

Urban Natural Assets for Africa



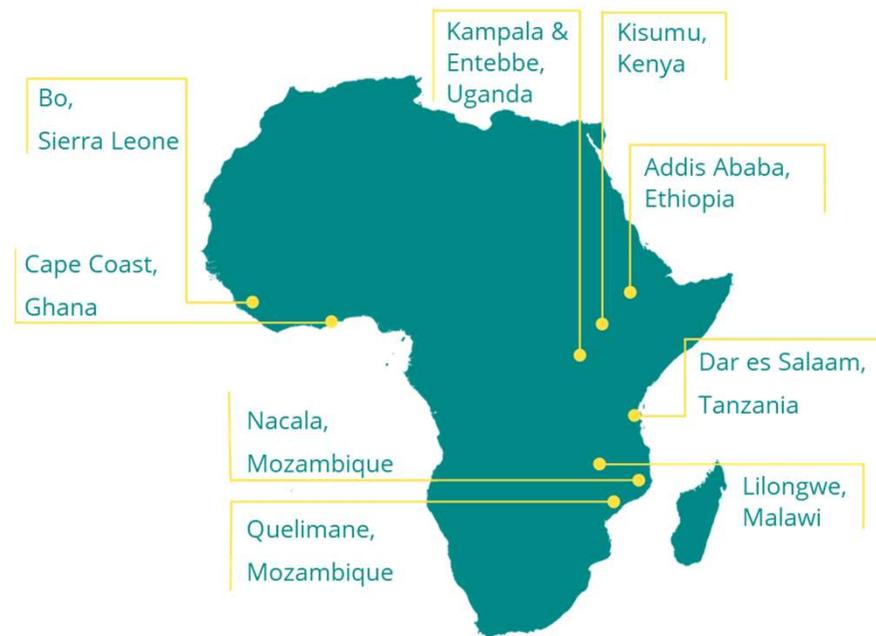
Overview of the UNA programme



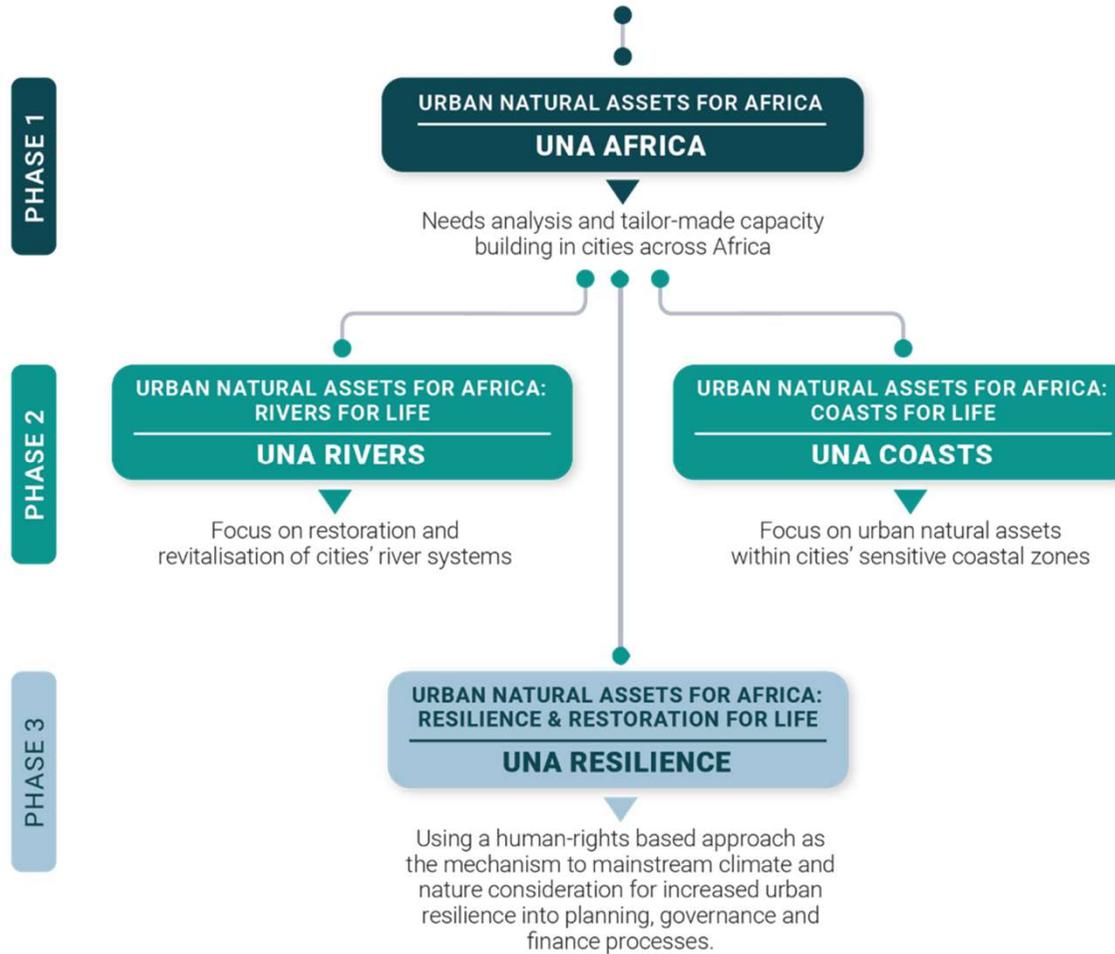
Urban Natural Assets Programme



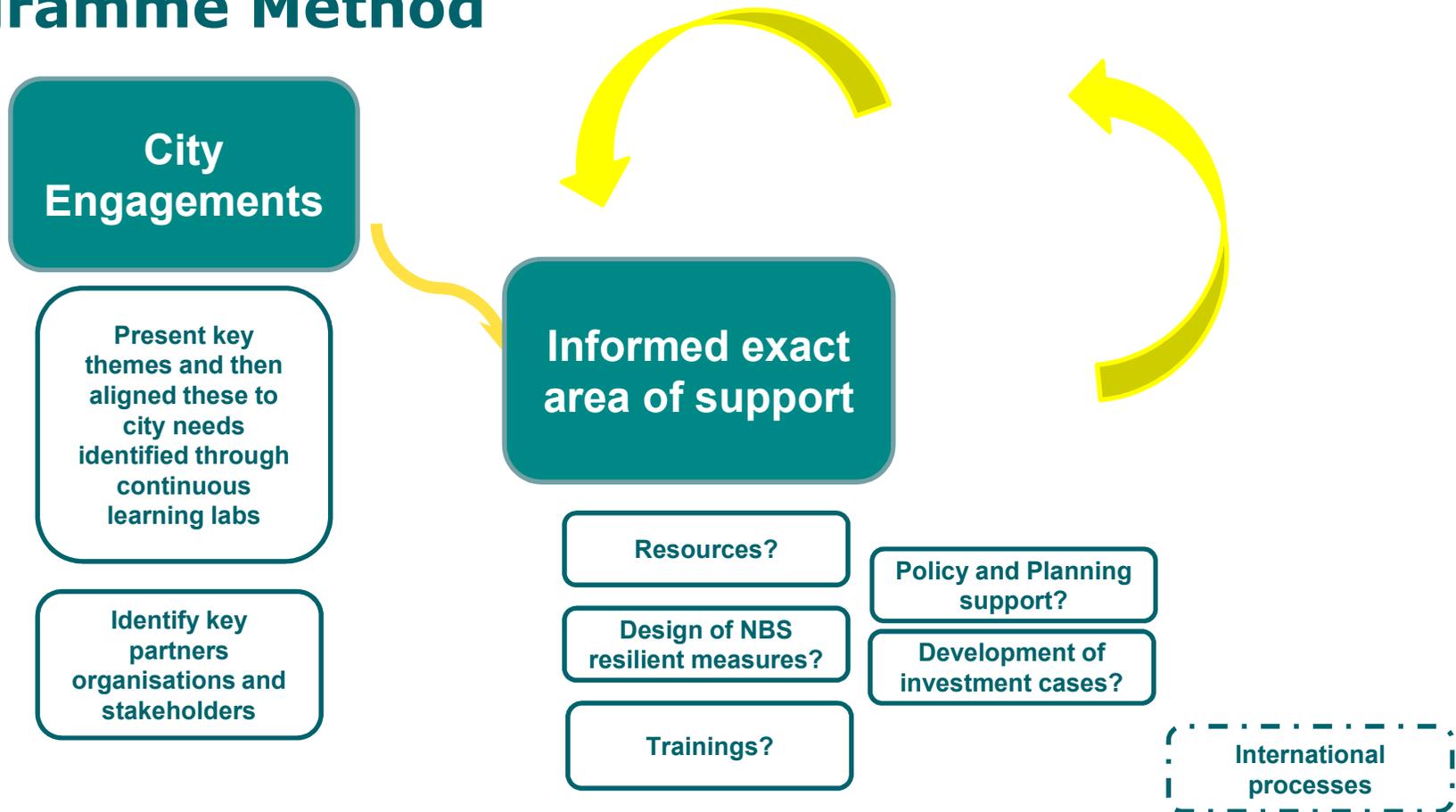
Urban Natural Assets for Africa is implemented by ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center. This cutting edge programme is designed to build climate resilience through supporting the daily challenges that local governments in Africa experience around protecting and revitalising their urban natural assets. **It aims to integrate nature-based solutions for increased resilience.**



