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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to our April 2014 newsletter! Inside we showcase some of our recent work, from our Low Carbon Development projects as well as the Water Management sector. We hope you will find the content informative and enlightening.

Furthermore it is with great enthusiasm and excitement that the ICLEI Africa Secretariat announces the soft launch of our new website! Over the past few months we have been working hard on a new, more interactive, web experience for our members and readers. You will find the same informative content on actions being carried out by our office—delivered in a more socially appealing experience, through a fresher modern-looking site.

Over the next few months we hope to profile all of our African members so if you have content you would like to showcase please email nicholas.reay@iclei.org or irina.velasco@iclei.org.

Please feel free to send us comments on the new site! Your suggestions are most welcome and would be greatly appreciated.

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CDKN and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability are pleased to launch their Working Paper Close to home: Subnational strategies for climate compatible development by Barbara Anton, Ali Cambray, Mairi Dupar and Astrid Westerlind-Wigstroem with Elizabeth Gogoi.

The authors explore the many successful strategies and measures for climate resilience and low carbon development that communities and leaders have pursued at the subnational level. Drawing on the rich and practical experiences of CDKN’s project partners and the broader ICLEI network, they argue that the battle for climate compatible development will be won or lost in provinces, districts and cities. Distinct challenges as well as unique opportunities exist at the subnational level, as demonstrated through CDKN’s and ICLEI’s programme experience where strategies yield promising results at the subnational level.

In this short film ICLEI Africa asked everyday citizens, as well as some delegates at the Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, what their hopes and dreams were for the city they call home. It portrays the hopes and dreams of citizens for a city which is clean, well-functioning and that they can be proud of.

What is your vision for your city?
Let your local government know!

This is the second film emerging from the highly successful LOCS Congress which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 31 October - 01 November. The first gave a snapshot of the discussions and outcomes at the Congress itself.

The video was made possible by funding from Practical Action via the ELLA Learning Alliance.
The time has long since past when development of cities via silo and singular implementation outcomes was best-practice. Nowadays with the cumulative risks associated with climate change and resource depletion, cities have to change how they progress, build, develop and plan. Every opportunity for saving resources means that precious municipal budget can be saved, and resources banked for the next generation. Figuring out where these opportunities lie, how to grab hold of them and then how to plan and implement them is a question that poses a challenge in many cities.

Innovation and transformation are required to really push ourselves past what we perceive as limitations and barriers to changing business as usual and finding a ‘new normal’. The Nexus approach aims to do just this. Through a project funded by GIZ, we are engaging in cutting edge piloting with ICLEI members Kindondoni Municipal Council, and Dar es Salaam City Council in Tanzania.

In Kindondoni we are using two neighbouring public schools as the entry point and window in assessing how to bring in a new development approach for the municipality. Schools are ideal points of contact for communities, often providing other services via public open space in densely packed neighbourhoods. This is where our next generation is learning, and where children get the opportunity to teach their parents new things as well. Schools are also a microcosm of the needs of a city, where water, sanitation, energy, food, a safe and clean environment are required for a learning environment conducive to provide opportunities. In the Tanzanian context, local authorities also run public schools and are thereby intimately involved in their development needs and infrastructure needs.

By taking an approach that is inclusive and looks at synergies across sectors of food, water, energy, sanitation, and waste needs, we can achieve much better long term gains, for the school, the municipality and the environment. In piloting this approach we undertake the exercise to determine the change needed in terms of policies, by-laws, procurement, institutional set-ups, and planning that would enable this to become the ‘new norm’ for all schools into the future.

Watch this space for further updates as the school changes over time and as we report on how the municipality will make this part of their normal operating procedures. In the mean time please refer to previous posts on our website for more information on our work on the Urban Nexus.
The European Commission funded “SURe Water 4 Africa: Developing LoCS” project is being implemented in six southern African cities - Botswana (Francistown), Malawi (Blantyre), Namibia (Walvis Bay), South Africa (Nelson Mandela Bay), Zambia (Lusaka) and Zimbabwe (Bulawayo). The project aims to contribute to sustainable climate change (CC) resilient urban water and sanitation planning mechanisms and actions based on international benchmarking within selected local authorities whilst ensuring multiplier effects to the region.

