



The African Climate & Development Initiative
(ACDI)

Farai Kapfudzaruwa

(Deputy Director, Team Science)



Mission: we build evidence, capacity, and agency within Africa to catalyse action for equitable, climate resilient development

ACDI Objectives

Undertake **cutting-edge research** at the nexus of climate and development

Develop excellent **future leaders** for climate action in research, policy and practice



Catalyse and sustain **diverse partnerships** for transformative climate research and action across Africa

Influence climate and development **decision-making and practice** across scales based on evidence and collaboration



Shape climate and development discourse and agendas through **thought leadership**, particularly for the benefit of marginalised people and places in Africa



What ACDI does

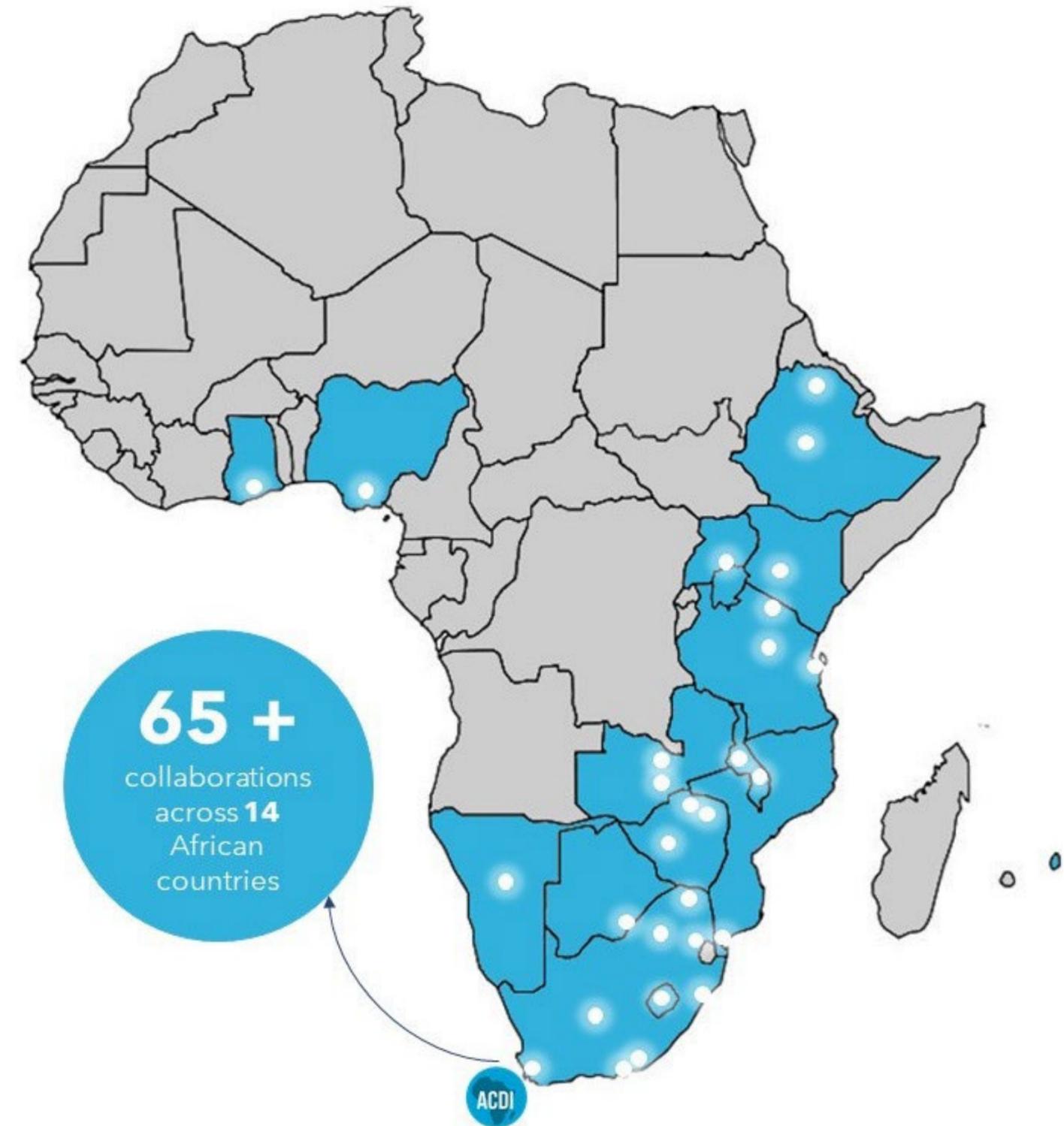
ACDI is a hub for impactful research and partnerships on climate change and development across Africa and globally.