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA (UNA) PROGRAMME



Programme Method



Overarching Impact



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.

Specific SPOs

- Understand risk & landscape** as well as the socio-economic landscape in African cities and how to improve their ability to provide a multitude of benefits for urban populations.
- Co-design: Knowledge creation processes** based measures that build resilience, through a sustained, deep transdisciplinary, whole-of-society co-creation approach.
- Integrated nature-based resilient measures** for urban nature, the sustainable utilisation and restoration of ecosystems in order to improve planning practices and access to finance.
- Scale** urban nature-based resilience approaches to improve their ability to support reduced risks, vulnerabilities, and inequalities and improve livelihoods over longer timeframes.
- Advocacy** with international policy and legal processes, such as those frameworks, national environmental and human rights law, through outreach and the promotion of strengthened multi-level governance systems.

A VERY IMPORTANT FRAMING – which underpins UNA



Unrealised

..... **Specific rights**

Such as:

Right to life, right to water,
right to food, right to a
healthy, clean and sustainable
environment, right to
education and work.

Approach: Urban Tinkering



Research background:

Adjusting and moulding of existing landscapes through small scale urban experiments

"A mode of operation, encompassing policy, planning and management processes, that seeks to transform the use of existing and design of new urban systems in ways that diversify their functions, anticipate new uses and enhance adaptability, to better meet the social, economic and ecological needs of cities under conditions of deep uncertainty about the future."

(Elmqvist *et al.* 2018)

Impact:

Allows for a more experimental, flexible, creative, and innovative approach to planning than conventional top-down strategies.



Method: Walking Workshops



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Participants walk together through a pre-selected section of an urban natural asset landscape. They pause at points of interest to discuss who and what entities interact in the landscape and how (e.g. resource use, drivers of change). They also use the walk as means to identify challenges and opportunities, and potential project interventions (i.e., tinkering solutions).

Locations:

Kisumu, Kenya (2019)

Nacala, Mozambique (2019)

Entebbe, Uganda (2019)

Impact:

- Bring participants from the abstract into the actual (location outside a meeting venue)
- Allows for deeply contextualized discussion and engagement



Method: Walking Workshops



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Local Governments
for Sustainability
AFRICA



Walking workshop: Kisumu, Kenya (2019):
Participants walk along a section of the Auji River, stopping to discuss challenges, opportunities, and points for project interventions.



