

PRESS RELEASE



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Ricardo proud to support launch of C40's Climate Action Planning Africa Programme

Ricardo Energy & Environment experts have collaborated with C40 in the development of an ambitious new programme launched in Lagos today to support 9 sub-Saharan megacities – Accra, Addis Ababa, Cape Town, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Durban, Johannesburg, Lagos and Tshwane – to deliver bold climate action under the Paris Agreement

The commitments were made today at the launch event in Lagos, which was attended by Dr. Samuel Babatunde Adejare, Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Environment, Lagos State Government; Mayor of Accra, Mohammed Adjei Sowah; senior city representatives of the participating cities, and Mark Watts, executive director of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. Chris Dodwell, Ricardo's director for climate change and clean growth, and Rose Bailey, Ricardo's city climate change lead, also attended the event.

C40's Climate Action Planning Africa Programme will provide direct support to 11 African cities in developing unprecedented, robust and evidence-based long-term climate action plans that align with the ambitious objectives of the Paris Agreement. The support will include a dedicated city advisor based in each city, a series of workshops, and access to expert technical advice as needed. Nairobi and Abidjan have also joined the programme and are anticipated to submit their climate action commitments soon.



The C40 Climate Action Planning Africa Programme is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the Bundestag. The programme was designed in collaboration with climate experts from Ricardo Energy & Environment who will work closely with the cities to develop their action plans and support greater vertical integration between city and national government climate strategies.

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Although sub-Saharan African countries are among the lowest emitting in the world, the region is urbanizing faster than any other. With growth of 1.4 percent per annum, 56 percent of the region's population and 21 percent of the world's total urban residents will live in cities in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050. Many of the participating cities are investing in infrastructure and setting policies that will impact development pathways for years to come. The ground-breaking programme aims to use this narrow window of opportunity to embed climate-resilient and sustainable development by mainstreaming climate change into long-term investments and planning decisions.

"Ricardo is delighted to have worked with C40 to develop the Climate Action Planning Africa Programme and are excited that the Programme is now being launched in 11 mega-cities across the region. We are looking forward to the opportunity to build local capacity in some of the world's fastest urbanizing cities who will be leading Africa's low carbon transition," said Chris Dodwell. "The programme will allow us to bring together our many years of experience working all over the world, at national and city level, on greenhouse gas inventories, climate policy and action plans, and measurement, reporting and verification initiatives. By working closely with the national governments in each country, the Programme will make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Paris Agreement's climate goals on the African continent."

"The great cities of Africa are some of the fastest growing anywhere in the world," said Anne Hidalgo, mayor of Paris and chair of C40. "The commitment of these nine mayors to bold climate leadership will deliver a sustainable future for these dynamic, youthful and outward looking cities. It once again proves that cities are concretely delivering on the Paris Agreement and securing a bright future for all our citizens."

Ends



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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About C40 Cities: Around the world, C40 Cities connects 96 of the world's greatest cities to take bold climate action, leading the way towards a healthier and more sustainable future. Representing 700+ million citizens and one quarter of the global economy, mayors of the C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe. The current chair of C40 is Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40's work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania. For more information visit: www.c40.org.

Ricardo Energy & Environment is a leading sustainability consultancy, helping clients to respond to environmental challenges and opportunities around the world. Its team of over 450 staff draws on an impressive heritage supporting governments and businesses for over 40 years. The consultancy is an operating division of Ricardo plc.

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