

Dr Peter Bauer
European Centre for Medium-Range
Weather Forecasts
Shinfield Park
Reading RG2 9AX
United Kingdom

Cape Town, South Africa
28/08/2018



RE: ENDORSEMENT OF THE *EXTREMEEARTH FLAGSHIP PROPOSAL*

Dear Dr. Bauer

ICLEI is driving sustainable urban development worldwide by:

- working with over 1500 cities, towns and regions,
- across 22 offices,
- in 124 countries, and
- impacting 37% of the global urban population.

ICLEI Africa, the African Secretariat of ICLEI, is happy to support the *ExtremeEarth Flagship* proposal for the call "Tackling Grand Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Challenges".

City-regions are key contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, and are where the rubber hits the road in terms of experiencing the impacts of climate change; thus improving city stakeholder's understanding and use of climate change information is an essential part of the climate change solution. The proposed *ExtremeEarth Flagship* project is therefore extremely relevant and timely as it aims to improve the climate and weather information used by cities around the world.

ICLEI Africa works with sub-national actors in Sub-Saharan Africa to enable development that is resilient, low emission, circular, nature-based, equitable and people-centred. To build resilience in rapidly urbanising areas around the world, our city officials require climate and weather information at relevant spatial and temporal scales. The *ExtremeEarth Flagship* project, proposes taking an important step in improving the information available for city-scale decision making, including short-term forecasts to allow city officials to anticipate extreme events that will impact their population.

ICLEI Africa is extremely interested in playing an active role in the *ExtremeEarth Flagship* project. We have over 20 years' experience in implementing sustainability projects in cities, and creating platforms for successful engagement between sub-national government stakeholders, such as politicians, city administrators, researchers, the private sector and civil society. We could play a strong role in:

- enabling improved collaboration between the producers and users of weather and climate data and information;
- improving the buy-in and up-take of the improved weather and climate data produced via the *ExtremeEarth Flagship* project, by harnessing our existing relationships within cities to better understand what the user's requirements are in terms of the data and information they need to make better decisions; and

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of over 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable urban future.

By helping the ICLEI Network to become sustainable, low-carbon, ecomobile, resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure, we impact over 25% of the global urban population.

ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability

Africa Secretariat

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- harness our vast experience in running training, capacity building and advocacy engagement activities and events to run laboratories that enable co-production and use of data and information.

The above will be useful in refining the project ideas as well as during project implementation.

We would like to congratulate the consortium on focusing on such a pertinent issue, and look forward to collaborating with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kobie Brand', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kobie Brand

Regional Director
ICLEI Africa