By 2050, over 60% of the African population will be living in the cities. Africa’s rapidly growing cities are becoming increasingly vulnerable to risks posed by climate change and unpredicted patterns of environmental hazards, such as floods.

Urbanisation challenges Africa’s young labor force, which needs to be skilled to solve problems caused by unplanned urbanisation. This is a major opportunity for African universities. Young, graduated experts need to be able to steer urbanisation to sustainable trajectories with digital skills and innovative uses of geospatial data and technologies for urban transformation.

“Resilience Academy is a new digital service model of African universities to deliver climate action for sustainable and inclusive urban development through skills and knowledge development of the youth”

Resilience Academy uses tools and technologies, which are open, affordable and locally adaptable, such as drone images, smart phones and open source software. New data and knowledge is created through community mapping methods aiming for improved spatial planning and risk management.

“Resilience Academy builds online learning materials and courses to address relevant urban development and risk management skills and competences”

Resilience Academy digital services:

1. Climate Risk Database (CRD*) with open access geospatial data and risk information
2. Online learning materials and courses
3. Student internship and industrial training programmes
4. Research and partnerships

*Access to Climate Risk Database (CRD) at: https://geonode.resilienceacademy.ac.tz/

The Tanzania Urban Resilience Program (TURP 2016-2021) builds urban resilience through improved evidence data in urban planning and infrastructure provision for sustainable economic growth under the risks posed by climate changes in Tanzanian cities and towns. The program runs through four main pillars: (1) Risk identification, (2) Risk reduction (3) Emergency preparedness and (4) Resilience Academy.

Tanzania Resilience Academy is led by five academic institutions: Ardhi University (Dar es Salaam), University of Dar es Salaam (Dar es Salaam), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Morogoro), State University of Zanzibar (Zanzibar), and University of Turku (Finland), in partnership with University of Twente (Netherlands) and Delft University of Technology (Netherlands).