



Local Governments
for Sustainability
AFRICA



ICLEI Africa company profile

Creating sustainable cities & regions, together





Local Governments
for Sustainability

AFRICA

Physical Address

Unit 1, 2nd Floor, South
Tower, Sable Park, 14
Bridge Boulevard, Century
City, 7441

Phone

+27 21 202 0381

E-mail

iclei-africa@iclei.org

**Non Profit Company
(NPC)**

VAT No. 4400266807

Reg. No. 2002/007758/08

PBO No. 930 032 155

Postal Address

PO Box 5319, Tygervalley,
7536
South Africa

Website

www.africa.iclei.org

2025/2026

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.

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.



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.



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.



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



EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT to build more just, liveable, happy and inclusive urban communities, as well as address the systemic causes of poverty and inequality, and safeguard the natural support systems for human life.

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.

OUR IMPACT

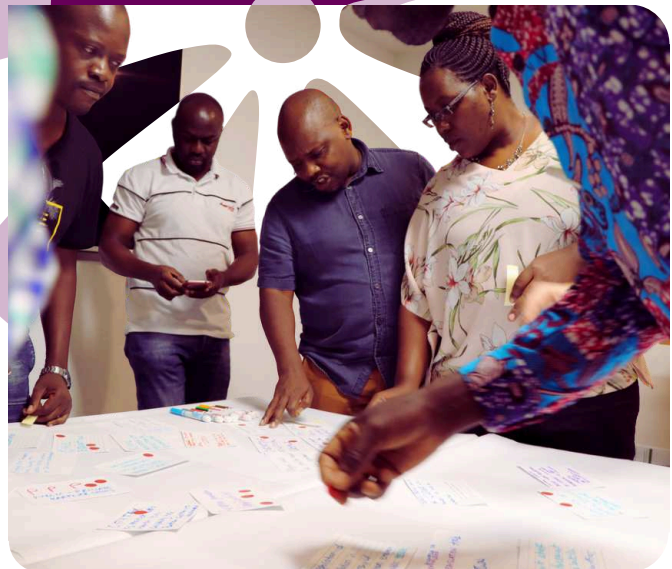
Our approach

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.

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.

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.

OUR APPROACH

Priority areas of engagement include:

Climate and development finance

Climate change and resilience

Integrated urban sustainability services

Economic and social development

Urban nature, health and well-being

Resource management and circularity

Urban food systems and health

Biodiversity mainstreaming, and ecosystem services assessment

Integrated urban water management and sustainable sanitation solutions

Energy solutions

Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation

Just transitions, equity and voice

Urban planning and land-use management

Urban mobility

Disaster risk reduction and management

Systems approaches for decision-making

Sustainable infrastructure solutions

OUR APPROACH

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, 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 statutes and elects the Global Executive Committee (GexCoM) portfolio seats.

OUR CHANGEMAKERS

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 75 passionate, multi-talented professionals serve and support our cities and regions across the continent.



745+

combined years
of experience



25+

languages
spoken



75

multi-skilled
staff

155+
degrees

40+

postgraduate degrees

10+

PhDs

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.

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, IUCN, UNEP, WWF, Regions4, The Nature Conservancy, Cities4Forests, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, World Urban Parks, Blue Flag 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.

OUR REACH

CitiesWithNature & RegionsWithNature

360+ CITIES & REGIONS

from **75+** COUNTRIES

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

300+

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

WAYS OF
THINKING:
ENCOURAGING
A SHIFT IN
MINDSET

Meeting climate
commitments
Transforming cities and nations

my Ideas
CityIs...

ACE Africa
Accelerating Climate Energy Action

ADAPTING TO
CLIMATE-CHANGE
AND ENHANCING
RESILIENCE

URBAN LEDS
USING ENERGY DATA
TO REDUCE EMISSIONS
AND UNLOCK CLIMATE
FINANCE

Explore our interactive educational posters

THE VALUE OF WETLANDS FOR CITIES

The value of human
rights in cities



Creating sustainable
African cities



The value of
wetlands for cities



The value of
nature for cities



The value of
cities for nature



OUR RESOURCES

LearnWithICLEIAfrica

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**?

www.LearnWithICLEIAfrica.org



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.

www.africa.iclei.org/projects

OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Urban Natural Assets for Africa: Resilience & restoration for life (UNA Resilience)



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA **Resilience & restoration *for* life**

The Urban Natural Assets (UNA) project supports local governments in Africa to address their daily challenges around protecting and revitalising their urban natural assets. Urban Natural Assets: Resilience and Restoration for Life (UNA Resilience) is the fourth phase of the decade-long UNA project. It focused on Cape Coast (Ghana) and Bo City (Sierra Leone) for 2021 to 2024, and in 2025 also included the nine UNA cities across the continent that had participated in the UNA programme since its inception.



www.cbc.iclei.org/project/una-resilience/

UNA Resilience is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), through SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. UNA Resilience aims to transform development trajectories for African cities by fostering interconnectedness with their surrounding natural systems through a human-rights based approach lens along three interlinked urban pillars (governance, planning and finance). These focus areas provide a platform for building stakeholder capacity, agency and momentum for an unfolding process of transformative change and ultimately supporting climate resilience. The project employs creative, participatory methods to empower communities and local officials to become active stewards of their environment, guided by strong human rights principles.

