Covenant of Mayors
in Sub-Saharan Africa



A major catalyst for local climate action in sub-Saharan Africa

Funded by the European Union

CoM SSA is co-funded by:

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Across sub-Saharan Africa, demand for climate-resilient urban infrastructure and services is high. Urban centres are expanding, increasing pressure to deliver services and manage growth while responding to climate impacts that disproportionately affect vulnerable groups.

Since its launch in 2015, the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) has mobilised **political commitment for climate action from over 410 signatory local governments** in 42 countries, representing more than 137 million citizens.

By working with local governments to develop robust climate and energy plans, as well as **scaling impactful, finance-ready climate and urban solutions**, CoM SSA supports an African urban transformation steered by subnational actors.

CoM SSA spans the full urban project cycle. It supports evidence-based climate and energy plans, translates identified priorities into implementation pipelines, and offers cooperation formats that strengthen local capabilities and ownership.

Through the sustained support of the European Union and European co-funders and implementers, CoM SSA advances investment readiness by bringing early financial diagnostics, upstream engagement with finance actors, and participatory and gender-responsive approaches into the implementation process. CoM SSA also improves coordination across international and regional partners, helping connect local demands to wider investment and partnership opportunities.

CoM SSA has grown into a **flagship of EU–Africa cooperation**. It reflects a shared commitment by co-funders and implementers to support urban transformation through sustained engagement, European expertise and local capacities.

CoM SSA is the regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), the world's largest alliance for city climate leadership, connecting CoM SSA signatories to a global network of subnational actors and partners.

GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Funded by the European Union

CoM SSA's reach and impact

137 000 000+
citizens represented from **42** countries

CoM SSA is led by
410+
African Mayors

Over 140
events where CoM SSA leaders have accelerated local climate action across the region

Major events where CoM SSA was showcased recently

- COP30
- Local Leaders Forum
- Smart City Expo World Congress
- Africa Climate Summit 2
- Climate Week 2
- Second Africa Urban Forum
- Innovate4Cities

*Data as of **30 September 2026***

The importance of working on energy and climate change in African cities:



By **2050**, **one in** every **four people** on Earth will **live in Africa.**



Despite **contributing just 9% to global greenhouse gas emissions**, **Africa** is the **most vulnerable** continent **to climate change impacts** —already losing up to 5% of GDP annually to climate-related shocks such as droughts, floods, and heat extremes—**yet it receives only 3% of global climate finance.**



Currently, **658 million people** in Africa still **lack access to electricity.**

How does CoM SSA support local climate action?

Climate and energy planning

CoM SSA enables local governments to develop Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans (SEACAPs), that are inclusive, data-driven, and aligned with both local and national priorities.

Project preparation and technical support

CoM SSA helps cities to identify, design and prepare bankable urban infrastructure projects, in collaboration with financial institutions and private sector partners.

Peer learning and partnerships

CoM SSA facilitates regional cooperation, city-to-city exchanges and multilevel partnerships to accelerate knowledge sharing and strengthen capacity.

A snapshot of CoM SSA's major milestones



CoM SSA Regional Mayors Forum

CoM SSA's Regional Mayors Forum (RMF), which consists of 12 elected African Mayors representing each sub-region of sub-Saharan Africa, amplifies the voices of African cities in global and regional forums, while strengthening regional cooperation and engagement with national governments. This political leadership fosters the enabling environment needed for local implementation and sustained climate ambition.

The RMF brings signatories' feedback, priority items, and strategic inputs to CoM SSA and GCoM decision-making bodies, including the CoM SSA Steering Committee and the GCoM Board.

