

## At a glance

**Project name:** IMPACT

**Full title:** Improved Municipal Planning in African CiTies – IMPACT – for a climate resilient urban future

**Funded by:** International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

**Project duration:** Three years – 2018 to 2020

**Project countries:** Malawi and Zimbabwe

## About ICLEI Africa

**ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** is a global network of over 1 750 cities and other subnational governments committed to **building a sustainable future**. ICLEI provides technical services, capacity building, networking opportunities and cutting-edge urban solutions to its member cities and their communities.

**ICLEI Africa** Secretariat is based in Cape Town, South Africa and **serves over 125 members across Africa**. Based on our experience of more than twenty years, working with African cities, one of the main barriers to local climate change action is access to finance. ICLEI Africa has progressively specialised in the field of climate finance in order to be able to provide support to African cities to finance their climate action.

# IMPACT

## PROJECT

**Improved Municipal Planning in African CiTies – IMPACT – for a climate resilient urban future**

*A research collaboration between ICLEI Africa, Chinhoyi University of Technology, the University of Malawi and the African Climate & Development Initiative (ACDI).*



**Improved Municipal Planning in African CiTies – IMPACT – for a climate resilient urban future** is a three year project implemented in Zimbabwe and Malawi. The project aims to investigate how enhanced collaboration mechanisms can lead to better municipal planning in African cities that will enable climate resilient development.

These mechanisms are processes and/or interventions that enable collaboration between diverse stakeholders, and often lead to decisions being made that can influence how the city is planned and development is implemented. Examples of collaboration mechanisms include multi-sectoral forums, conferences, community-led mapping, ward committees and think tanks.

**How can African cities implement collaboration mechanisms that enable Improved Municipal Planning in African CiTies (IMPACT) for climate resilient development?**

We are investigating:

- What **collaboration mechanisms** exist already and what impact have these mechanisms had?
- What are the barriers and enablers to the **implementation and maintenance** of these mechanisms?
- In what ways and under what conditions will these mechanisms enable improved planning **for climate resilient development**?

## Funded by



Canada

## Research lead



## Research support



June 2019

*This work is being carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada. Disclaimer: The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the IDRC or its Board of Governors.*



## Meeting the challenge

**Governance underpins both the greatest challenges African cities face, as well as the potential solutions.** Climate change is increasingly being acknowledged as a great concern for sub-Saharan Africa, where the effects accompanying it overlay with existing challenges of rapid urbanisation, poverty, inequality, lack of access and slow economic growth. As a result, local government officials are increasingly required to deal with ever increasing complexity and uncertainty in decision making.

Government cannot deal with the challenges or harness the solutions alone. **Local governments are central to the achievement of a multitude of international goals and agreements, often without adequate devolution of resources and mandates.** Local governments are being called upon to plan and build thriving, inclusive, liveable, and safe and climate resilient cities in the wake of socio-economic challenges, overlaid by climate change. To overcome the challenges faced and develop the necessary solutions, local governments need to find innovative ways to improve engagement with national government, and research, community and private sector institutions in ways that harness the diversity of ideas that stakeholders with different backgrounds hold.

Through IMPACT, ICLEI and partners are exploring opportunities to integrate innovative collaboration mechanisms that may prove successful in the implementation of each of the countries Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which will lead to climate resilient development. We will also build on our understanding of what enables collaboration mechanisms for climate resilient development, such as environments that allow for learning-by-doing and accumulation of knowledge that can be harnessed, local government officials who are engaged and passionate about building climate resilience, and cities where strong multi-sectoral partnerships exist.

**Building climate resilience, is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary task, no one sector or discipline holds all the solutions.** Through IMPACT, 'collaborative governance' is enabled, which favours inter-organisational collaborations that increase the depth and breadth of knowledge and expertise that can be drawn on when tackling complex issues such as climate resilience. **Drawing from the expertise of a diverse set of stakeholders and utilising innovative collaboration mechanisms will be essential in enabling climate resilient development that is successful and long-lasting.**

## What we aim to do

- Understand the context of each of the project cities and how climate resilient development is tackled in each of them.
- Develop locally relevant criteria for the assessment of the effectiveness of collaboration mechanisms that enable Improved Municipal Planning in African CiTies (IMPACT) for climate resilient development.
- Identify and assess barriers and enablers of these collaboration mechanisms in the project cities.
- Assess in what ways tailor-made collaboration mechanisms can be successful in enabling improved planning for climate resilient development.
- Build the capacity of stakeholders engaged in the project to implement contextually relevant collaboration mechanisms that contribute to improved planning and climate resilient development.
- Develop support tools for the implementation of these collaboration mechanisms, to support more inclusive governance processes that contribute to climate resilient development in African cities.

## How we plan to do it

**The project requires a systems-thinking approach to investigate the intersection between urban transitions, climate change and developing urban resilience.** Critical to this, is seeing cities as complex social-ecological systems that intricately connect humans and ecosystems through resource and service feedback loops.

The methodology focuses on **co-production, co-exploration and value creation** to develop contextually appropriate responses. This requires engaging and collaborating with a range of stakeholders in different sectors of society and levels of government, within each project city.

## Where we are engaging

The IMPACT project is currently being implemented in two cities in both **Malawi and Zimbabwe**. Both countries are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and both have a policy environment supportive of climate resilient development and collaborative governance.

