



ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

ICLEI AFRICA

| NEWSLETTER |

Issue 1
2015



IN THIS ISSUE: SPECIAL ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2015 SUPPLEMENT

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2015!

The year has kicked off with such great momentum of local action for sustainability in Africa. This edition features updates on activities that ICLEI members and partners in the region have been busy with for the first few months of the year and showcases pioneering work from our integrated urban water management, energy, and biodiversity workstreams.

Collaboration for local action has been a resounding theme in realizing this vision. From projects promoting an integrated urban approach and cross-departmental cooperation, to facilitating collaboration among local stakeholders, ICLEI Africa has worked hard to maximize the potential of transformation through partnerships.

At the global level, ICLEI recently concluded its triennial ICLEI World Congress. Taking place in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 8 -12 April 2015, the event welcomed over 2,500 delegates, making it the biggest forum on the development of urban sustainability worldwide. This occasion also saw the inauguration of Mayor Park Won-sun of Seoul as the newly-elected ICLEI President. We heartily welcome him in his new role and look forward to his guidance, drawing from his extensive background on sustainability efforts and leadership. For more information on the general outcomes of the World Congress please refer [here](#).

Regionally, ICLEI members in Africa convened the Inaugural Committee Meeting at the World Congress, with the purpose of electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Regional African Committee. Drawing from these deliberations, we are delighted to announce that Honourable Mayor Abel Langsi, of Bafut Council in Cameroon, has been elected as the Chair for 2015 - 2018! We invite you to read through our special ICLEI World Congress 2015 supplement for further details on our region's involvement in this global event.

Thematic fora on water (World Water Forum), climate change (Africa Carbon Forum), and biodiversity (Urban Nature) to connect initiatives across different levels of governance are also featured in this edition.

With these in view, we welcome you to read on and see how local governments connect with local, regional and international partners to foster meaningful connections, share knowledge and accelerate action to face the global challenge of urban sustainability.



The new year also brings in new capacities to the ICLEI Africa Secretariat. Please join us in extending our warmest welcome to our new team mates who bring with them not only skills but a wealth of experience. To get to know them better and learn more about the people behind the names, please refer to our [website](#).



CONTENTS



MEMBERS NEWS

ELECTION OF THE NEW AFRICAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: LILONGWE

4-5

AN ECO-GUIDES TRAINING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

INTERGRATED URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

INTEGRATED APPROACH KEY TO ADDRESSING CHALLENGES OF DROUGHTS IN BULAWAYO

6

WORLD WATER FORUM

LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

REPRESENTING LOCAL VOICES AT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FORA

7

DORNSKOOP RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPO A HUGE SUCCESS

8

EXCITING PROGRESS MADE WITH URBAN-LEDS CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

9

EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE 2014-2015 CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

10-11

BIODIVERSITY

NEW PROJECT ALERT: LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY (LAB) WETLANDS, SOUTH AFRICA

12

UNA FOR AFRICA: PHASE 1 ROLLOUT

13

ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2015

COVERAGE OF THE 2015 ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS

14-17

RESOURCES

MEDIA

18

EVENTS

19



MEMBERS NEWS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: ELECTION OF THE NEW AFRICA REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Mayor Abel Langsi elected as Chairperson for ICLEI Africa Committee 2015-2018



L-R: Mayor Martin Moyo (City of Bulawayo), Mayor James Nxumalo (eThekweni Municipality), Mayor Mpho Parks Tau (City of Johannesburg), Mayor Abel Langsi (Bafut City Council), Ms. Kobie Brand (ICLEI Africa Secretariat), Mr. Yabebal Addis Gebezu (Addis Ababa City Government)

ICLEI is constituted as a membership association that receives its mandate from its member cities, local and regional governments and municipal authorities. ICLEI's governance is based on nine defined regions and a three year term of office for all governance bodies.

On 8 April, just ahead of the 2015 ICLEI World Congress, the Africa Regional Committee held its inaugural meeting at New Kukje Hotel in Seoul, Korea. The meeting offered a platform for the Africa Regional Committee to elect the Chair and a Vice-Chair for the Africa Committee. ICLEI Africa Regional Director, Ms Kobie Brand chaired the meeting, a function that Mayor Langsi will perform for all meetings that the Committee will hold in future.

ICLEI AFRICA REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Mayor Abel Langsi (Chair)

Bafut Town Council, Cameroon
Portfolio: Economic Development,
Livelihoods and Food Security



Mayor Martin Kysack Moyo (Vice-Chair)

City of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
Portfolio: Health, Water, Sanitation and Waste



Mayor James Nxumalo

eThekweni Municipality (Durban), South Africa
ICLEI AFRICA Global Executive Committee
member
Portfolio: Climate Change Adaptation and
Disaster Risk Reduction



Mayor Mpho Parks Tau

City of Johannesburg, South Africa
Portfolio: Energy and Mobility



Mayor Deriba Kuma

City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Portfolio: Urban Planning and Design,
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



Mayor Sunilduth Parbutteea

Vacoas-Phoenix, Mauritius
Portfolio: African Small Island Developing
States (SIDS) Cities



MEMBERS NEWS

MEMBER OF THE MONTH APRIL 2015: LILONGWE CITY COUNCIL, MALAWI

Lilongwe is the capital city of Malawi and located in the central part of the country, alongside the river after which it is named. This ICLEI Member is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa, with a growth rate exceeding 4 percent per year on average, and a population of almost 1 million inhabitants in July, 2014.

Lilongwe is governed by Lilongwe City Council, which has been a valued member for many years now, and with which ICLEI-Africa has partnered on many sustainability initiatives.

