



**KENYA GREEN
BUILDING SOCIETY**

Build Green, Save Kenya

Impact Report

2024

The 2024 KGBS Impact Report.

This is the first impact report that showcases the Kenya Green Building Society's efforts and achievements in driving sustainable development within Kenya's built environment, covering the years 2022-2024. It highlights key milestones in the Society's roles as a convener of stakeholders, market facilitator and key actor in the built environment. Through collaboration with our partners and members, we continue to lead the transformation toward a resilient, healthier, and more sustainable future.

Acknowledgements

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List of Acronyms.

AAK	Architectural Association of Kenya
Global ABC	Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction
ACS	Africa Climate Summit
ALP	Africa Logistics Properties
AU	African Union
BCRUP	Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor
CNBC	Consumer News and Business Channel
COP	Conference of Parties
EDGE	Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FCLP	Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership
FSD	Financial Sector Deepening
GAHF	Green Affordable Housing Finance
GBCs	Green Building Councils
GHG	Green House Gas
GRI	Global Report Initiative
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ISHRAE	Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers
KCIC	Kenya Climate Innovation Centre
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KGBS	Kenya Green Building Society
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WorldGBC	World Green Building Council
WUF	World Urban Forum

Foreword

Dear Partners, Members, and Stakeholders,

As I reflect on the transformative journey captured in this inaugural **Kenya Green Building Society (KGBS) Impact Report**, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together. This report is not merely a recounting of milestones; it is a testament to our collective and unwavering commitment to reimagine Kenya's built environment as a beacon of sustainability.

The last two years have underscored the urgency of integrating sustainability into every aspect of our built environment by recognizing that the built environment is an ecosystem of opportunities, that can empower and restore dignity for communities, ensure prosperity for businesses to thrive; and is an opportunity for our government to lead at a global stage and create a lasting legacy for citizens.

As KGBS, we have remained steadfast in our mission to drive meaningful change, from shaping policy and capacity-building to supporting market adoption of green principles. This report showcases our collective impact: over 200 certified EDGE professionals, significant policy shifts like the National Building Code, the Climate Change Act in Nairobi, and leadership action, by facilitating the certification of over 150 green buildings, including Africa's first IFC Green Government office, through the Nairobi Governor's office, East Africa's first zero carbon action plan for Laikipia County, and East Africa's first green affordable housing project—a tangible reflection of progress toward a healthier, sustainable, and inclusive Kenya.

In my dual capacity as Chair of the Africa Regional Network and CEO of KGBS, I have witnessed the growing resonance of sustainability across Africa. Through initiatives like the Africa Manifesto for Sustainable Cities, and our support in championing Africa as a leader in the global south that lead to Kenya making key commitments in COP28, such as the buildings breakthrough, BCRUP, and the Forest Climate Leaders Partnership, and this year, Kenya becoming Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate at COP29, joining Brasil and France, in leading and shaping a sustainable, resilient inclusive built environment, we are not only influencing the continent's urban future but also ensuring Africa's voice is amplified on the global stage.

In addition, this year we opened the global stage to showcase our members leadership in, from Expocity Dubai, to the AU Urban Forum, the World Urban Forum and Cityscape Global in Riyadh. But there is still more that can be done, and the road ahead is long. The work of sustainability is never complete—it requires constant innovation, unyielding partnerships, and bold leadership. As we launch this report, I urge every stakeholder to deepen their engagement and extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have supported KGBS's vision.

Your collaboration has not only been a cornerstone of our success but also a source of inspiration for the work yet to come. Let this report inspire us to act with urgency, collaborate with purpose, and lead with vision.

The future is green, and it is ours to build, one step at a time, together.

Thank you.

Nasra Nanda.

Nasra Nanda

CEO, Kenya Green Building Society.

Chairperson, Africa Regional Network of
the World Green Building Council.



Message from Chairperson

Dear valued members, partners and stakeholders,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I stand before you today to reflect on the incredible strides we have made as the Kenya Green Building Society. This **inaugural Impact Report** is more than just a compilation of achievements; it is a celebration of collaboration, vision, and unwavering commitment to transforming Kenya's built environment into a global model for sustainability.

