

Urban-LEDS II

Newsletter

November 2018



Introducing Phase II of the Urban-LEDS project

UN-Habitat and ICLEI are working closely together to accelerate urban low emission development and climate resilience, engaging with more than 60 cities worldwide.

Technical assistance is provided to cities in 8 countries, helping them develop robust strategies and climate action plans, underpinned by knowledge gained from risk & vulnerability assessments and greenhouse gas emission inventories. A key component of the project is the fostering of a multilevel governance approach to urban climate action. The project encourages discussions between all levels of government to explore vertically integrated approaches that address how to improve governance structures, effective communication, intra-governmental coordination, and

finance flows, in all relevant sectors. Urban-LEDS II is an implementation action supporting the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM).

The full name of the project is: *“Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies,”* or “Urban-LEDS II” for short. The project is funded by the European Union. Phase I ran from 2012 – 2015 involving Brazil, Indonesia, India and South Africa. This second phase runs from 2017 – 2021 and includes four new countries: Colombia, Brazil, Lao PDR and Rwanda.

Highlights from this issue...

Country News from the 8 project countries

City in focus: Balikpapan, Indonesia

Urban Champion: Sikhumbuzo Hlongwane, KwaDukuza Municipality, South Africa

THE LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION INCUBATOR

TAP Transformative Actions Program

The Transformative Actions Program (TAP) is a project pipeline and preparation facility managed by ICLEI. It acts as an incubator by catalyzing capital flows for low-to-zero emission and climate-resilient development.

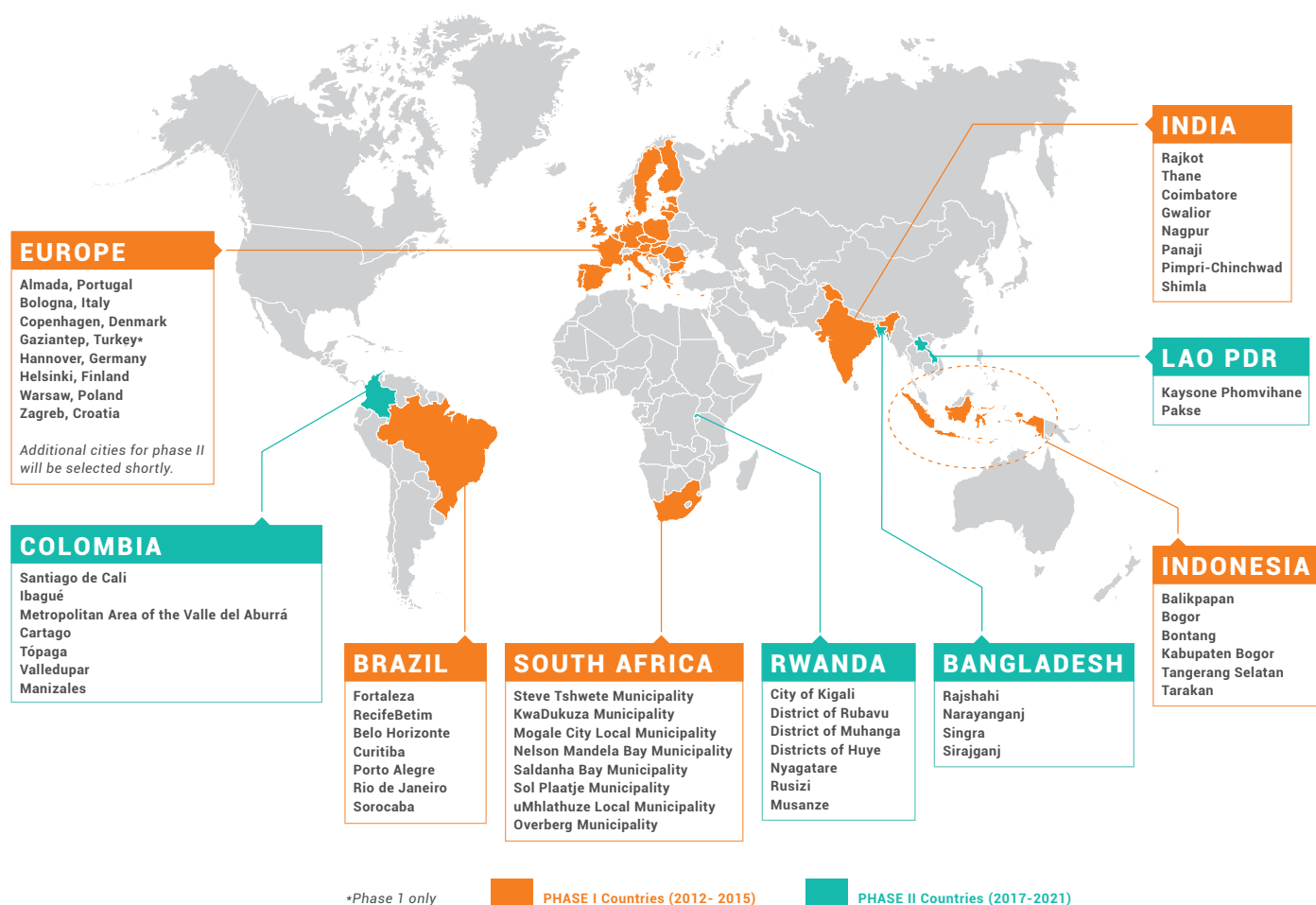
Through the TAP, local and regional governments can access services offered by ICLEI and partners to develop transformative local infrastructure projects, “transformative” – meaning ambitious, cross-cutting and inclusive.