Climate risk diagnosis

Research themes

Solutions Pathways

Systems Governance



OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE



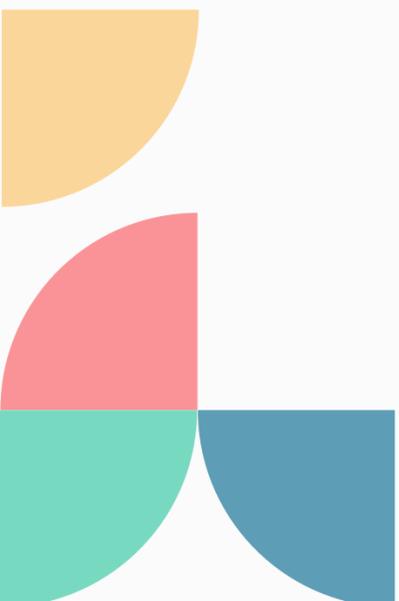
- **Building Impact through Evidence:**

- Over 850 research publications since 2012
- Highly cited in policy documents across Africa and globally
- Collaborative transdisciplinary research with diverse outputs
- Expert evidence for court cases locally and internationally

- **Capacity Building Impact:**

- 129 Hons and MSc students trained
- 34 PhD students trained
- 43 Researchers

- **Building Agency:**

- UN Climate negotiators
 - Advisors to local and national governments
 - Advisors to UN agencies and lead authors in IPCC reports
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KHUSELA IKAMVA SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROJECT

UCT launched the Khusela Ikamva “secure the future” sustainable campus project in 2020

- as part of UCT’s vision 2030 Agenda
- Linked to sustainability priority

Catalyse the transformation of UCT into a sustainable campus by establishing a community of practice informed by:

- leading research that incorporates UCT stakeholders from all spheres (students, academic and PASS staff)
- extensive and inclusive engagement with the university community
- exemplar Living Lab interventions on campus, that serve as a proof-of-concept



Khusela Ikamva

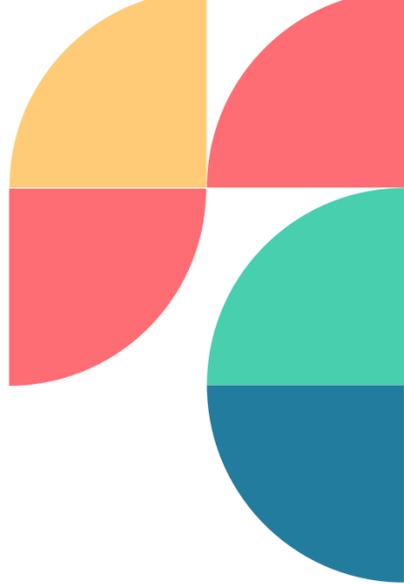
Sustainable Campus Initiative



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



ACDI'S WORK ON THE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC)

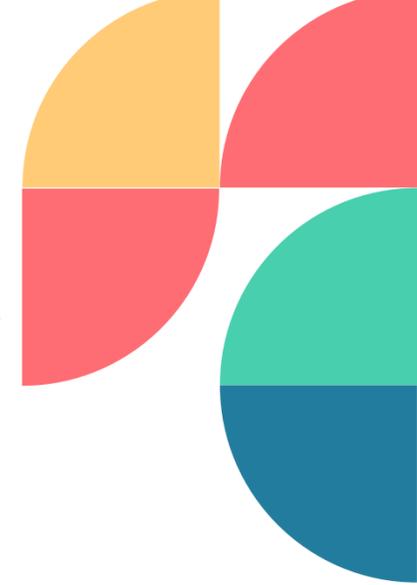


- UCT has been commissioned by national government – Dept of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) – to create the evidence base for developing South Africa's second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.
- Inform updating mitigation and adaptation targets and intended outcomes for the period 2031-2035
- Collaboration between UCT's Energy Systems Research Group (ESRG) and the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI),
 - Interdisciplinary team to prepare and collate the evidence across energy, transport, industry, land use, water, agriculture, urban, health, ecology, marine, climate and related fields.
- The technical work is being designed to support increasing alignment amongst sectoral policies and with global goals to enhance climate action.