CoM SSA Regional Mayors Forum



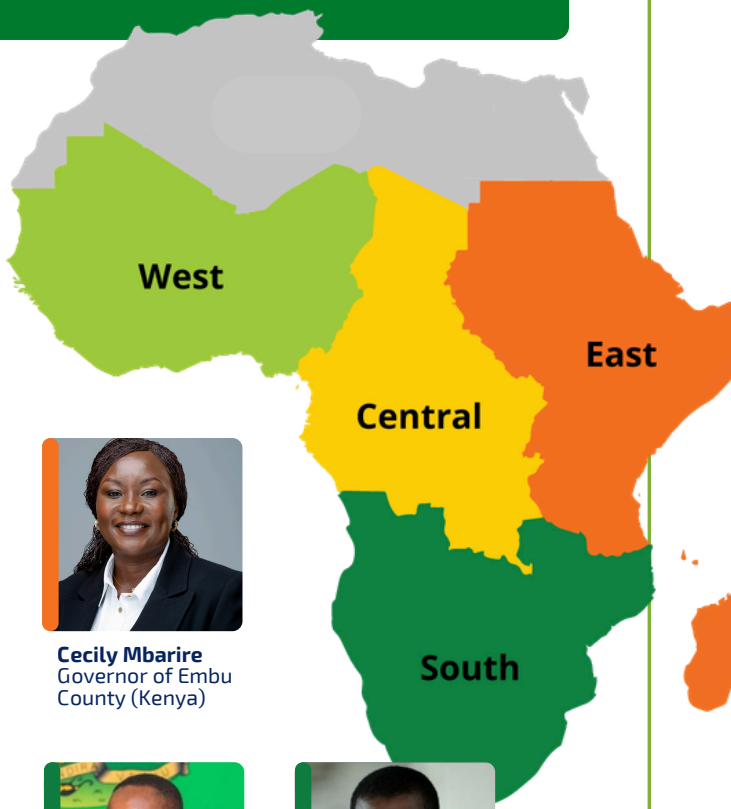
Mariame Diallo
Mayor of Bamako III (Mali)



Fatimetou Abdel Malick
Council President of the Region of Nouakchott (Mauritania)



Afelete Kossi Emile Atigaku
Mayor of the Commune of Kloto I (Togo)

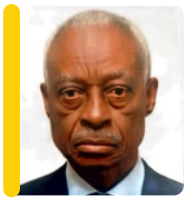




Prisca Roseline Mano Dasse Yabimando
Mayor of Bangui (Central African Republic)



Abdon Adamou
Mayor of Garoua-Boulaï (Cameroon)



Eugène M'Ba
Mayor of Libreville (Gabon)

Cecily Mbarire
Governor of Embu County (Kenya)

Seat to be filled



Serunkuma John Bosco Galabuzi
Mayor of Makindye Ssabagabo (Uganda)



Johannes Shimbilinga
Mayor of Walvis Bay (Namibia)



Jacob Mafume
Mayor of Harare (Zimbabwe)



Dr Manuel de Araùjo
Mayor of Quelimane City (Mozambique)

Advisory Board



Yawo Winny Dogbatse
Former Mayor of Kloto 1 (Togo)



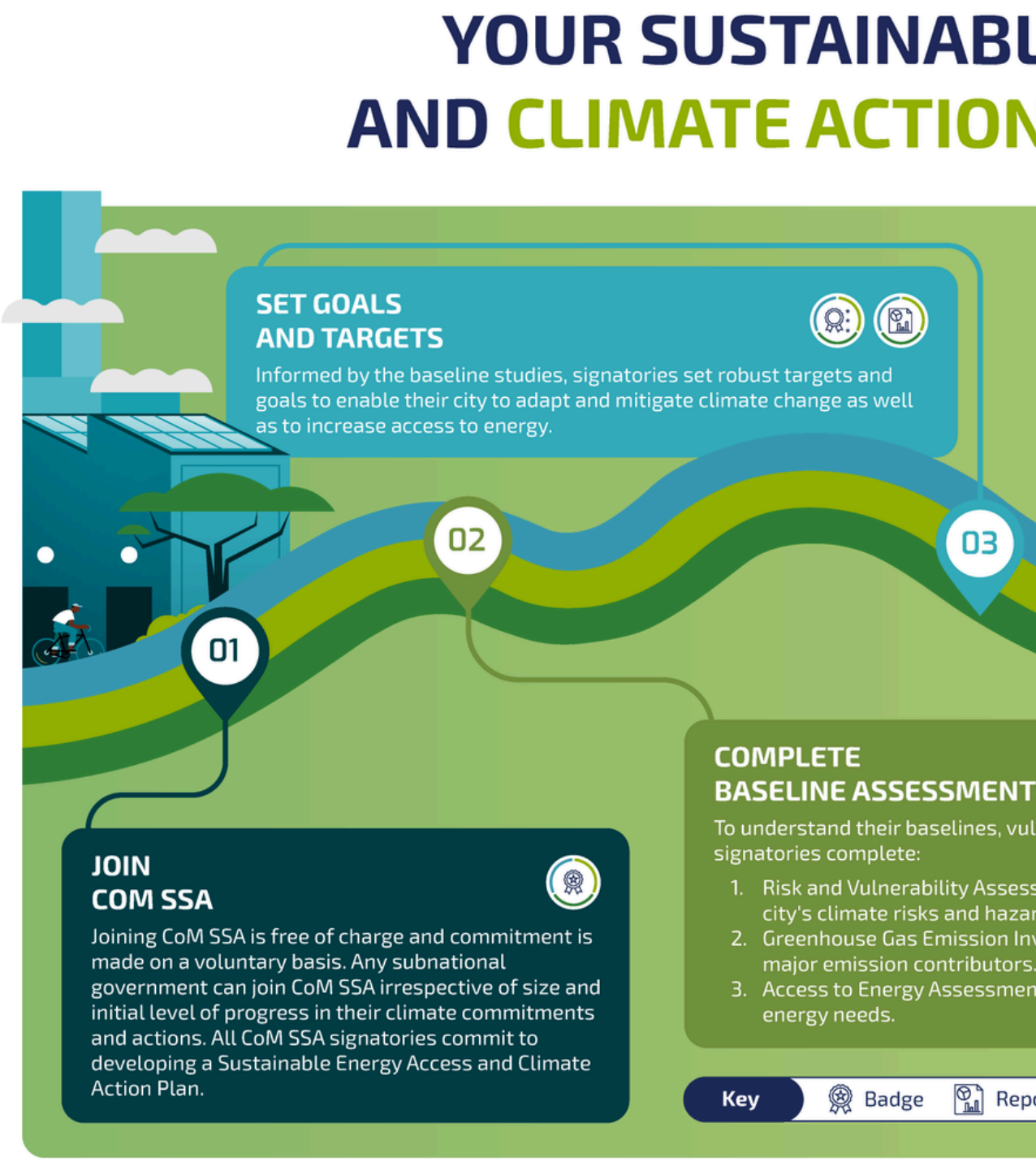
Regina Bakitte Nakkazzi Musoke
Former Mayor of Nansana (Uganda)



