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<td>Unit 1, 2nd Floor, South</td>
<td>+27 21 202 0381</td>
<td>VAT No. 4400266807</td>
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<td>Tower, Sable Park, 14</td>
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OUR IMPACT

Our action areas

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of 2,500+ cities and regions committed to sustainable urban development.

We work with cities and regions across the various development agendas, aligning with African and global policies, and contextualising our work within the realities of our continent.

We influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI has put ‘urban’ firmly on the sustainability agenda, working with and effectively advocating for local and subnational governments in the global arena for over 30 years.

ICLEI Africa continues to enlarge its footprint in Africa, reaching 450+ cities and regions in 53+ countries across the continent.

LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT to curb climate change, create new economic opportunities and improve the health of people and natural systems.

NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT to protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecosystems in and around our cities, which underpin key aspects of our local economies and upon which we depend for the well-being and resilience of our communities.

RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT to anticipate, prevent, absorb and recover from shocks and stresses, in particular those brought about by rapid environmental, technological, social and demographic change, and to improve essential basic response structures and functions.

CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT and new models of production and consumption to build sustainable societies that use recyclable, sharable and regenerative resources, to end the linear model of “produce, consume, discard” and to meet the material/development needs of a growing global population.

EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT to build more just, liveable and inclusive urban communities and address poverty.
Our history

1995
The ICLEI Africa Secretariat began its operations in 1995 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

2001
Moved to Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2001.

2008
Since March 2008, the Head Office of the Africa Secretariat has been located in Cape Town, South Africa.

2010
ICLEI officially launched the ICLEI’s global Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) in 2010, and ICLEI Africa has proudly hosted the global center of excellence since its inception.

2021
On 1 October 2021, ICLEI Africa established a complementary office in Mauritius, namely the ICLEI Africa Foundation, to support and further enable its expanding services and expertise to governments across Africa.
One of ICLEI’s major strengths is that, complementing the significant technical expertise that our team possesses to get deep technical work done in cities across the continent, we engage in sustainability journeys with our cities, over the long-term. ICLEI Africa prides itself in continuing to engage with our cities and towns long after particular funded projects end. Cities and towns are part of our network, benefitting from long-standing relationships we have built with a vast network of partners and cities, and we are dedicated to facilitating the right connections to strengthen action and drive change.

We have been working with African cities and regions, large and small, remote or well-connected, no matter where they are on their sustainability journey, for more than two decades. We offer a variety of urban sustainability solutions through programmes and projects, networks, platforms, tools and services.

Our mandate is significant; we promote the necessity for city engagement in the development of national and international sustainability agendas, and communicate in tangible ways how cities are contributing to the achievement of major international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

We co-produce and implement programmes and projects on the ground, from inception and project conceptualisation to implementation.

Our approach

The immense, interconnected urban sustainability challenges our world, and our continent in particular, currently face need to be tackled in an integrated, inclusive way with tenacity, boldness and proven expertise.

Our ICLEI Africa cities and regions are doing just that.
Priority areas of engagement include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate and development finance</th>
<th>Integrated urban sustainability services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Urban nature, health and well-being</td>
<td>Economic and social development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity mainstreaming, and ecosystem services assessment</td>
<td>Urban food systems and health</td>
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<td>Just transitions, equity and voice</td>
<td>Energy solutions</td>
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<td>Disaster risk reduction and management</td>
<td>Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation</td>
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<td>Systems approaches for decision-making</td>
<td>Urban mobility</td>
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<td>Integrated urban water management and sustainable sanitation solutions</td>
<td>Sustainable infrastructure solutions</td>
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**OUR APPROACH**

- Climate change and resilience
- Resource management and circularity
- Integrated urban water management and sustainable sanitation solutions
- Urban planning and land-use management
- Just transitions, equity and voice
- Disaster risk reduction and management
We engage our cities through various means, including:

**Advocacy and representation**, convening the Local Government sector into regional, continental and global processes through, for example, our biennial Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS4Africa) Congress series, and within regional and international platforms such as the UNFCCC COP, CBD COP and similar processes. ICLEI is also the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) focal point for the UNFCCC. ICLEI CBC, which is embedded in ICLEI Africa, is the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, focal point for the CBD and related processes, and serves as co-chair (with Austria), of the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation scheme’s Independent Advisory Committee (IAC).

**Leadership development and networking** through global forums such as the annual Daring Cities and ICLEI World Congresses.

**Peer-to-peer learning and exchange opportunities** within Africa, the Global South and internationally through a wide range of projects and engagement platforms.

**Local implementation projects**, driving global change through local action and mobilising resources and projects for local governments in Africa.