Method: Photovoice



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Workshop participants take photos of urban natural assets as a storytelling tool. They communicate experiences related to the urban natural assets, identify challenges and opportunities, and potential project interventions.

Locations:

Lilongwe, Malawi (2017): Part of “Waste is Wealth” implementation project

Kisumu, Kenya (2019)

Impact:

- Allows participants to engage around shared physical images rather than abstract ideas or locations
- Assists in enabling a diversity of participants voices to be heard and shared through a common medium (thus helping to lift marginalized voices and balance power inequities)



Method: Photovoice



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Local Governments
for Sustainability
AFRICA



“Waste is Wealth” Photovoice Project: Lilongwe, Malawi (2017):

A group of 6 women and 2 men in a waste management project at Lizulu market became participant photographers for 6 weeks. Their photographs became the starting point for conversations about the river and waste management.

The photos were the starting points for conversations that highlighted some reflections including the sense of engagement in the waste management project, care for the environmental health of Lilongwe River and the social and economic benefits for people working in Lizulu market.



Method: Photovoice

“Waste is Wealth” Photovoice Project: Lilongwe, Malawi (2017):



Visualising a community's waste management project using photovoice
<https://youtu.be/Bx22Xht3Gd0>



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Local Governments
for Sustainability
AFRICA



Method: Photovoice



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Local Governments
for Sustainability
AFRICA



Photovoice workshop: Kisumu, Kenya (2019): Participants take photos of urban natural asset challenges and opportunities as they walk along the Auji River. Selected photos show how the river is used for livestock and farming, routes that people use to cross the river that become more dangerous when the river rises, and an opportunity for planting vegetation to stabilize riverbanks and prevent flooding alongside a school. Back at the meeting venue, participants discussed themes emerging from their photos.



-Minecraft, Addis

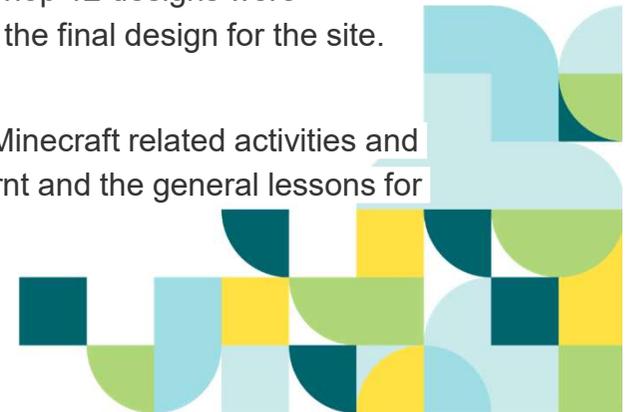
→ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-7spBQGeDg>



Minecraft, the second **best-selling video game** of all time, was used by UN-Habitat as a means of engaging community members to design public open spaces. ICLEI Africa, in collaboration with the Addis Ababa City Administration and UN-Habitat held a workshop, using the Minecraft tool, to design the Ras Mekonnen site in Addis Ababa.

City officials, as well as community stakeholders, took part in the workshop, with a focus on the inclusion of youth and women. The 4-day workshop included a site visit—exploring the opportunities and challenges that the site presented—and using the Minecraft game to design the site. By the end of the workshop 12 designs were submitted to the Addis Ababa City Administration; these designs formed the basis of the final design for the site.

A monitoring, evaluation and learning framework has been developed to capture all Minecraft related activities and facilitate lesson sharing. Using this framework, the process of Minecraft, lessons learnt and the general lessons for the participatory design of green open spaces in African cities were documented.



-Implementation Nacala & Entebbe



Nacala

- Local park well used by both community and city
- Planting
- Paving
- Irrigation system
- Outdoor gatherings and community engagement with nature

Entebbe

- Original plan wetland project
- Alternative community garden with market potential and livelihood support
- Composting
- THRIVE App
- Local species - food security COVID



Method: Socio-economic surveys



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration for life



Survey administrators interview a cross-section of city residents to gather demographic and socio-economic data, as well as information about how residents, understand, use, and value urban natural assets in their area.