In the past two years, KGBS has solidified its position as a leader and catalyst in advancing green practices in the built environment. From driving the adoption of sustainable building certifications to influencing key policy changes, our work has sparked real change.

As we reflect on these successes, it is crucial to recognize that the journey to sustainability is not a solitary one. It is a collective effort that requires a unified vision, diverse expertise, and the courage to innovate. Together, we have laid the foundation for a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable built environment that will serve not just our current needs but also those of future generations.

KGBS's work is driven by a deep belief in the power of collaboration. Whether it is convening stakeholders to shape policy, empowering professionals with technical skills, or building partnerships with global organizations, our focus has been on creating meaningful impact at every level.

Looking ahead, we recognize that the challenges facing our built environment demand even greater ambition and determination. Climate change, urbanization, and economic disparities require us to think boldly and act decisively. At KGBS, we are committed to scaling our efforts, deepening our partnerships, and ensuring that sustainability becomes the standard rather than the exception in Kenya and across Africa.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you—our members, partners, and supporters—for being integral to this journey. Your unwavering support, vision, and collaboration have been the driving force behind KGBS's success.

As we launch this Impact Report, let it serve as a call to action. Let it inspire us to push boundaries, strengthen our resolve, and continue building a sustainable future together.

Sincerely,

Azmeena Bhanji.

Azmeena Bhanji

Chairperson, Kenya Green Building
Society.





Executive Summary.

The inaugural **KGBS Impact Report** highlights the transformative efforts and achievements of the Kenya Green Building Society in advancing sustainability within Kenya's built environment over the period of 2023-2024. This milestone document showcases KGBS's pivotal role as a convener, facilitator, and advocate, driving systemic change through collaboration, capacity building, and innovative solutions.

In summary, KGBS has achieved the following key achievements:

- Advocating for policy change to include sustainability such as the **National Building Code** and **Green Building Guidelines** for counties such as Laikipia, Nairobi, Homa Bay and now Mombasa County, and the mainstreaming of green standards
- Positioning and supporting the Government Kenya, not just as a leader in leading sustainability initiatives in the built environment in Africa, but at a global stage with a result of Kenya now being appointed Vice Chair of the
- Capacity building and market transformation
- Having a digital reach over **10,000 individuals** through digital campaigns, events, and community engagement, promoting awareness of sustainable building practices.

KGBS remains committed to scaling its impact by deepening partnerships, advancing advocacy, and driving innovation. Future priorities include enhancing data tools for monitoring sustainability impacts, strengthening grassroots engagement, and promoting equitable green financing solutions.

This **Impact Report** is a testament to the collective effort of stakeholders, demonstrating that together, we can create a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for Kenya's built environment.

It serves as both a reflection of progress for the last 2 years (2022-2024) and a call to action for all who share the vision of a sustainable, resilient, and more inclusive built environment for Kenya.

Our Impact at a Glance

Advocacy

3

Commitments & Positions Influenced

- Nairobi Declaration
- Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor
- Buildings Breakthrough
- Forest & Climate Leaders Partnership
- Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate

4

County governments engaged

*Laikipia, Nairobi, Mombasa
& Homa bay counties*

Capacity Building

14

*Trainings held on
sustainable building
certifications & E.S.G.*

150+

Professionals trained

150+

Professionals trained

Outreach

212

Memberships with KGBS

5.7k

Active contacts with KGBS

62

*Partners engaged through
formal MoUs/collaborations*

89

*Events (co-)organised by
KGBS*

10k

*People reached through
events.*

19k

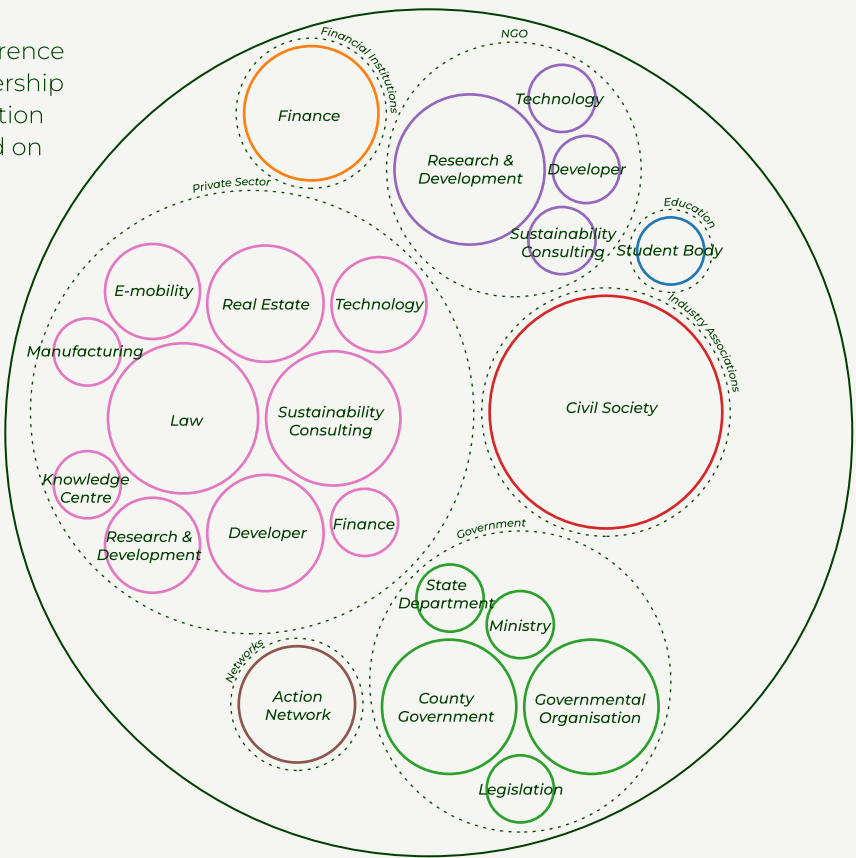
*Total reach on KGBS
social media*

Opportunities for Impact: Key Highlights



Sector Allies: Together for Greater Impact

This visual shows our partners from different sectors working together to make a real difference in sustainable building practices. Each partnership reflects our shared commitment to collaboration and common goals. Together, we are focused on creating a better, more sustainable future.



Introduction.



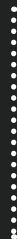
What is KGBS

At the forefront of Kenya's sustainable future is the Kenya Green Building Society (KGBS), a passionate and independent non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the nation's-built environment. With a clear vision to lead this transformation, KGBS focuses on advancing sustainable development practices, ensuring a healthier and more eco-friendly future for all.

KGBS aims to unite stakeholders and facilitate market transformation, providing essential support for the implementation of sustainable practices throughout Kenya. Through their efforts, they are not just reshaping buildings but also creating a legacy of environmental and social responsibility for generations to come.



**WORLD
GREEN
BUILDING
COUNCIL**



**WORLD
GREEN
BUILDING
COUNCIL**
Africa

KGBS is a member of the World Green Building Council and part of the WorldGBC African Regional Network of Green Building Councils.

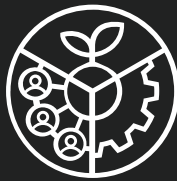
Not Your Regular Green Building Council

As a member of the World Green Building Council and chair of the Africa Regional Network of Green Building Councils, the KGBS is uniquely positioned to drive meaningful change. Typically, green building councils focus on promoting sustainable buildings, but KGBS is taking a bold step forward by expanding its approach to encompass the entire built environment.

We're moving beyond just advocating for green buildings to tackling the broader challenges facing our nation's infrastructure. By taking a holistic approach, we're gaining momentum and making a more significant impact. Our goal is to transform the built environment in a way that benefits everyone, and we're committed to working with individuals, corporations, and governments to make it happen.



Green Buildings



E.S.G.



Sustainable &
Affordable Housing



Energy



Net-Zero



Carbon Markets



Circularity &
Waste Management



ABMTs



Sustainable Finance



Innovation, Data
& Technology



Law & Policy



Youth, Gender
& Differently-abled,
Sustainable &
Inclusive Cities

KGBS Key Focus Areas.

