RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK FOR COASTAL CITIES

1. UNDERSTAND THE BASELINE AND RAISE AWARENESS:
   - Recognise the coast’s value. Identify and understand coastal and marine features and processes.
   - Develop an integrated database. Collate social, economic and ecological resources critical to communities.
   - Education and raise awareness. Target youth and vulnerable communities.

2. ASSESS RISK:
   - Identify and address critical gaps in stakeholder understandings of climate change and associated coastal hazards.
   - Engage with and institutionalise tools, processes and methodologies necessary for incorporating climate change consideration into risk assessments.
   - Assess the risk and vulnerability of the city to coastal hazards and explore alternative scenarios for current and future events.

3. IDENTIFY AND DESIGN SOLUTIONS:
   - Identify solutions for reducing vulnerabilities that are multi-functional: addressing social, economic and ecological needs.
   - Integrate policies, plans and strategies that respond to major impacts. Provide clear direction for protection, management and sustainable development. Identify linkages between national and local plans and policies. This includes assessing overlapping mandates.
   - Design adaptable infrastructure and building standards to meet future risk.
   - Develop flexible adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans. These should strategically align and provide guidance for emergency response as well as options to “build back better” post disasters.
   - Integrate climate change impacts into due diligence for all project proposals and investment cases.
   - Conduct feasibility studies to help develop bankable projects. This improves the chances of accessing climate finance.

4. ACT:
   - Use natural coastal resources sustainably. Help communities on the ground to develop and implement sustainable practices.
   - Manage fisheries and marine sanctuaries in a sustainable way.
   - Conserve and rehabilitate mangrove reserves. They absorb the impacts of storm-surge and reduce vulnerability to flooding.

By 2025, nearly 6 billion people will live within 200km of a coastline. Population growth and climate change related impacts like sea-level rise, storm surges and heavy rainfall events are noticeably increasing coastal risks and degrading coastal ecosystems. People and nature are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

With two decades’ experience implementing urban sustainability projects in African cities – and through the UNA Coasts Project – ICLEI Africa and its coastal cities co-developed a coastal resilience framework. This will enable cities to not only understand vulnerabilities but to develop tangible interventions that build climate resilience.