

# Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2017: Water & Climate Congress

## HIGHLIGHTS REPORT



## WATER & CLIMATE 2017

22-24 March 2017

Co-hosted by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Ekurhuleni, South Africa, in partnership with a wide range of cities, national, regional and international organisations.



Supported by:



#LoCS4Africa #Water4Cities

## The LoCS4Africa journey

The biennial Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress, also referred to as **LoCS4Africa**, provides a unique and accessible platform for African local leaders and their associations, as well as national governments, scientists, technical experts, development partners, business, industry and civil society to engage in strategic discussions around Africa's re-imagining sustainable urban transitions. This is particularly relevant in the context of the many challenges facing the continent, including rapid urbanisation and an uncertain future due to climate change.

LoCS4Africa also presents a space for local and subnational governments to engage with researchers, academia and financiers around possible solutions for supporting sustainable, resilient and inclusive development in Africa.

Each congress has a tailored theme that is strategically cross-cutting, with strong emphasis on local leadership and the importance of a systemic and integrated approach in decision-making at local and subnational government levels.

The debut congress, **LoCS4Africa 2011**, was convened in **Cape Town**, South Africa, and co-hosted by ICLEI Africa and the City of Cape Town. The event attracted participants from around the globe, drawing an audience from over 25 West, East, Central and Southern African countries.

**LoCS4Africa 2013** was held in **Dar es Salaam**, Tanzania, and had a special focus on the food-water-energy nexus as pivotal pillars in addressing the climate change challenge in Africa. It was attended by over 450 participants from more than 25 countries.

**LoCS4Africa 2015**, held in **Durban**, South Africa was attended by over 200 participants from more than 20 countries. The event was focused on identifying pathways to implement the Durban Adaptation Charter within the African context.

**LoCS4Africa 2017** took place in **Ekurhuleni**, South Africa. It provided the first platform for African local, subnational and national government representatives to deliberate and discuss water and climate change issues and challenges with researchers, financiers and civil society. This congress welcomed over 400 delegates from 40 different countries around the globe.



(From left) Mr. Hastings Chikoko, Ms. Faith Chikeya, Dr. Meggan Spires, Cllr. Ndosi Shongwe, Mayor Martin Moyo, Rev. Mmachakga Mpho Moruakgomo, Minister Edna Molewa, Mayor Abel Langsi Ngwasoh, Cllr. Tiisetso Nketle, Ms. Kobie Brand, Dr. Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga and Dr. Uta Wehn

# Collaborative action as a catalyst for addressing water and climate challenges in Africa

The pan-African Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2017 Congress, co-hosted by ICLEI Africa and the City of Ekurhuleni, provided, for the first time in Africa, a platform for African cities and their partners to deliberate and explore collective solutions for addressing the critical water and climate related challenges that threaten to derail sustainable development in Africa.

Throughout the congress, there was recognition that the challenges faced in Africa are complex, that they are global in nature, and require locally relevant, real time and context-specific solutions. These solutions should be based on knowledge produced by diverse stakeholders who act in a transdisciplinary manner. Addressing these challenges also requires innovative partnerships, networks and alliances, as well as openness to other perspectives. The need for collaboration beyond geographical and regional boundaries was recognised.

The congress also acknowledged the landmark global agreements and frameworks that have been promulgated in recent years, flagging the need to link these global decisions to city actions. Key ingredients for successfully fostering sustainable development on the continent were identified to include driven city champions, empowered politicians, and clear principles of engagement where values and power relations are acknowledged.



*"There are no perfect solutions, and we need to recognise that the realities we face are messy, and thus we need to be open to learning by doing in driving sustainability in our cities and towns. A business as usual approach will no longer suffice."*

**Dr. Meggan Spires**, Senior Manager: Climate Change, Resilience and Energy, ICLEI Africa, speaking in the closing plenary session

*"Cities are central to society and water is central to cities."*

**Prof. Bruce Hewitson**, Professor and Head: Climate Systems Analysis Group, University of Cape Town



## Strategic outcomes and key initiatives:

- Adoption of the Ekurhuleni Declaration on Water and Sanitation for Cities
- SURE Water for Africa: Developing Local Climate Solutions final project conference
- The Africa-EU Innovation Alliance for Water and Climate Initiative; AfriAlliance Launch Conference
- Launch of the climate change awareness-raising video by the host city, City of Ekurhuleni
- Launch of the African Water Adaptation through Knowledge Empowerment (AWAKE) project
- Launch of the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB): Wetlands South Africa awareness-raising video
- Profiling of the Framework for a Green Infrastructure Planning Approach in the Gauteng City-Region (GCRO)