Lilongwe City Council partnered on the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) programme, which aims to assist local governments in their efforts to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity. Biodiversity loss was and is still one of many challenges the City of Lilongwe has to face, and is linked to other critical urban issues. A rapid rate of deforestation is driven by the very high price of electricity, which creates a great need for wood energy among the growing population. The increasing proportion of informal settlements also increases the risk of soil and water pollution, thus increasing the people's exposure to health risks.

Through the LAB programme, as well as other initiatives supported by ICLEI Africa and its partners, Lilongwe City Council has strived to conserve its biodiversity in a sustainable way. This includes a tree planting programme which has been implemented with communities from Lilongwe, both as a way to cope with deforestation and biodiversity loss and as a means to improve public awareness on environmental issues. The rehabilitation of riverine areas is a similar initiative that has been implemented, and which aims at maintaining and



ensuring the ecosystem services provided by the aquatic systems and the riparian vegetation of Lilongwe River, to the city and its inhabitants. Lilongwe City Council is working on being a local government which considers its development strategies together with long-term sustainability challenges that have to be addressed. It is the main purpose of the Urban Development Master Plan designed for the period 2010-2015, as well as of the City Development Strategy (CDS), which was launched on 10 February, 2010.

For this and more many reasons, we wish to pursue this mutually beneficial partnership, and we are proud to declare Lilongwe City Council our member of the month!

AN ECO-GUIDES TRAINING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

The City of Johannesburg's Environment and Infrastructure Services Department (EISD) set as one of its main goals to spread a 'green culture' throughout the communities involved in the metropolis. This requires a strong focus on education, as well as any other means of ensuring more public awareness of the sustainability-related challenges the City has to face.

As part of that commitment, EISD launched a five month training programme earlier this year, on 15 January, 2015. The project aims at training 50 community-based NGO members to become environmental ambassadors, and the facilitators able to link up between the city and the communities, for the development of 'green thinking' in Johannesburg.

The initiative is overviewed by Cllr Matshidiso Mfikoe, Member of the Mayoral Committee and responsible for the environment portfolio. She intends the eco-guides to be provided with the

appropriate skills and knowledge on numerous critical environmental matters, such as refuse management, knowing and understanding the stakes of the ecological environment, or the challenges and the means toward nature conservation. The 50 facilitators may then acquire complementary skills, which will foster their ability to help their communities to move forward on green issues.

Training also takes place through a series of local, national and international events, which are or have been held during those five months, and which allow the future eco-guides to focus on more concrete and specific questions.



Cllr Matshidiso Mfikoe

If you have any other news that you would like to feature in on our website, in our eNews or in our Newsletter, please email: steven.molteno@iclei.org.



INTEGRATED URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

INTEGRATED APPROACH KEY TO ADDRESSING CHALLENGES OF DROUGHTS IN BULAWAYO



As one of the six cities participating in the [Sustainable Urban Resilient Water for Africa: Developing Local Climate Solutions \(SURE Water 4 Africa: Developing LoCS\) project](#), Bulawayo City Council in partnership with ICLEI Africa held a workshop in the last week of February 2015. The workshop served as a platform during which ICLEI Africa gave feedback to the city on the Climate Systems and Risk and Vulnerability assessments that were made for the city during the data collecting phase of the SURE Water 4 Africa: Developing LoCS project in 2014.

The active interaction and debates during the workshop also aided in ground truthing the collected information. In welcoming the outputs from the assessments, the city officials reiterated the need for Bulawayo City Council to build upon the baseline of climatic and socio-economic data collected during the project's data collecting phase. Having such a repository of data is critical to enable decision and policy makers access to developing policies and strategies that would adequately address the challenges of climate change the city faces. Such a coherent approach would simultaneously contribute towards building resilience of the city's infrastructure and service delivery to impacts of extreme weather conditions such as droughts or hurricanes.

The technical officials within the city's key departments of Engineering, Civil Protection Unit, Office of the Town Clerk and the Bulawayo Residents' Association actively participated in the first two days while leaders from the different community groups in Pumula attended the workshop on the last day.

The SURE Water 4 Africa Developing LoCS project is being implemented in selected local authorities within six countries in southern Africa and receives funding from the European Commission.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER ON WATER ACTION



The "Daegu-Gyeongbuk Water Action for Sustainable Cities and Regions" was signed by 26 local and provincial governments at the 4th Local and Regional Authorities Conference held at the 7th World Water Forum in South Korea acknowledging the importance of local governments and their role in water issues.

The document acknowledged the importance of local governments' roles in resolving water issues at both national and global levels. It also called for collaboration with central governments to work on water challenges more effectively.

Ninety-five local and provincial governments' representatives attended the conference, which is part of the political process program at the 7th World Water Forum. The document announced by the local governments group focused on two themes: building on strategies at the municipal level, and asking national governments to allow local governments to help create enabling environments.

Among many strategies set out by the document, the most imminent issue was how to take advantage of the announcement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be selected in December 2015, and increase the awareness of water challenges on the global stage. The conferees pledged to cooperate with their national governments to make sure that happens.

After the SDGs are selected, the local governments pledged their best efforts to achieve the goals by the 2030 deadline through close consultations and cooperation with national officials. They also promised to promote further development by creating an alliance with other parties related to water industries.

The group also stressed the need for locally feasible solutions, a reference to the principles included in the "Istanbul Water Consensus," the outcome document of the Local and Regional Authorities Conference at the 5th World Water Forum in Turkey in 2009.

The water action document said local government officials would strengthen existing water laws and work closely with other management sectors such as urban planning. It also contains a pledge to do more to work with relevant stakeholders, including small water plant operators and especially to work with people in vulnerable positions: those affected most severely by poor water management or who are living in informal settlements.