**Technical tools**, innovation and sharing of good practice through various ICLEI case studies, reports, infographics, videos and publications, some of which are globally applicable, such as the Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

**Engaging in African-led collaborative research** that results in positive impacts for urban Africans. ICLEI Africa is uniquely positioned to engage in and promote robust research activities to respond to the needs of cities and regions in Africa, addressing the diversity of topics relevant to sustainable development and subnational leadership in this space. Alongside our network of cities and regions, we work with universities, research institutions and think tanks that engage on specific topics related to urban sustainability.

**Virtual platforms**, providing pioneering engagements and learning through multiple webinar series, online trainings and events, including Africa’s first virtual event for local authorities, the LoCS4Africa Virtual Congress 2020. ICLEI Africa also launched an online learning platform, LearnWithICLEIAfrica, in partnership with its South African-based for-profit partner company, Changing Cities Pty (Ltd), in 2021.
OUR CHANGEMAKERS

Our Members

Our ICLEI Africa cities and regions are:

BRAVE

tackling difficult, complex, interconnected sustainability issues head on and applying creative problem solving and cutting edge innovative solutions, appropriate for our African context.

AGILE

embracing reflection and learning, and harnessing African excellence, in order to quickly adapt and evolve in response to changing circumstances and better serve their communities.

COMMITTED

working tirelessly with their citizens and our vast, robust network of cities and partners, to accelerate and strengthen sustainability action, and drive change.

KIND

a strength in our current reality, understanding and empowering their citizens, and sharing knowledge and best practices with each other to build resilience and create a better future for everyone.
OUR CHANGEMAKERS

Our political leadership

During 2012, ICLEI Africa established its first Regional Executive Committee – the ICLEI Africa Committee – as part of the global ICLEI governance reform process.

Committee members are elected by ICLEI Members in the region and hold office for three years, while holding seats as elected local or subnational government leaders in Africa.

All RexComs come together to form the ICLEI Council, the overarching decision-making and guiding body. The Council shapes and approves the ICLEI strategy, has the sole power to amend our statues and elects the Global Executive Committee (GexCoM) portfolio seats.
Our multidisciplinary team

At ICLEI Africa, our staff are at the heart of what we do, and each staff member brings a unique set of skills and expertise. Our growing team of more than 60 passionate, multi-talented professionals serve and support our cities and regions across the continent.

**Climate change, energy and resilience**

ICLEI Africa’s Climate Change, Energy and Resilience workstream aims to tackle the climate change crisis in a holistic and systemic fashion, using solutions that prioritise the most vulnerable, harness coproduction and multi-level governance, and deploy innovative mechanisms that allow finance to flow to where it is needed most.

Africa is one of the continents least responsible for causing climate change, while bearing a significant burden related to climate change impacts. Climate change is a cross-cutting issue that cannot be solved without diverse skills and disciplines, and in light of this, the Climate Change, Energy and Resilience workstream includes engineers, environmental scientists, economists and social scientists, who together are driven to enable tangible change that ensures that African cities are at the forefront of the just energy transition, building resilient communities that are able to thrive in the ever-changing world we call home.

**Urban systems**

ICLEI Africa’s Urban Systems Centre focuses primarily on the systems that manage and influence the consumption of resources in African cities. By focusing on systems, cities can identify strategic areas of intervention that facilitate more sustainable urban living and unlock broader ecological and social benefits.

This workstream covers areas such as resource-efficient service provision, resource flows (water, food, energy, waste) and circular development, mobility, envisioning sustainable future cities, sustainable procurement, access to finance for cities, capacity building and multi-level governance. Due to the broad portfolio of this workstream, the Urban Systems Centre is comprised of a diverse, dynamic team of professionals ranging from planners, engineers, social scientists, food systems and transport experts to water sanitation professionals, circularity specialists, and human rights and legal experts.
Biodiversity, Nature and Health

Africa has a very rich biodiversity, comprising approximately a quarter of global biodiversity, and including eight of the world’s 36 biodiversity hotspots. While there are many examples of biodiversity conservation success and innovation in Africa, its biodiversity is threatened by a diverse range of complex issues, which create immense challenges in reconciling human wellbeing with environmental and economic prosperity.

This workstream helps cities and urban communities work with nature to design their cities to improve urban health, resilience and wellbeing. We do this by assisting local governments to implement green-blue infrastructure solutions, interpret global biodiversity and sustainability targets, adopt Nature-based Solutions, and find innovative ways of mainstreaming biodiversity into the planning and decision-making process. We support local leaders to apply sustainable governance practices and advocate for multilevel governance in the negotiation and implementation of the United Nations Conventions.