Funded by:



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Accelerating the deployment of e-motos in Rwanda

The E-Moto Project is setting a new benchmark for low-carbon urban transport in Africa by replacing petrol-powered motorcycle taxis with electric alternatives (e-motos) across Rwanda. With motorcycles making up half of Rwanda's vehicle fleet, this shift is transforming a major emissions source into a clean, inclusive and investable sector.

ICLEI Africa plays a key intermediary role, working closely with the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance (GlobalDF) to support the Rwanda Green Fund (RGF) and the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) to unlock finance, strengthen institutions and scale action. Through instituting innovative instruments that include a Credit Enhancement Facility, Rebate Scheme, dedicated Technical Hub and Partnership Group, the project is enabling the development of bankable e-moto solutions, unlocking over 120 million euros in sustainable investment. These interventions are supporting access to affordable clean transport for over 50,000 drivers, 5% of them being women, with an additional 2,000 women benefitting from jobs in the sector.



Leveraging a Mitigation Action Facility grant of 16.8 million euros, the E-Moto Project supports the Rwandan government's national development goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through electric mobility, as reflected in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). As an impact broker, ICLEI Africa is building local capacity, supporting coordination across institutions, and facilitating partnerships and funding mechanisms that enable scale. With the support of its Sustainable Finance Centre, ICLEI Africa is helping strengthen local capacity and skills, and establish financial models and bankable projects that drive systemic change and ensure the sustainability of the energy transition beyond project life.

This project is funded by the The Mitigation Action Facility, which is a joint initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), UK's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities (KEFM), the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the European Union and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).

Funded by:



Implemented by:



Project partners:



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

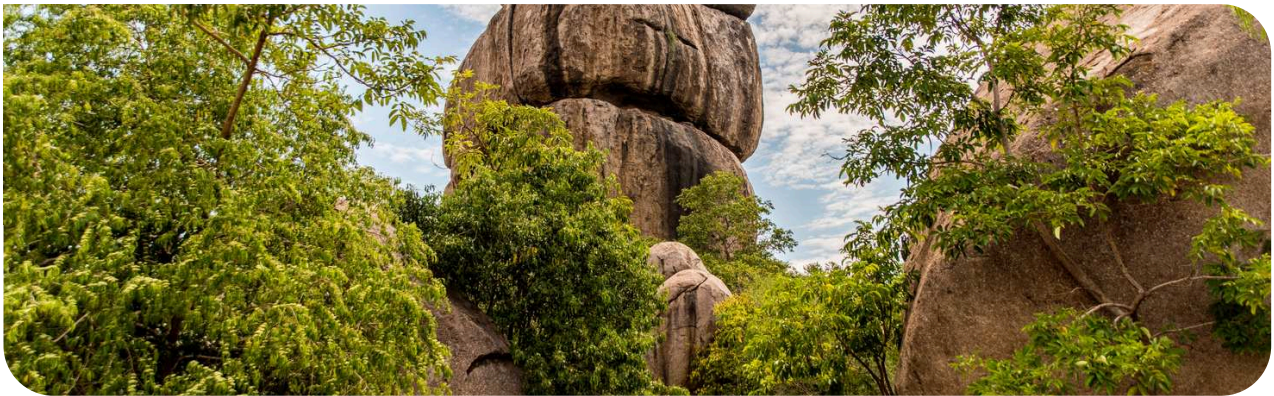
Generation Restoration

ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Center (CBC) supports the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cities Unit in the implementation of the Generation Restoration Cities project under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The project, which will run for three years, from 2023 until 2025, aims to implement a package of measures to address selected political, technical and financial challenges to promote ecosystem restoration at scale, particularly in urban areas.

This project focuses on two main components:

Encourage and advocate public and private investment in ecosystem restoration and decent work creation through Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Empower city stakeholders (governments, private sector, CBOs/NGOs at all levels) across the globe to replicate and upscale ecosystem restoration initiatives.



The project is implemented globally in 14 pilot cities that received catalytic funding to implement ecosystem restoration projects; and 11 role model cities that serve as champions of restoration to strengthen advocacy and share knowledge. This project is financed by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by UNEP with the support of and in coordination with the UN Decade Secretariat and ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Center.