The Africa Water and Sanitation Local Authorities (AWASLA) Network supports the drive for local strategies to improve sustainable and resilient water and sanitation service delivery. Furthermore AWASLA seeks to drive improved coordination, dialogue and engagement between key actors in the sector at the local level, whilst recognising the need for improved dialogue between local and national governments.

Download the full article [here](#).



LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

REPRESENTING LOCAL VOICES AT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FORA

ICLEI adds the voice of local government at the Africa Carbon Forum – The Road to Paris and beyond, and highlights the role of cities in meeting global greenhouse gas reductions at the Africa Regional Working Group of Meeting on Carbon Finance at UNFCCC

Two back-to-back events, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco, were held from the 11-15 of April 2015. The [Africa Regional Workshop on Carbon Finance](#) invited to ICLEI present on actions to unlock mitigation opportunities in relation to urban development in the pre-2020 period. In the Africa Carbon Forum, ICLEI was asked to provide insight into Climate Mitigation potential of urban development programs.

Stephen Davis, Technical Specialist at ICLEI-Africa, working on the Urban-LEDS project delivered these plenary presentations and used the opportunity to find out more about financing options for climate change mitigation for cities. This was a great opportunity for strengthening the voice of cities in the predominantly national discourse.

The main questions being tackled were:

- What is the true potential of cities in Africa (and cities in general) to contribute to the required science targets?
- How can we “think vertically” to ensure that local and national actions towards climate mitigation are aligned to the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC’s) that countries are submitting prior to the important negotiations in Paris at the end of the year, and;
- What are the specific options available for financing climate mitigation in cities?

The presentations delivered by ICLEI Africa, highlighted the importance of focussing on the urban development agenda, and stressed the need to create specific mechanisms at the level of local government, to finance and fast track renewable energy transitions, energy efficiency, as well as adaptation and resilience in cities.

Some examples of urban development programmes focussing on climate change (such as [Urban-LEDS](#)) were shared, as well as pioneering efforts of ICLEI and its partners in promulgating ventures such as the Compact of Mayors. Such initiatives are building on the enthusiasm, willingness and capacity of cities to address the climate issue as the rapid pace that is needed, and in a way which is complementary to the outcomes of the international climate negotiations.

A number of the presentations delivered at the Africa Carbon Forum, including the one delivered by ICLEI-Africa can be found on their [website](#). The press release summarising overall outcomes of the Africa Carbon Forum can be found [here](#).



"As we move towards the goal of a global climate change agreement in Paris in December, the 7th Africa Carbon Forum reinforced the need to have adequate, predictable, sustainable climate finance resources to address Africa's challenges in transitioning to low carbon development, smart agriculture, and sustainable urban development - key topics at this year's ACF. These areas should be at the core of Africa's development priorities and how they are integrated into the countries' INDCs will help determine the successful implementation of INDCs beyond Paris. We all know current climate financial flows are currently insufficient to meet all of Africa's climate change challenges, but it will be critical for African countries to demonstrate the ability to effectively deploy those resources that are available to help contribute to the global climate change goals."

- Kurt Lonsway, Manager, Environment and Climate Change Division, African Development Bank at the closing session



LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

DOORKOP RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPO A HUGE SUCCESS

The Urban LEDS team has been working with Steve Tshwete Local Municipality over the last two years to develop their low emissions development strategy. This is however not simply a document sitting on the shelf, but is translating to real action on the ground.

The Doornkop Community, situated 15 km north of Middelburg, South Africa hosted the first Doornkop Renewable Energy Rural Expo from 17-18 April 2015. This event was organised by the local community, with support from the Steve Tshwete Municipality and ICLEI Africa.

The Doornkop Youth Co-operative wants to start a “solar spaza shop”* where they can sell renewable energy products to the local community. In preparation for this they hosted the expo with the purpose of gaining feedback from the community around what products they prefer. A survey was done by the youth to understand the current energy needs of the community and what they could afford to spend on renewable energy products.

The opportunity was used to raise awareness and education around renewable energy options. Talks were held at the primary and secondary school to engage with the learners and it was encouraging to see that they knew what a solar panel was. A workshop was done on how to use the sun to heat your water by using recycled materials. The workshop participants made a unit that could be used at the community centre, which currently has no hot water.

Various other products were also on display, such as a solar cooker, solar oven, solar water heater, efficient cook stove, Wonderbag and various solar lights and PV panels. Representatives from 1 Million Jobs for Climate Change Campaign did some community education on the importance of climate change and why we need to switch from coal to renewable energy.

The event also allowed the community to showcase what they have already achieved, such as their dry sanitation project and fertilizer factory that runs off solar, and their Digital Doorway, which provides internet training fuelled by the sun. Potential suppliers could experience the community’s enthusiasm first hand and relationships were established to encourage future partnerships.

Another important workshop focussed on finance options for renewable energy. The community has decided to start the first “solar stockvel” which will be a community savings scheme used for renewable energy products.

Mayor Masina indicated during his address to the community that he was very proud of what they were doing and that he would like to see this grow in the future. He also visited Seoul during the ICLEI World Congress (pg. 14) and was very enthusiastic in exploring opportunities for renewable energy.

*A spaza shop is an informal convenience shop business in South Africa, usually run from home. They also serve the purpose of supplementing household incomes of the owners by selling everyday small household items. These shops grew as a result of sprawling townships that made travel to formal shopping places more difficult or expensive.

Stokvels are invitation only clubs of twelve or more people serving as rotating credit unions or saving scheme in South Africa where members contribute fixed sums of money to a central fund on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.



Mayor Masina (STM) signing the One Million Climate Jobs petition



LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT



EXCITING PROGRESS MADE WITH URBAN-LEDS CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA



Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality demonstrates leadership in a Case Study on Small-Scale Embedded Generation using Renewable Energy, while launching its 2012 Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Two complementary pieces of work have just been completed showcasing developments in the [Urban-LEDS city](#), Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality.