Trevino Forbes
Former Mayor of Walvis Bay (Namibia)

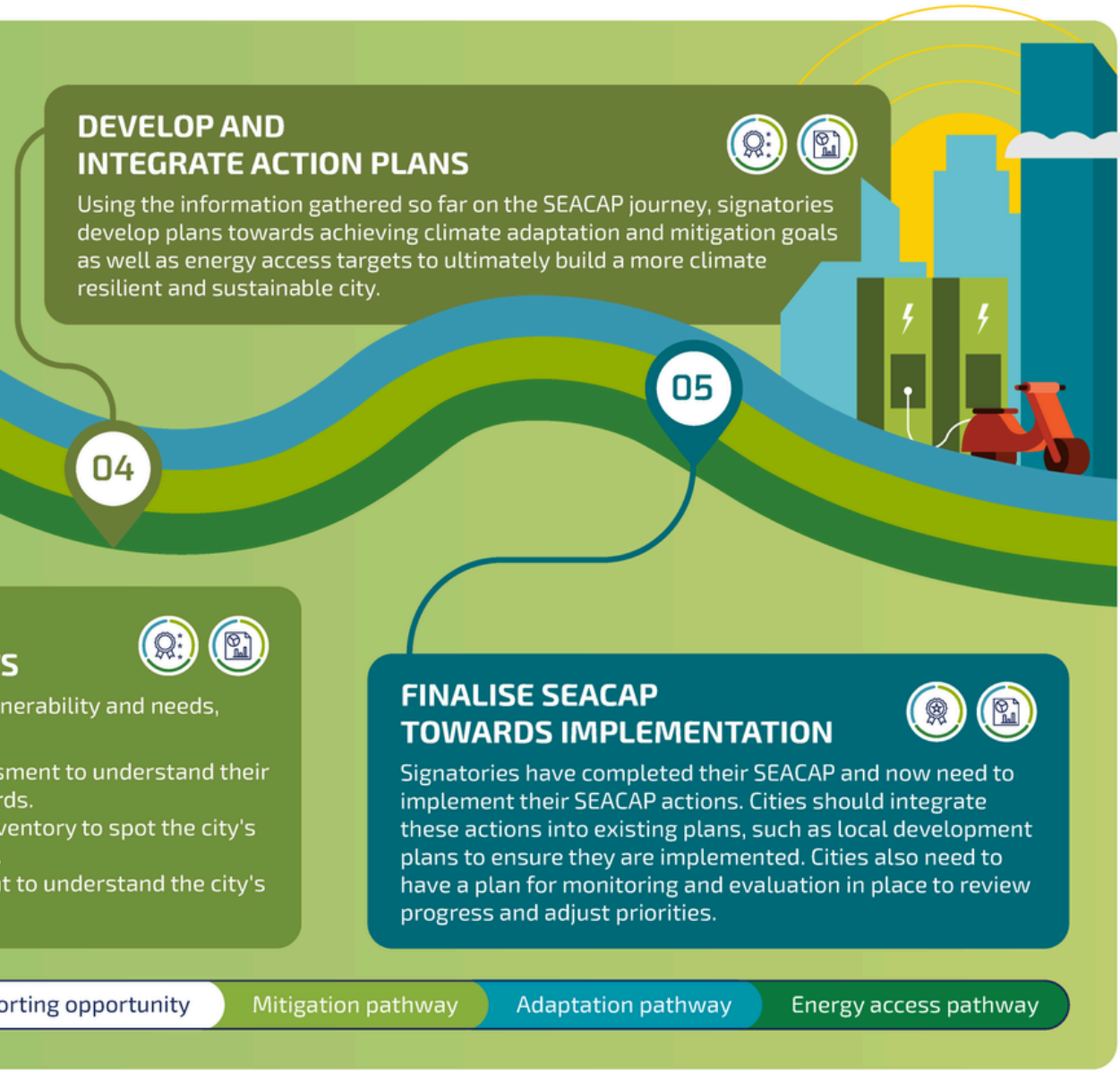
What do CoM SSA signatories commit to?