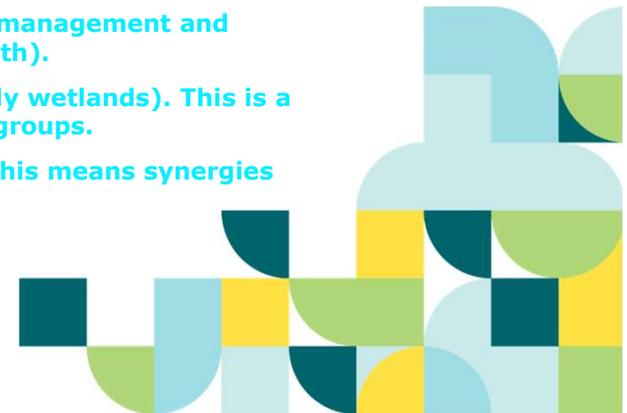
Locations:

Cape Coast, Ghana (2022)

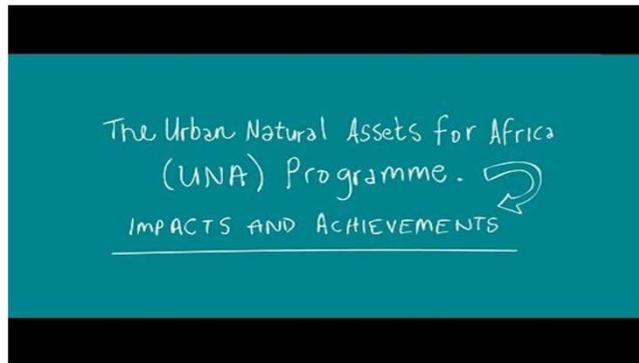
Bo City, Sierra Leone (2022)

Findings and Impact:

- **There is an under-involvement and under-representation of particular groups in management and planning related to assets (e.g., indigenous knowledge-holders, women, and youth).**
- **There is unregulated development of areas with urban natural assets (particularly wetlands). This is a multi-faceted problem that requires input and action from different stakeholder groups.**
- **There are demands for multiple ecosystem services supplied by natural assets. This means synergies and tradeoffs must be addressed across different stakeholders.**



Impact Stories & Videos



← Videos:

- Programme history and activities
- Highlights and achievements
- Lessons learned

<https://youtu.be/e6R0eW02GJE>

<https://youtu.be/BUGpKgffcCE>

Impact stories: →

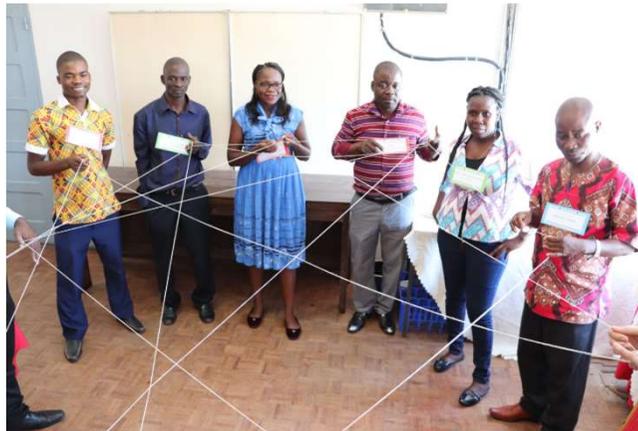
- 11 handbooks created to showcase different programme learnings through case studies

<https://cbc.iclei.org/una-impact-lessons-learnt/>

← Innovative Games:

- Building capacity through games.

<https://cbc.iclei.org/innovative-games/>



Thank you!



www.Africa.ICLEI.org



ICLEI-Africa@ICLEI.org



[@ICLEIAfrica](https://twitter.com/ICLEIAfrica)



[ICLEI Africa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ICLEI-Africa)

