

CDP AFRICA REPORT

BENCHMARKING PROGRESS TOWARDS CLIMATE SAFE CITIES, STATES, AND REGIONS

MARCH 2020

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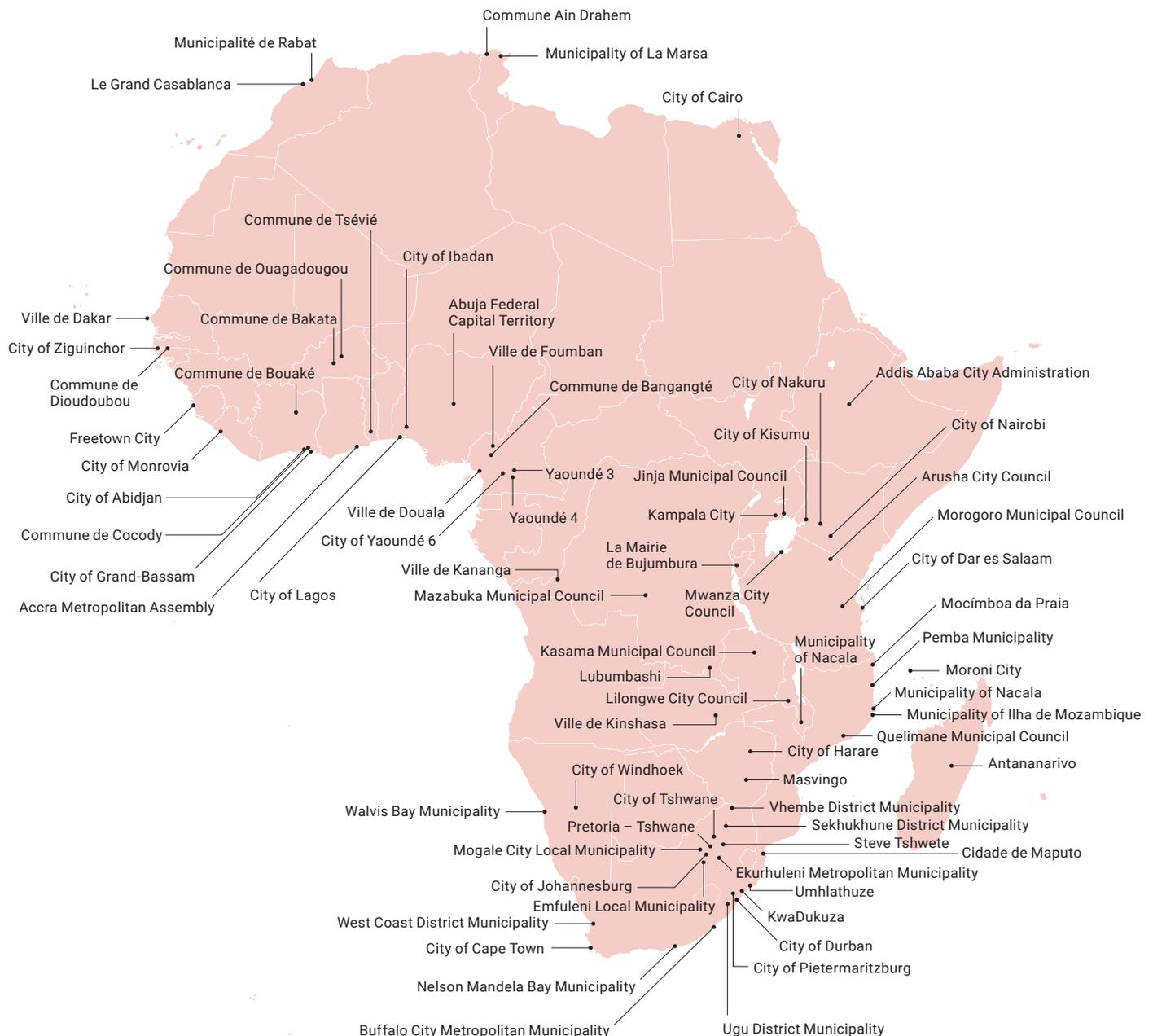
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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

Africa accounts for the **smallest share** of global greenhouse gas emissions, at just 3.8%, in contrast to 23% in China, 19% in the US, and 13% in the European Union. Yet the continent is **particularly vulnerable to climate change**, with extreme heat, precipitation changes, aridity, sea level rise affecting water resources, agricultural production, ocean and savannah ecosystems, with coastal populations and infrastructure highly vulnerable.

