

# Harnessing Learning, Data, Foundation Models and Open Source: How African Scientists are Advancing Robotics Research

Robotics in Africa Forum at ICRA 2025  
Wednesday, May 21. 9:30 am -12:15pm. Meeting Room 401

Join us for talks on sustainability, agriculture, education, panel discussions, breakout sessions and networking with African Researchers both on the continent and in the diaspora.



Robotics in Africa



Link to our website and information about virtual participation.



### Introductions

**Chinwe Ekenna**  
University at Albany  
USA



### Keynote 2

**Oluwami Dosunmu-Ogunbi**  
Rose-Hulman Institute of  
Technology  
USA  
**Bipedal Robotics for All:  
Breaking Barriers in  
Robotics Education**

### Keynote 1

**Paul Amayo**  
University of Cape Town  
South Africa  
**Cultivating the Future:  
Robots, Models, and  
Agents to Unlock African  
Agricultural Potential**



### Panel Discussion

**Oluwami Dosunmu-Ogunbi, Conrad  
Tucker, Diane Uwacu,  
Paul Amayo, Chinwe  
Ekenna**

### Breakout Sessions

**Conference Attendees**

### Keynote 3

**Conrad Tucker**  
CMU-Africa  
Rwanda  
**Africa, Leapfrog + Robots:  
The Case for Robotics  
Research and Education in  
Africa**



### Keynote 4

**Diane Uwacu**  
Mount Holyoke College  
USA  
**Sustainable Pathways for  
African Robotics: Balancing  
On-Device Intelligence and  
Cloud Synergy**



### State of Robotics in Africa Report

**Simeon Adebola**  
UC Berkeley  
USA



#### Organizing Committee:

Chinwe Ekenna, University at Albany  
Katherine J. Mimnaugh, University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign  
Simeon Adebola, UC Berkeley  
Ugochukwu Okoro, University at Albany

#### Steering Committee:

Ken Goldberg, UC Berkeley  
Amir Patel, University College London  
David Vernon, Carnegie Mellon University Africa  
Aisha Walcott-Bryant, Senior Research Staff, Google  
Research