



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life

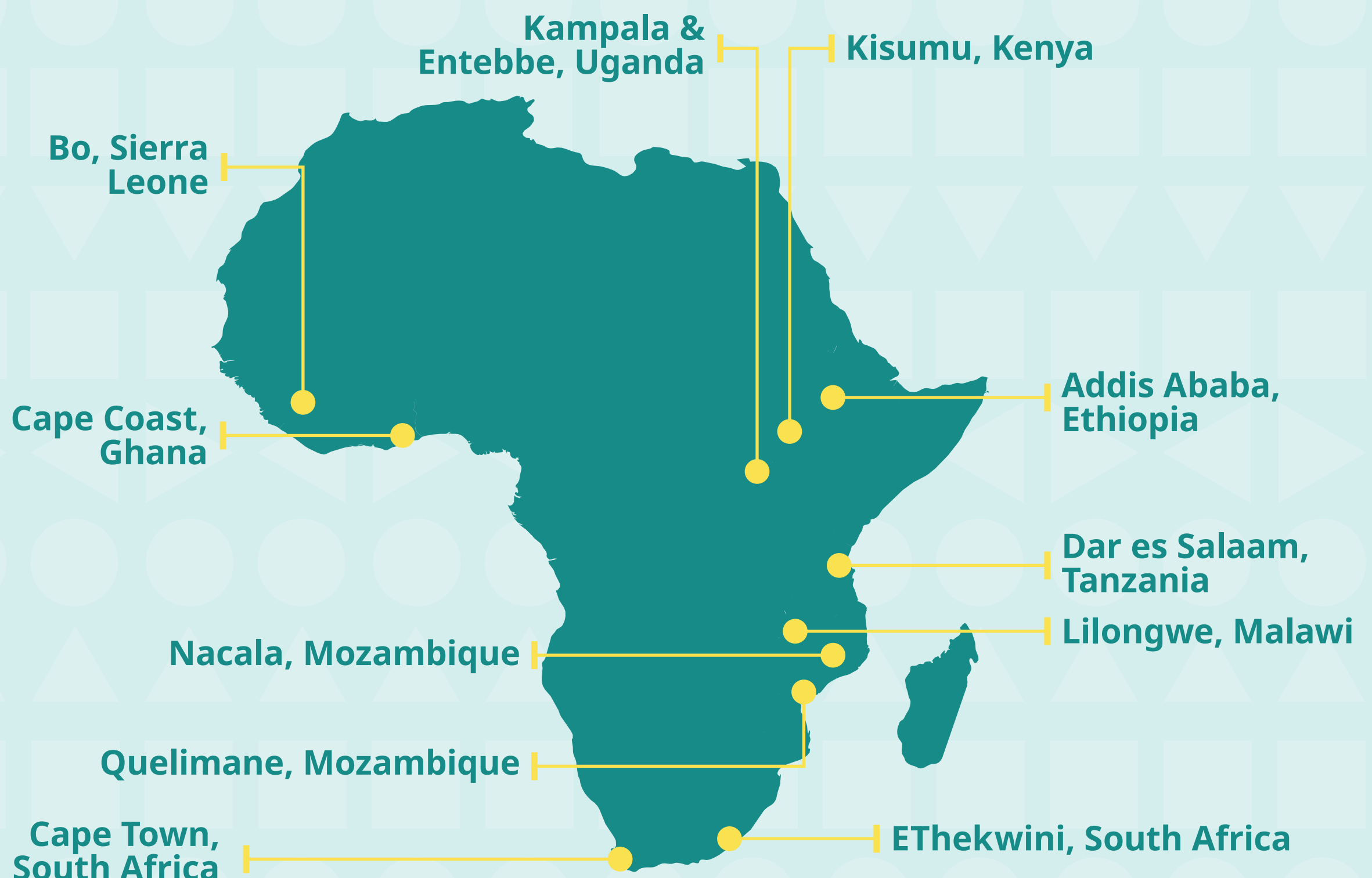
UNA Resilience: Our Impact

About UNA

The Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA) programme is dedicated to supporting local governments across Africa in safeguarding and rejuvenating their urban natural resources. In our latest project, UNA Resilience, we're working to enhance urban sustainable development by integrating nature considerations and nature-based solutions (NbS) into land use planning, local policies, and biodiversity investments. Our current focus is on Cape Coast, Ghana, and Bo, Sierra Leone, with the goal of increasing urban resilience and promoting transformative change.



UNA cities



Overview of UNA Resilience

Key objectives



Create enabling conditions for NbS



Improve mandates for ecosystem management



Strengthen nature-centric decision-making



Build agency and momentum of stakeholders



Progressively realise the rights of individuals and communities



Align socio-economic rights with biodiversity planning and governance



Showcase success of nature-considerate approaches



Integrate a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to promote transformational NbS

