RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK FOR COASTAL CITIES

PLAN, PREPARE AND ADAPT

By 2025, nearly 6 billion people will live within 200km of a coastline[1]. Population growth and climate change related impacts like sea-level rise, storm surges and heavy rainfall events are noticeably increasing coastal risks and degrading coastal ecosystems. People and nature are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

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

1 UNDERSTAND THE BASELINE AND RAISE AWARENESS:

Recognise the coast's value. Identify and understand coastal and marine features and processes.

Develop an integrated database. Collate social, economic and ecological resources critical to communities.

Education and raise awareness. Target youth and vulnerable communities.

2 ASSESS RISK:

Identify and address critical gaps in stakeholder understandings of climate change and associated coastal hazards.

Engage with and institutionalise tools, processes and methodologies necessary for incorporating climate change consideration into risk assessments[2].

Assess the risk and vulnerability of the city to coastal hazards and explore alternative scenarios for current and future events.

3 IDENTIFY AND DESIGN SOLUTIONS:

Identify solutions for **reducing vulnerabilities** that are multi-functional; addressing social, economic and ecological needs.
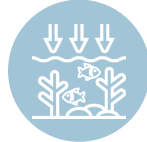
Integrate policies, plans and **strategies** that respond to major impacts. Provide clear direction for protection, management and sustainable development. Identify linkages between national and local plans and policies. This includes assessing overlapping mandates.

Adopt effective processes for **multi-level governance.** Promote working horizontally and vertically across government departments[3].

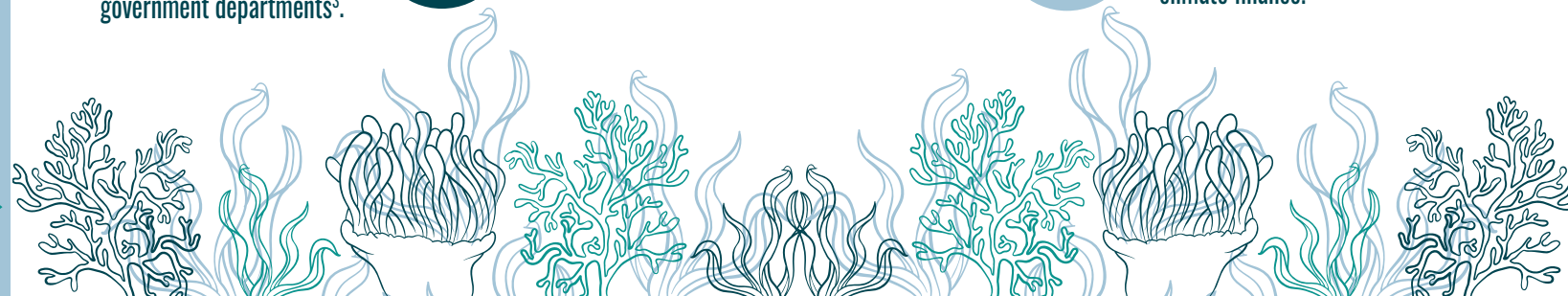**Design adaptable infrastructure and building standards** to meet future risk.

Develop flexible adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans. These should strategically align and provide guidance for emergency response as well as options to "build back better" post disasters.

Integrate climate change impacts into due diligence for all project proposals and investment cases.

Conduct feasibility studies to help **develop bankable projects.** This improves the chances of accessing climate finance.

4 ACT:

Use natural coastal resources sustainably. Help communities on the ground to develop and implement sustainable practices.

Manage fisheries and marine sanctuaries in a sustainable way.

Conserve and rehabilitate mangrove reserves. They absorb the impacts of storm-surges and reduce vulnerability to flooding.

URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Coasts *for* life

ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability
CBC — Cities Biodiversity Center

SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship

Stockholm University

[1] McGregor, A., Roberts, C. and Cousins, F. 2013. Two Degrees: The Built Environment and Our Changing Climate. Routledge, New York.

[2] See processes and methods being experimented with by the UNA Coasts project here: https://cbc.iclei.org/una-handbook-series/;

[3] For guidance read: ICLEI CBC. 2019. Handbook 11: Multi-level engagement: Improving national and local working relationships through dialogues in Uganda, in The value of urban natural assets when planning for resilient Africa cities: consideration and decision-making processes. Cape Town, South Africa: ICLEI CBC.