Funded by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Project partners:



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

AfriFOODlinks



AfriFOODlinks

AfriFOODlinks is taking a distinctly bold, African approach to transforming urban food systems on the continent - and beyond.

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 socio-technical experiments or interventions to improve the city food environment**
- **Coordinating 15+ city exchange visits**
- **Training 250+ entrepreneurs**
- **Elevating the voices of 20± 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.



**Funded by
the European Union**

Project partners:



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Designing Inclusive African Coastal City Resilience (INACCT Resilience)

INACCT Resilience is an action-oriented, transdisciplinary research-to-development project that is advancing inclusive, evidence-informed urban resilience in African coastal cities. Focused on two highly vulnerable urban centres, eThekweni Municipality (Durban), South Africa, and Beira, Mozambique, the project responds to the growing risks of climate-induced flooding and storm surge, which have already led to devastating loss of life, displacement, and infrastructure collapse in both cities.

The project strengthens the capacity of local governments and communities, particularly those in informal settlements, to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate hazards. It does this through:

- Co-creating localised risk and resilience profiles with community members, government actors, and civil society. These profiles serve as practical tools for planning, project development, and articulating community needs.
- Assessing and enhancing the continuity, effectiveness, and sustainability of community and municipal responses to extreme weather events. This includes strengthening flood early-warning systems, improving coordination across governance levels, and ensuring that preparedness measures are inclusive and reach the most vulnerable.
- Developing and disseminating a Gender-Responsive Coastal Cities Resilience Planning Framework, grounded in insights from Beira and eThekweni, and enriched by lessons from other African benchmark cities. This framework will support peer learning and replication in similarly at-risk coastal contexts.

INACCT Resilience embraces a co-learning and co-design approach, integrating diverse forms of knowledge, from scientific to lived experience, to shape solutions that are inclusive, grounded, and actionable. The project promotes stronger connections between research, policy, and practice.

Funding and Partnership:

INACCT Resilience is supported by the CLimate Adaptation and REsilience (CLARE) initiative—a £110 million research programme jointly designed and funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). CLARE aims to catalyse equitable, inclusive, and sustainable climate adaptation across the Global South by supporting actionable, demand-driven research and partnerships.

Funded by:



CLARE
CLIMATE
ADAPTATION
& RESILIENCE



UK International
Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



IDRC · CRDI
Canada

Project partners:



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

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

BRIDGE is driving measurable, ground-breaking shifts in how local adaptation finance is mobilised and managed in Cameroon. Our work bridges knowledge, capacity and information gaps, to better enable locally-led adaptation (LLA) projects' movement from idea to implementation.

Key achievements to date include:

The first-ever national map of adaptation finance flows in Cameroon, built as an interactive tool to identify funding gaps and opportunities, and support evidence-based planning.

An institutional shift in how LLA is financed, secured through a formal partnership with Cameroon's Special Fund for Equipment and Intercommunal Intervention (FEICOM), strengthening decentralised systems to better channel resources to the local level.

A new cohort of over 100 trained knowledge brokers, equipped to support local governments and community actors in navigating and unlocking climate finance for gender-responsive, locally led 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.



Funded by:



Canada



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Project partner:



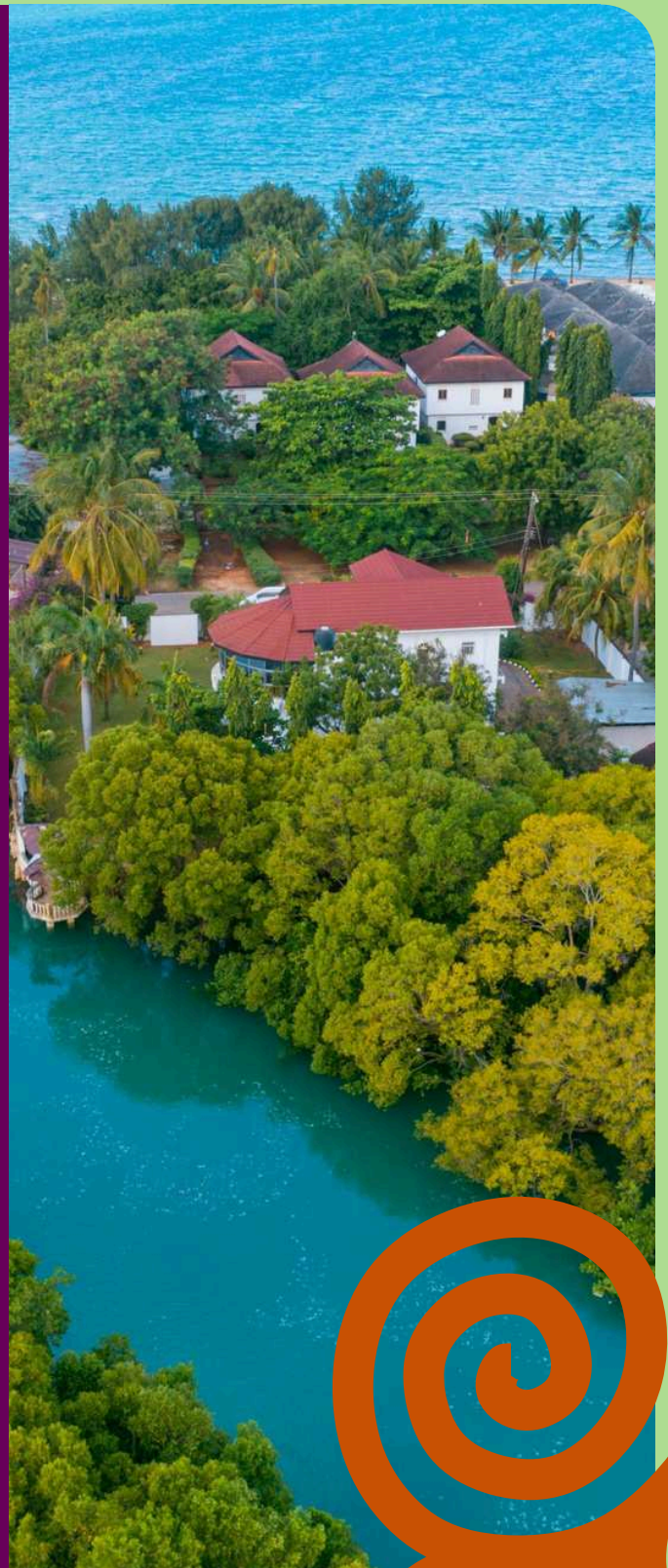
OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Disaster Risk Reduction: A Resilience Agenda for Urban Africa (DRR4Africa)

The 2024 World Risk Poll confirms that Africa has the lowest resilience index scores globally. In response to the layered and escalating risks faced by rapidly growing African cities, many intensified by climate change, DRR4Africa is translating complex climate and urban development risks into information that is accessible, actionable, and locally relevant.

In Lusaka, Cape Coast, and Port Louis, the project deploys next-generation disaster risk reduction tools, from citizen-driven insights gathered through the World Risk Poll, to participatory learning labs applying the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities. These tools provide a nuanced picture of where and why resilience gaps persist, helping city stakeholders move beyond general risk narratives toward targeted, evidence-based action.

But DRR4Africa is not only mapping risk, it's building the capacity to reduce it. By identifying critical vulnerabilities, delivering focused training on climate and disaster finance, and co-developing locally tailored interventions, the project is laying the foundation for scalable, city-led resilience strategies across the continent.



Funded by:



Project partner:



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Just Municipal Embedded Generation (JMEG)

The Just Municipal Embedded Generation (JMEG) project is equipping South Africa's intermediate municipalities to lead the just energy transition. By preparing renewable energy projects that are investment-ready, JMEG is helping municipalities unlock climate finance, crowd in private sector investment, and directly contribute to secure, low-emission energy futures. ICLEI Africa provides early-stage project preparation support, from technical pre-feasibility studies and financial models to transaction structures and socioeconomic impact analyses. These services enable municipalities to approach financiers with credible, bankable projects. A key pathway for these projects is the Development Bank of Southern Africa's Embedded Generation Investment Programme (EGIP), which offers concessional funding designed to leverage further debt and equity.

JMEG is working with six municipalities to strengthen their capabilities in developing and financing infrastructure projects: Cape Agulhas, Ephraim Mogale, Greater Tzaneen, King Sabata Dalindyebo, Matzikama, and Walter Sisulu. Municipalities are supported to explore options such as debt, public-private partnerships, and project finance, and to identify the most viable routes that meet both local priorities and investor expectations.



At its core, JMEG narrows the gap between local-level energy projects and providers of finance. Municipalities are being positioned to take both direct roles (developing and financing electricity generation projects) and innovative enabling roles (including supporting wheeling, energy trading, and small-scale embedded generation). Through a community of practice and peer-to-peer learning, the project is generating tools and models that can be adapted and scaled across other municipalities, extending the impact beyond the initial six.

JMEG builds on the Alternative Financing for Municipal Embedded Generation (AFMEG) project (2021–2022). AFMEG supported the first municipal-led renewable projects to enter the DBSA's Project Preparation Facility, creating a pipeline totalling 107 megawatts of generation capacity, with a value of R2.04 billion, and the potential to abate 3.6 million tonnes of CO₂e. JMEG is taking this progress further, reinforcing municipalities' role in leading South Africa's just energy transition.

