

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
2011 Annual Report

Paper Presented at Conferences

- Abdirahman Maalim Abass & **Francis Mwaura** (2011). Remembering the drylands of Kenya: Integrating the ASAL economy to the Kenya Vision 2030. British Council Lecture Series. Goethe Institute, March 2011.
- **Opondo, M.** (2011). Emerging economic and social upgrading in the Kenyan cut flower global production network. Tropentag 2011, University of Bonn, Germany, 5-7 October.
- **Opondo, M.** (2011). Climate change adaptation in Kenya: the Sakai community's experience. First Climate Change and Development for Africa (CCDA-1) Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17-19 October.
- **Owuor, S.O.** (2011). Trends and patterns of urbanization process in Kenya. UPIMA Workshop. Bagamoyo, Tanzania, February 25-28.
- **Owuor, S.O.** (2011). Urban poverty and governance in sub-Saharan Africa. A public lecture delivered in Yokohama National University. Yokohama, Japan, 12 October.
- **Owuor, S.O.** & J. Walubwa. (2011). Kenya slum upgrading programme: Community participation, impact and challenges. IFRA-CORUS Workshop. Nairobi, Kenya, 27-29 November.

Publications

- Ameer, A., O. Mirghani M. Ali, **F. Mwaura** & B. Sithole (2011) Policy Options for Africa. In UNEP (2011): Global Environment Outlook GEO-5 (Chapter 8).
- **Ayiemba, E.H.O** & **K.J. Omoke** (2011). Population Geography. Nairobi: College of Biological and Physical Sciences, University of Nairobi.
- **Ayiemba, E.H.O.** (2011). Problems and opportunities of displacement for policy action: Lessons from the 2007 post-election violence and refugee camps in Kenya. In J. Oucho (ed), Migration in the Service of African Development: Essays in Honour of Professor Aderanti Adepoju. Ibadan: Safari Books Ltd.
- **Mbatia, T.** (2011). Green spaces in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam: An analysis of Uhuru Park and Mnazi Mmoja Park. *HEKIMA – Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 5 (1): 95-103.
- **Mikalitsa, S.M.** (2011). Impact of farm technologies on food Security: A gender perspective of smallholders in Western Province of Kenya. VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, Saarbrucken, Germany.

- **Mikalitsa, S.M.** (2011). Agricultural technology, gender dynamics and household food security in Western Province of Kenya. *HEKIMA – Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 5 (1): 19-33.
- **Mungai, D.N. & S.O. Owuor** (2011). Urbanization, water and ecosystems: The case of Nairobi. In C. Mafuta, R.K. Formo & C. Nellemann (eds.), *Green Hills, Blue Cities: An Ecosystems Approach to Water Resources Management for African Cities*. GRID-Arendal: UNEP/UN-HABITAT, pp. 23-29.
- **Musingi, J.K.** (2011). The impact of Masinga Dam on the prevalence of water-borne diseases in the area. *HEKIMA – Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 5 (1): 104-111.
- **Mwaura, F.** (2011). The influence of geographic and morphometric factors on the distribution of water bird species in small high altitude tropical man made reservoirs, Central Rift Valley, Kenya. *Afr. J. Ecol* Doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.01165.x.
- **Oluoko-Odingo A. & E.H.O. Ayiamba** (2011). Vulnerability to food insecurity in Nyando District of Kenya. *HEKIMA – Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 5 (1): 34-46.
- Tallontire, A.M., **M. Opondo**, V. Nelson & A. Martin (2011). Beyond the vertical? Using value chains and governance as a framework to analyse private standards initiatives in agri-food chains. *Agriculture and Human Values* 28 (3) doi: 10.1007/s10460-009-9237-2.
- **Owuor, S.O.** (2011). Livelihood strategies of low-income households in Nakuru Town, Kenya. *HEKIMA – Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 5 (1): 1-18.
- **Owuor, S.O.** (2011). Cities in Africa and climate change: Impact, vulnerability and adaptation. *HEKIMA – Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 5 (1): 112-123.
- **Owuor, S.O. & T. Mbatia** (2011). Nairobi. In S. Bakker & G. Therborn (eds.), *Capital Cities in Africa: Power and Powerlessness*. Cape Town: HSRC Press, pp. 120-140.

International Links and Collaborations

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies maintained strong international links and collaborations with a number of institutions. These are Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University (USA); University of Bordeaux (France); United Nations University (Japan); Department of Geography and Geology, University of Salzburg (Austria); Yokohama National University (Japan); Green Care Foundation (China); Department of Geography and Institute of Environmental Sciences, Miami University (USA); McGill University (Canada); University of Berne (Switzerland); University of Jyväskylä (Finland); UNEP; and UN-HABITAT.

Research Projects

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (led by Prof. E.M. Irandu) started an important scoping study on the improvement of Thika Highway in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, Columbia University.

Achievements

- The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies organized an international workshop and training on policy briefs in collaboration with the German Development Institute (DIE) and Centre for Training and Research in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Development (CETRAD).
- The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies in collaboration with UN-HABITAT organized a public lecture which was delivered by Dr. Joan Clos, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT. The lecture was on challenges of urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa and the role of universities.
- The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Nations University (UNU) in Japan to implement Education for Sustainable Development postgraduate programme in Sustainable Urban Development. The MoU was signed in UNU. The ceremony was attended by the Vice Chancellor (Prof. G.O. Magoha), Chairman of Department (Dr. S. Owuor) and Prof. D.N. Mungai.
- The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with University of Jyvaskyla, Finland for the purpose of promoting academic and scientific cooperation, including student and staff exchange.
- The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Geography and Geology, University of Salzburg, Austria for a joint research project on “water scarcity, communal water management and sustainable livelihoods in vulnerable rural regions of Kenya.
- The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies received another set of nine (9) scholarships from Mitsubishi Corporation for needy and bright undergraduate students taking geography and environmental studies.