Communications and knowledge management

Creating a sustainable urban future is in large part a communications challenge.

ICLEI Africa’s multiskilled communications team has extensive experience in the field of communications, as well as urban sustainability and environmental issues, working at local and subnational government levels. It works closely with the technical workstreams to design effective communications strategies and deliver impactful communications campaigns, resources and events. The team also supports our Members in Africa by profiling their sustainable urban development work.

Knowledge and information management facilitates better decision-making capabilities, builds learning organisations, and stimulates exchange and innovation. ICLEI Africa supports a knowledge culture and has a strong knowledge management ethos.
ICLEI Africa’s Sustainable Finance Centre

Finance is urgently needed to ensure Africa’s cities are resilient to global sustainability challenges and to develop them into green economic hubs of the future. Between $7 to $15 billion per year is needed for the continent to mitigate the impacts of climate change, however only 3% of current climate finance is estimated to flow to Africa. Given Africa’s high urbanisation rate, it is crucial that finance is unlocked for the building of low carbon and climate resilient infrastructure, and the protection of Africa’s rich biodiversity.

In response, ICLEI Africa’s Sustainable Finance Centre (SFC), with like-minded partners across the world, is charting a new era of increased funding for subnational projects, ensuring we move from policy to practice. By playing the crucial and often under-resourced knowledge broker role needed to bridge divides between crucial stakeholders, the SFC is ensuring that all actors involved in the project development value chain work in an integrated manner - increasing the success of local projects reaching implementation. The SFC works across ICLEI Africa’s workstreams, performing the following activities:

- **Project development support throughout the entire development lifecycle**, in partnership with Development Finance Institutions and Project Preparation Facilities.
- **Piloting of business models** to support SMMEs in the development and deployment of context relevant sustainable technologies and solutions.
- **Co-developing of new, and tailoring of existing financial instruments** for local-level projects, in partnership with Multilateral Development Banks and Development Finance Institutions.
- **Capacity building and tool development** on a variety of topics and sectors relevant to unlocking finance for local sustainability action.
As host of the Covenant of Mayors Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) Secretariat, ICLEI Africa has worked with signatory cities to co-develop five project concept notes and two pre-feasibility assessments. Support was then provided to these cities in applying to Project Preparation Facilities to further project development. The Secretariat also offers a suite of climate finance training tools. CoM SSA is co-funded by the European Union (EU), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). CoM SSA is co-implemented by Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Agence Française d'Expertise Technique Internationale (Expertise France) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Key projects supported by the SFC to date

Developed four renewable energy projects for intermediary cities in South Africa, with three of these projects (the first three municipal projects to do so) having entered the Development Bank of Southern Africa’s (DBSA’s) Project Preparation Facility through the Alternative Finance for Municipal Embedded Generation Project (AFMEG). Once implemented, these projects will unlock R2 billion in climate finance and save over 36 million tons of CO2eq. Furthermore, these projects created a pathway for municipalities in South Africa to unlock climate finance from DBSA’s Embedded Generation Investment Programme. This project was supported by the UK Government through UKPACT.

Co-developed a financial mechanism, called the NAMA e-mobility programme, with the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), Development Bank of Rwanda and Carbon Trust, to bolster the City of Kigali’s electric mobility sector. Once implemented, the project would mitigate 5 million tonnes of CO2eq by 2040, unlock EUR 229 million of finance and provide over 180 000 drivers with clean mobility alternatives. This project was supported by GIZ through the NAMA facility.

The Brokering Innovation for Decentralised climate finance & Gender Equality (BRIDGE) project is improving the access by subnational actors to appropriate finance for locally-led and gender-responsive climate change adaptation action in Cameroon, with learnings scaled to the central Africa region and beyond. The project is addressing knowledge-to-action gaps that are hindering locally-led adaptation projects from being financed, working closely with FEICOM (Fonds Special d’Equipement et d’Intervention Intercommunale), the University of Yaoundé 1, and Cameroonian municipalities and knowledge broker community-based organisations. This falls under the CLARE program and is co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

As host of the Covenant of Mayors Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) Secretariat, ICLEI Africa has worked with signatory cities to co-develop five project concept notes and two pre-feasibility assessments. Support was then provided to these cities in applying to Project Preparation Facilities to further project development. The Secretariat also offers a suite of climate finance training tools. CoM SSA is co-funded by the European Union (EU), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). CoM SSA is co-implemented by Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Agence Française d’Expertise Technique Internationale (Expertise France) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

With support from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the SFC is supporting Steve Tshwete Local Municipality to develop just transition projects, to aid the municipality’s transition away from coal. This project is not only providing support in co-developing a just transition roadmap and pipeline of projects for Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, with three projects taken to pre-feasibility stage, but is also defining what just transition projects mean within the context of South African intermediate cities.
OUR REACH

Our global Cities Biodiversity Center

ICLEI’s global Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) is hosted by ICLEI Africa in Cape Town, South Africa. The CBC has ICLEI’s global mandate to promote nature-positive development, ecosystem restoration and other biodiversity-related matters.