Year one and two of the project focus on data gathering, analysis and assessment which seeks to enhance the local authority’s understanding of the links between climate change and planning for efficient and resilient urban water and sanitation service provision. One of the key activities in year two of the project seeks to undertake a Risk and Vulnerability mapping assessment in each of the six project cities. To this end ICLEI Africa has appointed WAMTechnology, based in Stellenbosch, South Africa. WAMTechnology provides technical solutions to improve good governance in the areas of Public Health and Water Information Systems.

The Risk and Vulnerability mapping assessments will be undertaken on two scales, namely:

1. Local municipality scale: Providing an overview of relevant existing water and sanitation infrastructure and resources in each of the project cities, providing a detailed assessment of capacity, condition, age and performance of raw water supply, water treatment, water storage & distribution, sanitation and wastewater; and

2. Community scale: An assessment of water and sanitation infrastructure in the identified community (representative sample at ward level).

A representative sample of households in the selected community in each of the ILA’s will be assessed, during which anecdotal information concerning risks and vulnerabilities associated with flooding and/ or drought to water and sanitation service delivery at the local level will captured.

To date field visits have been carried out in Walvis Bay, Francistown, Lusaka, and Blantyre, with plans to complete the exercise in the remaining two ILAs, Bulawayo and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality by mid-May.
KwaDukuza Municipality and key stakeholders came together in an innovative future scenario planning process to create a low-carbon development vision for the area’s future growth and development.

The local stakeholders built on the success of the first scenario planning imbizo in November by delving deeper into one of 4 potential growth and development futures for the area. How will KwaDukuza look and feel for its inhabitants in the radically different world of 2030? Would there be public transport? Will the air be clean? Will planning promote green industry and create green jobs for local people? As scenario planner and process facilitator Shahid Solomon commented: “Low-carbon is not a nice-to-have, it’s not a green consciousness thing anymore. We’re too deep in the transition; it’s become a business issue. If we don’t anticipate it, we might get priced out the game.”

Over 35 people spent an intensive day-and-a-half brainstorming an effective vision statement for the Municipality’s future sustainable growth trajectory. They then identified the tough choices that would need to be made in order to reach that vision. Will the Municipality have the strategic capacity it needs? Will the area chart an independent energy path?

The Deputy Mayor of KwaDukuza, Ms Dolly Govender, along with a number of Councillors, attended both scenario planning sessions. She reiterated her remarks that: “We will make sure that the outcomes of this workshop will be mainstreamed into council and development planning”. Another participant, Trenley Tilbrook, CEO of iLembe Chamber of Commerce, commented: “I would like to commend KDM for being progressive and proactive in taking the initiative to develop a low carbon emission development outlook.”

The Urban-LEDS project directly builds on the recently developed Climate Change Response Strategy. Progress so far has included the completion of KwaDukuza’s first ever Greenhouse Gas inventory and energy profile. All stakeholders will now be invited to comment on the draft vision, which will feed directly into the upcoming City Development Strategy development.
On February 27, workshop participants from Steve Tshwete mapped out four possible low-emission development futures for the area. This workshop was the first of two exciting scenario planning exercises designed to bring local people together around a common vision for sustainable, low-emission growth and prosperity in the region.

Over 30 people from the Municipality, District and Provincial government, business, NGO’s and local community spent an intensive day getting to grips with the key development, growth and energy challenges facing Steve Tshwete. Four initial and possible futures were developed. One future involved everyone working together to become low-carbon, but a lack of incentives and regulation letting them down and preventing widespread change. Another future saw a positive local mindset, backed up by regulations and incentives, delivering a low-carbon, economically-inclusive future Steve Tshwete by 2030.

The Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete, Cllr Mike Masina, encouraged communities to get involved in projects that led to a desired future for the region. He said that we should elevate the importance of sustainable development to that of the major health epidemics faced in the region.

The scenario planning process, which will continue on April 15, is convened as part of the Urban Low Emission Development (Urban-LEDS) project; funded by the European Commission and implemented ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa, in partnership with UN-Habitat.

The Urban-LEDS project directly builds on existing initiatives currently underway in the municipality. Progress so far has included the completion of Steve Tshwete’s first ever Green House Gas and energy profile – results of which will be released publicly this year. The scenario planning results will feed directly into the Integrated Development Plan going forward, and building on the outcomes of the Clean and Green Indaba that was held by the municipality in September 2013.
**LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT**

**GREEN GROWTH IN AFRICA:**

A reflection on the Green Growth Knowledge Platform workshop in Kinshasa, DRC

Despite significant progress globally, and signs of a transition underway, a resource-intensive, dirty and socially unequal process of human development still dominates. Low-emission, climate resilient, green economic growth may be the development holy grail; but what does it mean in an African context?