The first output lays the foundation for measuring the impacts of the numerous strides the Metro is taking towards a low-carbon future. Urban-LEDS staff compiled the Greenhouse Gas inventory for 2012, building on the experience of similar recent undertakings for KwaDukuza and Steve Tshwete (these [two inventories](#) have also been updated to reflect emergent best practice in compiling inventories).

Nelson Mandela Bay's greenhouse gas inventory was subject to a rigorous review by Urban-LEDS project partner, [Sustainable Energy Africa](#), and was compiled using data provided by the municipality, Eskom, StatsSA, Department of Energy, and others.

The inventory is useful as both an educational and planning tool, as it can be used by the municipality to set targets for energy efficiency improvements, and carbon reductions, while identifying the sectors where the greatest energy savings and carbon emissions reductions are possible. The high-level results show that the municipality emitted 5.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2012, 73.3% of these emissions arising from the consumption of electricity in the municipality.

Nearly 50% of the total energy consumed in the municipality is for transportation, while the industrial sector contributes to 36% of the total emissions. The per-capita footprint is 4.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per person, which is broadly consistent with the figures for municipalities in South Africa with similar economic activities. More details of the inventory and resultant recommendations can be found [here](#).

Paving the way for further emissions reductions is the bold leadership of the Municipality in creating favourable conditions for small-scale embedded generation in South Africa. A Case Study was commissioned as a joint venture of ICLEI, GIZ and SALGA, and carried out by Africoast Engineers SA.

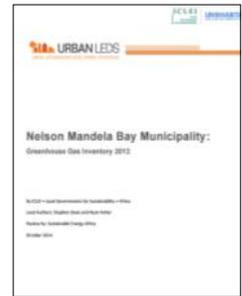
Embedded generation is the generation of electricity by residents, businesses or industries who can supply electricity to the grid via grid-connected devices (solar is the most common source, but wind and bio-gas are also viable options) and a net-metering system.

According to the [Case Study](#) the Municipality has opted to focus on the contribution that small-scale embedded generation can make towards achieving key constitutional mandates such as economic growth and development, sustainable service delivery, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment. A number of useful lessons can be learned from the Municipality's experience, and other cities and towns can adopt a similar model, and further develop best practice in this arena. To date, 27 licensed embedded generation systems have been connected to the municipal grid. The efforts of the municipality demonstrate a commitment to making the most of South Africa's abundant renewable sources of energy, and to a low emission development path. The case study will be disseminated through the South African Urban Energy Support Network.

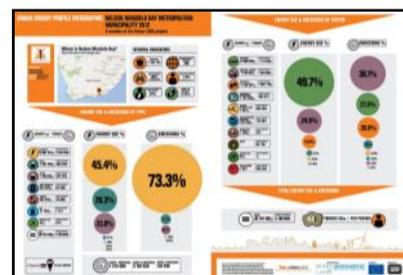
For more information please refer to the available resources:



Download the case study [here](#)



Download the report [here](#)



Download the infographic [here](#)



LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE 2014 – 2015 CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

Going beyond the hour and even going beyond the competition, a selection of capacity building workshops was offered to South African cities participating at this year's Earth Hour City Challenge 2014-2015 edition. Run jointly by WWF South Africa, ICLEI Africa and partners, these workshops aim to build on the initiative that these cities have taken towards a low carbon future.

Western Cape Municipal Learning Exchange: City of Cape Town, 6 November 2014 & 27 February 2015

As the global capital of EHCC 2013-2014, the City of Cape Town (CoCT) opted to engage on a Municipal Learning Exchange with neighbouring Stellenbosch Municipality (SM). Organised in partnership with the Western Cape branch of the [South African Local Governments Association \(SALGA\)](#), municipal officials from Stellenbosch visited Cape Town to discuss experiences on transport, renewable energy and energy efficiency on 6 November 2014.

In the face of similar challenges and opportunities, marked differences in the institutional capacity, structure, and processes between the two municipalities provided areas for learning. The dynamic discussion centred around the question of employing an integrated approach on the one hand, and addressing sectorial issues in a specialized manner on the other. As neighbouring localities, opportunities for cooperative engagement on transboundary issues such as inter-municipal traffic flow also emerged.

Drawing from these outcomes, the follow up workshop took place in conjunction with the Stellenbosch Infrastructure Innovation Committee (IIC) meeting on 27 February 2015, hosted by the [Sustainability Institute](#) in Stellenbosch. The session further unpacked the idea of taking an integrated urban planning approach for low carbon development. For both municipalities, crisis (in the form of service delivery backlogs and recent forced electrical blackouts due to grid pressure) has driven the need for cross-departmental coordination, while providing the opportunity to mainstream sustainability across the board. Finally, discussions highlighted the role that good leadership within the municipality has in driving this forward, as well as the platform provided by intermediary bodies (e.g. academia, local government networks).

For further details on these exciting dialogues please see the reports: [MLE 1](#) and [MLE 2](#).



Eastern Cape Municipal Learning Exchange: Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, 19 March 2015

Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality engaged with a number of municipalities on their experiences with the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REI4P) on 19 March 2015. Organised in partnership with [The Green Connection](#) and hosted by Kouga Municipality, the workshop welcomed representatives from Nelson Mandela Bay, Kouga, Kou-kamma, Cacadu, Saldanha Bay, and the [Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs](#).

The workshop aimed to provide a platform for local government officials to share best practice and lessons learnt on the REI4P, particularly around maximizing the social development component required of its initiatives. With this view, participants highlighted the need to explore the socio-economic opportunities and implications that such developments can place on municipalities. These prompted a rich discussion on the role and capacity of municipalities in managing national initiatives placed within their local jurisdiction. Among these include compliance, service delivery, managing financial flows, and raising awareness to their communities.

