



## COALITION ROADMAP

### DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AFRICAN CITIES

Co-pilots of the coalition : FNAU, MTPA

This 2021/2022 roadmap aims to stimulate a dynamic logic on the way to the next [Climate Chance - Africa Summit](#) where the new targets can be presented as well as concrete examples that can influence the revision of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) scheduled for COP26 in November.

#### I – WHERE ARE WE NOW ?



Figure 1: Urban agglomerations of Africa. (source : Africapolis, 2020.)

Africa is expected to have the highest urbanisation rate in the world by 2050 (OECD, 2020). This trend is expected to continue throughout the 21st century. By 2050, African cities will be home to around 950 million additional inhabitants. At the same time, with an increasing proportion of young people in the population, also contributing to the growth of cities. Figure 1, opposite, shows the current urban agglomerations in Africa and their coverage of the continental territory. In view of these observations, the issues related to climate change are all the more of a priority as the phenomena of agglomeration and demographic growth tend to accentuate human

impacts on climate change, but they also increase vulnerability to the effects of climate change and therefore the risks for the populations. Far from being an inevitability, the African continent can, on the contrary, seize the opportunity of a young and therefore active population.



## CLIMATE CHANCE

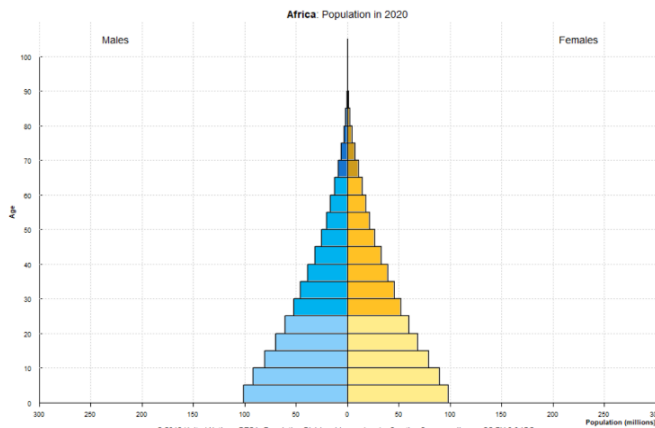


Figure 2: The 2020 population pyramid for Africa . (source : UN DESA, 2020.)

In this context, developing the urban centres of Africa to be sustainable, resilient and circular is crucial. Countries and cities find themselves at a key juncture, needing to transform this potential into realised benefits, which spill over across the areas of environment, health, society, economy and more. There is a space to be filled by the adoption of innovations and sustainable infrastructure, an increase in localised knowledge and

skills, and citizen engagement, across various sectors. The Covid-19 pandemic has also shed light on the weaknesses and strengths of existing urban planning, with many lessons to be drawn on how to strengthen the resilience of cities.

As identified in the initial roadmap of this coalition, the demographic and climate challenges of most African cities are enormous, both socially and economically, which requires identifying and activating the levers to integrate and address these challenges. In particular, the growing energy consumption of cities linked to population growth has a particularly strong impact on climate change. This requires anticipating the infrastructures that are essential for the adaptation of cities. Thus, mitigating the effects of climate change must be a priority for African cities over the next decade, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. This mitigation requires a necessary evolution of production systems (which are today highly dependent on fossil fuels) towards sustainable systems, which are less energy intensive and whose environmental impact is limited by relying on diversified and renewable energy resources.

Adaptation to climate change is the second pillar to guide the action of cities, as the effects of global warming are already having a lasting impact on urban spaces and city life. In Africa in particular, many of the largest cities are located in coastal areas. Their high concentration of inhabitants, infrastructures and activities make them all the more vulnerable to certain natural phenomena linked to climate change:

- Sea level rise, erosion and submersion of coastal areas
- Urban flooding and soil subsidence, due to the density of the built-up area, the impermeability of the soil and the lack of vegetation, which often prevents the water from being drained away naturally.
- The formation of heat islands in city centers, with temperatures 2 to 3 degrees higher than those in the suburbs
- Water stress.

The question thus remains: How can we move from a vicious cycle between cities and climate, to a virtuous one, since our current model of urbanisation contributes to reinforcing or even creating their own vulnerability?



