



ICLEI AFRICA COMPANY PROFILE

2022



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OUR IMPACT

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than **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 over 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



ICLEI Africa also proudly hosts ICLEI's global Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC).



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.

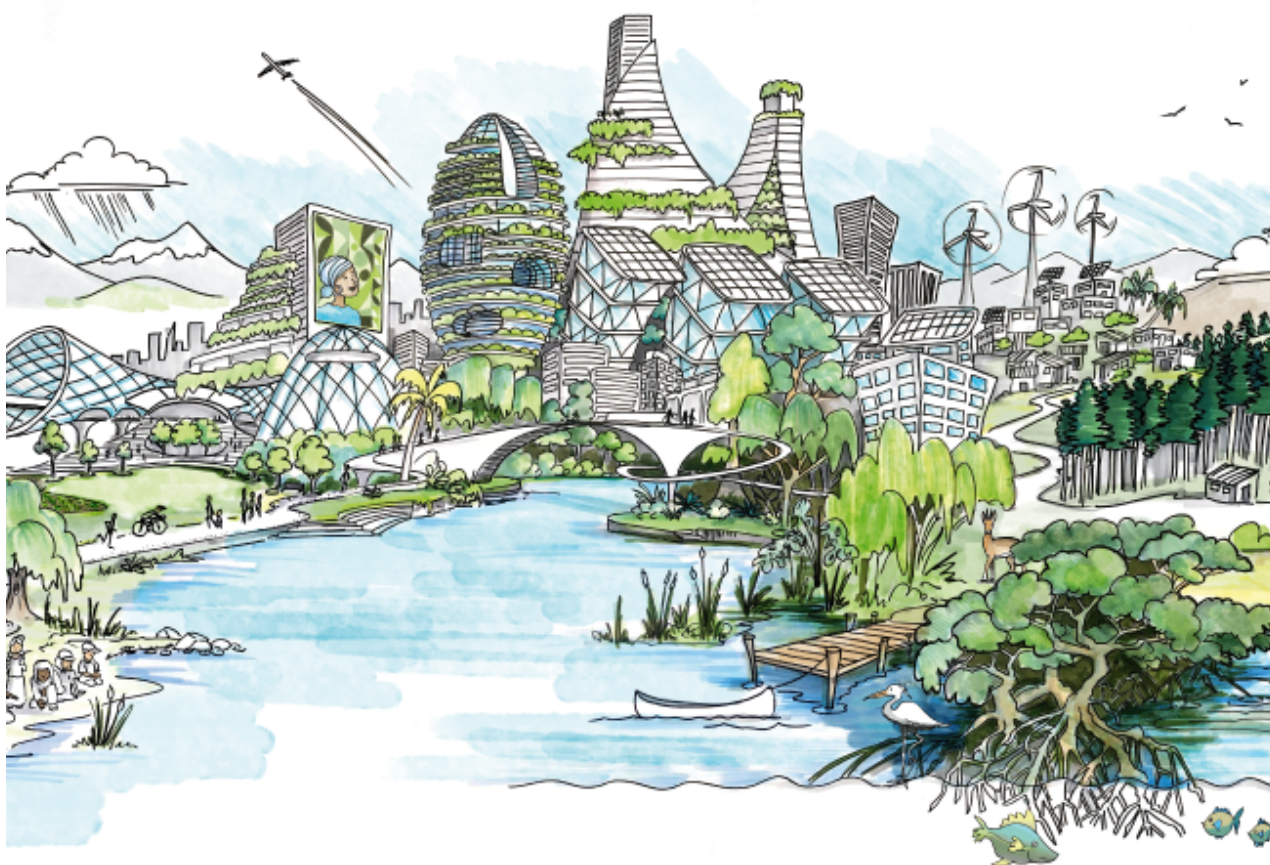
Our mandate is significant; we promote the necessity for city engagement in the development of national and international sustainability agendas, and communicate in tangible ways how cities are contributing to the achievement of major international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, the New Urban 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**.