# 400



## REGISTERED DELEGATES



**40** MAYORS & GOV. HEADS



**150** CITY REPS



DELEGATIONS FROM OVER **53** CITIES



**40** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



**I.C.L.E.I.**  
Local Governments for Sustainability





# LoCS4Africa 2017 theme: Water for Cities

## Congress subthemes



### Localising Integrated Urban Water Management

Provision of water and sanitation services at the local level is pivotal to Africa's urban future. Existing water management systems cannot keep up with the demands that are expected to quadruple over the next 25 years. Concerted efforts are needed for decision-makers to find innovative design solutions.



### Sustainable Sanitation Solutions for Africa's Future

Cities need to take the lead in reimagining the sanitation sector and transforming service provision in line with water security challenges and the projected impacts of climate change.



### Driving Local Climate Action

African cities need to understand and plan for the impacts of climate change, which affect urban populations in significant ways. Addressing the causes and impacts of climate change is essential in combating poverty and promoting water security in Africa.



### Urban Planning for Water Smart Cities

The rate of urbanisation on the African continent has led to a critical need to alter existing and unsustainable development trajectories in urban areas. It is essential that sustainable utilisation of water resources and sanitation systems is mainstreamed into urban planning and development processes at the local level.



### Accessing Water & Climate Financing for Cities

Africa's percentage of GDP invested in infrastructure is half that of other urbanising regions of the world. Building resilience and water security at local government and city level will require greater commitment to critical infrastructure investment, as well as investment in social services such as policing, urban planning and education.



### Resource Efficient & Resilient Cities

Cities are vast consumers of resources. This, however, presents an opportunity to re-engineer the way we view resources and utilise them to ensure sustained social and economic development.

### Water for Healthy Cities

The health and well-being of our urban communities is critical for social and economic development. What is needed is proactive, inclusive and integrated planning for the health sector in the context of the water, sanitation and climate nexus.

The impacts of climate change, such as flooding and drought events, often place increasing pressure on community health systems. This manifests through increased cases of illness because of water borne diseases, malnutrition and other adverse health impacts.

# Walking the talk and greening the LoCS4Africa 2017 Congress

**Guided by the ethos of promoting sustainable development in a practical manner, ICLEI Africa tried as best to host an event with minimal negative impacts on the environment. Practices promoted in preparation for and during LoCS4Africa 2017 included:**

- Hosting the pan-African congress at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo International Conference Centre, which has an ambitious aim to be the Greenest Hotel and Conference Centre in Southern Africa. The facility holds gold status in the Heritage Environmental Rating Programme, which is audited annually. The Hotel and Conference Centre scored 80% in the 2016 audit.
- Implementing energy efficiency through promoting the use of energy efficient technologies (lights and AV) and responsible use of energy.
- Pro-actively monitoring and reducing the amount of waste generated prior to and during the event.
- Encouraging efficient management of transport and the avoidance of non-essential flights so that air pollution (greenhouse gases) per capita was reduced.
- Ensuring that the event greening efforts were communicated and marketed prior to and during the congress to stakeholders.
- Ensuring that water was used in a responsible manner (for example, the congress opted for tap water served in jugs and providing delegates with aluminium water bottles to be refilled rather than purchasing bottled water).



*"Event greening should not be an option. It is about taking responsibility for our actions and ensuring environmentally and socially responsible decisions are made when organising and implementing an event."*

**Ms. Grace Stead**, Special Projects & Partnerships, ICLEI Africa

# Local governments in Africa accelerating action towards an integrated, sustainable, climate smart urban future

The opening plenary at LoCS4Africa 2017 set the scene for delegates to engage in meaningful dialogue and grapple with the difficult questions that the continent faces in ensuring water for cities.

Building on the energy derived from the diversity of delegates, distinguished speakers from across Africa highlighted the following key points as critical to realising the objectives of the congress:

- Promoting collaboration within and among African cities and local governments;
- Policy implementation to provide clean water for cities as a basic human right;
- Enhancing the capacity of cities as agents of change in managing the impacts of climate uncertainty; and
- Learning from emerging trends to foster and support local innovation to provide water for cities in a sustainable manner.