Funded by:



Government counterpart:



Project municipalities:



KAAP AGULHAS MUNISIPALITEIT
CAPE AGULHAS MUNICIPALITY
U MASIPALA WASECAPE AGULHAS



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

LISTEN, LEARN & LEAP: Co-producing nature-based solutions in East African cities

LISTEN, LEARN & LEAP is an international and transdisciplinary project that aims to investigate the potential for nature-based solutions (NbS) to advance equitable and sustainable climate resilience in East African cities. The project's objective is to explore the impacts of, and potential for NbS in urban informal settlements to foster climate resilience, with a particular focus on issues of equity, sustainability, and scalability. Engaging with diverse stakeholders including women and young people, this action research project seeks to co-produce NbS initiatives with low-income residents living in watersheds and coastal areas in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

LISTEN

Document existing NbS initiatives in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi

LEARN

Experiment with participatory methodologies to develop new NbS initiatives

LEAP

Facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue to drive scale-up of community-driven NbS initiatives

Core dimensions of the project:

- Co-production
- Justice
- Gender & intersectionality
- Climate resilience
- Scalability
- Water systems



Funded by:



Project partners:



Morocco Urban Circular Water Resilience Initiative (Morocco UCWRI)

Amidst rapid population growth and decreased rainfall in a changing climate, cities across the Kingdom of Morocco face myriad obstacles to their future water resilience. As part of the Circular Economy in Urban Water Management Systems project, the Morocco Urban Circular Water Resilience Initiative (UCWRI) has responded to this pressing reality by partnering with the cities of Tangier, Marrakech, Ben Guerir and Kenitra in the application of circular economy principles and greater alignment of urban planning and water management systems. By fostering a collaborative environment, the Morocco UCWRI envisions the creation of a feedback loop in which learning, dialogue and action reinforce one another to improve aquatic ecosystem regeneration and enhance urban water resilience.

This overarching goal is supported by three interrelated areas of work:

■ **Capacity-building and awareness-raising:**

Through a series of in-depth, multi-stakeholder training workshops, a compendium of innovative international case studies, and an ambitious communications campaign, the project strives to improve the understanding of circular water management principles in an urban context across all of society, spanning civil society, academia, the public and private sectors – particularly among urban planning and water management agencies.

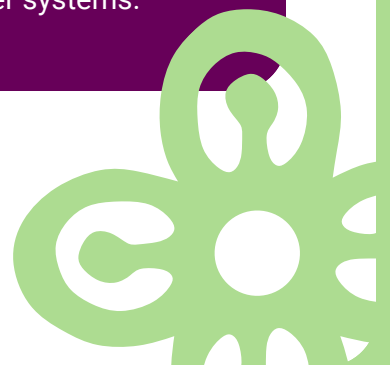
■ **Peer learning and engagement:**

Working with both technical and political officials, the project aims to leverage dialogue between Moroccan and other Mediterranean cities, alongside participation in international forums at the intersection of water resilience and urbanisation, in order to further expand access to knowledge, resources and potential partnerships.

● **Collective action platforms:**

Building on a stronger knowledge base, the project lays the foundation for tangible results through the establishment of local multi-stakeholder action platforms, which will guide stakeholders in the analysis and prioritisation of key water challenges in their respective cities, as well as the design of local pilot projects to demonstrate the application and benefits of circular water management principles. Experimental action, innovative institutional arrangements, diverse funding mechanisms and local ownership are key to ICLEI's approach to ensuring incremental, long-term progress towards more resilient urban water systems.

Funded by:



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

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.



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Smart Energy Solutions for Africa (SESA)

The Sustainable Energy Solutions for Africa (SESA) project is a flagship collaboration between the European Union and nine African countries: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania. SESA is accelerating the development and scaling of decentralised, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions tailored to Africa's diverse local contexts, from remote rural villages to fast-growing urban centres.

Through a coordinated network of local living labs, the project co-develops, tests, and validates innovative clean energy technologies. These include renewable energy mini-grids, clean cooking solutions, second-life battery storage systems, and other inclusive, climate-resilient innovations. Each intervention responds to the realities of informal energy systems, supporting improved livelihoods, resilience, and energy access in diverse African settings.

SESA's impact extends beyond technology deployment. The project is actively shaping enabling environments through policy reform, enterprise development, capacity building, and investment mobilisation:

Policy impact: Five in-depth policy barrier analyses were completed, informing the development of strategic roadmaps aligned with national and local energy frameworks.

Enterprise support: Eleven African SMEs were selected and mentored through the SESA Call for Entrepreneurs. Ten project concepts were developed (total value: €12.8 million), with four advancing to pre-feasibility studies to attract investment.