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### What is the future of African cities ?

At the coalition's workshop in Abidjan in 2018, following a reflection on the future of the African city, the following observations were made :

1. The non-existence or non-application of urban planning tools, and a lack of follow-ups
2. The need to expand access to housing, in the context of increasing urban influxes and the expansion of slums
3. The question of integrating the local cultural and traditional identity in the cities
4. The problem of intense pollution and environmental degradation
5. Increasingly disconnected cities, requiring a complete revamp of connectivity, mobility and transportation.

The workshops of the coalition in 2019, and in 2020 also highlighted similar issues, and the importance of municipal networks, to enable cities to benefit from each other's experiences and collective resources.

## II – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO ?

Following the contextualisation of climate and urban issues in Africa, the following objectives can be given, recognising that while progress has been made, continued efforts are needed to achieve the broader goal of sustainable and resilient cities.

1. **Continued and expanded environmental education of the population:** mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into the education sector. Quality environmental education is an essential component of adaptive capacity - the knowledge and skills needed to adapt lives and livelihoods to the economic, social and ecological realities associated with climate change. However, for education to be transformative, it must be based on
  1. active, inclusive and participatory teaching and learning processes
  2. Qualified and inspiring teachers;
  3. links to communities and local issues. Awareness-raising campaigns for adults are also important..
2. **Continued training of elected officials:** This includes the dissemination of information and good practices from around the world, especially ones replicable in Africa. This type of training would provide the continent with critical, informed and aware decision makers on the link between climate change and sustainable development, frameworks that will be able to ensure strategic monitoring for the integration of the climate change dimension into the project planning and budgeting process.
3. **Initiating a redesign of the distribution of powers to enable action as close as possible to the territories.** Strategic reflection on climate must recentre cities as places of collective awareness, mobilization and creative action. Various shortcomings that hamper decentralization and accountability process at



## CLIMATE CHANCE

subnational levels need to be overcome. Meeting this challenge requires bolder decentralization policies and more endogenous and forward-looking local development processes.

4. **Developing efficient energy, waste management, mobility and food systems** : The various sub-sectors of city-level action present opportunities to be improved upon. The Covid crisis has highlighted the fragility of existing urban systems, which can be overcome with the active participation of local governments, civil society and citizens.
5. **Continuing the mobilisation of actors, especially from the civil society and non-governmental sectors**, and increase the synergies between them to benefit from shared knowledge and resources.
6. **Promoting access to finance for city-level climate action, through improved competencies and broader partnerships**, including public-private partnerships (PPPs). On the theme of financing, ensuring transparency, proper follow-ups of projects and initiatives in order to ensure the continuity of financing is also important.

### III – HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

Without a 100% dedicated facilitator for this coalition, the strengthening of its dynamics relies essentially on the will of its members. The objectives defined in 2018, notably those relating to the dissemination of information and the mapping of actors, have been partially achieved, and we have the virtual opportunity to agree on the next priorities according to the needs of the members .

As such, it is proposed to target two or three actions to be included in the 2021/2022 Roadmap to be realistic and to be able to measure progress.

- **Action 1: Disseminating information**

Since 2018, a mailing list [villes-durables.af@climate-chance.org](mailto:villes-durables.af@climate-chance.org) was set up to promote exchanges between coalition actors. Climate Chance regularly shares relevant information on sustainable city planning. At present, the mailing list counts over 300 members and is mainly run by the Climate Chance team. **Coalition members are strongly encouraged to share any information that could be useful to other members.**

- *A newsletter (monthly or bi-monthly) co-authored by coalition members highlighting recently published good practice from the sector on mapping, funding opportunities, calls for projects, training opportunities, interesting events, etc.*



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- **Action 2: Creating a network of actors**

We propose that coalition members continuously map interesting actors, best practices, high impact, scalable and replicable projects in sustainable urban planning. Climate Chance could promote these initiatives through its [Cartography for Action](#), the [Climate Library](#), publications in the [Observatory's Synthesis Reports](#) or social media posts on Climate Chance's pages. These projects will also be promoted through our Portal of Action, and more broadly, they will be able to inspire the community of non-state actors that are part of the coalition. To share a project, [simply fill in this form](#).