

Nurturing inclusive innovation ecosystems to build circular and climate-resilient economies that pave the way for a sustainable, just future for all



The challenge

Climate change requires collaborative solutions beyond what any single entity can achieve alone. Fragmented efforts by businesses, start-ups, universities, citizens and governments create action and innovation gaps. Without cross-sector collaboration, the ability to implement effective solutions remains limited.

Philanthropic funding can play a catalytic role by investing in collaborative infrastructure often overlooked by traditional funding mechanisms.

Our proven approach

Innovation clusters by Climate KIC and partners strengthen climate innovation ecosystems by connecting diverse actors who typically work in isolation. These clusters foster collaboration, innovation and learning to build circular and climate-resilient economies.

By supporting new business models, creating shared vision, developing skills and mobilising capital, our clusters create pathways for transformative climate action.

Centred on social inclusion, they amplify diverse voices to ensure solutions address real needs and create fair, lasting impact.

Our commitment

Our 15-year journey developing innovation ecosystems across Europe has evolved into proven methodologies that prioritise social inclusion, honour local contexts and leverage global insights through deep local partnerships.

We now respond to strong interest from regions beyond Europe, building inclusive innovation ecosystems in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Together with local partners, we address three interconnected challenges that reflect shared priorities across diverse contexts.

- Reimagining waste in cities through circular economies uplifting vulnerable communities and informal workers
- Nurturing resilient rural communities through adaptation innovation, sustainable livelihoods and regenerative landscapes.
- Fostering resilient coastal regions and healthy oceans for thriving small island communities

Our ambition by 2030



6 Demonstration innovation clusters

2x Africa, 2x Asia, 2x LATAM

1 Global insights & learning lab

focused on knowledge management & learning partnerships

10 Replication clusters led by partners in new places

Our current innovation clusters

Adaptation Innovation Cluster: enhancing the climate resilience of rural populations in Tanzania.

Funded by:



In partnership with:



Circular Economy Innovation Cluster: advancing circularity solutions in Bengaluru and Nairobi.

Funded by:



In partnership with:



New! Adaptation Innovation Cluster: enhancing climate resilience in Sierra Leone and Madagascar

In partnership with:



This is Climate KIC

Climate KIC is Europe's leading climate innovation agency. We create climate-resilient societies by partnering with countries, regions, cities and businesses globally to drive systems change through innovation and learning.

With 15 years of expertise across 60 countries, we've supported 6,000+ climate-positive start-ups, trained 50,000+ future leaders and created 10,000+ climate solutions. Our first decade of innovation projects avoided an estimated 13MT CO₂e emissions annually and created 10,000+ jobs.

Contact

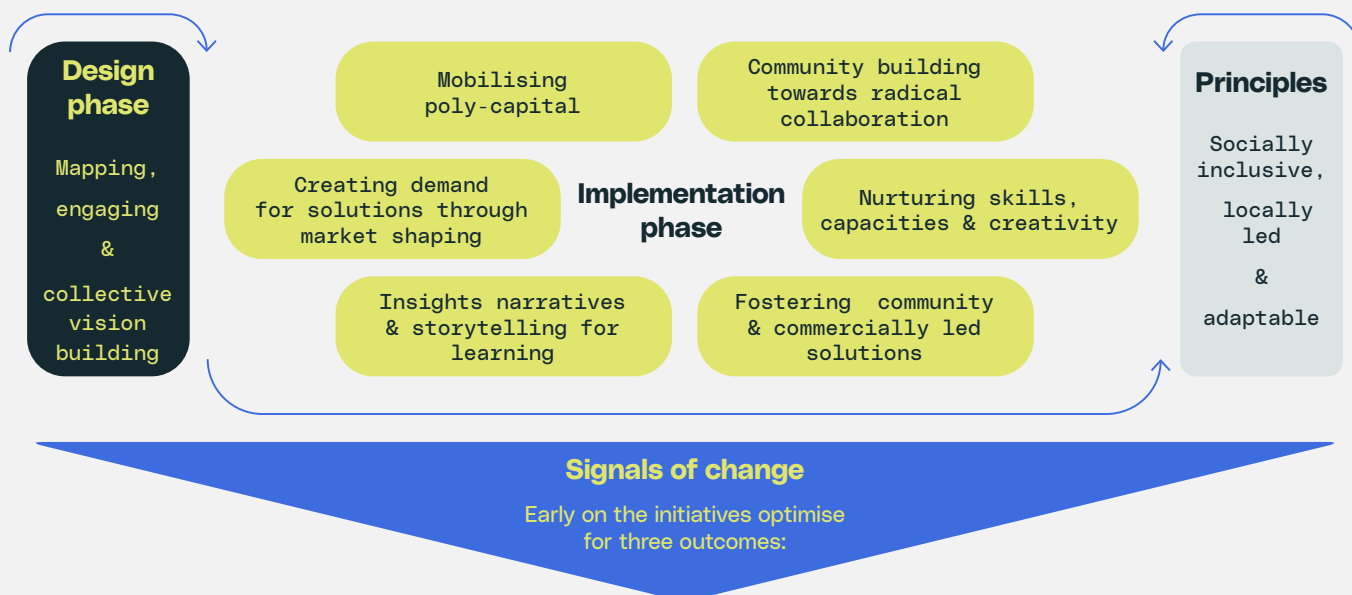
We build innovation clusters with different partners and institutions. Contact us to learn more.