It offers cities a broad portfolio of services, including programmes and projects in which to participate, capacity building, technical assistance, advocacy support, networking, profiling of achievements and conference organisation.

Together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), ICLEI CBC works with Parties to the CBD and their subnational governments to promote and enable local and subnational actions to be taken up into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), in line with consecutive Conference of the Party (COP) Decisions on the need for local action for biodiversity.

ICLEI CBC supports and promotes the flagship global biodiversity partnership initiatives, CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature. These partnership initiatives between ICLEI, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, UNEP, WWF, Cities4Forests, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, World Urban Parks, Regions4 and many more, offers cities and regions free access to an online platform where they can connect, learn, share, act and inspire each other to take local and landscape-based action for nature, and mainstream biodiversity into our cities and surrounding regions.
CitiesWithNature is a global partnership initiative of leading organisations, including ICLEI, IUCN, TNC, WWF and UNEP, that offers cities free access to an online platform where they can connect, share, learn, act and inspire each other to take local and landscape-based action for nature in their cities.

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is recognised by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity as the mechanism for local governments to report on their commitments and actions towards implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

RegionsWithNature is a unique online platform that boosts action for biodiversity by subnational governments. The platform enables states, provinces, departments and prefectures to connect with other regions and partners from around the world; access tools and resources on nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation; and share their regions’ commitments to achieving global nature goals.
OUR IMPACT

Our resources

250+ Publications • Reports • Brochures • Fact sheets • Posters • Infographics • Case studies • Webinars • Videos •

Explore our interactive educational posters

The value of wetlands for cities
Creating sustainable African cities
The value of wetlands for cities
The value of nature for cities
The value of cities for nature
The LearnWithICLEIAfrica platform provides a place where urban leaders and officials, researchers, development organisations and anyone with an interest in sustainable development in Africa can explore a variety of learning materials to better understand and plan our continent’s cities.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

**Leading the way towards a sustainable African future**

Joining is free and ensures lifetime access to all tools, free online courses and learning experiences.

Choose your learning path. Dive into online events and webinars, or take it at your own pace with our dedicated online courses.

LearnWithICLEIAfrica is a partnership initiative with Changing Cities Pty (Ltd) and also enables engagement with, and services to, the private sector.

Interested in urban sustainability?  
Want to make a difference in African cities?  
Eager to explore innovative solutions?

**JOIN NOW**
OUR IMPACT

Our projects and initiatives

We manage over 50 projects and programmes

We support or host 8 major networks and initiatives

We offer close to 40 technical and capacity building services

The following pages offer a snapshot of some of the diverse projects and initiatives undertaken by ICLEI Africa.

VIEW ALL PROJECTS
UNA Resilience aims to transform development trajectories for African cities towards those that improve sustainable development of, and interconnectedness with, their surrounding natural systems along three interlinked urban pillars (governance, planning and finance), through building urban resilience, sufficient agency and momentum for an unfolding process of transformative change. The project empowers communities and local officials to become active stewards of their environment, guided by strong human rights principles, and using creative and participatory methods.

Funded by:

- Sida
- SwedBio
- Stockholm Resilience Centre
- Stockholm University
Funded by:

UK aid
Transforming Energy Access

Project partner:

Energy4Impact
Powered by Mercy Corps

OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Enabling Africa Cities for Transformative Energy Access (ENACT)

More than 990 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to clean cooking, which leads to over half a million premature deaths in the region per year. More than half of Africa’s urban population live in informal settlements. Clean cooking in Africa is therefore of paramount importance, and doing so with a focus on informal settlements is non-negotiable.

The ENACT project is doing just this, by unlocking public/private partnerships to increase access to clean cooking in urban informal settlements for up to 3 000 households and businesses in Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Kampala (Uganda), with scaling of lessons learnt across ICLEI Africa’s network of African cities.