ARUA-CD

Centre of Excellence
Climate and Development



ARUA – African Research Universities Alliance

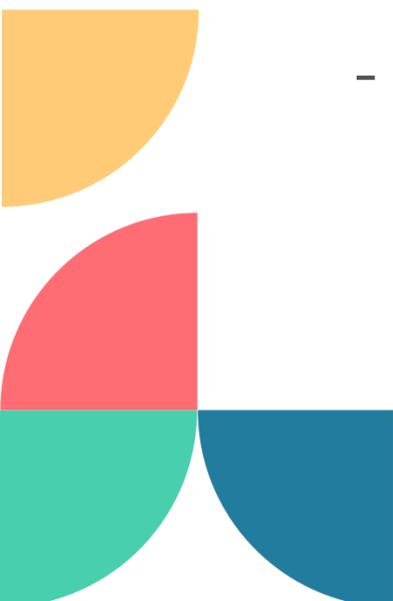
Centre of Excellence in Climate & Development (ARUA-CD)

The ARUA-CD consists of three core regional partners:

- the ACDI in Southern Africa (secretariate)
- the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (University of Ghana) and the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (University of Nairobi)

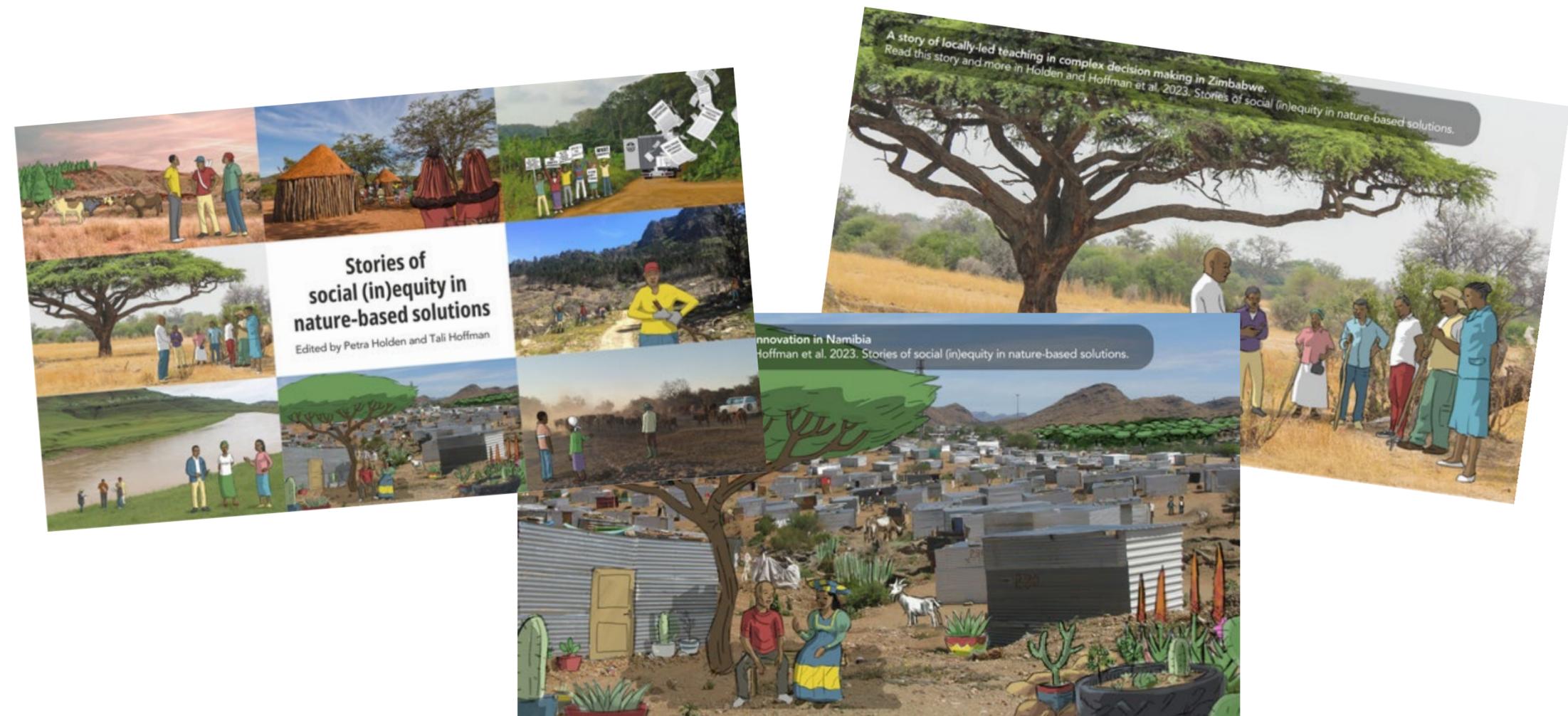
Example of project related to ARUA-CD

- Tuwe Pamoja – Nature-based solutions in informal settlements in Accra, Nairobi, Lusaka and Cape Town, working with academics and Slum Dwellers International