**Mayor Abel Langsi Ngwasoh** of Bafut, Cameroon, Chair of the ICLEI Africa Committee (pictured below), captured the ethos of the congress by acknowledging that *“solutions for common African problems are born, tested and implemented in our cities through brave leaders who know that water is the lifeline of our existence.”*



# AfriAlliance Launch Conference



The AfriAlliance Launch Conference served as the inaugural launch of the AfriAlliance innovation alliance on the African continent and was hosted by the LoCS4Africa Congress, 22-24 March 2017 in Ekurhuleni, South-Africa. A diverse audience participated in a total of 11 interactive sessions, covering different topics concerning water and climate. A digest of the sessions is presented on the page opposite.



## About AfriAlliance

AfriAlliance is a five year project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. AfriAlliance facilitates the collaboration of African and European stakeholders in the areas of water and climate innovation, research, policy and capacity development by supporting knowledge sharing and technology transfer. Rather than creating new networks, the 16 European and African partners in this project consolidate existing ones. The ultimate objective is to increase African preparedness for future climate change challenges. AfriAlliance is led by the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Project Director: Dr. Uta Wehn) and runs from 2016 to 2021.

## AfriAlliance activities

The Africa-EU cooperation is taken to a practical level by identifying (non-) technological innovation and solutions for local needs and challenges. AfriAlliance also identifies

constraints and develops strategic advice for improving collaboration within Africa and between Africa and the EU. To help improve water and climate monitoring and forecasting in Africa, AfriAlliance takes a triple sensor approach, whereby water and climate data from three independent sources are geospatially collocated: space-based (satellites), in-situ hydro-meteorological station observation networks and local ground information. Knowledge sharing is facilitated through a series of events and through an innovative online platform. Demand-driven AfriAlliance 'Action Groups' bring together African and European peers with relevant knowledge and expertise to work jointly towards solutions.



The AfriAlliance project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 689162.

## AfriAlliance plenary opening

Almost 200 people attended the opening session of the AfriAlliance Conference on 22 March 2017 (World Water Day) that featured three inspiring keynote speakers: Ms. Carmen Mena Abela, Head of the Horizon 2020 Eco-Innovation sector in the European Commission (EC), Ms. Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director of Pegasys Institute and Dr. Mandla Msibi, Group Executive Innovation & Impact at WRC. At the end of the keynotes, all AfriAlliance project partners took to the stage to introduce themselves and revealed what AfriAlliance means to them in one word.

## Showcasing initiatives in Africa

In a highly interactive session showcasing different initiatives in Africa, touching upon the themes of water and climate, eight presenters were asked to “pitch” their initiative in just one minute to attract the attention of the audience and to invite them to participate in more detailed presentations and discussions. The audience had the opportunity to join three rounds of presentations in this carousel style session. The following initiatives were showcased: Technology Approval Group (TAG), WACDEP, SafeWater Africa, WADER, VicInAqua, WATERSPOUTT, MAD4WATER and Waterfund.

## Shaping the future of AfriAlliance

The AfriAlliance conference was a unique opportunity for the AfriAlliance team to hear how the project can shape its future activities: supporting African stakeholders even better in their efforts to deal with climate change challenges. AfriAlliance has another 4 years to go, the conference merely being the start. In a dedicated session, the audience provided input using their mobile phones to answer multiple choice questions via the app Kahoot! The results were displayed live on screen. For example, the audience stressed the importance of offline interactions at meetings and events for engaging and motivating African and EU stakeholders. A panel consisting of representatives of WRC, ICLEI Africa, Akvo, CSIR and Waternet reflected and commented on the results.

## AfriAlliance Action Groups

Two of the five AfriAlliance Action Groups, “IWRM and Ethics” and “Efficient and Innovative Small Scale Irrigation”, participated in the AfriAlliance conference and highlighted their activities and progress in a dedicated session. The Action Groups bring together African and European peers and take a bottom-up approach for generating knowledge and insights. In a follow-up session, the bottom up process for identifying themes for the next Call for AfriAlliance Action Groups was kick-started. In small groups, the audience had the opportunity to discuss four broad themes and to define their respective priority topics. The second Call for Action Groups will be issued in spring 2018.



# Ekurhuleni Declaration on Water and Sanitation for Cities

The High Level Mayoral session was the pinnacle of the congress where mayors from over 40 cities in Africa, with support from high level city officials, deliberated on the strategic direction for water and sanitation in Africa. Leading city networks in Africa, C40 and UCLG Africa, partnered with ICLEI Africa in co-facilitating the session.