From the 1st-4th April 2014 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), ICLEI Africa participated in a Regional Practitioners Workshop of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, as well as a back-to-back inaugural meeting of the African Low Emission Development Partnership. The meetings were organised by the World Bank and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) respectively and specifically targeted international donors and African national governments. One theme that emerged among discussions between the participants was urbanisation. Africa is the fastest urbanising continent in the world. For national governments in Africa, ignoring the urban transition that is taking place and/or attempting a business as usual development path, will be hugely costly in the medium-term, and may result in significant urban health problems as well as local unrest, leaving countries uncompetitive in the face of a new, low-carbon global trade regime.

Impressive examples of national-level plans and strategies on climate change and green growth were shared, for example from the Kenyan government. But too often missing from the conversations was the how to develop effective multi-level governance arrangements for green growth which effectively capacitate local actors, especially sub-national tiers of government. Steven Bland, Project Manager at ICLEI Africa, made this point during interventions in a plenary on urban renewable energy and parallel session on sub-national integration.

The Urban-LEDS project is one such example of sub-national action to reduce emissions, as is the recently completed 5-city adaptation network project to build local resilience. The central-local government water and sanitation funding negotiations in Uganda, brokered by Ugandan Local Government Association, is another example of effective multi-level governance for negotiating local development needs. As a participating member in the LEDS Global Partnership working group on sub-national integration, ICLEI Africa will continue to bring these insights and examples to strengthen national implementation of green growth initiatives.

In the face of a huge development deficit, the forthcoming impacts of climate change, and the rapidly decreasing prices of green technologies and solutions, it is in the interests of many national governments to find a uniquely African, participatory green growth path. This needs to bring Africans together to co-create futures through innovative dialogues, partnerships and approaches. Not enough questions were asked in this respect during the 4 days: What can we learn from traditional cultures? What strengths in African governance or society can we leverage to forge a unique green growth path for African countries? And can working more in partnership at the sub-national level bring about quicker and more efficient success to national and international objectives?

To partner with us or to find out more, please contact Jenny Clover or Steven Bland via iclei-africa@iclei.org.

ICLEI Africa is finalising a 5-year strategy for its contribution to the green growth agenda in key African countries. We are looking to work with partners from across the continent, especially with national governments and the private sector to create spaces for dialogue; enhance green growth implementation at the sub-national level; build capacity for implementation; work directly with sub-national government to translate national plans into local action; and document both the potential for enhanced local governance, and good practice which already exists.

Click the links to download presentation 1 and presentation 2.
The Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) has awarded Cape Town, South Africa the title Global Earth Hour Capital 2014! The city is recognized for its ambition and pioneering actions to combat climate change in its effort to bolster quality of life for its citizens.

The EHCC is a recurring year-long competition designed to mobilize action and support from cities in the global transition towards a climate friendly, one-planet future. In a partnership between WWF and ICLEI, ICLEI provided the use of its carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) as the reporting platform for the initiative.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa mobilized South African municipalities to take part, supporting six to select and upload their actions, commitments and performance to the cCCR. After the first round, Durban was selected a national finalist alongside Cape Town. Cape Town stood alongside 13 other global finalists in the final and was ultimately chosen as the best role model.

Visit our website to view the Earth Hour City Challenge Video and an infographic outlining the City of Cape Town’s mitigation efforts through ICLEI.

“Taking the baton from Vancouver as WWF’s Global Earth Hour Capital 2014 is an exceptional honour for Cape Town and is international endorsement of our comprehensive efforts around sustainability,” Patricia de Lille, Executive Mayor of Cape Town.

“This outstanding win demonstrates the primary role of local governments in driving and facilitating a low-carbon transition in emerging economies; for the benefit of citizens. It is a win of which all South Africans can be proud.” Jenny Clover, Senior Manager at ICLEI – Africa

“Cape Town is a worthy winner of the Earth Hour Capital 2014 prize and is especially notable for being the first city from the south to receive this prestigious award. This achievement clearly demonstrates the important contribution emerging economies can make in the fight against climate change.” Joint statement by Gino Van Begin, Secretary-General of the global cities network ICLEI, Special Envoy for Cities and Climate change Michael R. Bloomberg and Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
The 6th Lagos Climate Change Summit was held from 18 – 20 March on Victoria Island in the large ICLEI Member City of Lagos, Nigeria.