The 2018 call for projects is now open to local and regional governments and their project partners worldwide and is closing on the 10 November 2018: <http://tap-potential.org/how-to-apply/>

New local governments join the project!

In the new project countries of Colombia, Lao PDR, Bangladesh and Rwanda, new local governments have joined the project. They join an existing network of cities and local governments working together in Urban-LEDS to share experiences and accelerate low-carbon, climate resilient development.

In addition to cities in the Global South, a number of European cities also take part in the project. They share their experiences, supporting peer exchange and capacity development. In turn they benefit from the project by learning from one another and from innovative approaches applied by the project Model and Satellite Cities.



Project synergies: The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

Urban-LEDS project is supporting the implementation of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), which is one of the key synergy initiatives of the project. Both ICLEI and UN-Habitat are Founding Partners of the GCoM.

The GCoM is the broadest global alliance committed to climate leadership, building on the commitment of over 9,000 cities

and local governments from six continents and 127 countries representing more than 770 million residents. Signatory cities lead by example, by pledging to implement policies and undertake measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for the impacts of climate change, increase access to secure, affordable and sustainable energy and track progress towards these objectives. Several GCoM partners,

including ICLEI and UN-Habitat, provide support to cities and local governments to help them meet their commitments.

www.globalcovenantofmayors.org



Bangladesh: Project initiation underway in Bangladesh

Based on the Expression of Interest from cities in Bangladesh, and subsequent discussions, Narayan Ganj and Rajshahi are implementing the project as model cities. Reducing transport emissions, enhancing building energy efficiency and improving solid waste management are some of their stated ambitions. Sirajganj and Singra cities are participating in the project as satellite cities. **Read the full story:** <https://bit.ly/2z0bNWw>



ICLEI South Asia team introducing the Urban-LEDS II project to Honourable Mayor and city officials of Rajshahi city, Bangladesh



Opening table of the National Workshop. From left to right: Alain Grimard, International Senior Officer of UN-Habitat Latin America and the Caribbean, Rodrigo Perpétuo, Executive Secretary of ICLEI South America, João Cravinho, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil, and the Executive Secretary of the National Front of Mayors, Gilberto Perre.

