

**CONTENTIOUS DEVELOPMENT**  
**URBAN & PERI-URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS AND LIVELIHOODS IN AFRICA**

REPORT OF A PERI-NET WORKSHOP, EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA  
HELD AT FAIRVIEW HOTEL  
BISHOPS ROAD, NAIROBI, KENYA  
7<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2002



University of the  
Witwatersrand



Makerere  
University



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Zambia



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Zimbabwe



University of  
Nairobi



South Bank  
University

Urban and Peri-Urban Research Network (Peri-NET)

## Preface

This booklet reports on the background, proceedings and outcome of a Peri-NET workshop held in Nairobi from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002. It was jointly organized by the Peri-NET secretariat based at Faculty of Built Environment, South Bank University, London, and the Peri-NET Kenya focal point based at The Department of Land Development, the University of Nairobi.

This was designed as a review and planning workshop for Peri-NET members and was attended by one member each from Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa in addition to two Kenya members who were the hosts and three from South Bank University. Two other experts from Nairobi and a representative of the UN-Habitat also attended. Due to financial constraints, it was not possible to bring members from Tanzania or raise the numbers of participants from each country.

Proceedings were by way of presentation of papers and country reports, plenary and group discussions. Country presentations were drawn from and extended materials compiled in the 2001 working papers plus new developments since then. Presentations sought to provide the state of knowledge and research needs or opportunities on contemporary urban and peri-urban transformations. A field trip to Nairobi's peri-urban areas was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> followed up by market surveys on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October to test methodological and conceptual ideas on formalization of markets and street trading.

The workshop was held as part of the five-year plan of Peri-NET activities. Although it was held one year later than originally planned, the content and outcomes proved very timely for the work members are conducting in their cities. Special acknowledgement is due to the Head of Department of Land Development at Nairobi University, Dr Washington Olima for the institutional support to the workshop and for giving opening remarks on the first day. Thanks are due to Njambi Kinyungu and Catherine Kariuki the Nairobi partners for taking care of practical arrangements for the workshop especially the field trip. We also wish to thank UN-Habitat who, through Rose Muraya-Ngara (the guest of honour) gave welcome closing remarks to the workshop.

We expect that contents of this report and follow up activities will be of interest to researchers, policy makers, local and external development agencies involved in tackling issues of urban and peri-urban change, land based conflicts, livelihoods and poverty alleviation.

Nairobi, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 20002



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## 1. **Introduction: Peri-NET Background and Workshop Overview**

*Presented by Beacon Mbiba, Peri-NET Co-ordinator*

- 1.1 The Peri-NET is a network of institutions and researchers engaged in urban and peri-urban research and exchange of local, regional and global development experiences. The network seeks to link and enhance young scholars and practitioners who are committed to intellectual capacity building in African institutions and to produce knowledge for use by and in partnership with local authorities, central government departments and community groups.

The objective is to: identify, develop and promote front line ideas or innovations and to bring these into effective local and regional level use in areas of urban governance, peri-urban development, land management, sustainable local economies and livelihoods and poverty alleviation. The network seeks to facilitate opportunities for in-depth research on critical urban/peri-urban policy issues and the sharing of experiences among researchers, practitioners and policy makers at local and regional levels.

This covers areas of:

- § Urban governance
- § Peri-urban land transformations; land markets, tenure transformations, commercialization & globalization.
- § Urban-rural linkages
- § Urban and peri-urban agriculture
- § Urban and peri-urban livelihoods
- § Peri-urban land invasions and conflict resolution
- § Partnerships for sustainable peri-urban development

## 1.2 **What Peri-NET Has Done So Far**

Writing of research proposals for submission to potential sponsors was one of the major tasks since 2000 and will remain so until a more secure financial position is achieved. Working in collaboration with other stakeholders, Peri-NET has achieved the following:

- i) **Completed six desk reviews** on the nature of peri-urban transformations in the region and the status of research on the subject. Cities covered were Kampala (Uganda), Nairobi (Kenya) Lusaka (Zambia), Harare (Zimbabwe) and Pietersburg (South Africa)
- ii) **Completed seven working papers** on Urban and peri-urban transformations in Southern and East Africa. These are available in bound form as a set and work is ongoing to upgrade them for publication as journal articles.
- iii) **One of the working papers was published** as a journal article in 2002 (see Progress in Development Studies, 2002).
- iv) **A flyer was produced** and is distributed for information purposes.
- v) **Facilitated and made critical inputs** to the debate on the political economy of urban and peri-urban agriculture in the region. Members made inputs to the content of the IDRC/MDP workshop on the Political Economy of Urban and