Following intense engagement on the current state of water and sanitation on the continent, and the aspiration to draw closer to sustainable and integrated resilient urban water management in Africa, the session culminated with the political leadership in attendance unanimously elevating the output of their deliberations from a statement to the Ekurhuleni Declaration on Water and Sanitation for Cities.

Informed by global and regional compacts *inter alia* the Common Africa Position (CAP) on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Africa Water Vision 2025, the Declaration sets out collective principles and aspirations to accelerate improved urban water and sanitation services in African cities. It further calls for urgent collaborative action from the different tiers of government, the private sector, civil society and researchers in implementing innovative and effective integrated strategies to ensure water security on the rapidly urbanising continent of Africa.

**ICLEI Africa and the City of Ekurhuleni, with support from the South Africa Ministry of Environmental Affairs, together with strategic partners, committed to present the Declaration to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Africa Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), and the Secretary General of the United Nations.**

Local governments together with the Local Government Associations and local government networks in Africa are invited to pledge their commitment to the Declaration which can be accessed online [here](#).

Please contact **ICLEI Africa** for more information on the process to endorse this strategic Declaration.



**Below are the ten principles from the Declaration, framing what the mayors called for urgent and collective action on:**

- 1** the delivery of safe and adequate water supply and sanitation locally, for our growing urban communities, especially addressing the needs of vulnerable communities, women, the elderly and youth, within the context of rapid and unprecedented global change, including climate change;
- 2** addressing rapid urbanisation and the resultant backlogs in the provision of urban water and sanitation infrastructure in our cities, overcoming operation and maintenance challenges;
- 3** leapfrogging traditional approaches to our urban infrastructure and planning to enable the transition towards innovative, decentralised and nature-based solutions which would contribute to sustaining the ecosystems underpinning the services upon which we all depend;
- 4** developing, enhancing and implementing effective integrated local strategies and action plans to urgently address growing water scarcity which adversely affects equitable access to food and energy security, economic development and the health and well-being of our urban communities;
- 5** improving access to local water and sanitation information, knowledge management, tools and mechanisms, such as incentivised rain water harvesting systems and other mechanisms, in order to build local resilience, addressing climate change and enhancing disaster response mechanisms, in particular for those most vulnerable to associated risks such as flooding and drought;
- 6** addressing capacity and skills shortages; fostering partnerships focused on the mainstreamed implementation of local solutions;
- 7** enabling horizontal alignment and vertical integration to ensure systemic and sustainable water management and sanitation action;
- 8** improving access to water and sanitation financing for cities;
- 9** building strong leadership, enhancing public awareness and community participation to collectively and inclusively design our common urban future; and
- 10** fostering transparent and accountable local governance as a major lever for Africa's local governments and the communities they serve to contribute effectively towards the attainment of the SDGs.



## LoCS4Africa 2017 voices



*"There has never been a more relevant and opportune moment for a Pan-African initiative such as this one to move from dialogue to action, all the while supporting innovation, providing real-time solutions and unpacking emerging trends."*

**Dr. Edna Molewa**, Minister of Environmental Affairs, South Africa, speaking in the closing plenary, congratulating ICLEI Africa on providing the LoCS4Africa platform as an engagement opportunity for cities and their stakeholders across Africa



*"Climate change and human activity are threatening our sustainability. While these continental and global challenges may seem rather insurmountable, I am confident that with such platforms that create the opportunity for social discourse and global partnerships as demonstrated here today, we will in collaboration with our partners develop a framework for addressing these challenges."*

**Executive Mayor Mzwandile Masina**, City of Ekurhuleni



*"There is money to combat climate change but we need to show where the investments need to be made."*

**Ms. Maryke van Staden**, Manager of ICLEI's Low Carbon City Agenda and Director of the carbonn Center, ICLEI World Secretariat



*"We need to change the narrative around African cities and towns needing to be helped out; they should be seen as leaders in disaster risk reduction, biodiversity and resilience."*

**Dr. Meggan Spires**, Senior Manager: Climate Change, Resilience and Energy, ICLEI Africa



*"Water is a key driver of economic and social development, while it also has a basic function in maintaining the integrity of the natural environment. However, water is only one of a number of vital natural resources, and it is imperative that water issues are not considered in isolation."*