Since its maiden event in 2009, the Lagos Climate Change Summits have brought together a wide range of local, regional and international actors, composed of political and technical leaders, traditional rulers, academics, climate change scientists and experts, as well as representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This has included numerous ICLEI staff, and other ICLEI members over the years to deal with a range of themes. Last year’s event focused on adaptation and vulnerability of housing and infrastructure.

This year over 700 delegates came together to discuss “Exploring Business Opportunities in Climate Change: Lagos State in Focus”. Viewpoints on investment in the vast global carbon market concerning the extent to which Nigeria and Africa should get involved in this industry, and the question of how this can best be done, presented themselves to the assembly.

H.E. the Governor of Lagos, Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN, opened the event with the current situation in Lagos State, given its pioneering ways of making sustainable development processes financially self-sufficient. He also looked at the global situation, emphasising his concern about the impact that global population growth pressures look set to impose on the changing climate.

The technical sessions on the other hand saw 47 papers presented by experts from all around Africa and the world. ICLEI President, Mr. David Cadman, presented the lead paper, entitled “Exploring Innovative Opportunities and Smart Solutions in Climate Change” with a focus on building sustainable green resilient cities. Noting the climate progress that has been made at the subnational level since 1992, he stressed the need for a regional approach whereby sub-national governments worked with universities to specifically understand and work with the local situation. He also strongly advocated a change in mobility patterns, away from single occupant vehicles.

For more information on the event, including its 19 formal observations and 20 recommendations, please see the official communique:

Savanne District Council, in the south of the Mauritius, is one of the most scenic and unspoilt parts of the island nation. This new ICLEI member is also a new Local Government, having only been established when its parent body was subdivided in December 2012.

The District is centred on the town of Souillac, where the state facilities such as the District Court, local electricity, transport and water authorities, are located. The area’s primary economy has traditionally been agriculture (specifically sugarcane) with small and medium enterprises. However its remarkably beautiful coastline has led to recent developments in the tourism industry, with hotels, guest houses, restaurants and other facilities being built – together with the development of Integrated Resort Schemes (IRS) in the area. Aside from the coastline, a range of attractions have helped build Savanne’s reputation for beauty - from magnificent cliffs and waterfalls to volcanic features (the famous “coloured earth”) and even a centre of pilgrimage, Grand Bassin (known as Ganga Talao).

DURBAN LAUNCHES THE “CLEAN MY CITY” CAMPAIGN

Thekwini Metropolitan Municipality, the long-term ICLEI Member City of Durban, launched a massive clean-up campaign last month – part of its new “Clean my City” programme.

The programme was launched by eThekwini Mayor James Nxumalo, to address environmental challenges and build Durban into a sustainable City. It would also involve clean-up operations, bylaw enforcement and education to influence people’s attitudes. The programme brings in all City departments, as well as other tiers of government, the communities themselves, with local businesses, NGOs and even the police. Mayor Nxumalo said at the launch: “We all have a responsibility to create a sustainable City which can be enjoyed by future generations. We welcome input from all stakeholders and are committed to work with you to take our City forward.”

The campaign forms one small part of the City’s vision of being “Africa’s most caring and liveable City by 2030”. Durban is already a City that is highly committed to being sustainable, as well as environment and climate friendly. A range of actions and programmes have been undertaken in this regard, from retrofitting public lighting with LED lights, to using landfill gas for electricity. The wide range of energy-saving projects conducted by this City, together with its recent hosting of the UNFCCC COP17, has earned it a reputation as an African leader in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.
EVENTS

First African Water Integrity Summit: Accelerating towards a Water Secure World
29 - 30 April 2014
Lusaka, Zambia

African Utility Week 2014
13 – 14 May 2014
Focus days: 12 May/Site visits: 15 May
Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC)

Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security
15 - 17 May 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Urban-LEDS Green Building and Spatial Development learning exchange
19 May 2014
Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa

Africa Water Week
26 - 31 May 2014
Dakar, Senegal

Resilient Cities 2014
29 - 31 May 2014
Bonn, Germany