Capacity building: Over 580 stakeholders, including community members, government officials, and university students, have participated in training programmes covering clean cooking, solar energy, e-mobility, and innovative finance.

Job creation: More than 100 new jobs have been created, with significant employment potential as solutions are scaled.

By strengthening regional and international collaboration, SESA is laying a foundation for scalable, replicable energy access models that support just energy transitions and empower communities across the continent.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101037141.

Project coordinated by:



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 served as a major catalyst for locally led climate action across the region. With over 390 local governments in 40 countries, CoM SSA is turning political will into tangible action on-the-ground.

As the regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), the world's largest alliance for city climate leadership, CoM SSA contributes to a global movement of over 13 000 cities and regions. GCoM brings together city networks, development agencies, and finance partners to support subnational governments in meeting the dual challenge of climate change and sustainable energy access.

ICLEI Africa hosts the CoM SSA Secretariat and coordinates the regional initiative by:

- Advocating for the central role of subnational governments in achieving global climate and energy goals;
- Supporting cities to advance their energy transition and climate resilience;
- Building capacity for inclusive, just, and locally relevant climate action; and
- Fostering collaboration across the continent to increase the scale and impact of local efforts.



As the CoM SSA Technical Helpdesk (THD), ICLEI Africa provides direct technical support to cities throughout their climate and energy planning journey, from developing baseline assessments, to setting targets, designing action plans, and preparing projects for investment.

CoM SSA's growing number of signatories reflects the region's deepening commitment to tackling climate change and driving sustainable development.

To date, **110 cities** have **received tailored technical assistance**, enabling impactful plans aligned with their unique contexts and priorities. This demand-led approach ensures support is responsive and grounded in local realities.



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

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).

ICLEI Africa hosts the CoM SSA Secretariat.



Covenant of Mayors
in Sub-Saharan Africa

CoM SSA is co-funded by:



European Union



CoM SSA is co-implemented by:



The CoM SSA Secretariat is hosted by:



Capacity building is central to CoM SSA's impact. The THD **has delivered 129 training sessions**, equipping over **1 500 government officials**, including at least **540 woman leaders**, with tools and knowledge to lead effective climate and energy initiatives. CoM SSA's strong emphasis on inclusivity highlights the initiative's commitment to gender-responsive and locally driven solutions.



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

African Cities Water Adaptation (ACWA) Platform

Driving local action for urban water resilience across Africa.

Hosted by ICLEI Africa, the African Cities Water Adaptation (ACWA) Platform is a dynamic alliance of African cities and partners united in the mission to build water-secure, climate-resilient urban futures. The Platform connects cities to the support they need—tools, technical expertise, peer learning, and financing—to respond effectively to water-related challenges intensified by climate change.

In partnership with the World Resources Institute's [Urban Water Resilience in Africa](#) initiative, ACWA brings together more than 25 organisations, including governments, civil society, research institutes, financiers, and development agencies, to deliver locally relevant and transformative action.



A platform designed for cities

ACWA supports African cities to plan, fund, and implement solutions that build long-term water resilience.

Through city-led processes and collaborative governance, the platform provides:

- **Knowledge and diagnostics:** Tools, research, and technical insights to help cities understand their water systems and risks
- **Capacity building and technical assistance:** Tailored support to strengthen institutional capacity and co-develop actionable solutions
- **Enabling environments:** Collective action for advocacy and coordination to support policy reform and multi-level governance
- **Peer exchange and partnerships:** Learning opportunities that connect cities across the continent for shared learning and support

Financing the Future: The ACWA Fund

At the core of the Platform is the African Cities Water Adaptation Fund (ACWA Fund) – a catalytic finance mechanism aimed at mobilising resources to accelerate water resilience interventions in 100 African cities by 2032. The Fund supports cities to move from planning to implementation, unlocking public and private investment in climate-resilient water infrastructure and services.

Guided by the 2030 Joint Agenda

ACWA is rooted in the 2030 Joint Agenda for Urban Water Resilience in Africa, a continent-wide commitment co-developed with urban practitioners, technical experts, and city leaders. This shared vision underpins the Platform's approach and reinforces collective ownership and action.

Join the movement

Whether you're a city champion, funder, technical partner, or policy advocate, ACWA offers a space to connect, collaborate, and catalyse change.



Funded by:



**WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE**



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Enabling African Cities for Transformative Energy Access – Uganda Scaleup (ENACTUS)

With a focus on shaping systemic change and inclusive market development, ENACTUS is unlocking transformative solutions for Uganda's urban energy transition and will directly enable access to clean cooking for more than 30,000 people, while developing scalable energy access models for the future. More than 1 billion people living in sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to lack access to clean and modern cooking, which leads to over half a million premature deaths in the region per year, as well as negative gender and climate impacts. Half of Africa's youthful and rapidly growing urban population lives in informality. Enabling access to clean cooking in African cities is therefore of paramount importance, and doing so with a focus on informal settlements is non-negotiable.



