

BIO



PROFESSOR ISAAC KARANJA MWANGI is Associate Professor of Planning at Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Nairobi. His area of specialization is planning theory, methodology and practice. He is widely published with two of his refereed journal papers; *The Nature of Rental Housing in Kenya (1997)*, and *Tracks and Levels of Planning Methodology (2007)* highly regarded. His paper, *A Case for Comprehensive Urban Regeneration in the Eastlands' Ten Oldest Housing Estates, Nairobi City County – Kenya (2015)*, for the first time, illuminated conceptual and territorial realms of “Eastlands” and its relevance to urban regeneration in the city. His doctorate: *Urban Land Development and Planning Law in Kenya: The Case of Nairobi and Bordering Urban Areas (1994)* also, for the first time researched on metropolitan planning in Nairobi City region and also proposed a model for planning and managing urban land development.

Initial results from ongoing research on “*planning theory and methodology*” published as *Proposing a Conceptual Model of Planning Methodology in Public Domain (2020)*, has clarified age-old semantics that knowledge and methodological function implicit in each of the seven terms planners use in preparing plans, namely: (1) “town” (2) “physical” (3) “land use” (4) “strategic” (5) “integrated” (6) “sectoral” and (7) “spatial”. Concepts of *step* and *phase* that planners invoke in public planning are also clarified to deepen practical relevance of the concepts as anchors of *knowledge* and methodological *tact* in “weaving” and “crafting” activities of formulating any one public plan that is objectivized in either of the seven terms. He also has recently, jointly with Dr Silas M. Muketha; published additional research results in *Value Chain Framework for Ascertaining Planning Sectors and Competencies (2021)* which has also pioneered application of value chain model in planning theory and methodology.

Prof Mwangi is a founder and Fellow member of the Kenya Institute of Planner (KIP). He was the Institute’s first Vice-Chairman from May 2000 to May 2002; and it’s Chairman from May 2012 to May 2016. He is also a registered and certified planner in Kenya. His association with United Nations organizations - UNHABITAT (1996-2000) and Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) (2001-2011) has stood him in good stead in planning and development field. He was team leader of Nakuru Localizing Agenda (LA) 21 cooperation project of the UNHABITAT, University of Nairobi, University of Leuven and Government of Republic of Kenya. *Nakuru Strategic Structure Plan (NSSP)* that guided road infrastructure development in Nakuru municipality is one output of the LA 21 projects.

He acquired extensive experience as in researcher as well as technical support and advisory services expertise in planning at Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). Prof Mwangi was a planning research, training for capacity development and implementation expert. From 2001 to 2011 he facilitated delivery of seven-module curriculum for the annual *Africa Training Course (ATC) for Local and Regional Development Planning and Management* through multi-agency effort involving UNCRD, UNDP, UNHABITAT as well as centres of excellence and universities in Asian and Africa. ATC trainees were from fourteen African countries including Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He was planning expert in preparing *Ewaso Ng'iro North Integrated Regional Development Plan, Mombasa Mainland South and Kwale District Regional Physical Development Plan* and *Nyandarua District Integrated Regional Development Plan* which were financed by UNCRD, Government of Republic of Kenya and University of Nairobi. Prof Mwangi was also Lead Expert for integrated planning in Tana and Athi Rivers and Ewaso Ng'iro South River basins; and a consultant planner for UNDP and Marsabit County Government for the *county integrated development plan (CIDP)* as well as Lead EIA consultant for China Wu Yi (K) Limited’s two-apartment block Lobelia Court along George Padmore Road in Kilimani neighbourhood in Nairobi. The apartment block has since defined the skyline of the newly regenerated neighbourhood.

Outside Kenya, Prof Mwangi was training expert for *District and Regional Development Planning and Management* programme in Oromia Region, Ethiopia (2002-2011); and 3-year *District and Regional Development Planning and Management programme* in Botswana (2008-2010). In Namibia, he was planning expert for *Regional Development Plan for Hard Region, Namibia* in 2000, and five-year training programme to build technical capacity for *Regional Development Policy and Practice* in Khomas, Oshana, Karas and Erongo regions from 2006 to 2010. As an urbanization sector team leader in 2016 and 2017, he successfully completed research project on “*Skills Audit in Urbanization Sector in Rwanda 2017*”.

Prof. Mwangi earned his B.Sc. (Hons) and M.A. (Planning) from University of Nairobi. He was CIDA scholar at the School of Planning, University of Waterloo, Ontario Canada where he earned PhD (Planning) degree. He earned a mention in page (2019) of fifty years commemorative publication of the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo as one of the leaders who graduated from the faculty since it was established in 1969. Before joining academia, Prof Mwangi briefly worked as Assistant Planner for the Kenya civil service in the old greater Meru District that was later divided in 2010 into Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties.