

# MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



## Municipal Partnerships focusing on Climate Action



The next decade will decide the future for humanity. Delivering a green and just recovery to the COVID-19 crisis; creating strong, fair economies that serve everyone; and cutting greenhouse gas emissions quickly enough to limit global heating to the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement, are one and the same thing. None are possible without the others. Success in all is the only way to prevent a catastrophic crisis. Local governments have an important role in combining local needs with global climate goals, and weigh trade-offs of different actions by engaging citizens, civil society and business. By involving different interests, local governments can develop collective actions to mitigate climate change. Joining an ICLD municipal partnership allows local governments to carry out a project over three years on a theme that relates to Climate Action at a local level. This can involve for example projects that focus on increasing citizen influence within waste management, water supply, public transport, or urban planning to name a few. The municipalities themselves decide the theme, and it can relate to an important local issue, an ongoing multi-year assignment or a development strategy.



### Leaving no one behind – finding local, inclusive and equitable solutions to climate change

The Sustainable Development Goals overall objective is that no one should be left behind and that everyone should have influence over the issues that affect their lives. ICLD contributes to this aspect by promoting the development of strong local democracy with equity/inclusion, participation, transparency and accountability as the four principals of democracy. “Climate Action” partnerships will focus on what decision-makers in municipalities and regions can do to strengthen their systematic work with including citizens in decision making to ensure equitable outcomes in local climate policies and actions.

## About ICLD Municipal Partnerships



ICLD is a non-profit organisation, whose principal is the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). ICLD operations, including the Municipal Partnership Programme, are financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Municipal partnerships are collaborations between municipalities and regions in Sweden and their local government counterparts in ICLD's partner countries. Municipal Partnerships are part of Sweden's Global Development Policy and support the important role local governments play in international development and in strengthening democracy around the world.

Over 2-4 years, the two local governments that make up a partnership oversee a common project which has the purpose of strengthening democracy within their organisations and increasing citizens' influence in local decision-making processes. On average two international trips are undertaken every year by a project group, made up of civil servants, and a steering group, made up of managers and local political representatives. Support from ICLD is continuous throughout the project's length and partners report back on a yearly basis. ICLD funds all costs related to travel and Swedish working hours linked to the partnership. Find out more in ICLD [Municipal Partnership Programme Guidelines](#).

### Partnership



### A network of Municipal Partnerships for Climate Action

Municipal partnership networks are a form of cooperation where some selected municipalities receive increased support from ICLD to conduct their results-oriented international projects. The municipalities start at the same time with their preparations and are connected in a network where they work in parallel over four years with their projects together with each partner municipality. By starting their project at the same time and working with similar Climate Action projects, the municipalities have the opportunity for a broader exchange of experiences with each other, as well as greater support from ICLD to achieve good results. Each individual partnership continues to have the opportunity to yearly exchanges whilst also participating in common activities and trainings with the other partnerships in the network. There will also be the possibility for south-south knowledge exchange visits and to actively involve local civil society and universities in the partnerships.

## ICLD support to participating local governments within the network

ICLD will provide municipal partnerships with project planning support, trainings, communication and links to universities and relevant experts. A digital platform will provide participating local governments with the possibility to easily communicate with each other and exchange knowledge and ideas.



## Partnership with ICLEI

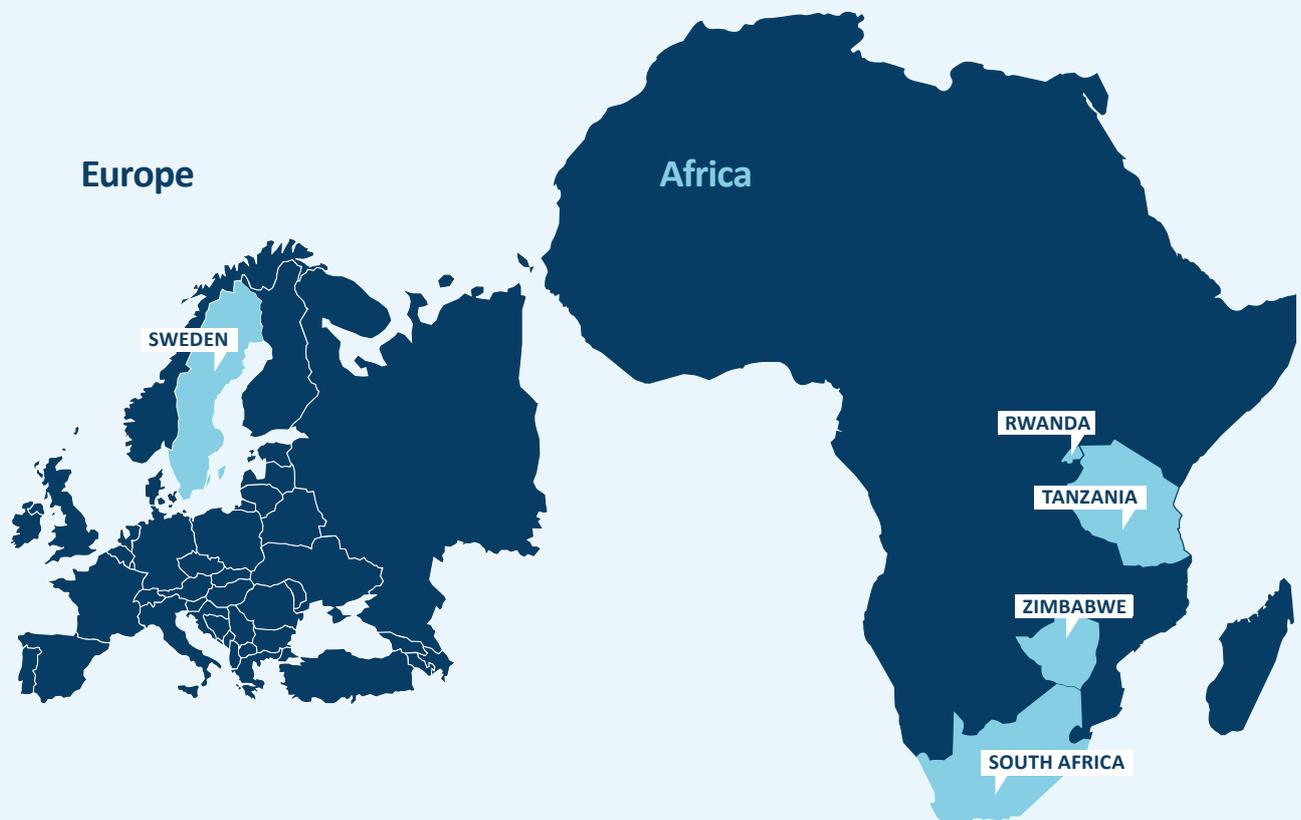
**ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** is a global network of more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, ICLEI influences sustainability policy and drives local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability. ICLEI and ICLD will coordinate their resources to ensure local governments participating in the “Climate Action” network receive the support they need to conduct democratic and sustainable projects.



## Matching Swedish and International local governments

Together with ICLEI, the ICLD will support Swedish and international local governments members of ICLEI to find an appropriate partner to ensure a high level of mutual learning.

**Local governments from the following countries are eligible to apply:** South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Rwanda (other countries may be possible upon special request)



# Preliminary timeline for the network

## Inception Phase Applications Late 2021

Partner match with ICLD and ICLEI support. Inception Phase applications submitted.

## Inception Phase 2022 (1 year)

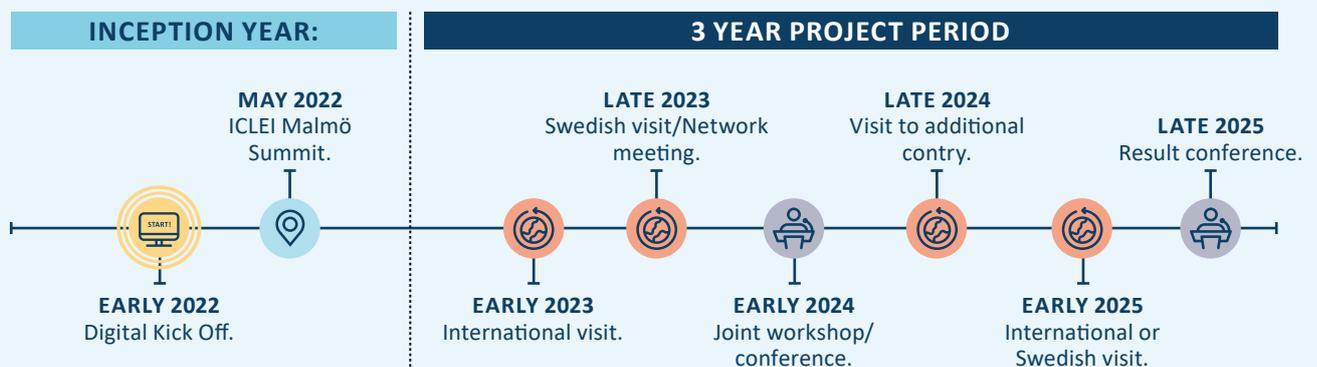
January 2022: Digital Kick Off meeting

March 2022: Digital knowledge exchange workshops between participating local governments (Including project planning training)

May 2022: Partnership visit to Sweden in 2021 in combination with the ICLEI World Congress 2021 - 2022 in Malmö

## Project Phase 2023-2026 (3 years)

Partnerships visits combined with digital workshop and conference jointly organized by ICLEI and ICLD.



**ICLD is happy to answer questions  
about Municipal Partnerships, the network  
and the contents of this document.**

For questions, contact the project coordinator Myriam Chilvers  
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