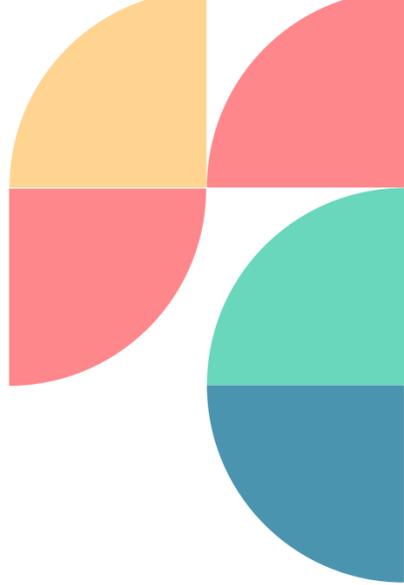


TOWARDS EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (TES NBS) – IDRC funded

The TES NbS project explores the role of NbS in reducing risk and vulnerability to climate change in developing regions, focusing on Southern African Water Towers, which are mountainous areas (including high-lying hills and plateaus) important for water supply to lowland areas



Project PI: Dr Petra Holden



The Design for Climate Solutions (D4CS) Pilot programme

Foster co-creation and innovations that address climate adaptation and resilience challenges

Four South African based teams were invited to co-design user-oriented solutions (~37 participants). Many users and related actors are involved in the process.



- **Purpose:** Offer societal actors (such as policy-makers, practitioners, or citizens) an opportunity to address a solution to a climate and development challenge they are interested in.

Teams undergo Systems Thinking, Design Thinking, and Entrepreneurial training.

How might communities in Ermelo create new and sustainable economic opportunities as part of the just Transition.



How might we support home food growing in a way that fosters sustainable food security and community economic empowerment





African Synthesis Centre for Climate Change,
Environment and Development

1. Collaborative Teams of Scientists, Policymakers & Practitioners
2. Turning Big Data into Big Insights on Climate Change
3. Actionable Research to Accelerate Climate Action



www.ascendclimate.org

ASCEND ANNOUNCES FIVE TRANSDISCIPLINARY SYNTHESIS TEAMS UNDER THE BAOBAB INITIATIVE

The following teams will start their synthesis work at the University of Cape Town in early 2025.

- **Green Resilience Africa** team led by Kokou Kouami, Katharina Löhr, and Shibire Bekele Eshetu
- **The Climate Justice Centred Approach to EIA** team led by Melanie Jean Murcott and Ncedo Mngqibisa
- **The Blue Africa** team led by Laura Pereira and Mike Olendo
- **The Sustainable, Healthy and Resilient Animal Source Food Systems in Southern Africa** (AFS-SA) led by Michelle North and Liveness Banda
- **The Building Climate Resilient Education Systems** team led by Lindiwe Chide and Dr Taskeen Adam



Visit their website

[www.ascendclimate.org/
synthesis-teams](http://www.ascendclimate.org/synthesis-teams)

Their research is supported through the BAOBAB project, which is part of the CLARE Programme with support from Foreign, Trade and Development Office- Research, Science and Innovation, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken and International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION in 2023/4



Joint Professorships with University of Bristol

Professor Mark New
Research theme:
Operational climate
impacts attribution



AXA XL Climate Water Nexus Award

Dr Petra Holden
Research theme:
Equitable nature-based
solutions for a sustainable
climate future



Äänit Prize

Koaile Monaheng
(Masters student, shortlisted)
Research theme: Energy
poverty and delivering clean
energy to rural communities



WCRP African Fellowship Award

Glynis Humphrey
(shortlisted)
Research theme: Fire-Ocean
Nexus: Wildfires, Carbon
Exchange and Climate
Implications in Southern
Africa

Frontiers Planet Prize

Petra Holden and Mark New
Research theme: Nature-
based solutions and climate
change

The way forward

Opportunities:

- Increasing focus on climate action globally
- Leader in Africa, across research excellence and impact
 - Climate resilient development
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Social innovation
 - Just transitions
 - Synthesis methodology
- Contributing to continental and global agenda with a focus on justice

Challenges:

- Balancing long-term and short-term responses, mitigation and adaptation
- Funding core activities (admin, communications, learning) and physical space
- Providing a network role
- Attracting black South African postgrad students and staff

The image features a central text element surrounded by four decorative geometric patterns in the corners. The top-left pattern consists of a series of parallel, slightly curved lines in a light grey color. The top-right pattern is a cluster of overlapping semi-circles in shades of orange, blue, and green. The bottom-left pattern is a cluster of overlapping semi-circles in shades of red, green, and blue. The bottom-right pattern consists of a series of parallel, slightly curved lines in a light grey color, mirroring the top-left pattern.

THANK YOU