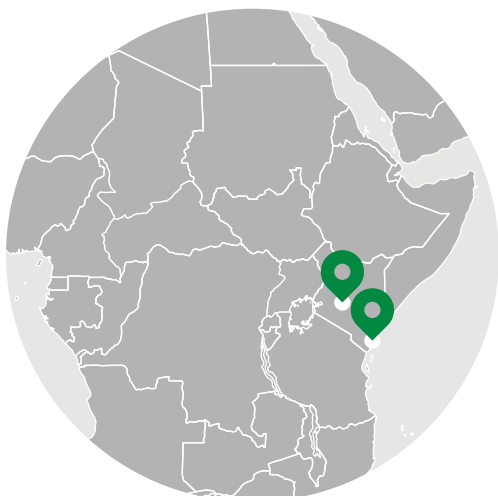


Kenya's Biggest Cities Move Towards Climate Action



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EARLY STAGE PROJECT SUPPORT FROM THE GAP FUND EMPOWERS NAIROBI AND MOMBASA CITIES TO LEAD THE WAY IN DATA-DRIVEN PLANNING, POLICY REFORM, AND GREEN INVESTMENT FOR KENYAN CITIES.



Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya



Nairobi (4.4 million)

Mombasa (1.2 million)



Category of Climate Action:

- Multi-sector climate action planning
- Area-based investment programs

Confronting the climate crisis in Kenya

In Nairobi and Mombasa, climate change is not a future threat. It is a daily reality. Flash floods, rising temperatures, and mounting pressure on urban systems are disrupting people's livelihoods, threatening health, and exposing long-standing inequalities.

But amidst these challenges, both cities are charting a new course rooted in resilience, sustainability, and inclusive development. Their vision is to have climate action plans backed by reliable data to reflect people's needs and align with national and global best practices. Plans that span energy, transport, waste, and water, and guide both cities toward low-carbon, climate-resilient futures.

When strong will meets systemic barriers

Despite strong political will, both cities face systemic barriers: outdated or missing greenhouse gas data, fragmented institutional capacity, limited technical expertise, and budget constraints. Historically, Nairobi has lacked a legal framework to anchor its climate ambitions, while Mombasa had no unified strategy to guide investment. Without these foundations, both cities struggled to access climate finance or build momentum around climate action.



We felt we could not tackle these challenges without having a climate action plan. Without updating the GHG inventory, you are not in a position to prioritise projects and climate action.

— Morris Kavai

Deputy Director for Climate Change, Nairobi City County

Data, law, and planning: laying the foundations for change

Between 2022 and 2023, the WB-Gap Fund worked with both cities to provide catalytic, early-stage technical assistance.

The Gap Fund helped Nairobi update its greenhouse gas inventory and draft its first Climate Change Bill and Policy – which is now advancing through approval. Like many cities in the region, the inventory revealed transport as Nairobi's largest emitter, followed by waste and industry. It also identified more than \$1 billion in potential climate investments.



Without that data, as a city, we would have no idea where we were when it came to building a response to climate change.

— Morris Kavai
*Deputy Director for
Climate Change,
Nairobi City County*

The Gap Fund process helped the cities move from ambition to practical planning. With reliable data in hand, Nairobi and Mombasa can now prioritise projects that truly reflect residents' needs.

— Judy Waturi
World Bank team

In Mombasa, the support helped to co-create a 25-year climate action plan, launched in late 2023, and train local officials in emissions monitoring, planning, and project preparation. Across both cities, more than 50 officials were trained in these climate planning skills, laying the foundation for stronger, more coordinated governance.



The support from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and GIZ Gap Fund Technical Secretariat in Kenya

The Gap Fund is jointly implemented by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB) in collaboration with GIZ. In the Kenyan cities of Embu, Malindi and Eldoret, the EIB and GIZ contributed by:

- Supporting the development of bankable, investment-ready projects in the waste, mobility, and adaptation sectors that align with international standards.
- Providing early-stage guidance alongside the World Bank team to ensure both cities could connect their climate action planning with long-term financing opportunities.



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City Climate
Finance Gap Fund

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of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY

From fragmented ambition to shared momentum

In Nairobi, the support transformed a fragmented ambition into a citywide movement grounded in law, data, and investment logic. With a robust legal framework and clearer emissions data, leaders can now prioritise high-impact projects – from clean transport to sustainable waste management – and pitch for additional funding with confidence.



The list of actions we could take was long. Working with the Gap Fund was an eye-opener. It increased our knowledge so that now we can even teach our national leaders how to make change.

– Morris Kawai, *Deputy Director for Climate Change, Nairobi City County*

In Mombasa, the launch of the climate action plan marked a turning point. The plan is guiding county-level investment and attracting interest from national ministries and global funders. Flood mitigation and nature-based solutions – such as drainage upgrades in flood-prone areas, mangrove restoration along the coastline, and greener urban infrastructure – are being prioritised to address urgent risks. The groundwork laid by the Gap Fund is now shaping future benefits: Nairobi's actions could open hundreds of thousands of green jobs, while Mombasa is building partnerships to fund long-term resilience projects. In both cities, the Fund has bridged the gap between climate planning and delivery.

Turning plans into practice, and practice into leadership

Nairobi's Climate Change Act was passed in late 2024, creating a legal framework for climate governance and unlocking more than \$1 billion in priority investment opportunities. Mombasa, meanwhile, is preparing an implementation strategy for its newly launched plan. Both cities are embedding climate investments into capital planning, moving from ambition to delivery.

Beyond the catalytic effect of the Gap Fund, they are embracing a new narrative – one that is green, innovative, and centred on the well-being of their residents. Nairobi, in particular, is positioning itself not only to attract major climate investments but also to become a future centre of excellence for climate action.