Participants then shared some of the ways they addressed these. The diversity of their context provided examples ranging from community outreach (e.g. newsletters, minute-taking) to institutional set-ups (e.g. a dedicated municipal desk, initiatives for district-level coordination, provincial support programme). This has also paved the way for participating officials to connect and learn about the available support for them to move forward.

Further details on these discussions are captured in a report currently underway, which will be made available on the ICLEI Africa website.



LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE 2014 – 2015 CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES



Strategic review workshop: City of Johannesburg, 9 March 2015

Representatives from municipal departments such as transport, municipal fleet and planning, as well as city entities such as Pick-it-up, took part in a lively one day Strategic Review Workshop for the City of Johannesburg.



Conducted by ICLEI Africa, the workshop aimed to: firstly, share between departments the status of the City's climate change journey to date; and update departments on progress in embedding climate change into the long-term Growth & Development Strategy, as well as in GHG measurement and management. This year, Johannesburg reported its GHG inventory (performance), as well as 17 actions to the Registry, leaving the city with a lot to reflect on!

Secondly, the workshop sought to reflect on opportunities for climate change to be further embedded in departmental plans and policies. The process of setting departmental targets for carbon emission reductions was discussed. This discussion enabled the discovery of a number of actions that are taking place in different departments but that were not captured in this year's entry. The workshop helped to fill in the gaps and potentially strengthen Johannesburg's entry to future competitions.

ICLEI Africa is looking forward to working closely with the City to further embed and institutionalise a climate response throughout the Metro.

Citizen Engagement Initiative: City of Tshwane, 27 March 2015

Following its announcement as South Africa's Earth Hour Capital for 2015, the City of Tshwane took on the Earth Hour Capital Challenge last 27 March 2015.

The event was held to highlight the city's low carbon initiative through sustainable transport options, while providing the opportunity for feedback based on user experience. Students from the Tshwane University of Technology teamed up with professional partners to navigate different areas of the city with the least amount of carbon emissions. The six teams walked, biked, rode busses, trains, taxis and even tuk-tuks. Using the newly released [FindMyWay](#) app (available on a variety of operating systems), students calculated their carbon emissions while learning what forms of transport were more environmentally friendly (for more watch the Youtube launch [here](#)). In the end it was Team Panda that came first, having released the lowest amount of emissions as they completed the race.

At the closing event, Executive Mayor Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa pushed for a more integrated transport platform that would see a one-card system in the future, much like many found across Europe, and stressed the importance of initiatives like the new A Re Yeng rapid bus service. City of Tshwane Mayoral Spokesman Blessing Manale added "Reducing the City's carbon footprint is heavily dependent on reducing our transport-related emissions and this event takes us one step closer to that goal." It was also on this occasion that the City of Tshwane was officially awarded as South Africa's Earth Hour Capital 2014-2015.

Download the official WWF South Africa press release [here](#) for more details on the day and be on the look out for a case study in the works and a video on the day!



ICLEI Africa would like to use this opportunity to express its appreciation for all the time and work that contributed to the success of these initiatives. Thank you to all participating cities and the many partners made along the way! We look forward to working with you on opportunities that could further develop these.



BIODIVERSITY

NEW PROJECT ALERT: LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY (LAB) WETLANDS



ICLEI Africa, in partnership with ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center is delighted to announce the start of a new Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) project in South Africa, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This customised Local Action for Biodiversity project '[LAB: Wetlands South Africa](#)' aims to enhance conservation and management of valuable natural wetlands in 11 district/metropolitan municipalities across South Africa, with the view to enhancing resilience to climate risks. Key partners implementing this project with ICLEI-Africa are the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Working for Wetlands and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

South Africa is endowed with a rich wealth of biodiversity and associated ecological infrastructure, which provide many goods and services which contribute to municipal service delivery, water and food security, quality of life, and offer an immense opportunity to support the country's development. Wetlands in particular, are high-value ecological infrastructure, providing critical ecosystem services such as clean water, clean air, food, medicines, flood regulation, water storage and habitat for biodiversity. Impoverished communities often rely on these wetlands' goods and services for basic needs and the implication of wetland loss or degradation is potentially profound for these communities.

Wetlands also play a role in disaster risk reduction, and could lessen the negative effects of climate change through flood attenuation, temperature regulation and water and food security. However, wetlands are South Africa's most threatened ecosystems: the South African National Biodiversity Assessment (2011) reports that 48% of wetland ecosystems are critically endangered, resulting in an urgent need to increase awareness of wetland importance and to

develop the capacity of local governments to incorporate natural wetland resource considerations into municipal governance mechanisms and planning. South Africa has a wealth of national environmental policies, however improvements to mechanisms for mainstreaming biodiversity through all levels of government needs to be strengthened. In the face of a changing climate, there is an urgent need to increase awareness and to develop the capacity of local governments and their stakeholders, to incorporate wetland ecological infrastructure considerations into municipal governance mechanisms and planning, and aid local governments to meet their own mandates as service providers.

As with the LAB pioneer programme, the LAB: Wetlands SA project endeavours to build the institutional capacity of municipalities to develop local policies for integrating and mainstreaming biodiversity, and increase citizen and local government awareness natural resources. Municipalities will be assisted in creating a Wetland Assessment Report that will review the municipality's wetland resources and priorities for management that will provide a basis for the development of a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP). The development of the LBSAP will generate the development of wetland project concepts and proposals for wetland project funding. As part of the LAB: Wetlands for South Africa, three municipalities will be awarded funding to implement a project, based on a competition between participants. ICLEI-Africa will also provide assistance in connecting participating municipalities with other sources of funding.