The ENACT project is part of the Transforming Energy Access (TEA) programme, funded with UK Aid from the UK government. It is managed by The Carbon Trust and delivered by ICLEI Africa, with support from Mercy Corps-Energy 4 Impact.
Our Projects and Initiatives

Alternative Financing for Municipal Embedded Generation (AFMEG)

Many officials in intermediary cities lack the critical skills and resources required to successfully plan and develop clean energy projects. This includes the ability to partner with the private sector and access climate finance. ICLEI Africa, in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and support from UK PACT, implemented the Alternative Financing for Municipal Embedded Generation (AFMEG) Project. This initiative assisted in developing renewable clean energy projects and business models, and provided support in accessing DBSA’s Project Preparation Facility. Capacity building was also provided on important themes, and with the help of key institutions, such as the South African Local Government Association and Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. The resources were used to create an online toolkit, providing a pathway for municipalities to access climate finance and drive the energy transition in their cities and towns. By providing the vital link between key stakeholders in the project financing value chain such as banks, cities, policy makers and the private sector, ICLEI Africa is enabling urban green infrastructure developments from the ground up.

Funded by:

Project partners:

Supported cities:
By improving business innovation, infrastructure investment, and shaping cultural preference, AfriFOODlinks aims to contribute to the realisation of fair, equitable, healthy and environmentally friendly urban food systems from primary production to consumption. AfriFOODlinks envisions a thriving network of cities in Africa and beyond, in which food systems and nutrition are firmly established on the local governance agenda. Citizen-led multi-stakeholder governance platforms welcome diverse voices to inform policy and urban planning processes that promote food and nutrition security and environmentally regenerative practices.

AfriFOODlinks is an EU funded project. Coordinated by ICLEI Africa, the project gathers 26 partners across the globe to improve food security and urban sustainability in 65+ cities in Africa and Europe by:

- Facilitating multi-stakeholder governance engagements
- Setting up 15 demonstration or pilot projects
- Coordinating 15+ city exchange visits
- Training 250+ entrepreneurs
- Elevating the voices of 25 youth ambassadors, and working alongside 30+ locally embedded researchers
- Championing AU-EU collaboration in global advocacy

By improving business innovation, infrastructure investment, and shaping cultural preference, AfriFOODlinks aims to contribute to the realisation of fair, equitable, healthy and environmentally friendly urban food systems from primary production to consumption. AfriFOODlinks envisions a thriving network of cities in Africa and beyond, in which food systems and nutrition are firmly established on the local governance agenda. Citizen-led multi-stakeholder governance platforms welcome diverse voices to inform policy and urban planning processes that promote food and nutrition security and environmentally regenerative practices.
Designing Inclusive African Coastal City Resilience (INACCT Resilience)

INACCT Resilience is an action-oriented research project focused on two coastal cities: eThekwini Municipality (Durban) in South Africa, and Beira in Mozambique. Both of these coastal cities have recently experienced extreme climate-related flooding that caused severe urban and environmental damage, displacement and loss of life.

INACCT is strengthening proactive, inclusive and evidence-informed urban resilience planning, particularly for informal settlements and vulnerable communities in coastal cities in Africa, by:

- Co-creating risk and resilience profiles that can be used by duty-bearers and rights-holders for risk and resilience planning, project development and needs articulation.
- Improving local understanding of the continuity, effectiveness and sustainability of hazard event community and municipal responses and measures, and strengthening capacities and measures across scales to ensure early-warning systems and flood prevention programmes reach vulnerable communities.
- Distribution and socialisation amongst other African coastal cities of a Gender-responsive Coastal Cities Resilience Planning Framework, highlighting the lessons from Beira and eThekwini, and including good practices from benchmark cities.

This research into development project uses a transdisciplinary approach, emphasising co-learning and co-design of inclusive solutions, and integrating multiple types of knowledge and evidence from a range of stakeholder perspectives.

INACCT Resilience is funded through the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) initiative. CLARE is a £110m, UK-Canada framework research programme on Climate Adaptation and Resilience, aiming to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards. CLARE is an initiative jointly designed, funded and run by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and Canada’s International Development Research Centre. CLARE is primarily funded by UK aid from the UK government, along with the International Development Research Centre, Canada.
OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

BRokering Innovation for Decentralised climate finance and Gender Equality (BRIDGE)

The BRIDGE project is tackling a crucial issue, which to date has received a lack of focus, resources and investigation: Unlocking finance to increase local-level adaptation in ways that are inclusive and gender-responsive. BRIDGE focuses on the context of Cameroon, a country facing significant impacts of climate change, which overlay existing developmental challenges. It does so with explicit recognition of the vital role that knowledge broker organisations play in bridging divides that hinder the radical collaboration necessary for scaled climate action.

