

Upscaling Environmental Management & Climate Change Action to Improve Urban Livelihoods

EU contribution: € 200.000 (approx. BWP 3.000.000)

Period of implementation: 2019 – 2021

Location: Lobatse, Botswana

Implementing organisation(s): Lobatse Town Council

Project objectives and description: This project aims to scale up environmental management and climate action, ensuring sustainable urban development as the town faces rapid growth. As Botswana urbanises, Lobatse already struggles with rising poverty, waste mismanagement, deforestation, and limited access to clean energy. With major economic projects on the horizon, including its designation as a Special Economic Zone for beef and leather industries, Lobatse is set to expand significantly. To prevent further strain on resources and livelihoods, the council is taking proactive, inclusive steps—piloting slum upgrading programmes, introducing circular economy practices (like waste recycling), and promoting renewable energy alternatives to reduce reliance on firewood. By engaging communities—especially the urban poor—this initiative aims to protect the environment, create jobs, and improve public health while fostering participatory, sustainable growth.

Achievements / expected results: The project will deliver tangible solutions to Lobatse's pressing challenges. It will transform waste management by shifting from disposal to recycling and reuse, reducing pollution and health risks while creating jobs for unemployed residents through training in green enterprises. Households still dependent on firewood will gain access to affordable, clean energy, cutting deforestation and indoor air pollution. Through community awareness campaigns, residents will learn about climate risks and sustainable practices, bridging knowledge gaps that perpetuate environmental harm. Crucially, the project will strengthen trust and collaboration between local authorities, institutions, and citizens—ensuring inclusive decision-making and long-term resilience. By addressing waste, energy poverty, and unemployment together, Lobatse will model how smaller urban centres can grow sustainably while leaving no one behind.

Project website / Social media account links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/lobatsetowncouncil>
- <https://dailynews.gov.bw/news-detail/78978>