**Dr. Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga**, Head of UN Environment, South Africa

*"We are encouraged by the unity in action that mayors intend demonstrating through the Ekurhuleni Declaration at this conference. As leaders of local government you understand that issues of climate change and sustainability are not abstractions but matters that impact profoundly on the lives of citizens... We thank the leadership of ICLEI Africa for inviting us to share ideas and to reaffirm our commitment to unity in action with local governments for sustainability."*

**Mr. Andries Nel**, MP, Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Responsible for Provincial and Local Government), South Africa congratulating ICLEI Africa on providing the LoCS4Africa platform as an engagement opportunity for cities and their stakeholders across Africa



*"We must continue to raise awareness among decision makers and community leaders in Africa on the importance of good disaster risk reduction governance. This is key for sustainable development."*

**Hon. Abdou Sané**, President, African Association for the Promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, Ziguinchor Region, Senegal



*"We in Africa know that our cities and urban population are already directly affected by climate change. We therefore need to work on disaster response strategies, and we also need to urgently work on integrated solutions."*

**Ms. Kobie Brand**, Regional Director for ICLEI Africa



*"The principle of subsidiarity is the best vehicle for implementation... Here in Africa, we as Mayors are very clear that rapid urbanisation places a lot of onus and a sense of urgency on the type of bold leadership we need to provide in order to steer cities on the path of sustainable development."*

**Rev. Mmachakga Mpho Moruakgomo**, President of the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), on behalf of UCLGA



*"Africa is a continent of two extremes. On the one hand, we have a continent that has defined its destiny and is on the move towards realising that ideal. Africa has made commitments to eradicate poverty in the region as well as achieve economic development. On the other hand, we have a continent that all scientific studies have shown will be worst affected by the impacts of climate change. Reconciling the two extremes requires bold and decisive leadership from all levels of government, starting from the local level so that we strike that balance."*

**Mr. Hastings Chikoko**, Regional Director for Africa, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group



# LoCS4Africa 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



## **Launch of the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB): Wetlands South Africa video**

The imaginative LAB Wetlands SA awareness-raising video was launched during the *People and Wetlands* congress sessions, which were developed, coordinated and facilitated by the LAB: Wetlands SA Project team for the benefit of the participating project municipalities.

The aim of these sessions was to share information and discuss, with technical representatives

and political leaders from the eleven project municipalities, the importance and value of wetlands, as well as wetland-related planning and management strategies.

Participants were also exposed to a live demonstration of wetland functioning and various tools that are available to assist planners. A discussion around constructed wetlands and how they can benefit municipal service provision provided further insight into the benefit of wetlands. Best practice examples from Dar es Salaam, Walvis Bay and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipalities, were presented.

Read about the project [here](#).

Watch the video [here](#).



## **Host City session and launch of the City of Ekurhuleni Climate Change awareness-raising video**

LoCS4Africa 2017 provided a unique opportunity for the City of Ekurhuleni to capitalise on the gathered pan-African

intellectual capacity, skills and knowledge. Against the backdrop of the recent drought and water restrictions, and uncertain urban water and climate futures, the host city session sought to re-imagine the key challenge municipalities face in these areas.

Investment in green infrastructure and public-private partnerships were two of the potential solutions identified to be further explored in addressing stormwater infrastructure and budgetary constraints, respectively. The Host City session also saw the launch of the City of Ekurhuleni's Climate Change awareness-raising video. Read more [here](#).

## **Launch of African Water Adaptation through Knowledge Empowerment (AWAKE) project**

The AWAKE project was launched during an interactive congress session entitled *Finding Climate Resilient Solutions for Improved Water Management*. During this session, representatives from southern African cities shared their experiences on how water and climate change related challenges manifest and are being addressed in their respective jurisdictions. A key highlight was the agreement that mutual benefits for service delivery and resilience building have the greatest chance of successful implementation.

The aim of the AWAKE project is to generate and disseminate knowledge on the barriers to and enablers of the uptake of climate change adaptation technology that enhances sustainable management of water resources in sub-Saharan African city regions.

## LoCS4Africa 2017 highlights

### Launch of Gauteng City Region Observatory's Framework for a Green Infrastructure Planning Approach in the Gauteng City-Region

The role that green infrastructure can play in addressing the challenges that accompany rapid urban growth in Africa was a key outcome of this session, facilitated by the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO). It was made increasingly clear that the growing demand for urban infrastructure and services that comes with higher urban populations needs to be balanced by ensuring that urban natural systems continue to function.