Brazil: Workshop debates how to implement low carbon strategies in Brazilian cities

To start the activities of the second phase of the Urban LEDES project in Brazil, in early July 2018, ICLEI South America, together with UN Habitat and the Public Agenda, organized the “National Workshop: How to finance climate actions of local governments”. The event, which had the objective of seeking viable alternatives for the financing of low carbon urban development strategies, was attended by public managers from the 8 Brazilian cities participating in the second phase of the project, as well as government and private sector representatives, development banks and municipal organizations. **See the full story:** <https://bit.ly/2yvhH2t>. In addition, in Aug-Sep 2018, a series of seminars and public events were held in a number of Brazilian Urban-LEDS cities, to sensitise local stakeholders to the climate agenda in these cities. **To see more:** <https://goo.gl/sFYXDx>

Colombia: Urban-LEDS II kicks-off in Colombia

In February 2018, ICLEI South America opened its first national coordination office in the country. At the occasion, a conference was held on “Sustainable Cities and Low Carbon”, which announced the start of the Urban LEDES project in Colombia. In October 2018, the project was officially launched alongside a technical workshop in which the project was presented and participating cities shared their experiences. **See photos of the event:** <https://goo.gl/7vcfKi>



Mayors and representatives of 9 Colombian cities (Metropolitan Area of the Aburrá Valley, Cartago, Envigado, Ibagué, Medellín, Manizales, Santiago de Cali, Tópaga, Valledupar) during the opening of the Cali Epicenter: Peace and Development event.

Indonesia: Advancing multi-level governance

Multi-level governance was one of the topics of discussion during the annual Knowledge Management Forum of the Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI), held in July 2018. **Read the full story:** <https://bit.ly/2z0bNWr>

In initial project planning meetings, model cities Bogor and Balikpapan emphasised the need for multi-level governance dialogues on how local governments can contribute to achieving Indonesia's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target. **Read the full story:** <https://bit.ly/2IKwuJZ>



Participants at the Knowledge Management Forum of the Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI), July 2018

India: Nagpur Municipal Corporation to participate in Urban-LEDS II

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) was signed on the 25th of July 2018 for implementing the Urban-LEDS II project. **Read the full story:** <https://tinyurl.com/yaccurkc>

Lao PDR: Urban LEDES II project set to launch

Urban-LEDS II is set to launch in Lao PDR in the fourth quarter of 2018. To kick start the project implementation, ICLEI-Lao PDR and UN-Habitat conducted a series of meetings with relevant line ministries, provincial and city governments.

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/2O0MM2S>



The Urban-LEDS II Project team in Lao meeting with representatives from Kaysone Phomvihane City



Participants at the Urban-LEDS Rwanda launch

Rwanda: Urban-LEDS II project launched

ICLEI-Africa and UN-Habitat visited the city of Kigali, Rwanda, from 26 to 28 March 2018, to meet with key stakeholders including representatives from a range of national government departments,

agencies, and development organisations in the country. Most importantly, the Urban-LEDS II project in Rwanda was officially launched, demonstrating the huge wealth of local knowledge and

experience on the topic of green growth and local carbon development – and how Urban-LEDS could play an exciting role in strengthening this further. **Read the full story:** <https://bit.ly/2ApAPR7>



Participants at the Urban-LEDS II Summit: Financing the future we want in the City of Johannesburg, South Africa

South Africa: Partners discuss financing and multi-level governance

On 29 May 2018, the Urban LEDS-II Summit brought Urban-LEDS project cities from South Africa together to share the various challenges their cities face in relation to climate change, but also opportunities, in a peer-to-peer exchange. The National Project Advisory Group (NPAG), a high-level group comprised of representatives from leaders in low emissions and climate resilient development in South Africa, was also formed. **Read the full story:** <https://bit.ly/2NYhda3>

City in focus: Balikpapan's (Indonesia) relentless pursuit of sustainability

Balikpapan is a seaport city on the east coast of Borneo Island in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan. Dubbed the "oil refinery city," Balikpapan is nonetheless committed to becoming a liveable and sustainable city.

