

Kenya

Kenyan national government spearheading collaboration with local governments on nature-based solutions and sustainable urban development

Kenya, East Africa's largest economy and regional financial hub, faces significant challenges from climate change, despite contributing less than 0.1% of global emissions. As a country heavily reliant on rainfed agriculture and tourism, Kenya's vulnerability is compounded by its rapid urbanization.

While just 27% of the population currently lives in urban areas, this proportion is expected to reach 46% by 2050. The 2022 ND-GAIN Index ranks Kenya 145th out of 181 countries on climate readiness, reflecting its vulnerability to climate impacts and limited adaptive capacity. In 2024, Kenyan cities disclosed to CDP that flooding, drought, and heavy precipitation were their top climate hazards. These threats have taken a toll on agriculture and human settlements, as evidenced by this past year's devastating floods that resulted in hundreds of deaths and widespread displacement.

Kenya has emerged as a regional leader in climate action, being among the first African nations to implement comprehensive climate legislation and committing to a 32% emissions reduction by 2030 in its most recent Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). As Kenya pursues its 2030 national development goals through low-carbon, climate-resilient pathways, it is investing in clean energy, climate-smart agriculture, and nature-based solutions. Resilience is particularly crucial to urban areas that face increasing climate risks due to sprawling informal settlements, lack of proper infrastructure planning, and rapidly growing populations.

Kenya's 2022 NDC has high urban content, demonstrated by strong urban integration throughout its Prioritized Adaptation Program, which specifically addresses population, urbanization, and housing actions. Kenya's NDC also emphasizes that local governments have a key role in enhancing adaptive capacity. As a CHAMP endorser country, Kenya is actively working to strengthen coordination between government levels to enhance national policies and empower local action.



Insights from CDP-ICLEI Track

Four Kenyan local governments disclosed to CDP-ICLEI Track in 2024 (City of Kisumu, City of Nairobi, City of Nakuru, and Siaya County), representing 54% of the urban population (8.8 million people).

These disclosures cover a significant proportion of the urban population and offer a valuable perspective on local climate priorities and needs. CDP data shows varied, but strong commitment among participating governments. Nairobi has an emissions reduction target, but no adaptation target; Siyaya County has an adaptation target, but no emission reduction target. Meanwhile, the cities of Nakuru and Kisumu have both adaptation and mitigation targets. All four disclosers have established Climate Action Plans (CAPs).

Kenyan disclosers also demonstrate robust partnerships with the national government and rely on both national and regional funding sources. The City of Nakuru exemplifies this collaboration, disclosing that it has worked with the national government on its CAP and climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA), as well as its adaptation and mitigation targets. Notably, the city reported that the adaptation and mitigation targets were encouraged by higher-levels of government. The city is also seeking national funds, alongside public-private partnerships and jurisdictional funds, to provide the more than US\$775,000 needed to implement its climate and energy plans. Similarly, the city of Nairobi disclosed that there is “continuous engagement with the national government in building capacity [and] in accessing financial resources for locally led climate action,” highlighted by their joint work on a river ecosystem restoration program spearheaded by the national government. These partnerships showcase strong multilevel governance on climate efforts in Kenya, as well as the key role of top-down leadership.

Spotlight on city climate projects

In 2024, CDP-disclosing Kenyan cities reported 13 climate projects seeking US\$66 million in total investment.