Using green infrastructure to provide services to urban communities in Africa is a solution available to decision-makers to meet these demands in much the same way as traditional infrastructure. Such an approach may include planted and naturally occurring trees, wetlands, parks and green open spaces, as well as possible building and street level design interventions that incorporate vegetation.

Adopting a green Infrastructure approach can improve water security and help meet biodiversity conservation targets, as well as benefit communities. In launching their report on the State of Green Infrastructure in Gauteng, the GCRO provided a detailed depiction of the extent, distribution and accessibility of green assets in the province and city region. Read more [here](#).



### Redefining Infrastructure for Africa's Urban Future

This sub-plenary session critically examined the challenges and opportunities for future urban water and sanitation infrastructure development on the continent.

The expert panel participating in the session shared a wealth of knowledge from the sector, noting the challenges of aging infrastructure, urbanisation, operation and maintenance, as well as existing infrastructure backlog. The discussions focused on how Africa can redefine its

urban infrastructure into the future, with a call for closer cooperation between cities and utilities; reorganisation of institutional structure to promote improved coordination; participatory planning with multi-disciplinary stakeholder platforms becoming the norm at city level; improved engagement with the private sector on infrastructure projects; a paradigm shift towards decentralised infrastructure that can be easily applied at scale; and an urgent call to change the way we view water; and a shift towards the promotion of reuse of water.



# LoCS4Africa 2017 highlights

## Water, Cities & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development, with both being critical to the survival of people and the planet. This has warranted a global SDG dedicated to water. Goal 6 not only addresses the issues relating to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, but also the quality, access and sustainability of water resources worldwide. However, effective water and sanitation management depends on the participation of all stakeholders, including cities and local governments as they are the vehicles through which water and sanitation are delivered to residents.

This sub-plenary session acknowledged that the water dimension has not been adequately addressed at international fora, particularly in relation to climate change. Lord Mayor Isaya Mwisya of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania called for more platforms of engagement similar to LoCS4Africa 2017 as they provided a safe space for shaping and improving dialogue, which is important to promote multilevel good governance of water and sanitation from the grassroots level upwards.



## Urban Natural Assets (UNA): Nature-Based Solutions for Rivers

Mayors from around Africa and practitioners from the private, public and NGO sector were given the opportunity to give their input into aspects such as the principles and values that should be taken into account when planning for rivers and innovative solutions for addressing the current issues being faced around rivers and riversides.

A number of key issues emerged during the workshop. These included the critical need for inclusive engagement of all stakeholders, including community members, from the project inception phase so that they understand what the key issues are; during the process of prioritising interventions to ensure community buy-in; and in the management of interventions implemented. For interventions to be successful, political buy-in from the start of a project was viewed as critical. It was also acknowledged that integrated planning was crucial to any intervention being implemented – integrating social, economic and ecological needs, integrating different disciplines into the planning and implementation process, and integrating a range of stakeholders into the process.

As part of the UNA Rivers project, a Sustainable River-Based Urban Planning Guideline is being developed. Once completed, this document will be made available to cities across sub-Saharan Africa.

Read more [here](#).

The UNA Rivers programme is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.



# LoCS4Africa 2017 highlights



## Cities: Leaders in developing climate change solutions

By 2045, the world's urban population is expected to surpass six billion people, with much of this urban growth occurring in African cities. African cities therefore have much to lose and much to gain from understanding and planning for the impacts of climate change, which affect these urban populations in significant ways.

During this sub-plenary session, thought leaders from the research, government and legal communities shared cutting-edge knowledge on the topic of cities and climate change. The session also reflected on what has been achieved successfully, as well as on challenges the continent is facing in working towards a more climate resilient future. Mr. Tlou Ramaru, Chief Director, Climate Change Adaptation in the Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa (pictured left), shared the work they are doing in mainstreaming adaptation objectives across sectors and spheres of government and encouraging vertical integration by establishing the Cities Resilient Forum.

## Combating climate change at the city level

The session kicked off with an overview of the merger between the Compact- and Covenant of Mayors to become the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The programme aims to create the largest coalition of cities and local governments working on combating climate change through adaptation, resilience and mitigation. Mayor Abel Langsi Ngwasoh noted how the programme has assisted his small town of Bafut in Cameroon to become more climate resilient and better prepare for future climate change impacts.