Chris Roe, Director Entrepreneurship Solutions and Ventures, Climate KIC

Chris.Roe@climate-kic.org

Signals of change

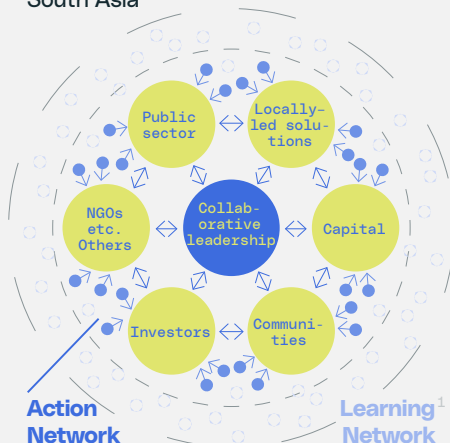
For Climate KIC and partners, an innovation cluster is a flexible approach that strengthens the core foundations of place-based innovation ecosystems, enabling the actors within to collectively foster more inclusive and sustainable economies. We do this through the following tested approach:



Drive radical collaboration

Establish collaborative mechanisms to shift mindsets & build trust between diverse actors.

Mobilised 400+ practitioners and 300+ organisations across East Africa and South Asia



Unlock impact-driven innovation

Create the right enabling conditions for portfolios of innovations to meet local needs and scale.

- Supported 110 early stage solutions and start-ups in adaptation and circular economy.
- Potential impact: 206,000+ hectares under improved resilient management in Tanzania
- Expected benefits for 82,000+ vulnerable people in Tanzania
- Supported 927 informal waste workers in Bengaluru and Nairobi
- Potential reduction of 21 kt CO₂ eq/year emissions by start-ups in Bengaluru and Nairobi

Strengthening skills, capacities & learning

Address knowledge and skills gaps within the ecosystem.

- Enrolled 200+ young professionals in climate trainings
- Directed €150,000 in flexible funding to 15 youth organisations in Tanzania
- Trained 17 local government officials, connecting government with ecosystem actors in Nairobi
- Shifted 7 Entrepreneur Support Organisations from competition to collaboration in Bengaluru
- Pivoted initiatives to address gaps in circular upstream innovation and AI-powered adaptation



"Our partnership with Climate KIC has strengthened our income, portfolio on climate justice and expanded our network."

– Vicent Mgema
Yawe, Tanzania



"Mentorship transformed our venture, showing us social inclusivity is essential for lasting environmental impact."

– Tejas Sidnal,
Carbon Craft, Bengaluru



"Creating awareness and embracing holistic approaches, especially in waste separation, drives sustainability."

– Christine Kivuva, Nairobi
City County Government