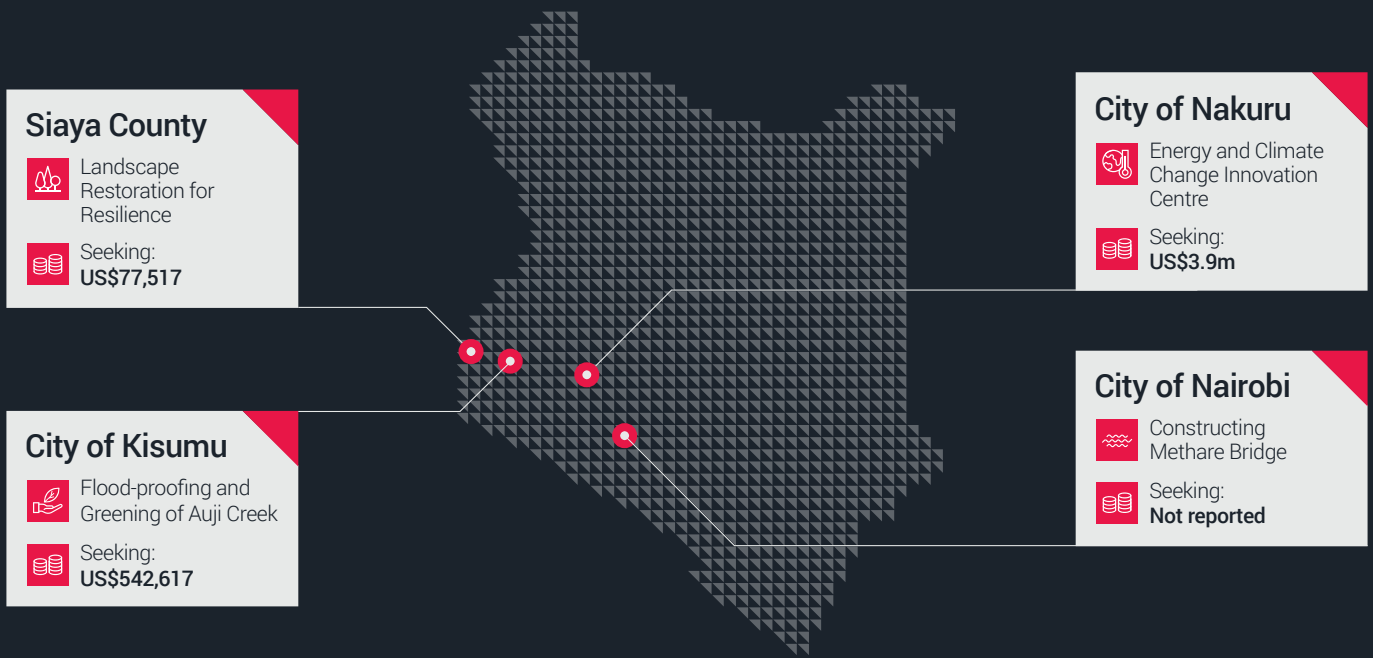
Renewable energy projects accounted for the largest share (4 projects seeking US\$6.5M), followed by nature-based solutions, biodiversity, and urban green spaces (3 projects seeking US\$ 622,450), water management (2 projects seeking US\$54.3M), and waste management (2 projects seeking US\$4.7M). 62% (8 projects) are still in the early stages of development and projects are evenly split between mitigation and adaptation (6 and 7 projects respectively).

Key takeaways

Kenya demonstrates robust multilevel collaboration and action, with all CDP disclosers actively engaging with the national government, adopting climate action plans, and identifying ambitious targets. Furthermore, Kenya’s leadership in the domestic and international sphere is highlighted by its endorsement of the CHAMP initiative and its hosting of major events like the [2023 Africa Climate Summit](#). Overall, there is a clear commitment across all levels of government to reduce the country’s present-day vulnerability and prepare for a sustainable future.



Project Examples



Siaya County



Landscape Restoration for Resilience



Seeking: US\$77,517

City of Kisumu



Flood-proofing and Greening of Auji Creek



Seeking: US\$542,617

City of Nakuru



Energy and Climate Change Innovation Centre



Seeking: US\$3.9m

City of Nairobi



Constructing Methare Bridge



Seeking: Not reported

Siaya County



Landscape Restoration for Resilience

Sector: Nature-based solutions, biodiversity and urban green spaces

Summary description: This is a multi-county landscape project that intends to champion landscape restoration through afforestation to prevent land degradation that has occurred with unprecedented excess rainfall due to climate change.

Seeking: US\$77,517

Stage of development: Transaction preparation

Financing status: Project not funded and seeking full funding

Identified financing model: Grants, Loans from International Financial Institutions

City of Nakuru



Energy and Climate Change Innovation Centre

Sector: Renewable energy

Summary description: This project, developed in collaboration with the national Department for International Development and the Kenyan Association of Manufacturers, aims to create an energy policy and action plan for Nakuru County that incentivizes private-sector investment and creates a more resilient and low-carbon energy system.

Seeking: US\$3.9 million

Stage of development: Pre-feasibility / impact assessment

Financing status: Project not funded and seeking partial funding

Financing model identified: Public finance - own budget; Private investment

City of Kisumu



Flood-proofing and Greening of Auji Creek

Sector: Nature-based solutions, biodiversity and urban green spaces

Summary description: This project will invest in a park that will benefit the community by enhancing access to green space for residents, protect biodiversity, and manage floodwater. The park will be operated through a community-based management structure.

Seeking: US\$542,617

Stage of development: Pre-feasibility / impact assessment

Financing status: Project not funded and seeking full funding

Identified financing model: Grants; Public finance - own budget

City of Nairobi



Constructing Methare Bridge

Sector: Transport

Summary description: This project will construct a bridge to link informal villages and reduce the impact of flooding.

Seeking: Not reported

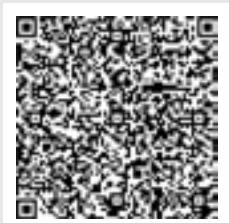
Stage of development: Scoping

Financing status: Project not funded and seeking full funding

Identified financing model: Grants

This case study illustrates how CDP data can support national governments in the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for climate action. It is a part of CDP's 2024 Global Snapshot and based on self-disclosed responses to CDP-ICLEI Track in 2024, where local governments report climate projects that are currently seeking funding or financing. Close to 1,000 cities, states, and regions reported their environmental data through CDP in 2024.

**To access the full CDP 2024
Global Snapshot of city climate
projects - scan or click the QR code.**



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