By pledging to deliver a Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP), CoM SSA signatories champion the African transition towards a climate-resilient, just, low-emission and energy-secure future.



Rapid urbanisation and the immense sustainability challenges facing African cities require bold decisive action. Urban area
Urban Agenda and Agenda 2063. Cities are at the forefront of the change required to transition to more sustainable, attract
cities risk maladaptation, poor governance, and low investor confidence, leaving municipalities poorly positioned to direct a

LE ENERGY ACCESS
N PLANNING JOURNEY



s need transformative change to achieve the commitments of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, New ive, and resilient communities. However, without climate plans that are ambitious, comprehensive and fully integrated, and attract funding for climate action.

Climate action needs climate finance

The CoM SSA initiative plays a pivotal role in directing finance to where it is needed most; at the local level where climate change impacts are experienced. The CoM SSA initiative provides context-specific climate change planning and climate finance support to signatories, bridging the gap between local governments and key role players needed to unlock climate finance at the local level.

Through CoM SSA, a total of **110** city-level projects supported in Africa

Representing a total potential investment volume of over

€838 MILLION

Of these projects **15** have been taken up by financiers

175+
CoM SSA training events with over
2000+
government officials trained

127
mitigation badges awarded

83
access to energy badges awarded

156
adaptation badges awarded

303
news articles published

61
tools and resources developed through CoM SSA

Digital content reached over
1.1 million
screens

*Data as of **June 2026***



CoM SSA supports signatories by:



DELIVERING practical support, technical assistance and access to partnerships in developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SEACAPs) to accelerate climate action and unlock climate finance



PROVIDING platforms for leaders to connect



SHARING best practice examples and resources



BUILDING valuable partnerships with other signatories, funders and financiers, national government, the private sector, civil society, and researchers and academics



EMPOWERING local governments to plan for climate change utilising the best available science and evidence, while unlocking the resources necessary to implement these plans



ELEVATING the voices of local governments into national and global agendas through representation in national, regional and international processes, platforms and events



CONNECTING local governments with investors, innovators and market actors, to catalyse sustainable business models, attract long-term investment and accelerate climate-resilient action.

How to join CoM SSA

Become a signatory

Any city or local government, irrespective of size and initial level of progress in their climate change and sustainable energy commitments and actions, can join the initiative and become a CoM SSA signatory. All CoM SSA signatories commit to developing a Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan. Access the CoM SSA political commitment document and additional information here:

Become a supporter

CoM SSA supporters provide essential support to CoM SSA signatories to meet their commitments and targets. Public authorities, networks of local and regional governments, and civil society organisations that are in a position to provide strategic guidance, technical and/or financial support to signatories are able to join the initiative as CoM SSA supporters.

Collaborate with us

CoM SSA encourages all those active and/or seeking to be active in driving urban climate change action in sub-Saharan Africa to contact the Secretariat with regard to collaboration with the initiative. CoM SSA aims to collaborate with initiatives and organisations, individuals and communities, those that can offer expertise, financial resources and/or harness CoM SSA tools, resources and lessons learnt for further scaled action.

Contact the CoM SSA Secretariat

Email: helpdesk@comssa.org
Address: Unit 1, 2nd floor, South Tower, Sable Park, 14 Bridge Boulevard, Century City, 7441, Cape Town, South Africa

Find us on social media

@CoMOSSAfrica

comssa.org

Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa

CoM SSA is co-implemented by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Agence Française d'Expertise Technique Internationale (Expertise France); and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

aecid

AFD AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

EXPERTISE FRANCE GROUPE AFD

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The CoM SSA Secretariat is hosted by ICLEI Africa.

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability AFRICA

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