Priority areas of engagement include:

- Biodiversity mainstreaming, and ecosystem services assessment
- Climate and development finance
- Climate change and resilience
- Disaster risk reduction and management
- Economic and social development
- Energy solutions
- Integrated urban sustainability services
- Integrated urban water management and sustainable sanitation solutions
- Just transitions, equity and voice
- Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation
- Resource management and circularity
- Sustainable infrastructure solutions
- Systems approaches for decision-making
- Urban food systems and health
- Urban mobility
- Urban nature, health and well-being
- Urban planning and land-use 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, 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 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 virtual engagements and learning through multiple webinar series, online trainings and events, including Africa's first virtual event for local authorities in 2020, 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 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.

Current members of the ICLEI Africa Committee for the period 2021 to 2024 are:

- **Mayor Mohamed Sefiani, of Chefchaouen Municipality**, Kingdom of Morocco, Regional representative on the GEXCOM
- **Mayor Manuel de Araújo, of Quelimane Municipality**, Mozambique, Vice-Chair of the ICLEI Africa Committee
- **Mayor Jefferson Koijee, of Monrovia City Corporation**, Liberia, Special regional portfolio for the West Africa Region
- **Mayor Hans Berté Margueritte, of Curepipe Municipality**, Mauritius, Special regional portfolio for Indian Ocean region and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Municipalities

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.

Our workstreams

Climate Change, Energy and Resilience

Africa is one of the continents least responsible for causing climate change, while bearing a significant burden related to climate change impacts. ICLEI Africa's Climate Change, Energy and Resilience workstream aims to tackle the climate change crisis in a holistic and systemic fashion, utilising solutions that prioritise the most vulnerable, harness co-production and multi-level governance, and deploy innovative mechanisms that allow finance to flow to where it is needed most.

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 multilevel governance in the negotiation and implementation of the United Nations Conventions.

Communications, Knowledge Management and Research Coordination

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. We work closely with the technical workstreams to design effective communications strategies and deliver impactful communications campaigns, resources and events. We support 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. This workstream also ensures research co-ordination between project teams at ICLEI Africa.



OUR GLOBAL CITIES BIODIVERSITY CENTER



**Local Governments
for Sustainability**



**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.



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



ICLEI Africa
manages

over

50

projects
and
programmes



supports
or
hosts

8

major
networks
and initiatives



and offers
close
to

40

technical and
capacity
building
services



Below is a **snapshot** of some of the **diverse projects and initiatives** undertaken by ICLEI Africa.

Accelerating Circular Economy Innovation for Food, Climate and Health in Africa



The ACE Africa project – Accelerating Circular Economy innovation for food, climate and health in Africa – aims 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 guides entrepreneurs, and new start-ups through an incubation programme and provides a platform for exposure to, and interaction with, mature circular economy businesses, funders and government officers. The desired outcomes are 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.

Partner:



Funded by:



African Mobility Month



African Mobility Month (AMM) is a platform that provides the space to share knowledge, experiences and resources as well as coordinate events and activities such as car-free days and open streets to celebrate the importance of urban mobility for liveable, connected cities. The #AfricanMobilityMonth campaign aims to mobilise a strong collective effort and build momentum for shifting mobility paradigms in African cities. It is convened annually by ICLEI Africa and partners such as UNEP, OpenStreets Cape Town, UN-Habitat, TUMI, GGGI and more. It brings together urban mobility actors, climate activists, community organisations, decision-makers and citizens who are passionate about developing mobility systems that sufficiently support the needs of all urban citizens while also reducing our cities' environmental impacts.

Partners:



Alternative Financing for Municipal Embedded Generation

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 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 when applying for climate finance. Capacity building was also provided on important themes, and with the help of key institutions. The resources will be used to create an online toolkit, providing a platform for city officials to 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.

Partners:



Funded by:



City of Johannesburg Water Security Strategy



a world class African city

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 which make the strategy achievable.



Improved Municipal Planning in African Cities for a Climate Resilient Urban Future

The IMPACT project, funded by the IDRC, aimed to investigate how enhanced collaboration mechanisms in municipal planning in African cities can enable climate resilient development. This 3-year project explored multi-level collaboration mechanisms and their ability to enable climate resilient development in cities in Malawi and Zimbabwe, and uncovered what the barriers and opportunities are to the implementation and maintenance of these collaboration mechanisms. Through the IMPACT project a book chapter was published and an infographic highlighting seven proven ways for stronger collaboration was created. A step-by-step guide on how to integrate subnational governments into the NDC process, as well as a Guide to Collaborative Multi-level Governance for Climate Resilient Development were produced. The guide includes tools, methods and tips for effective multi-level governance (MLG) collaboration for climate resilient development. Although our findings are based on deep-dive experience in two African cities, and further enhanced with experience in other African cities, most elements of this guide would be useful to those working on MLG in other global contexts.