Read more [here](#).



## City Resilience: Implementing the Sendai Framework at the Local Level

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has partnered with local authorities to build and strengthen resilience at local level through disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy and advocacy, in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This session highlighted localisation of the

Sendai Framework with examples of DRR initiatives and ways to address risks in different countries in Africa. While financing gaps and implementation issues still occur, African countries and cities have shown greater coordination and innovation to fight disaster risk.

Read more [here](#).



# SURe Water for Africa: Developing Local Climate Solutions project



The SURe Water for Africa: Developing Local Climate Solutions project, funded by the European Commission, is currently being implemented in six cities in Africa. The project focuses on improving capacity and planning for urban water and sanitation in the context of climate change, in particular the impacts of flooding and drought.

The LoCS4Africa 2017 Congress was the culmination of the project's activities, and several key sessions were held during the course of the congress to highlight the outcomes of the project. In particular, two sessions were held to focus on 1) Local Action Planning in Cities for Climate Resilience and 2) Cities at Risk: The Value of Data.

The aim of these complimentary sessions was to explore what is needed to actively promote and implement integrated planning at the city level, what lessons have been learnt and why access to quality and up-to-date data is critical to effectively inform long term strategic planning for sustainable, climate smart, water resilience in our cities.

The sessions shared lessons from the cities actively engaging in the project; **Walvis Bay, Namibia; Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Francistown, Botswana; Lusaka, Zambia and Blantyre, Malawi** and, through panel discussions with technical staff from the cities and invited experts active in the field, delegates identified barriers and explored opportunities to improve integrated planning at the local level.

**This SURe Water session for mayors provided a platform for the leading African mayors from five of the project cities to share their journeys in the development of Local Action Plans that aim to integrate local planning for urban water and sanitation in the context of climate change, and to highlight the on-going commitment of their cities to sustainable development.**



(From left) Mayor Wilson Kalumba of Lusaka City Council, Mayor Sylvia Muzila of City of Francistown, Mayor Wild Ndipo of Blantyre City Council, Mayor Immanuel Wilfried of Walvis Bay Municipality and Mayor Martin Moyo of City of Bulawayo.

Read more [here](#).

*"The issues raised by the cities and municipalities in this congress have been found to be similar, and we believe that we can come together with solutions to these common issues."*

**Mayor Sylvia Muzila**, Francistown City Council, Botswana



*"Cities are incubators of innovation and they drive service delivery."*

**Mayor Martin Moyo**, Bulawayo City Council, Zimbabwe and Vice Chair of the ICLEI Africa Committee



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**ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability**, or ICLEI for short, is the leading global network of over 1 500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable urban future. ICLEI works with a wide range of cities and other subnational governments in over 85 countries, impacting over 25% of the global urban population.

ICLEI envisions a world of sustainable cities that confront the realities of urbanisation, adapt to economic and demographic trends and prepare for the impacts of climate change and other urban challenges. This is why ICLEI unites local and subnational governments in creating positive change through collective learning, exchange and capacity building.

At ICLEI Africa, we serve our African members from our offices based in Cape Town, where we work with cities and regions across 23 sub-Saharan African countries. We have a specific focus on urban planning, infrastructure, water and sanitation, climate change and energy, and nature-based solutions. Underpinning these themes, our projects are designed to strengthen local leadership and promote good governance, foster innovative partnerships and enable new finance options.

For more information or to join our dynamic network visit our website [here](#).



*"Let us take the declaration from this aerropolis to the world!"*

**Dr. Meggan Spires**, Senior Manager: Climate Change, Resilience and Energy, ICLEI Africa, speaking in the closing plenary session



The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department choir providing entertainment in the closing plenary

## Special acknowledgements

ICLEI Africa extends a special thank you to the City of Ekurhuleni for the successful partnership and co-hosting of the LoCS4Africa 2017 Congress.

ICLEI Africa and LoCS4Africa 2017 Congress organisers would like to give special recognition to the European Commission, the Department of Environmental Affairs - South Africa, USAID, National Lotteries Commission and SWEDBio for the financial contributions made towards organising the congress.

We are proud to continue our partnership with C40 and UCLG Africa to organise and co-host the LoCS4Africa Congress in 2019.

Watch our websites for more information on [LoCS4Africa2019](#) and the [ICLEI World Congress](#).

# Partners in action

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