In Uganda, this challenge is especially significant in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA)—home to more than 3.5 million people and generating nearly half of the country's GDP. In parallel with the city being central to Uganda's economic development, energy poverty persists: over 95% of households still rely on traditional biomass like coal and wood for cooking, and this reliance is particularly entrenched in GKMA's dense informal settlements, where affordability, infrastructure, and safety challenges constrain clean energy adoption.

ICLEI's ENACT programme catalysed action in Sierra Leone and Uganda and delivered increased access to clean cooking for over 20 000 people. The ENACTUS project builds on this, driving public-private collaboration to scale clean cooking access where it's most urgently needed. With a focus on shaping systemic change and inclusive market development, ENACT is unlocking transformative solutions for Uganda's urban energy transition and will directly enable access to clean cooking for an additional 30,000 people, while developing scalable energy access models for the future.

ENACTUS is:

Enabling access to clean cooking in informal settlements by bridging community needs, local private sector innovation, and public sector ambition.

Empowering African clean cooking SMEs to grow by enhancing their product and business readiness to serve hard-to-reach markets.

Supporting national and local governments to shape inclusive clean cooking markets by integrating clean cooking into public policy and planning, and strengthening institutions to lead energy transitions that leave no one behind.



Funded by:



Transforming
Energy
Access

Project partner:



ENACTUS is a component project of the Uganda-UK Clean Cooking Programme. MECS, NREP and GGGI are partner projects within that programme.



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

City Climate Finance Gap Fund Step-up Project

The City Climate Finance Gap Fund (Gap Fund) is a multi-donor initiative of Germany and Luxembourg. In 2023 the Gap Fund launched the Step-Up project (Gap SUP project) financed through EIB and GIZ and implemented in collaboration with ICLEI. Operating in nine African and Latin American cities, the Gap SUP project is:

Further empowering cities that have already received Gap Fund technical assistance by providing tailored support to refine and strengthen their priority urban infrastructure projects for the next stage of development or funding.

Creating Regional Communities of Practice (RCoMP) that foster long-term collaboration, shared learning and exchange between cities, accelerating replication, reducing duplication, and promoting context-appropriate solutions.

In Africa, the Gap SUP project focuses on advancing climate-smart waste management projects in cities across North and East Africa, recognising the urgent need for more sustainable, inclusive, and locally appropriate waste solutions.

Many cities in the region face growing waste challenges, but often lack the technical capacity, know-how, and financial resources to subsidise or attract commercially driven solutions for improved waste management.

The Gap SUP Africa component addresses these challenges by:

Providing tailored and context specific guidance to cities to refine early-stage waste management project concepts, improving their structure, technical feasibility, and alignment with local market systems realities and feedstock, as well as labour and utility requirements for proposed technologies and infrastructural assets.

Supporting smaller-scale, decentralised, and private sector-led waste solutions through pilots, engineering designs and planning documents. These solutions challenge over ambitious concept ideas that are not only capital-intensive, but are not locally or contextually relevant. In many African contexts, iteratively scaled, local interventions are more appropriate, cost-effective, and impactful.

Creating peer-to-peer learning opportunities between African cities facing similar waste challenges, including through sharing of successful examples of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and private sector led business models, enabling cities to learn from one another's successes and avoid common pitfalls.

Facilitating connections with technical experts and financiers to help cities structure projects that are both climate-resilient and attractive for public and/ or private investment.

Waste management is a critical entry point for achieving climate, health, and equity goals in African cities. By investing in locally owned, technically sound projects that reflect the complexity of urban waste systems, the Gap SUP project contributes to building more resilient and liveable cities.



Funded by:



Implemented by:



OUR REACH

Our flagship event



RISE Africa Action Festival

RISE Africa is a movement of urban thinkers, doers, and enablers committed to inspiring action for sustainable cities. Since May 2020, RISE Africa has facilitated an annual virtual action festival, local roundtables, and an in-person festival in May 2025. The RISE Africa platform regularly engages a growing community through creative discourse on complex, interwoven and pertinent issues related to equity and sustainability in African cities. Through creative facilitation, the platform has helped to improve voice and agency of participants, offered unapologetic critique of inequitable, repetitive or unimaginative 'solutions', facilitated meaningful connections and collaborations, and contributed to generative narratives on African urban development.

Participants at the 2025 Urban Action Festival RISE were exposed to storytelling as a tool for regeneration. Participants were invited to consider how narratives shape cities and communities, and how these stories can challenge dominant systems and elevate marginalised voices, underscoring that transformative change is as much about imagination and identity as it is about policy.