To achieve this, the City of Balikpapan has issued several policies and regulations. For example:

- In 2013, the city issued a moratorium to stop the granting of coal mining permits.
- The city's spatial planning follows 52:48 pattern – 52% of the total land area is dedicated for environment such as protected forest, city forest, green open spaces (RTH), green corridor, and retention pool, while only 48% that can be built for urban physical development and infrastructure.
- City officials hold regular meetings with a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Forum. One successful CSR-funded initiative is a Waste-to-Energy program in Manggar sanitary landfill where methane gas was captured and connected to 161 households for cooking and electricity.



1. Iconic City Symbol of Balikpapan.



2. Mangrove planting activity led by the City Government of Balikpapan.

From 2013 to 2016, Balikpapan participated in the Urban-LEDS I project as a model city to conduct a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and developing a GHG Emission Reduction Plan (RAD-GRK). The city pledged to reduce GHG emissions by almost 20% by 2020 from 2010 levels. In Urban-LEDS Phase II, Balikpapan will focus on promoting vertical integration and strengthening the Measuring, Reporting, Verifying (MRV) processes of its climate action plan.

Mr. Suryanto Ibrahim, head of Environmental Agency in Balikpapan, shared that: *"Despite our limited financial resources, we are conserving our open spaces to make Balikpapan more liveable to both citizens and visitors, and we will keep our commitment not to mine the coal. We want to show that our city has huge potential to contribute to national targets especially in relation to climate change."*

Upcoming events:

24th Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

3-14 December 2018, Katowice, Poland. <http://cop24.gov.pl/>



COP24 · KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP24 is an important staging post for the finalisation of the implementation mechanisms of the Paris Agreement.

Urban-LEDS events will include one on financing low-carbon development, in partnership with the GCoM, and on multi-level governance in partnership with GIZ. For more information about plans by the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency, one of the major stakeholder groups at the UNFCCC, please visit <https://iclei.org/en/media/unfccc-cop24-24th-un-climate-change-conference>



Urban champion:

Sikhumbuzo Hlongwane, Executive Director, Economic Development, KwaDukuza Municipality, South Africa



Every other newsletter, we hand over the mic to local government staff in Urban-LEDS cities, so they can tell you their story of promoting low-carbon development in their municipalities

www.kwadukuza.gov.za

KwaDukuza Local Municipality has been an Urban-LEDS frontrunner in institutionalising climate change into municipal activities. Mr Sikhumbuzo Hlongwane leads the team that champions this action.

After a hard week's work, you are likely to find Sikhumbuzo with his family relaxing in their home or exploring the Kwa-Zulu Natal South Coast over the weekend.

He loves reading, volunteering at local community organisations, and spending time with his two daughters as they visit the local library every Saturday. Sikhumbuzo is an integrator by nature, the mandate of the Economic Development Unit he leads comprises urban planning, mobility, environmental management and economic development. He is especially passionate about seeing the green building guidelines implemented in the public and private sector. This is because "green building goes to the heart of the energy discussion in KwaDukuza, which has a booming property development market driving the economy and can therefore have a big impact."

Highlights for Sikhumbuzo from Phase I of Urban-LEDS include the increased

focus on climate change at the highest level of the municipality, as a result of project training, policy development and the green homes and solar street light demonstration project implemented in a community in Groutville. The municipality has recently become compliant with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and it is beginning to develop a City Resilience Programme to increase community resilience to flooding and protect its wetlands

For Phase II, Sikhumbuzo is looking forward to reviewing and embedding carbon strategies into municipal planning and decision-making processes, using local experiences to influence provincial and national policy, and packaging larger projects to mobilise external funding.



Solar water heaters were installed on low-income homes as part of the Groutville Urban-LEDS demonstration projects

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