BRIDGE is addressing knowledge-to-action gaps by:

- Strengthening the capacity of knowledge brokers working in Cameroon to enable inclusive planning, project development and financing for locally-led and gender-responsive adaptation action.
- Identifying and enhancing the best-suited mechanisms to unlock finance for locally-led and gender responsive adaptation in Cameroon.
- Scaling learnings to knowledge brokers operating in central Africa to improve access and deployment of finance for locally-led and gender-responsive adaptation projects.

This project is part of the Step Change initiative, co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the International Development Research Centre. Step Change is a five-year, CAD 28.5 million initiative that aims to accelerate equitable and inclusive locally led adaptation.

The project partners include the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) and the University of Yaoundé 1.

Funded by:
OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Disaster Risk
Reduction: A resilience agenda for urban Africa (DRR4Africa)

World Risk Poll 2021 results confirm that Africa is the continent with the lowest resilience index scores in the world. To save lives, DRR4Africa project seeks to improve resilience and safety from climate-induced disasters across selected African cities, as the epicentres of localised climate impacts.

Utilising World Risk Poll and additional data emerging from project learning labs, DRR4Africa is supporting three African cities in undertaking disaster risk reduction baseline risk assessments, utilising the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities. Scorecard outcomes are being used to identify priority areas of intervention for each city and bespoke solution packages co-developed and deployed in these cities, to increase their resilience to current and future climate change induced disaster events.

DRR4Africa is one of eight projects funded by Lloyd’s Register Foundation under the programme: Turning the World Risk Poll (WRP) into Action.

Funded by:

Project partner:
The INTERACT-Bio project supports urban communities in the Global South to improve the utilisation and management of urban nature within rapidly expanding cities and the regions surrounding them.

The project focuses on enhancing national and subnational dialogue, cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthening the capacity of city regions to integrate nature into land use, infrastructure and development planning. It also helps bridge the public-private sector funding gap, trialling a finance mechanism in South Africa to support the localisation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) while enhancing resource mobilisation. The work in Tanzania has included natural asset mapping, providing an evidence base for informing policy and action for investing in urban nature and nature-based solutions.

Furthermore, the project contributes to global awareness by creating global partnerships through CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature, advocating for the voice of subnational governments, and creating peer learning platforms across the Global South and beyond, contributing to the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
Google Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) project

Google’s Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) tool leverages Google’s data and technology capabilities to provide valuable climate-related insights for over 6 400 locations in Africa, encompassing data related to transport, greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, rooftop solar potential and tree canopy coverage.

ICLEI Africa has partnered with the EIE team to increase African cities’ access to EIE data and improve the use of this data for evidence-based climate change planning and actions. In 2022 ICLEI Africa worked with two African cities in the use of the EIE tool, and in 2023 a further four cities are being engaged, with more to come in 2024. Cities engaged to date, are using Google EIE data to support climate change mitigation and transport sector planning and monitoring and evaluation.
**The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Just Transition project**

Approximately 14 000 coal miners, and countless workers along the coal value chain and informal sector, are at risk of losing their jobs as South Africa and the world moves away from fossil-fuel based energy systems. South Africa’s Steve Tshwete Local Municipality lies in the country’s coal heartland, where an average of 2 200 premature deaths are reported per year from air pollution. This leading municipality is thus planning proactively for its transition to a healthier, more just and inclusive city, which benefits from a diversified and climate resilient economy.

**The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Just Transition project is:**

- Developing a Just Transition Roadmap for the municipality, including a chapter on the just transition within the municipality’s core planning document, its Integrated Development Plan.
- Developing a pipeline of catalytic just transition projects that will enable Steve Tshwete’s just transition.
- Developing three just transition project concept notes that are ready for Development Finance Institutes and/or Project Preparation Facilities to take forward.
- Developing a suite of tools and mechanisms that the municipality can use going forward to continuously improve governance for its just transition, as well as project development and finance for the just transition.
- Hosting an Investment Summit where all levels of government, Development Finance Institutes and civil society will discuss tangible best practices that enable the just transition, as well as specific just transition projects that are ready for further investment.

**Funded by:**

![AFD Logo](https://example.com/afd-logo)

**Project partners:**

- Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
- Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
  - Mpumalanga Province
  - Republic of South Africa
ICLEI Africa is working with the South African Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) to establish improved stakeholder engagement in the country’s transition to a just and equitable low-emissions and climate-resilient economy.

To do this, ICLEI Africa is conducting in-depth stakeholder and community engagements that will inform the development of a stakeholder engagement strategy and stakeholder map to enhance the PCC’s just transition stakeholder engagement work.

