

# SAMSET—Supporting African Municipalities in Sustainable Energy Transitions (2013—2017)

Designing, testing and evaluating a knowledge exchange framework design for the efficient and effective support of sustainable energy transitions in Africa's Sub-Saharan urban areas

## Introduction

Urbanisation rates in Africa are the highest in the world, and in most Sub-Saharan African countries service delivery is unable to keep pace with the growing needs of the population. The situation can be summarised as one where:

- much urban energy transformation research does not understand the detailed organisational dynamics and constraints in cities, and therefore is often of limited use;
- where there is a gap between policy and implementation; where capacity within local/national government departments involved in energy and urban development is inadequate in the face of increasing challenges; and
- where modes of knowledge transfer are not effective in facilitating sustainable energy transitions in cities.

## The Project

The SAMSET Project seeks to develop a knowledge exchange framework for supporting local and national bodies involved in municipal energy planning in the effective transition to sustainable energy use in urban areas. Through close partnering with six cities in three African countries (Ghana, Uganda and South Africa), the project aims to develop an information base from which to support cities, undertake direct support for cities around strategy development and priority initiatives, and facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building.

## Selected Outputs

- Sustainable Energy in Urban Africa: The Role of Local Government (SEA)
- A Mid-Project Review of Knowledge Exchange in the SAMSET Project (Durham)
- Waste Management: Innovative Solutions for African Municipalities (UCL)
- Waste-to-energy in Awutu Senya and Ga East Municipalities (University of Ghana)

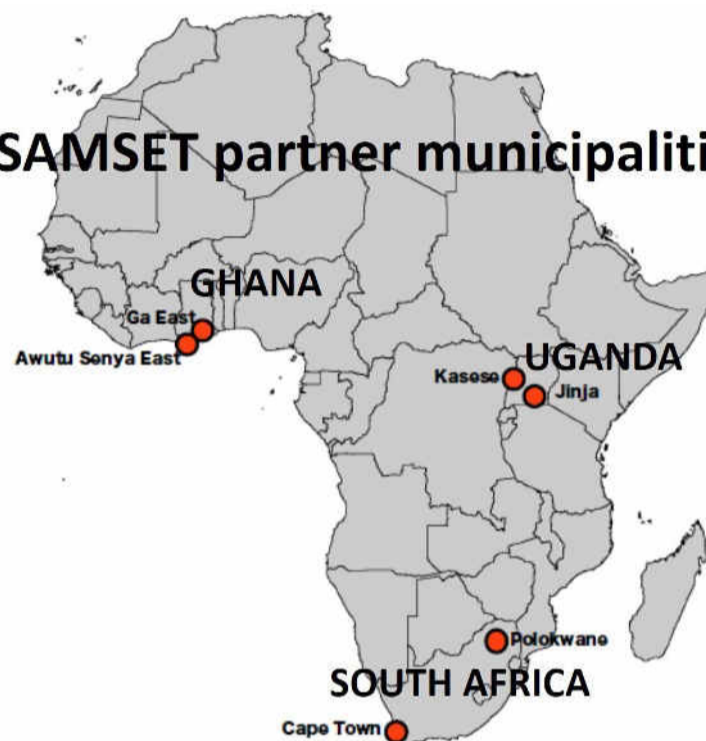
SAMSET Website—<http://www.samsetproject.net>

SAMSET Blog—<http://www.samsetproject.wordpress.com>

## Funded by:



## SAMSET partner municipalities



## Research and Goals

The project has six key research objectives:

- Identify the relevance, transferability and adaptation of the existing body of knowledge on sustainable energy transitions to the Sub Saharan African urban situation
- Understand the specific and contextual issues involved in effective implementation of policies relevant to energy transitions in the African urban context,
- Clarify how best to facilitate policy and strategy development and implementation through active engagement and support for six partner cities in three Sub Saharan African countries to enable detailed understanding of the complex set of constraints and dynamics in these cities,
- To explore knowledge exchange methodologies via inter-city and inter-country network exchanges, specialist inputs and practical lesson exchanges,
- To develop knowledge exchange methodologies for facilitating more effective interactions between researchers and practitioners to improve implementation of policy objectives at the city level, and
- To disseminate project findings and information beyond the project in Africa and internationally.

## Co-Leaders

**Xavier Lemaire** (x.lemaire@ucl.ac.uk) is a sociologist with over 10 years' experience in clean energy policies, energy access and regulation in developing countries.

**Mark Borchers** (mark@sustainable.org.za) is the Director of SEA, and has over 20 years' experience of supporting Southern African cities with sustainable energy transitions.