ICLEI-Africa is currently in the initial stages of the project and engaging with municipalities across South Africa and we look forward to sharing updates and news in the coming months!



BIODIVERSITY

UNA FOR AFRICA: PHASE 1 ROLLOUT

THE URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA PROJECT (UNA AFRICA)



Africa is the world's most rapidly urbanizing continent, with current estimations showing on a 700% increase in urban land cover over the period 2000-2030, often affecting biodiversity-rich areas as a significant amount of indigenous biodiversity remains intact in and around African cities.

More than a quarter of the 100 fastest-growing cities in the world are on the African continent. The urban growth is projected to primarily take place in intermediate and smaller-sized cities, which often have weak governance structures, high levels of poverty and deprivation, limited infrastructure and service delivery, and low academic capacity regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services. The combination of infrastructural demands alongside often weak environmental regulation puts immense pressure on local and regional ecosystems, and increases the vulnerability of urban populations to climate change impacts.

A vast amount of physical infrastructure, as well as institutional and governance structures, will be needed to cater to the huge increase in urban population. A large proportion of the lower income population relies directly on biodiversity ecosystem services for their livelihoods. Ecosystem services can act as a 'social safety net', thus enhancing the resilience of the poorest members of society. At the same time, there is a geographical gap in scientific knowledge on urbanization and its relationship to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Most studies are carried

out and published in Europe, North America and China; thus, what is available in the peer reviewed literature, provides a poor understanding of the supply, needs and management of urban ecosystem services in large regions including Africa – which faces some of the greatest threats to protected areas and biodiversity hotspots.

Cities are often hubs of innovation and change that can significantly contribute to decrease resource use and improve human well-being. Biodiversity and ecosystem services in and around cities can aid service delivery, contribute to poverty alleviation by creating local livelihoods and providing food, and build resilience to climate shocks. Coupled with the projected need for new infrastructure, the existing natural capital presents significant opportunities for African cities to adopt infrastructure and urban servicing approaches that are decoupled from increasing degradation of natural resources and ecosystem services. However, the opportunities are often not understood nor utilized by local government officials, and Africa is no exception.

What is UNA Africa?

[UNA Africa](#) is designed to improve human well-being and contribute to poverty alleviation and building resilience of the urban poor, through building local government capacity to enhance local implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity targets.



Phase 1:

The Source to Sea ThinkTank aimed to bring together key actors currently part of the Sand River Catchment Forum, important neighbouring wards, NGO's, City departments, external organisations and representatives of recreational users and local land owners to give input into the creation of an awareness campaign which is critical to the adoption of this project vision.





ICLEI World Congress 2015

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR AN URBAN FUTURE



ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2015: AFRICA ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD

The recently concluded [ICLEI World Congress 2015](#) held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 8-12 April saw great representation from Africa. With close to a hundred attendees, more than half of which represented 25 local governments alongside partners from across the region.

From inspiring leadership to engaging on technical solutions, the Congress provided the platform to highlight the initiative that African local governments are taking in the global fight for urban sustainability.

African solidarity

Key regional meetings were held prior to the official congress opening. The inaugural meeting of the new Regional Executive Committee (2015–2017) was held to facilitate the election of the new regional board, with Mayor Abel Langsi (Bafut, Cameroon) as Chair and Mayor Martin Moyo (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe) as Vice-Chair.

Following this momentous occasion, an Africa Regional Meeting was convened with participants representing local governments from various regions in Africa. The meeting served as a platform for the delegation from Africa to meet, network and receive more information on the programmes and projects that the office is implementing towards urban resilience within the continent.

African 'Mayors Onstage' support the Seoul Declaration

On April 9, mayors from around the world stood by each other in solidarity and support of the Seoul Declaration. The declaration which seeks to set the vision for sustainable cities of the future that are low-carbon, resilient, productive & resource-efficient, biodiverse, ecomobile, economically sustainable, smart, happy, healthy, and inclusive. African mayors took the stage to express their staunch support for this.

As Resilient City agenda portfolio holder, Mayor James Nxumalo (eThekweni, South Africa) emphasized the need to integrate local and national resilience into development strategies, as well as cooperation initiative for cities in Small Island Developing States. Mayor Mpho Parks Tau (Johannesburg, SA) underscored the links between sustainable transport options, climate mitigation, urban functionality and quality of life through a compact city hinged on transit-oriented development. Mayor Abel Langsi also expressed his support as newly-elected Regional Chair for ICLEI members in Africa.

In light of these developments, ICLEI has adopted a new strategic plan which expands its urban agendas to better serve its members' needs. ICLEI Africa welcomes partnerships that would drive these initiatives the region. For more information, please contact: iclei-africa@iclei.org.



"We in the African region are ready to take actions that balance the reality of our need to address climate change within the broader context while responding to socioeconomic needs" - Mayor Mpho Parks Tau



