



## uKESA Newsletter

URBAN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SOUTHERN AFRICA

*Promoting innovation & good practice in cities, towns & villages*

---

### What's in this edition?

**April 2024**

In this edition we're happy to bring to your attention fresh content from our knowledge partners and new material produced by the uKESA team. Information pages that help users navigate complex topics are always popular, and first we introduce a new uKESA page, an annotated bibliography about Innovative Building Technologies. The newsletter goes on to highlight a podcast about the SDGs, a policy note that will save you having to read the whole SA housing budget, and reports and blogs about the importance of urban investment, sustainable construction in informal settlements, inclusive economic growth, urban food systems, and the distribution of title deeds. We hope you enjoy accessing and reading this content.

---

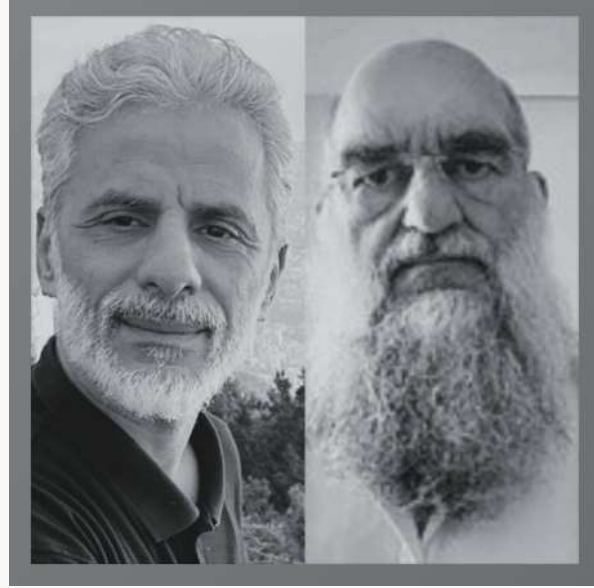
### Recent uKESA content



### **Innovative Building Technologies in South Africa**

South Africa has been exploring innovative building technologies (IBTs) to address housing issues and enhance building quality. However, the uptake of IBTs for faster and more cost-effective housing delivery has been slow. This resource page compiles various sources and studies on IBTs in South Africa, providing insights into their status, benefits, challenges, best practices, and case studies.

[Read more](#)



### **Sustainable Development Goals**

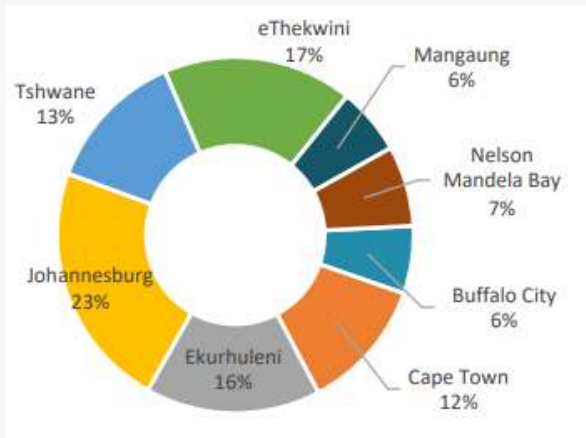
In this podcast, hosted by Shaily Gandhi for CEPT CRDF's Open Geo AI series, Wael Al-Delaimy and Antony Cooper discuss the intertwining of Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 13, examining health impacts of climate change and satellite technology's role. They cover challenges like heat stress, disease spread, and food insecurity, alongside satellite data techniques such as multispectral sensors and image processing.

[Read more](#)

---

## Popular partner content

---



### Focus Note: Human Settlements in the 2024/25 Budget

This Focus Note from the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance delves into the 2024/25 medium-term budget of the National Department of Human Settlements, with a specific emphasis on the transfers allocated to provinces and municipalities for the execution of vital housing subsidy programmes. Its purpose is to scrutinise the recently-tabled budget, identifying crucial points that hold significance for practitioners within the housing sector.

[Read more](#)



### Unlocking the Potential of Cities

This paper from UN Habitat explores global urbanisation trends and stresses the importance of city investment. It addresses barriers in key areas like housing and infrastructure and analyses COVID-19's impact on city revenue. The paper proposes strategies such as diversifying funding sources and fostering public-private partnerships. It offers recommendations to overcome obstacles and enhance the finance landscape for sustainable urban development.

[Read more](#)



### **Building the Future**

This blog from the Cities Alliance discusses the importance of addressing the housing needs of people living in informal settlements and urban slum areas in the context of climate change, particularly in the discussions at COP28 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Despite the emphasis on mitigating the impact of the construction sector on climate change, the article highlights the absence of consideration for the approximately 1.1 billion people living in such marginalised communities.

[Read more](#)



### **Growth Through Inclusion in South Africa**

The report from the Harvard Growth Lab presents a thorough assessment of how South Africa's economy is doing, pointing out some big problems like inequality getting worse, lots of people not having jobs, and the country not being as competitive globally. Even though the government has tried to boost the economy by spending on infrastructure and distributing social benefits, the expected improvements are not being felt on the ground.

[Read more](#)



## **LSE-Ardhi Global Learning Initiative: Urban food systems in London and Dar es Salaam**

This blog from the London School of Economics explores how urban farming is different in London and Dar es Salaam, focusing on what makes each place special and the difficulties they face. In London, urban farming is mostly about bringing people together and teaching them about agriculture, but it's hard to find enough land. In Dar es Salaam, urban farming is crucial for food, especially basics like eggs, but it's tough because of problems with infrastructure and not enough help from the government.



## **Primary Transfer Toolkit**

The Primary Transfer Toolkit developed by the [Tenure Support Centre](#) helps local governments and housing agencies handle the backlog of over 1.1 million title deeds for subsidised houses that haven't been officially issued. The toolkit has two parts: one for dealing with land and legal matters, and another for managing beneficiaries. Many people have been living in these homes for years without proper ownership documents. This Toolkit shows how to remedy the situation.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

---

## In conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to explore the latest content available on the Urban Knowledge Exchange.

If you are looking for content from a specific organisation, remember you can [browse the uKESA partner pages](#).

For example, the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance Africa, a long-time uKESA knowledge partner, has recently updated its content collection. If you [scroll down on their partner page](#), you can see the new materials laid out there.

For those who may have missed our previous webinars, remember you can visit [this page](#) to access all the webinar recordings and presentations.

There are some key local and global urban events coming up in the next few months, including the African Urbanisms Conference and the World Urban Forum, so [browse our events page](#) to see what's afoot.

We're currently doing improvements and enhancements to the uKESA platform. We hope to deploy these over the next month. So, look out for improvements in user experience and exciting new features.

---

## The uKESA Mission

- To develop, build and maintain a user-friendly, open access platform for exchanging quality information, value added content, and reliable advice amongst state, civil society, private sector, professional and academic partners above in the built environment.

- To provide opportunities for, and facilitate, shared learning and the best application of available knowledge across the different sectors (knowledge exchange).



Copyright (C) \*2023\* \*uKESA\*. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:  
\*ukes@csir.co.za\*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

