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# Future-Ready to Lead, Innovate and Transform:

## *A Grant Recipient's Reflection from Mombasa*

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By: Twapewa Chikopa, Land Surveyor & 2025 FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Grant Recipient (Zambia)



### Appreciation

*It* is with immense gratitude, excitement, and reflection that I submit this report on my transformative experience in **Mombasa, Kenya** from **27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2025**.

Being selected as a FIG Foundation Grant Recipient was a profound honor and offered me the opportunity to participate in both the **4<sup>th</sup> FIG Young Surveyors African Meeting (4YSAM)** and the **10<sup>th</sup> Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) African Regional Conference**.



*F*rom the moment I arrived in Mombasa, I was struck by the energy, diversity, and ambition of Africa’s surveying community. This dual-conference experience offered a unique blend of innovation, leadership, ethics, and collaboration, framed by two complementary themes: the **FIG Young Surveyors’** call to **“Lead. Innovate. Transform.”** and the **ISK’s** focus on **“Future-Ready Landed Professionals: Fostering Excellence and Resilience.”** These themes resonated deeply with me, connecting to my professional practice as a Land Surveyor, and inspiring me to think critically about how to balance technical expertise with leadership, mentorship, and social impact in shaping Africa’s geospatial future.

## 4<sup>th</sup> FIG Young Surveyors African Meeting (4YSAM)

*Lead. Innovate. Transform*

### DAY 1



***The opening day of 4YSAM*** set an ambitious and inspiring tone as young professionals from across the continent gathered to reflect, share, and envision Africa’s geospatial future.



***The Challenge of Awareness:*** **Prof.**

**Uchendu Eugene Chigbu** delivered a keynote challenging all of us to broaden public understanding of the surveying profession. His examples of projects across Africa illustrated how land data drives sustainable development.

**New Coordinates:** **Mr. Stephen Djaba** reminded us that inclusion is “the new coordinates.”

His words — *'May your vision remain sharp, your coordinates true, and your work continue to map a more inclusive and sustainable world'* — became a personal mantra.

- ✚ The first day concluded with a Social Evening, fostering friendships and professional bonds across countries and disciplines.

## DAY 2; Focus: Collaboration, Innovation, and Practical Impact

**Integrated Development:** Moderated by Fridah Mwangi (MISK), discussions with Prof. Chigbu and Mr. Eric Nyadimo explored tenure-responsive land use planning as a model of integrated, sustainable development. Mr. Nyadimo emphasized that integrity is the cornerstone of trust.

**Positioning for Success:** Mr. Gustav Fick (Carlson Survey) led a session on professional branding and visibility.

### **Youth Dialogue and Recognition:**



Moderated by **David Elegbede**, the Youth Dialogue addressed mentorship gaps and representation, concluding with recognition of FIG Foundation Grant Recipients — a proud and humbling moment.

## **10<sup>th</sup> Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) African Regional Conference.**

*“Future-Ready Landed Professionals: Fostering Excellence and Resilience.”*

**Integrity as an Anchor:** Mr. Eric Nyadimo highlighted integrity as essential to trust and excellence.

**The Mandate for Leadership:** Ms. Nelly Mbugua encouraged attendees to step into leadership roles and mentor others, emphasizing that resilience requires intentional action.

The synergy between 4YSAM and ISK offered a holistic understanding of what it means to be a future-ready land professional in Africa.

### **Reflections as a Land Surveyor**

The sessions, dialogues, and exchanges yielded three key lessons:

1. **Mentorship as Legacy** – Leadership begins with nurturing the next generation.
2. **Technology as a Strategic Tool** – Tools like GIS, drones, and AI are transformative but require ethical and creative application.
3. **Collaboration for Resilience** – Cross-disciplinary networks are vital for building inclusive, sustainable systems.

## Memorable Experiences Beyond the Sessions

### Cultural Immersion, Social and Networking Moments in Mombasa.



*Camel Ride on the Beach*



*Wading the Indian Ocean*



*The Majestic snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro captured while on-board Kenya Airways on my way back home*

## Conclusion and Future Commitments

- ❖ This dual-conference experience was a catalyst for professional and personal growth. I return to Zambia committed to:
  - Integrating ethical leadership with technological innovation in daily surveying practice.
- ❖ Mentoring emerging professionals to foster excellence and resilience.
- ❖ Building partnerships across disciplines to strengthen the geospatial landscape and community development in Zambia.

✚ *My sincere gratitude goes to the FIG Foundation, ISK, and all organizers for empowering young professionals to lead Africa's geospatial future.*

**Twapewa Chikopa**

*Land Surveyor*

*2025 FIG Foundation Grant Recipient (Zambia)*