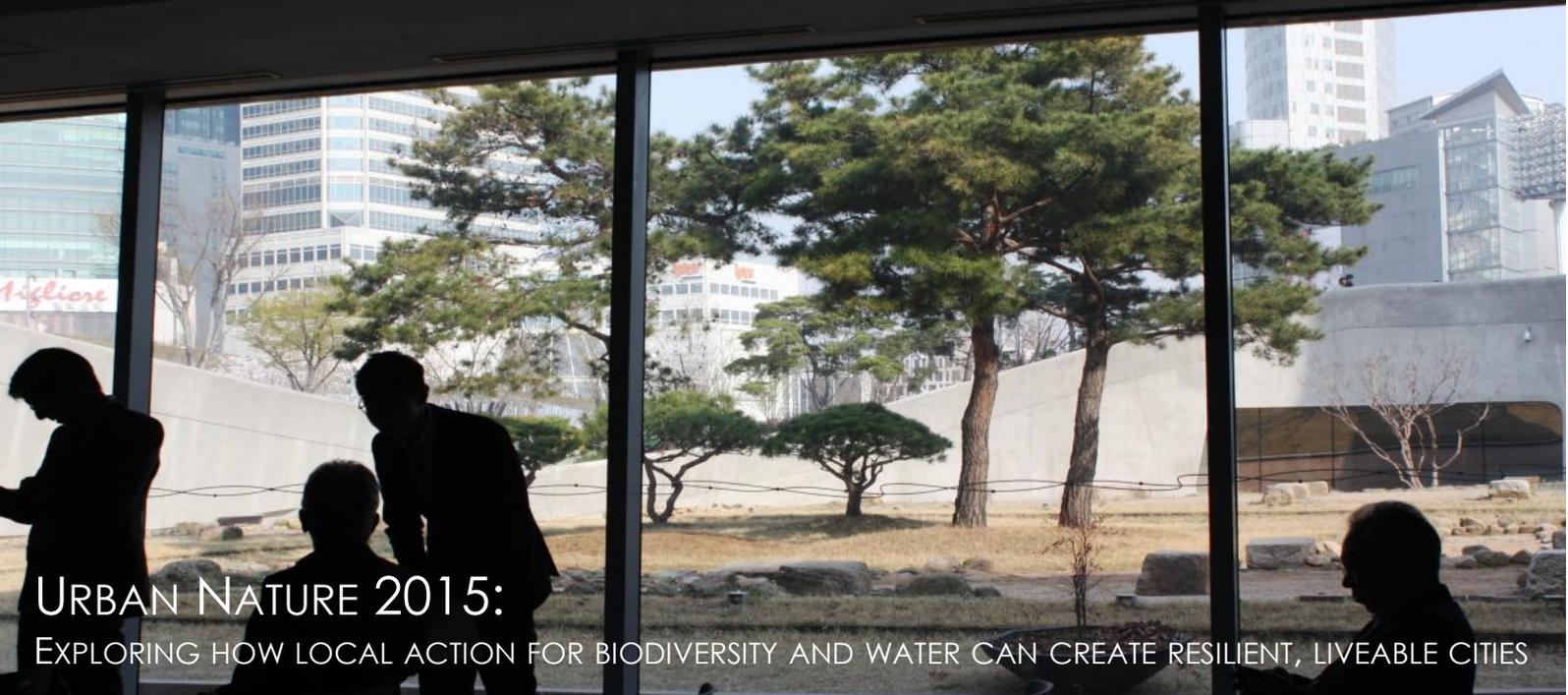


GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT: AFRICAN SOLUTIONS

The ICLEI World Congress programme set the stage for cities to showcase, connect, and learn about local solutions to global challenges. Local governments and partners from the region participated in discussions covering a broad range of urban sustainability issues.



Biodiversity and the changing climate Dorah Nteo Tshwane	Low emission development strategies: Pathways to a low emission, green and inclusive urban economy Steven Bland, ICLE Africa	Urban NEXUS approaches for resource efficient and integrated cities Mayor Martin Moyo, Bulawayo	Mobilizing citizen engagement for sustainable cities Dorah Nteo, Tshwane	Effective vertical integration between different levels of government on climate action Thapelo Letete, Dept. of Environmental Affairs SA
Revitalizing communities through civil society participation Patricia Sithebe, Ekurhuleni	Earth Hour City Challenge: Cooking up a storm of sustainability Mayor Kgositso Ramokgopa, Tshwane	Urban Agriculture: Cities feeding people Mayor Langsi, Bafut	Sub-plenary: Green City Champions: Rewarding Ambition Cllr. Johan van der Merwe, Cape Town	Sub-plenary: Cooperation between local & regional governments Xolile George, SALGA
Mayoral Forum and High level Dialogue Towards and Beyond COP21 Mayor Mpho Parks Tau, Johannesburg	Plenary: Financing our Urban Future Mayor Kgositso Ramokgopa, Tshwane	Regulating services: Blue-green infrastructure for city resilience Patricia Sithebe, Ekurhuleni	Leadership for Green Growth: The New Climate Economy and cities' commitment through the Compact of Mayors Debra Roberts, eThekweni	
CityScene projects: mise-en-scène of future urban life Mayor Mpho Parks Tau, Johannesburg	Provisioning services: Water for life Telly Chauke SALGA	Sub-plenary: Driving sustainable public procurement on the global stage Cllr. Johan van der Merwe, Cape Town	Sub-plenary: The future of water in cities - Priorities and strategies for local water security Mayor Martin Moyo, Bulawayo	Cultural services: Water — weaving a cultural thread through cities Stephen Granger, Cape Town
Urban Productivity: Finding common ground with the property and infrastructure industries to advance sustainability Yondela Silimela, Johannesburg	Biodiversity and water within a landscape Stephen Granger, Cape Town	Planning for biodiversity and water within a landscape Joram Mkosana, Nelson Mandela Bay	Sub-plenary: Leadership - biodiversity and water in cities Mayor James Nxumalo, eThekweni Cllr. Johan van der Merwe, Cape Town Mayor Martin Moyo, Bulawayo	



Urban Nature 2015 Local Action for Biodiversity and Water



Two days of stimulating discussions at the Urban Nature event at the ICLEI World Congress 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea provided a wealth of inspirational case studies on the role of biodiversity and water in creating sustainable, resilient and liveable cities. Taking place on 11 – 12 April 2015, the forum featured over 20 local governments and included key note speeches from IUCN President Professor Zhang Xinsheng and WWF President Yolanda Kakabadse.

