

ACE Impact Pre-identified Regional Development Challenge Urban Design

Terms of Reference

Guidance

Proposals that respond to the Urban Design Pre-identified Regional Development Challenge should address the following Terms of Reference (ToRs) in the appropriate section of the proposal. While it is unlikely that a single proposal can address all of the ToRs, the proposal should make a substantial, credible effort to respond in a way that presents a cohesive, integrated program of education, research and partnership activities that aligns both with the ToRs and with the goals of the ACE Impact project.

Background

A number of countries and cities in Africa have introduced urban planning instruments and prepared masterplans and development framework to guide new spatial growth. These are generally insufficient or inflexible enough to respond to rapid pace of urbanization, informalization, inadequate services and transports and to promote and manage sound market-led urban developments. Therefore moving away from traditional, and often inefficient and static, urban planning towards rejuvenated urban land use planning is essential. This can be conceived in two ways - proactive planning (where there is virgin land that the public sector wants to develop) and reactive planning (where there is already infrastructure or people living on the ground, and the government wishes to improve it either through in-situ improvements (as undertaken in classic urban upgrading with none or minimal resettlement) or outright redevelopment (for higher and better uses preserving some aspects, e.g. historic value assets).

Africa is ill equipped to face the challenges of rapid urbanization, and is facing shortages in high-level skills and applied research in sustainable urban design and urban planning (both proactive and reactive). A lack of capacity means that professionals use urban design and urban planning and urban design interchangeably. Training in urban design can be vastly different from training in urban planning, in terms of the qualifying pre-requisites, course durations and content.

For reactive planning, what one is dealing with is essentially brown field redevelopment (and its interface with city planning). Typically, the location and scale of intervention is some clearly defined part of a district, or a cluster of city blocks. **This is the realm of urban design**, where to make redevelopment a reality involves multiple dimensions and requires a team with diverse skill sets. These teams must have, most importantly, negotiation skills as the process involves modeling, user involvement, and trade-offs in decision-making (based on both the value of the land parcel or parcels, which are rarely known in many countries as land and real estate markets may be dysfunctional even where they exist).

Terms of Reference

- I. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Urban Design will address the following skills related aspects of the Development Challenge:
 1. Lack of skills in urban design as opposed to urban planning

2. Lack of postgraduate training in urban design that straddles architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and public policy, economics, sociology and cultural studies
3. Lack of skills in transdisciplinary problem solving in urban issues.

II. To address the skills needs, long-term degree programs available through the Center should include:

Master's Degree Programs
1. Master's Degree in Urban Design
Ph.D. Programs
1. Ph.D. in Urban Planning

III. To address professional trainings needs, short term courses should include:

Short Term Courses
1. Urban economics
2. Real estate development
3. Public policy and urban design
4. Housing and Public policy

IV. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Urban Design will address the following applied research related aspects of the Development Challenge:

1. Lack of research on urban design policies in Africa
2. Integrated approaches urban design
3. Development of legal approaches for urban design

V. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Urban Design will undertake an applied research program that includes the following themes:

Applied Research Themes
1. Development of appropriate urban design policies using African case studies
2. Tools for urban design
3. Urban Economics

VI. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Urban Design will have an established network of core industry/sectoral partners identified in the proposal, including:

1. Real estate developers
2. City Planning Agencies
3. Ministries with responsibility for Urban Development

VII. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Urban Design will have an established network of academic and/or research institute partners identified in the proposal, including:

1. Regional universities that maintain active education and/or research activities focused on urban design and the underlying core academic disciplines
2. Recognized global universities that maintain active international research collaborations focused on urban design.