This year, CDP is working with 48 African cities reporting their environmental data. These cities cover a total population of just over 150 million citizens, which is 31% of the urban African population. In total, 834 cities representing approximately 17% of the global urban population reported through the CDP-ICLEI unified reporting system in 2019. Of over 120 states and regions reporting globally, representing over 672 million people and 21% of the global economy, 9 were located in Africa.

Cities reporting their environmental data to the CDP-ICLEI unified reporting system in 2019



Actions at a Glance

Cities reporting sustainability targets:

In Progress

5

Sustainability Target

35

No Target

8

This year, CDP is working with:



48

African cities reporting their environmental data



These cities cover a total population of just over

150

million citizens



Which is

31%

of the urban African population

AFRICAN CITIES:

KEY FIGURES

In 2019, 48 African cities reported their environmental data through the CDP-ICLEI unified reporting system, and are actively measuring and managing climate change risks and hazards. Responding cities are taking meaningful action to adapt to climate change and to plan for a climate resilient future, but there is a need for additional resources, streamlined data collection processes, and peer to peer learning/collaboration. With emissions profiles across the continent representing a relatively small share of global emissions, African cities must position themselves to invest in low-carbon and sustainable development, while working to address the current and predicted impacts of climate hazards.

62% of African cities reporting their environmental data have vulnerability assessments.

A high-quality vulnerability assessment is key to understanding and managing climate change risks and hazards and preparing for a resilient future. Cities with vulnerability assessments are more than twice (2.7x) as likely to report long-term hazards, and are taking almost 6 times (5.7x) the amount of adaption actions compared to those cities that have not conducted vulnerability assessments.

77% of African cities reporting currently have sustainability targets included in city master planning, with an additional 13% reporting targets in progress.

These include, but are not limited to: adaptation, emissions reduction, waste management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water security. Adaptation targets are by far the most common type of target.

Yet cities are still facing challenges.

Challenges identified included the lack of information sharing between different levels of government or different agencies, as well as the lack of resources to undertake risk and vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, or emissions inventories.



11

cities have an energy efficiency target



12

cities have a renewable energy target



12

cities have a water security strategy



15

cities have a city-wide inventory



16

cities have a waste reduction target



20

cities have an emissions reduction target



25

cities have an adaptation plan



30

cities have completed a vulnerability assessment



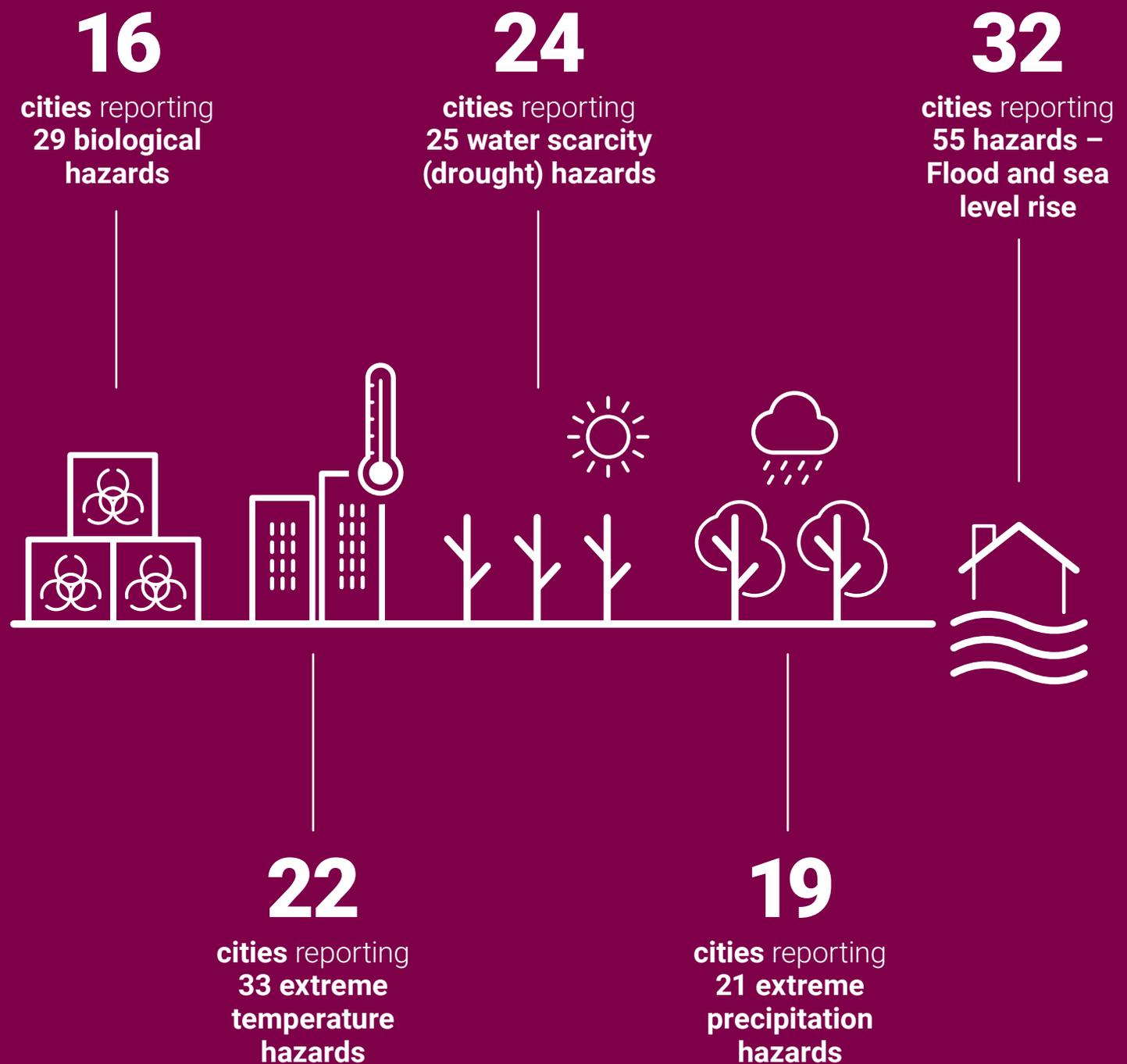
40

cities have climate action commitments

CITIES IN AFRICA ARE FACING MAJOR THREATS AS A RESULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

98% of cities reporting to CDP identified climate hazards, and 92% identified social risks. The most common threats reported were flood and sea levels rising, extreme temperatures, biological hazards, water scarcity, and extreme precipitation.

Most significant hazards reported



16

cities reporting
29 biological
hazards

24

cities reporting
25 water scarcity
(drought) hazards

32

cities reporting
55 hazards –
Flood and sea
level rise

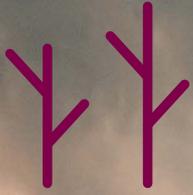
22

cities reporting
33 extreme
temperature
hazards

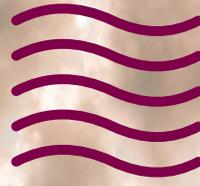
19

cities reporting
21 extreme
precipitation
hazards

Most commonly reported hazards



Drought
25
hazards



Flash/surface floods
18
hazards



Extreme precipitation/
rain storm
18
hazards



Extreme hot temperature/
hot days
18
hazards



Extreme hot temperature/
heat wave
15
hazards

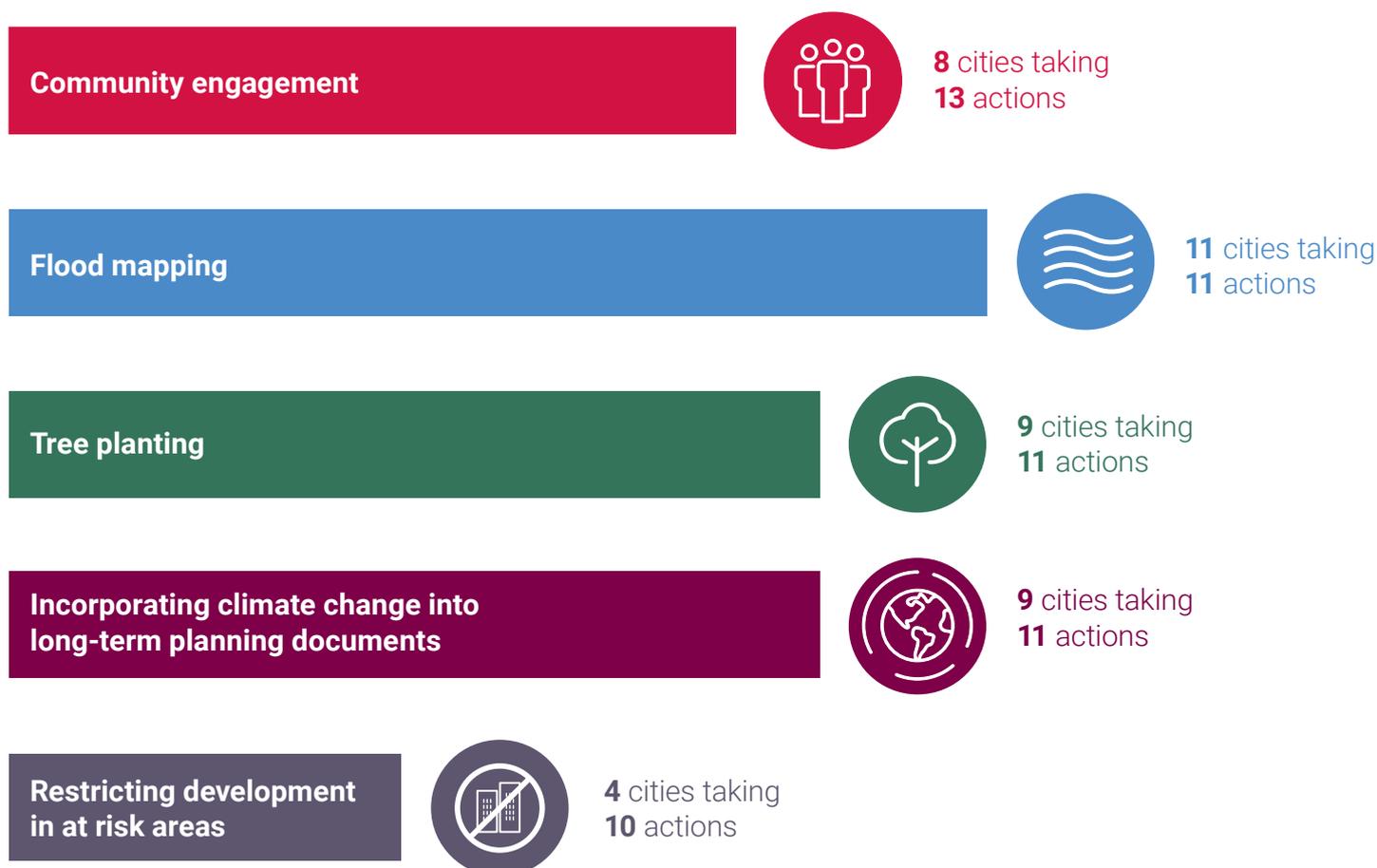


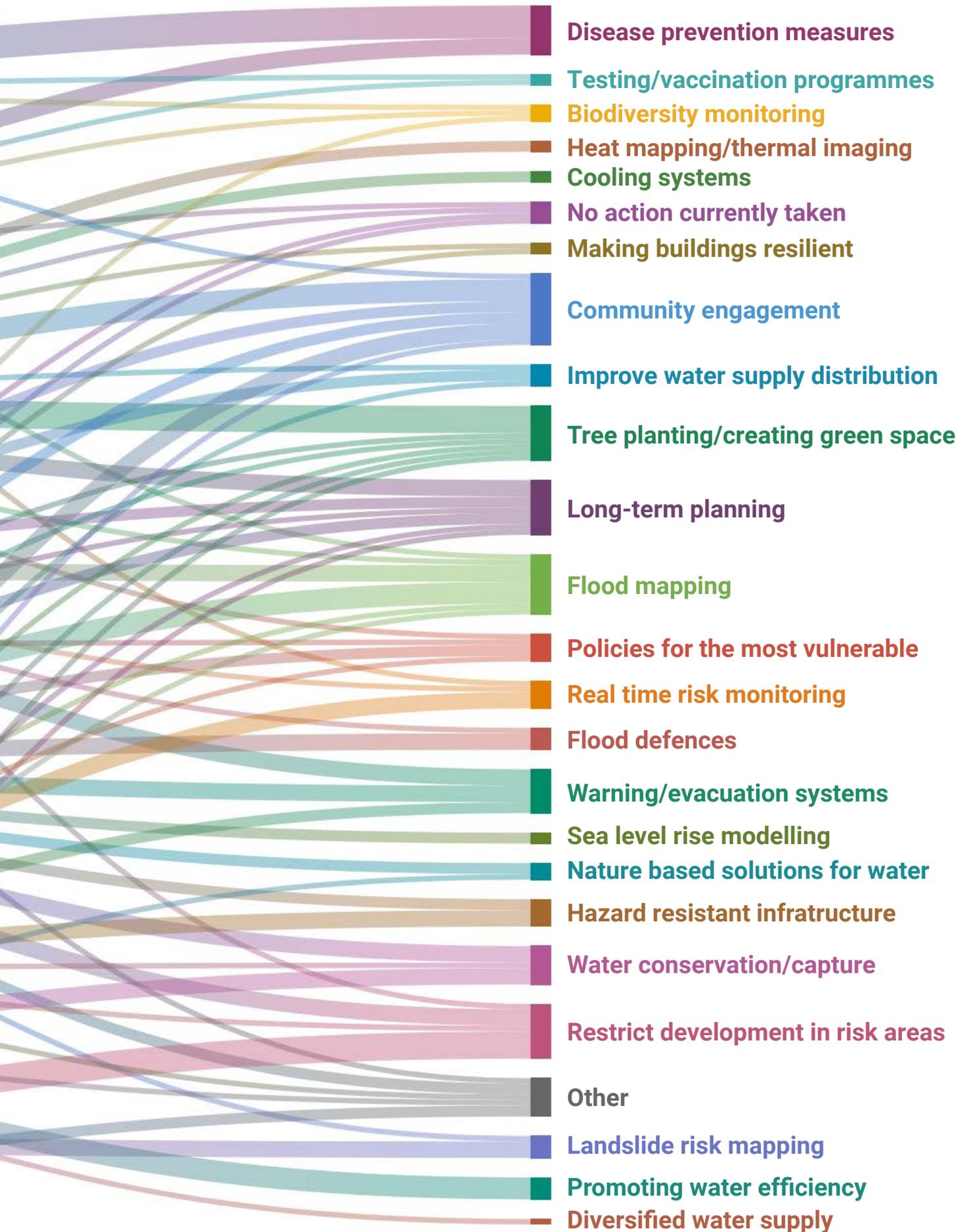
AFRICAN CITIES ARE TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Cities are taking a total of 153 adaptation actions

African cities are responding to climate change risks and hazards through a variety of adaptation actions. The most common is community engagement, which is crucial for including vulnerable populations in decision-making processes. Cities are also conducting flood mapping, planting trees, incorporating climate change into longer term planning, and taking disease prevention measures. Some cities have deployed crisis management and warning and evacuation systems, and others are restricting development in at risk areas. Access to basic services, poverty, infrastructural capacity/conditions, and access to relevant data and budgetary resources are the main challenges for cities with adaptation needs.

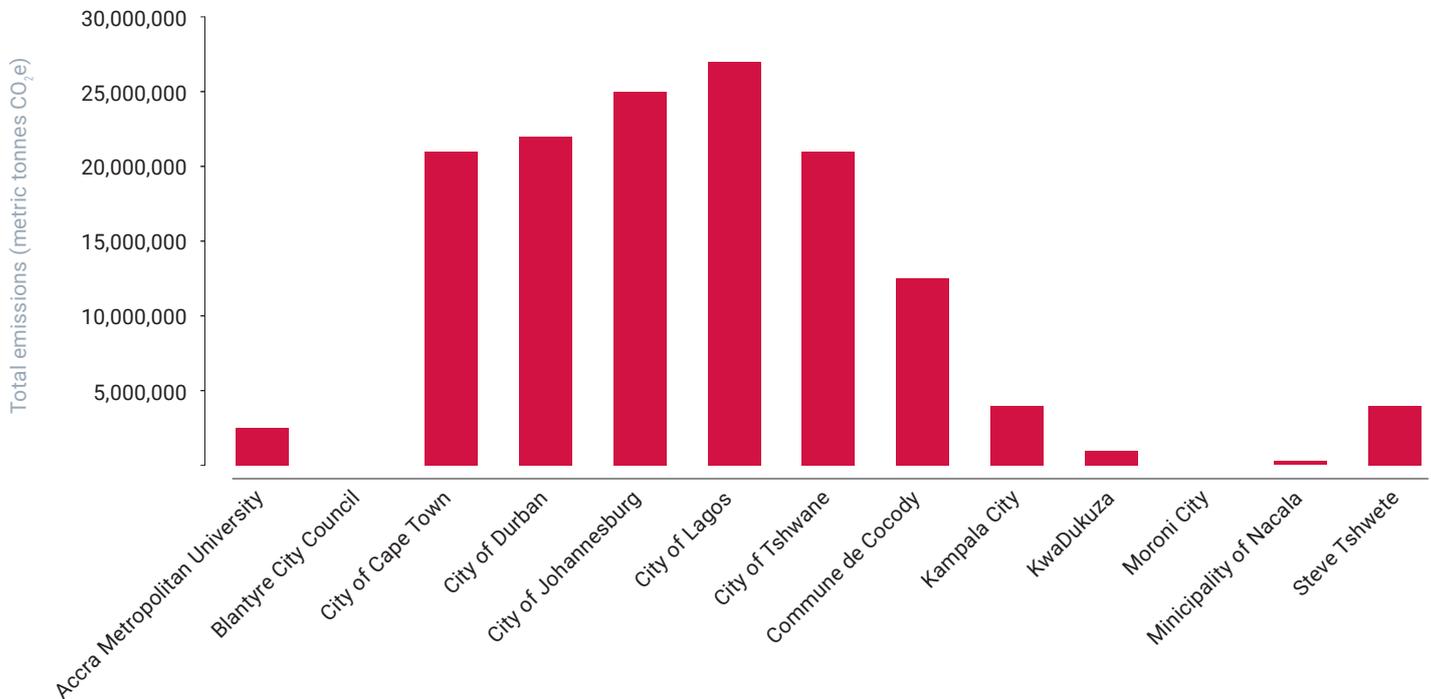
Most common adaptation actions





Cities are taking a total of 86 mitigation actions

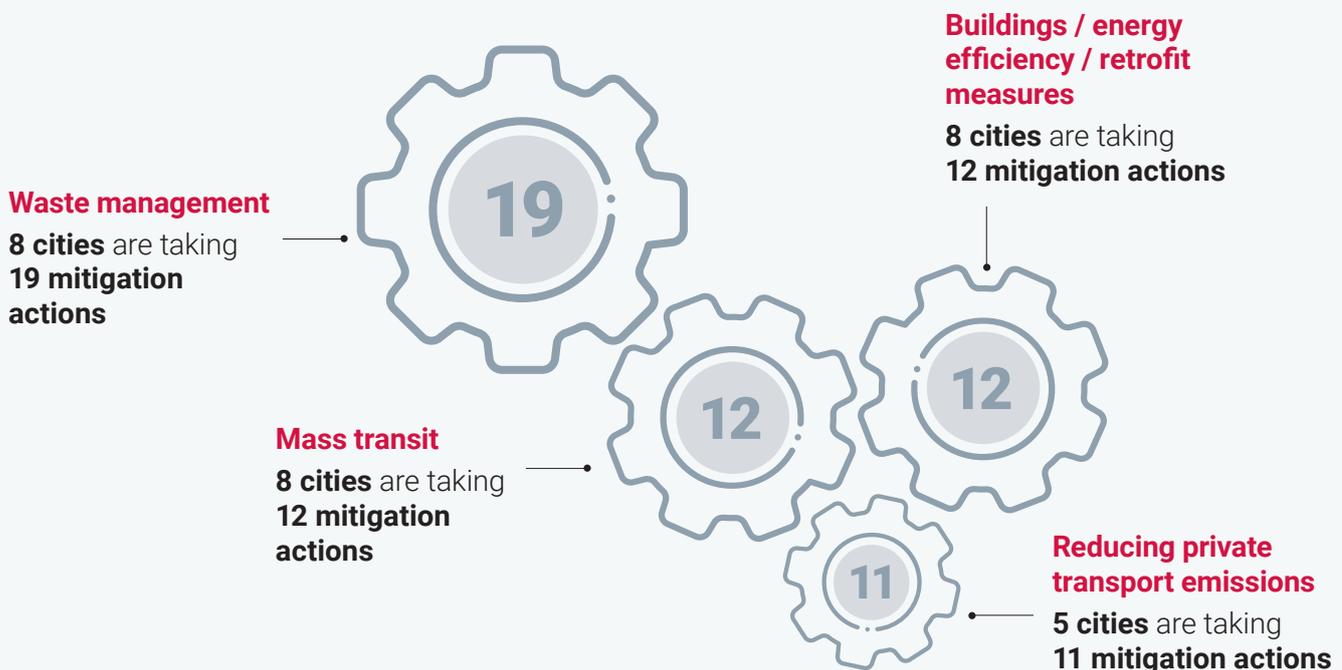
City-wide emissions



Cities are tackling waste through a number of innovative measures, a welcome step given that the potential for GHG mitigation is significant. They are also investing in public transport and energy efficiency, focusing on

mitigating emissions from private transport, providing low or zero carbon energy supply, installing LED outdoor lighting, providing on-site renewable energy, and undertaking community-scale development.

Most common mitigation actions



INVESTING IN A LOW CARBON, RESILIENT FUTURE

42 Cities in Africa identified a total of 142 opportunities for investment in low carbon, resilient infrastructure projects. However, there remains a significant gap in financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in Africa. Of a cumulative 546

billion US dollars in total global climate finance in 2018, only 14 billion was spent in Sub-Saharan Africa. Challenges in obtaining finance remain a pressing concern for cities with low resources.

Of a cumulative **546 billion US dollars** in total global climate finance in 2018, only **14 billion** was spent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Opportunities for investment

18

opportunities were identified by 17 cities in the **development of waste management / recycling businesses**

16

opportunities were identified by 16 cities in the **development of climate change resiliency projects**

13

opportunities were identified by 12 cities in **developing energy efficiency measures and technology**

14

opportunities were identified by 14 cities in **increased attention to other environmental concerns**



STATES AND REGIONS AT RISK

8 out of 9 states and regions in Africa reporting to CDP said their regions faced socio-economic risks as a result of climate change, and 7 said they considered the impacts of climate change to be a threat to business operations. 7 of the 9 reporting states and regions work with local and national governments on regional adaptation strategies and national adaptation plans. 6 states and regions identified substantive risks to their water security in the short, medium, or long term. Despite multiple global initiatives to encourage sub-national action underway, much work needs to be done to increase regional environmental disclosure and action. In 2019, 124 states and regions across the world reported their environmental data to CDP.

- States and regions are undertaking a total of 34 adaptation actions, ranging from crisis management to incorporating change into long term planning and biodiversity monitoring.
- States and regions identified a total of 46 opportunities, including the development of energy efficiency measures and technologies, sustainable businesses in the food, construction, clean technology, and transportation sectors, and growth in the tourism sector.

States and regions reporting their environmental data via the CDP-ICLEI unified reporting system in 2019:

Country	Region
Burkina Faso	Centre Nord
Morocco	Chefchaouen
Nigeria	Cross River State
Réuniono	La Reunion
Senegal	Gossas
Senegal	Saint Louis
South Africa	KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa	Limpopo
South Africa	Western Cape

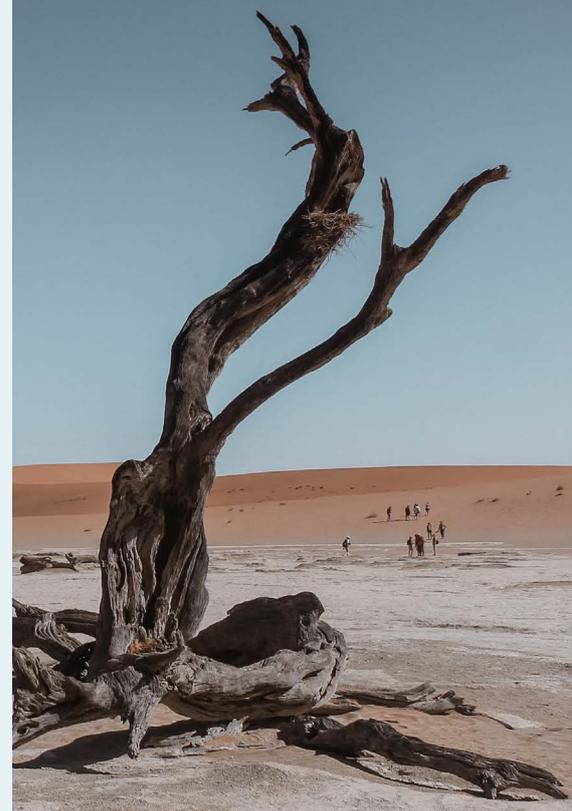
Water insecurity: rising to the challenge

Western Cape, South Africa

During the 2015-2018 drought in the Western Cape, alternative water supply sources were investigated and are currently being developed, including desalination of seawater and groundwater extraction. Western Cape is forecasted to experience more intense droughts as a result of climate change, and is undertaking various other initiatives, such as awareness campaigns to reduce water use, promoting water efficiency in homes and businesses, and promoting water butts and rainwater capture.

Centre Nord, Burkina Faso

The Centre-Nord region is tackling the issue of climate change at the political level through a ministry of change issues and conscientious work around climate change adaptation. Efforts are being made at both political and household/citizen level to adapt to frequent droughts. Centre Nord is distributing appropriate seeds to vulnerable communities, subsidizing equipment annually, and promoting adaptative technologies, like specialized irrigation facilities in fields.



DISCLOSURE DRIVES ACTION

All cities, states, and regions reporting in Africa do so publicly, so transparency is high, but an increase in the number of cities, states, and regions reporting would help us to fully understand climate change risks and responses on the continent. Cities, states, and regions across the world are **undertaking ambitious actions** to address the effects of climate change and paving the way for a low carbon, water secure and deforestation free future. Disclosure is the first step towards climate action – with cities, states and regions cutting emissions, adapting to climate risks and driving the transition to a climate safe/climate resilient future. By compiling and reporting their environmental data, African cities, states, and regions can understand their vulnerability to climate change, access peer learning resources, best practice cases, and expert knowledge on climate action, enabling them to build a safe and secure/climate safe/climate resilient future for their citizens.

Cities interested in understanding and managing their climate risk can find additional information on www.cdp.net/en/cities. State and regional governments can find information on www.cdp.net/en/cities/states-and-regions. Cities, states, and regions can take the first step towards disclosure by emailing cities.emea@cdp.net.



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