This is a European Union Climate Dialogues (EUCDs) project:

**Funded by the European Union**

Project partner:
City of Johannesburg Water Security Strategy

ICLEI Africa supported the City of Johannesburg to develop a Water Security Strategy. The Strategy offers the Municipality and its stakeholders an actionable roadmap, as a guiding document, to improve their water security and enable their transition to a resilient, liveable and sustainable, water sensitive city. This strategy is the long-term vision that will enable transformative action. This project involved understanding the current status and projected trends through a desktop review of existing policies and programmes, followed by a stakeholder benchmarking exercise. Building on these findings, ICLEI Africa facilitated a co-development process that designed overarching goals with associated actions that are relevant and tangible. The goals and actions advocate for safe and reliable access to water supply and sanitation services, healthy and resilient urban water environments, enabling and supportive good water governance and an engaged water conscious society. Throughout this process, the Municipality and its stakeholders offered invaluable contributions during the engagements that make the strategy achievable.

City of Johannesburg Biodiversity projects

ICLEI Africa supported the City of Johannesburg to develop several biodiversity-related outputs to protect nature and ecosystems in the City. These included the Upper Jukskei Catchment Management Plan, which integrates storm water considerations, land use and aquatic health in an urban context; an ecosystem services assessment of prioritised ecosystems in the City, which included an economic valuation of these ecosystems; and an Alien Invasive Species Monitoring, Control and Eradication Plan in line with requirements of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. We adopted a co-design and co-production approach in developing all three of these outputs to ensure a clearer understanding of the City’s challenges, involve all affected actors and stakeholders in the identification of solutions, and to ensure the necessary buy-in for the respective plans and reports within the City.
SESA is a collaborative project between the European Union and nine African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania), which is developing business models that enable the deployment of energy access technologies that are easily replicable and generate local opportunities for economic development and social cohesion in Africa.

Through local living labs, SESA is facilitating the co-development of scalable and replicable energy access innovations, which are being tested, validated, and replicated throughout the African continent. These solutions include decentralised renewable energy, innovative energy storage systems including the use of second-life electric vehicle batteries, smart micro-grids, waste-to-energy systems, and the latest climate-proofing, resilience and adaptation interventions.

SESA is the result of strong partnerships between leading European and African universities, research centres, industry actors, local governments, knowledge and implementation organisations and networks. In addition to overseeing and coordinating all capacity building activities within the SESA project, ICLEI Africa contributes to the development of policy recommendation and project concept notes aimed at scaling up smart energy solutions in Africa.
The ACE Africa project – Accelerating Circular Economy innovation for food, climate and health in Africa – aimed to support the growth of circular economy businesses in Africa. Circular economy is a growing area of interest for achieving sustainability across multiple sectors, and it is clear that, in Africa, the private sector is leading the transition to a circular economy. With a focus on the intersecting areas of food, health and climate change, this project guided entrepreneurs, and new start-ups through an incubation programme and provided a platform for exposure to, and interaction with, mature circular economy businesses, funders and government officers. The desired outcomes were to support a number of businesses to mature, to contribute to improved innovation ecosystems for the circular economy, and to provide guidance to local governments on how to improve or support innovative businesses that enhance circular development.
Policy development across the tiers of government in Kenya, to harness multi-level governance processes for renewable energy deployment.

The 100% RE project is a global project that is proving how subnational leadership is driving the move to 100% renewable energy in diverse contexts. ICLEI Africa is implementing the project in Kenya, with a focus on the counties of Kisumu, Nakuru and Mombasa.

Key outputs of the project are:

- A roadmap for Kisumu County, guiding the county's journey to 100% renewable energy.
- A pipeline of context-relevant projects that are being packaged to attract finance that ensures their implementation, with a tangible contribution to increasing the amount of renewable energy produced in Kenya.
- Tailored training sessions to empower county officials with the skills needed to develop compelling project concept notes and proposals.
- Policy development across the tiers of government in Kenya, to harness multi-level governance processes for renewable energy deployment.

This project is led by:

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

Funded by:

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE
OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa Secretariat (CoM SSA)

Since 2015, the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) has been a major catalyst for local climate action in the region, with political commitment from over 360 local governments. CoM SSA supports sub-Saharan subnational governments in moving from climate planning to implementation, with a focus on unlocking climate finance at the local level. CoM SSA is the regional chapter of the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), which supports over 12,000 cities, regions and towns on their climate change journeys. GCoM is a partnership between city networks, development agencies and funding institutions, supporting cities in meeting the dual challenge of climate change and access to sustainable energy to achieve a low-emission, climate resilient and sustainable energy future.