Drawing from a rich pool of expertise and experiences, eight thematic sessions made for robust discussions around the ecosystem services of biodiversity and water in an urban context.

The first day set the scene by linking biodiversity and water and unpacking the regulating, provisioning, and cultural services that can be derived from these. Discussions on the second day centred on maximizing these benefits by integrating biodiversity into planning through a landscape approach, and exploring how mapping, economic valuation, policy instruments, trans-boundary governance and community engagement can be useful tools in this regard. A special session on leadership featured a Mayors' Roundtable provided inspiring leadership to drive action forward.

Cities demonstrate their desire to enhance urban biodiversity

The Urban Nature Congress concluded with Korean and South African cities committing to the Durban Commitment: Local Governments for Biodiversity. The cities of Ansan, Gimpo, Suwon, Inje and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality add to a growing number of local governments which recognize the need to protect and enhance biodiversity at the local level. In so doing, these cities expressed their commitment to mainstream biodiversity through various instruments and approaches, promote awareness, and share experiences with local and international partners in attaining cities that bring nature and humans together.



"The last two days have seen some powerful and fruitful discussions, which emphasize the need to shift language and thinking in a way that connects us with city leaders and reflect what we're trying to achieve. Through this we are able to go from strength to strength in stepping up to the challenge of building cities that embrace nature and are highly liveable." - Mayor Troy Pickard of Joondalup, Australia and ICLEI Global Executive Committee Portfolio holder for Biodiversity at the Urban Nature closing event

Consolidating partners in action

During the World Congress, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability strengthened partnerships with two long-standing collaborators, with Memorandums of Understanding renewed with IUCN and initiated with the Urban Biodiversity Design Network (URBO). ICLEI looks forward to working closely with these partners moving forward.



SNAPSHOTS OF THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2015



L-R: Mayor Mpho Parks Tau (Johannesburg), Mayor Martin Moyo (Bulawayo), Mayor Benson Fihla (NMBM), Mayor Kgosientso Ramokgopa (Tshwane), Mayor James Nxumalo (eThekweni), Mayor Njabulo Mthembu (KwaDukuza), Mayor Sibusiso Mathonsi (Mbombela), Mayor Mike Masina (Steve Tshwete Municipality)



Cllr. Patricia Ndlovu (NMBM) at the Opening Ceremony



African Mayors and delegates at the Sub-plenary: Cooperation between local & regional governments



Mayor Ramokgopa receiving the Earth Hour City Challenge award for South Africa alongside fellow global finalists



Mayor Nxumalo with New Durban Adaptation Charter Signatories in Africa: Antoine Faye (Chief Resilience Officer, Dakar) & Mayor Mthembu



Mayor Nxumalo, Cllr. van der Merwe (Cape Town) and Mayor Moyo at the Urban Nature Leadership Sub-plenary



Patricia Sithebe (Ekirhuleni) speaking at the Urban Nature Forum on Managing Urban Wetlands



Mayor Langsi with Mayor Paul Ntemgwa (Ajou City)



Mayor Nxumalo and Mayor Moyo of Bulawayo connecting with colleagues from the local governments of Nicosia (Cyprus), Bonn (Germany) and Catbalogan (Philippines)



Mayor Moyo speaking to Jeb Brugman, author of the Urban NEXUS, on their water treatment project that developed Bulawayo's pastures and export industry



Participants of the Mobile Workshop "Seoul Institute: Understanding the Importance of City Think Tanks in Urban Development" with Seoul Institute's Director, Inhee Kim



ICLEI World Congress 2015: Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa

Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa, unveils some details about the II Ecomobility Festival that the city will be hosting in October. As he explains, Johannesburg has listened to the experience and learnings of their predecessor, and they expect this event will have the ability to mobilize society to adopt solutions to improve transport challenges. The Mayor remarks the keen interest that business stakeholders are showing for the Festival. Watch [here](#).



ICLEI World Congress 2015: Antoine Faye, Principal Advisor of Urban Resilience, Dakar

Antoine Faye, Principal Advisor of Urban Resilience, Dakar, Senegal, explains what it means for Dakar to be part of the 100 Resilient Cities program, pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation. Faye highlights the big opportunity that represents to be in a network that will be sharing solutions for common problems. In his words, "this project is important because it is going to permit us to look at the soft stress the city is facing". Watch [here](#).



ICLEI World Congress 2015: Joran Mkosana, Nelson Mandela, South Africa

Joran Mkosana, Director of Environmental Services at the Municipality of Nelson Mandela, South Africa, details the four-leg project jointly developed with their sister city Gothenburg, Sweden. The program works on climate change, mobility, energy and city planning. As Mkosana says, "it is a very integrated project". Another important project he talks about is the greenhouse inventory, that he confirms they are going to use it as an important part of their "commitment to the Compact of Mayors platform". Watch [here](#).



City of Tshwane unveils public transport app

The City of Tshwane launched a new public transport app that integrates different modes of public transport. The application gathers transport data and traffic flows which can assist in developing additional public transport routes and city planning. Watch [here](#).



EVENTS



Basel COP 12, Rotterdam COP 7 and Stockholm COP 7

3 - 14 May 2015
Geneva, Switzerland



African Utility Week and Clean Power Africa

12 - 14 May 2015
Cape Town, South Africa



AfricaSan 3

25 - 27 May
Dakar, Senegal



40th Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies

3-14 June 2015
Bonn, Germany



International Public Relations Association (IPRA) World Congress

27 - 29 September 2015
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg



Water TEC Africa – International Water Technology Exhibition

20 - 22 May 2015
Gauteng, South Africa





I.C.L.E.I

Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Africa Secretariat



twitter.com/ICLEIAfrica



www.facebook.com/africaiclei

www.iclei.org/africa