"In order to find our way, we must become lost. The times are urgent, we must slow down."

– Bayo Akomolafe, Executive Director and Chief Curator of Emergence Network

"The Festival has inspired me to actively seek out and connect with others doing similar work. Hearing diverse perspectives and approaches has reminded me of the value of collaboration and learning from peers. I plan to be more intentional about building relationships and sharing experiences within and beyond my organisation."

– Mawande Ngidi, AMALI Data Programme Lead

At festival gatherings industry thought leaders like Edgar Pieterse emphasise the urgent need for imaginative action for driving African urban futures, realising possibilities, and reframing city-making on the continent

RISE Africa & ICLEI Africa photography activations through @futureafricacities Instagram



ICLEI Africa Clean Cooking Centre

ICLEI Africa Clean Cooking Centre is a regional centre of excellence enabling clean, safe, and affordable clean cooking access for people living in Africa's hard-to-reach urban markets, where health risks, gender inequality, and climate vulnerability are prevalent.

Hosted by ICLEI Africa, the Centre brings together expertise, partnerships, tools and resources to co-create practical solutions that are grounded in lived realities, driven by local leadership, and aligned with national and global ambition.

We work with governments, partners, the private sector, and communities to:

- **Place informal settlements at the centre of the clean cooking transition** and inclusive urban development—where gains in health, gender equity, and climate resilience converge at scale.
- **Strengthen capacity of subnational governments and clean cooking innovators** to advance from promising pilots to inclusive, investment-ready models, ensuring that technical and financial solutions respond to real community needs.
- **Scale proven approaches** across the continent by leveraging ICLEI's networks and membership to deliver on national and global goals.



ICLEI Africa Sustainable Finance Centre

Finance is urgently needed to ensure Africa's cities are resilient to global sustainability challenges and able to operate as green economic hubs. Africa received just \$30 billion of global \$1.3 trillion climate finance in 2022 – less than 3% of global climate finance, and well short of the \$250 billion needed annually to tackle climate change. Given Africa's high urbanisation rate, it is crucial that finance is unlocked for the building of low carbon and climate resilient infrastructure, and for 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 local action, ensuring we move from policy to practice. By playing crucial and often under-resourced intermediary roles, bridging divides between crucial stakeholders, the SFC is joining the dots and improving engagement between actors involved in the project development value chain, leading to higher quality projects that can be financed for maximum local impact.



Through the Sustainable Finance Centre, ICLEI Africa:

- Provides project development support throughout the entire development lifecycle, with a particular focus on de-risking early stage projects.
- Co-develops new, and tailors existing financial instruments for implementing local-level projects.
- Works with the private sector to develop business models that deliver sustainable and innovative technologies where they are needed most.
- Builds capacity through training and tools, which enable scaling of lessons learnt.

ICLEI Africa CITYFOOD Centre

The African City Food Centre elevates the role of local governments in solving Africa's food systems challenges, leading to healthier, more prosperous cities backed by sustainable rural value chains. And ultimately, better lives through food.

As Africans we understand Africa, and as a city network that has over three decades of experience, we understand local governments. Working across four thematic areas of expertise our dynamic team of urban food systems professionals supports cities stepping up to this challenge in ways which promote a whole-of-society response.

Through strong, established partnerships, a solid continental network and a unique blend of research skills, governance experience, financing support, implementation expertise and advocacy skills, we make change possible.

Our approach

Pillar 1: Enabling resilient food markets and infrastructure

We work with a wide range of city governments, local stakeholders, technical partners and financial institutions to plan, design and deliver contextually appropriate infrastructure upgrades, supporting cities to take an active stance in response to the challenges they face.

Pillar 2: Centering children in urban food policy & practice

We build strong local governments partnerships with national governments, civil society and school communities, creating the momentum needed to overcome the policy and resource constraints that are limiting the universal roll out of adequate school meal programmes.

Pillar 3: Mainstreaming urban food governance & planning

We support local governments to better fulfil their important role in shaping more sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems, through three key strategic actions: Supporting integrated food governance mechanisms; supporting the development of city food strategies; and facilitating city exchange and peer learning.

Pillar 4: Celebrating Africa's rich food heritage

We support cities to tap into Africa's rich mosaic of food cultures – a powerful, underleveraged urban asset – offering opportunities for place-making, education, employment, tourism, biodiversity preservation, pride, wellbeing and so much more.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our core values

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.



Local Governments
for Sustainability

AFRICA

Contact us

-  @ICLEIAfrica
-  ICLEI Africa
-  africa.iclei.org
-  iclei-africa@iclei.org

Bold action. Proven impact. Inclusive change.