evaluation will be essential. Establishing robust impact assessment frameworks will help governments and stakeholders track progress toward sustainable development goals. Learning from successful STI interventions will also facilitate knowledge-sharing and provide critical guidance for future initiatives.

Resilience Evidence Forum 2023

In June 2023, the Global Resilience Partnership and USAID co-hosted the Resilience Evidence Forum (REF), a dynamic three-day event that convened a diverse array of participants both online and in person in Cape Town, South Africa. ARIN was a key knowledge partner, co-leading discussions in the *community track*.



ARIN participating in the REF 2023

The Forum provided an in-depth exploration of resilience-building initiatives across different geographies, using varied approaches and working with diverse communities. As the largest gathering of resilience measurement and development professionals to date, it took stock of the latest advancements and methodologies to assess what works, what does not, and for whom in strengthening resilience.

A key takeaway from ARIN's participation was the recognition that local people and communities—particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced populations, and Indigenous Peoples—are vital producers of resilience evidence and must be actively supported. Notably, the Forum acknowledged that global data collection processes are increasingly incorporating Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) considerations. This shift highlights the growing value placed on local and Indigenous knowledge and experiences through community consultations.

Building on this momentum, ARIN aims to advance this perspective further through the LAMA research project, reinforcing the role of locally generated evidence in shaping effective resilience strategies.



An illustrative summary of some of the discussions by Graphic Harvest cartoonists

Adaptation Futures 2023

At Adaptation Futures 2023, held in Montreal, Canada, ARIN's Executive Director, Dr. Joanes Atela, participated in a key session focused on capturing the diversity of adaptation needs and outcomes in communities across Africa and Asia. The session aimed to facilitate the transition from locally led adaptation (LLA) metrics to international adaptation frameworks.

Dr. Atela's contributions were instrumental in identifying capacity gaps that hinder the development of effective adaptation monitoring systems at the local level—systems that are critical for achieving Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). He emphasized the need for tailored capacity-building strategies that address the specific needs of local and national adaptation actors in Africa and other developing regions.

Discussions at the event highlighted a crucial challenge: local adaptation metrics have not been effectively integrated into national or global frameworks. This presents an opportunity to incorporate local metrics into the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), ensuring that community-driven adaptation efforts are recognized and scaled.

Dr. Atela's insights reinforced the importance of aligning local adaptation efforts with global frameworks, fostering more inclusive and effective adaptation policies that respond to diverse community needs.



ARIN Executive Director at the Adaptation Futures 2023

Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024

ARIN's Executive Director, Dr. Joanes Atela, represented the organization at a Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) workshop held in South Africa. The workshop focused on positioning science, technology, and innovation (STI) as a cornerstone of Africa's socio-economic development and growth.

ARIN was entrusted with a critical role in reviewing the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024). This engagement aligns with ARIN's commitment to advancing evidence-based policy and innovation-driven solutions for sustainable development across the continent.





Staff Wellness

In 2023, ARIN placed a strong emphasis on staff wellness, implementing various initiatives to enhance teamwork, well-being, and a positive work environment. Team-building exercises, including outdoor games and collaborative challenges, strengthened workplace bonds and fostered a culture of unity and motivation. Staff members had access to a gym, encouraging regular physical activity to support overall health and well-being. Shared dining experiences provided informal opportunities for colleagues to connect, unwind, and strengthen professional relationships. These initiatives contributed to a healthier, more engaged workforce, reinforcing ARIN's commitment to employee well-being as a key driver of organizational success.





Future Directions and Strategic Growth

Looking ahead, ARIN aims to deepen its regional collaborations, enhance knowledge-sharing initiatives, and strengthen policy engagement to maximize its impact. The network will focus on fostering inclusive innovation ecosystems, supporting climate resilience strategies, and expanding capacity-building programs across Africa. In the coming year, ARIN will produce cutting-edge research publications, facilitate high-impact stakeholder dialogues, and establish strategic partnerships to drive meaningful change. As it moves forward, ARIN remains committed to advancing evidence-based solutions that empower African communities and contribute to global sustainability efforts.



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