Partners:



Funded by:



Natural Asset Mapping through the INTERACT-Bio Project



Dar es Salaam in Tanzania is one of nine cities that worked with ICLEI to map its natural assets through the INTERACT-Bio project. This project supports expanding urban communities in the Global South to improve the utilisation and management of nature while providing them with nature-based solutions and associated long-term benefits. The natural asset mapping combined customised earth observation data and information with input from local experts and stakeholders, and resulted in a summary document with key maps and information, including policy and action recommendations that will support the city in making strong arguments for investing in urban nature and nature-based solutions. The thematic mapping also formed the basis for the development of an illustrated poster of Dar es Salaam that shows the natural assets in the city in an attractive and accessible format to create awareness of the presence and value of nature in cities and to inspire officials and the public to protect urban nature.

Partners:



Funded by:



Disclaimer: The project is supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI).



Scaling Up and Empowering Movements for Climate Change Advocacy

Resilient climate solutions increasingly need to use the experience, knowledge and energy of people who will be most affected by climate change as the basis for planning future urban areas. In cities, this requires not only drawing on insights from local authorities and national governments but also from urban residents (particularly the poor) and civil and social movement groups. The Scaling Up and Empowering Movements for Climate Change Advocacy (SEMCCA) project, is rooted in the localised principles of community-based adaptation (CBA), actively bringing urban ‘communities’ together to achieve climate action at scale within growing city-regions. The programme supports the development of enabling conditions for revitalised civic and social participation, through designing and implementing tailored approaches, within a multi-level governance and social justice framework, in order to deliver ambitious, well-supported, scalable and replicable climate solutions.

Partners:



Funded by:



Disclaimer: This work was made possible through the support of Urban Movement Innovation Fund, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.



Adapting to Climate Change and Enhancing Resilience in Coastal Urban Areas Training Course

Urban coastal areas in Africa are on the frontline when it comes to being affected by the impacts of climate change. The Adapting to Climate Change and Enhancing Resilience training course, delivered in February 2020 in Cape Town and available online, was developed by ICLEI Africa and funded by WIOMSA, to build adaptive capacity and resilience to the impacts of climate change in coastal urban areas throughout the West Indian Ocean (WIO) region, specifically focusing on areas in Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, South Africa and Mauritius. Further training and city to city exchanges related to coastal city planning, targeting coastal cities from the WIO region, are being planned.

Funded by:



ICLEI Africa hosts the CoM SSA Secretariat



Started in 2015, the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) is a major catalyst for local climate action in the region, with political commitment from over 270 local governments. The purpose of CoM SSA is to support local governments in moving from planning to implementation, with a focus on unlocking climate finance at the local level. CoM SSA is co-funded by the EU, BMZ, and AECID. The CoM SSA initiative supports the external dimension of the European Green Deal, as the global challenges of climate change and environmental degradation require a global response. At the same time CoM SSA moves to strengthen the Africa-EU partnership and supports Agenda 2063 of the African Union Commission. CoM SSA is the regional chapter of an international alliance of cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. It 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.

For more information on our project and initiatives, please visit our websites and follow us on social media.

CoM SSA is co-funded by:



OUR FLAGSHIP EVENTS



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. The first edition was held in a virtual format in May 2021 and brought together over 1 400 participants from more than 400 cities around the world.



LoCS4Africa

Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS4Africa) is our key biennial 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.



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

WOFORO DUA PA A symbolises support, cooperation and encouragement

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

DENKYEM symbolises adaptability and cleverness

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

ESE NE TEKREMA symbolises improvement, growth and the need for

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

FUNTUNFUNEFU-DENKYEMFUNEFU symbolises democracy and 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

MPUANNUM symbolises loyalty and devotion

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

ME WARE WO symbolises perseverance or being dedicated to a cause

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.





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