Activities and outputs

Urban natural asset maps in [Cape Coast](#) and [Bo City](#) ▶

The value of human rights in cities [poster](#) ▶

Socioeconomic reports

City-snapshot infographics in [Cape Coast](#) and [Bo City](#) ▶

City roadmaps

City-to-city learning exchange events and [exhibition](#) ▶

Biodiversity [handbook](#) and [infographic](#) ▶

Learning lab events

Thinkpiece [series](#) ▶

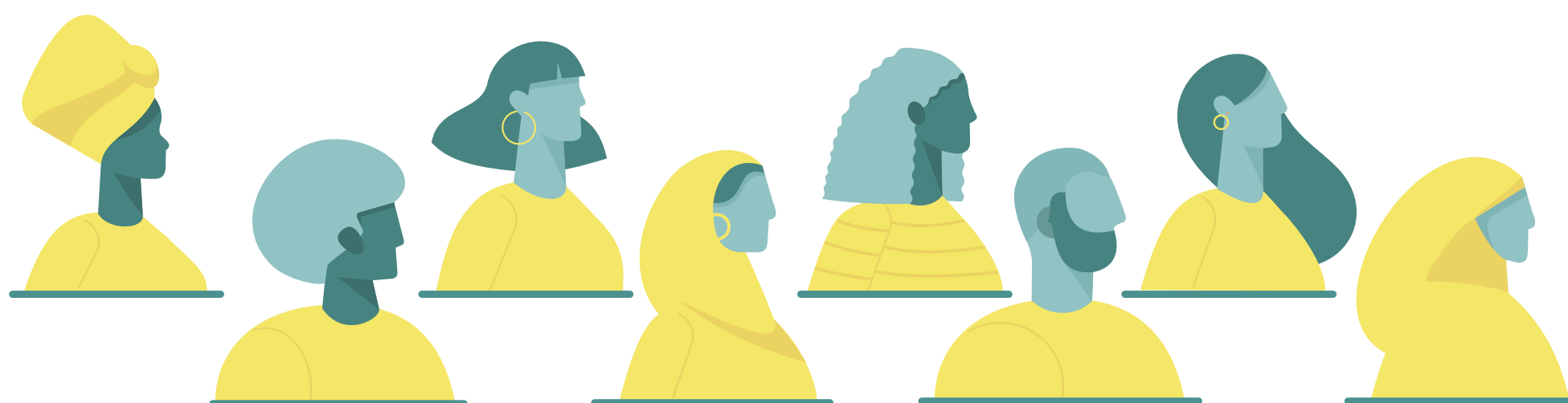


Impact



Integrating a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in advancing urban nature

Using unique entry points, the UNA project, with its [Human Rights-Based Approach](#) (HRBA), has significantly advanced the acceptance and progressive realisation of rights of people and communities in project cities. It particularly emphasises the connection between human rights and nature, notably in urban areas where these rights are often overlooked. It has recentred the role of women and girls and the need to protect their rights in furtherance of the rights of all, and of the environment. UNA Resilience's HRBA has [deepened the understanding](#) of the interdependence between social and ecological aspects, contributing to [progressive rights realisation](#), especially for vulnerable communities, women, and youth. UNA Resilience has played a critical role in making a [HRBA more accessible for transforming Nature-based Solutions \(NbS\)](#). Online and in-person training on HRBA and inclusive approaches for NbS has been a core component of UNA Resilience, to reinforce the link between human rights and nature in urban contexts.



Boosting local governance and policy for biodiversity

The UNA project has supported the realignment of mandates for effective nature and ecosystem management, ensuring resources go where they are most needed. By analysing institutions and fostering cross-sectoral cooperation, it integrates nature into urban governance and recommends a more effective distribution of resources. The project blends socio-economic rights with nature conservation, involving civil society in planning. This fosters a sustainable and equitable human-nature relationship. Central to this was the training provided to local city officials on urban biodiversity management and facilitating the creation of city roadmaps for resilient urban natural resources, supporting sustainable urban development.



Foregrounding nature-based considerations in urban planning

The UNA project has brought nature considerations to the forefront of decision-making and city planning. It achieved this by collecting data on urban natural assets, demographics, and climate change projections, ensuring that through dialogue with city officials, nature remains a top priority in urban governance. The project has built momentum and agency for a continuous transformative process, fostering care for nature through [inclusive approaches that include many stakeholders including youth](#). It empowered local governments and communities to take ownership of the environment, inspiring change for the long-term sustainability of urban nature, through creative interventions such as [photography](#) and [spoken word](#). Additionally, the UNA project conducts online and in-person training on inclusive planning processes for more resilient and inclusive cities. Further, a course on [planning with nature for service delivery](#) was developed to support local governments with alternative approaches to planning.



Contributing to research and awareness on urban nature in Africa

The UNA project has provided valuable information for [transformative Nature-based Solutions \(NbS\)](#) in the global south, particularly through an African lens. It actively advocates for NbS and demonstrates the success of restoration efforts in Africa. UNA Resilience leads the way in mainstreaming biodiversity and climate change into urban planning, finance, and decision-making. Through resources like socioeconomic studies and snapshots for [Bo City](#) and [Cape Coast](#), illustrated maps of [Bo City](#) and [Cape Coast](#), and other engaging materials, the project supports evidence-based decision-making and sustainable urban development.

The project strengthens the role of Africa in making a global case for NbS by showcasing their benefits and success, promoting the integration of biodiversity and climate considerations into key decision-making areas. Furthermore, the UNA project continues to contribute to [academic research](#) that positions UNA's best [practice model](#), worthy of scaling, especially in the global south.





Enhancing biodiversity finance capacity

The UNA project has established essential conditions for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and ecological restoration at the local level. UNA Resilience has laid a strong foundation for empowering cities to protect biodiversity and foster ecological restoration. Through a holistic approach that includes educating city officials and communities, the project has equipped officials and communities with the knowledge and tools to [secure funding for biodiversity projects](#). This approach has resulted in the development of city roadmaps, offering practical plans that harmonise urban development with nature. To maximise opportunities, the UNA project has conducted online and in-person training on accessing biodiversity finance for urban nature, NbS, and restoration initiatives. This training further strengthens the financial opportunities available for initiatives focused on urban nature and ecological restoration.



To find out more about UNA, visit our website.

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