ICLEI Africa hosts the CoM SSA Secretariat and Technical Helpdesk (THD). As CoM SSA Secretariat, ICLEI Africa’s role is to work with CoM SSA cities and partners to:

- Advocate for the vital role that subnational governments and cities play in the achievement of climate change objectives, at every level.
- Provide much needed technical services to signatory cities, assisting them in achieving their energy transition and climate change goals.
- Build the capacities of government officials to enable a just energy transition that simultaneously enhances climate resilience.
- Provide coordination support to ensure that those working to achieve these goals in sub-Saharan African cities work collaboratively, for the benefit of more cities, in more tangible ways.

As technical helpdesk of CoM SSA, ICLEI Africa provides technical support to over 360 local governments across the sub-Saharan Africa region in the fields of sustainable energy access and in furthering their climate change objectives. Support covers the entire journey from the development of baseline studies (Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Risk and Vulnerability Assessments and Access to Energy Assessments), target setting and action planning, and project conceptualisation, prioritisation and early stage development (e.g. pre-feasibility studies).
CoM SSA’s ever-increasing number of signatories is a testament to the region’s commitment to addressing climate change and sustainable development.

To date, **94 CoM SSA signatories** have **received invaluable assistance from the CoM SSA Secretariat**, enabling them to navigate the challenges of climate action more effectively.

Impressively, **925 government officials** have **participated** in these training sessions, with **306 of them being female** government officials, underlining CoM SSA’s commitment to promoting gender diversity and inclusivity in the fight against climate change.

The CoM SSA THD places a strong emphasis on capacity building, **having offered a total of 111 training sessions** to its signatories to date. **These engagements** have **proven essential** in equipping local leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to **drive meaningful change**.

CoM SSA is co-funded by the European Union (EU), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

CoM SSA is co-implemented by Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Agence Française d’Expertise Technique Internationale (Expertise France); the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
RISE Africa Action Festival

RISE Africa is ICLEI Africa’s annual event that inspires impactful actions for enhanced sustainability and resilience in Africa’s urban areas. Exposure to forward-thinking ideas from different disciplines through a range of curated interactions provide an antidote to outdated “silo” thinking that is well recognised to inhibit innovation. Instead of being another “talk shop” amongst like-minded individuals, RISE Africa brings a diversity of city role players, including thinkers, doers and enablers, together in innovative sessions to identify new opportunities for collaborative action.

LoCS4Africa

Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS4Africa) is our key climate-focused forum, established in 2008, for leaders to share strategies on local climate action and financing in Africa. The 2020 virtual congress, in partnership with the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) and others, and co-hosted by the Government of Rwanda, the City of Kigali and the Rwandan Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), took place virtually under the theme of “Financing for Change”. The virtual congress responded to the growing acknowledgement worldwide that, to tackle climate change, city-scale finance must be mobilised. Leading the way in taking congresses fully online during the height of the pandemic, the congress supported city officials to keep climate action momentum going during this difficult time by facilitating the conversations that matter.
RISE Africa & ICLEI Africa photography activations through @futureafricancities Instagram
ICLEI Africa is a **value-based organisation** and in everything we do, we **live our corporate values**.

**Sustainability is embedded within all of our values.** We recognise that sustainability, as a holistic concept with social, environmental and economic dimensions, is essential to our success as an organisation. **Doing well and doing good are intertwined and you can’t have one without the other.**

**RESPECT**
**Treat all equally**
We view respect as active and inclusive. We value and respect ourselves, each other, our members, clients, partners, suppliers and the broader community. We respect our planet and the valuable benefits that nature provides.

**AGILITY**
**Be bold**
We celebrate the freedom to pursue innovative ideas, and apply creative problem solving and cutting edge solutions for sustainability. We embrace reflection, and learn from our and others’ experiences in order to quickly adapt and evolve in response to changing circumstances.

**APPRECIATION**
**Celebrate success**
We recognise the quality, value and significance of all of our colleagues, members, clients and stakeholders. We acknowledge achievements, and are kind and appreciative in our interactions with others.

**UNITY**
**Embrace diversity**
We work collaboratively with our colleagues and stakeholders, fostering strong relationships and sharing knowledge.

We embrace unity in diversity, creating a culture of inclusivity, understanding and support.

**INTEGRITY**
**Be authentic**
We conduct ourselves in a professional and ethical manner, fostering trust, fairness and honesty in our interactions.

We are proud of our organisation and always strive to uphold and strengthen its reputation and impact.

**COMMITMENT**
**Thrive**
We recognise the importance of a consistent positive work ethic delivered with commitment, passion and dedication. This is balanced with care for ourselves so that we create a resilient organisation, where we all thrive.