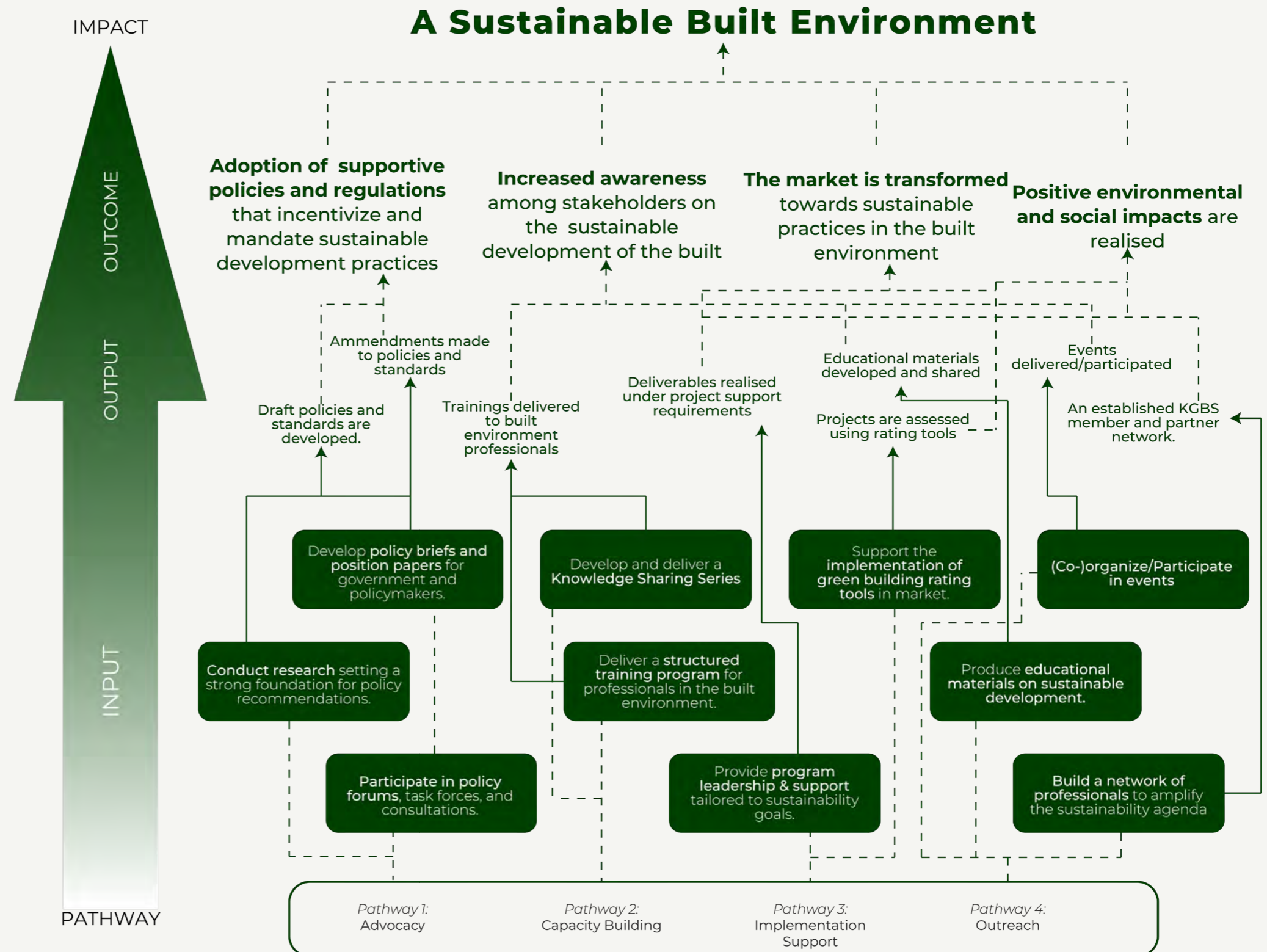
How We Measure Impact.

As we work to reshape our nation's buildings and infrastructure, it's crucial to understand how we're making a difference. Here's how we measure our impact:

First, we outline all of KGBS' interventions – categorising them into pathways – mapping them to the organisation's intended outcome and impact. We then track a few key things: we look at how many people are engaging with our work - whether that's attending our events, downloading our resources, or watching our videos. This gives us a sense of how far our message is reaching.

We also want to know if our work is actually changing people's minds and behaviours. So, we talk to our members, participants, and partners to understand how our work is influencing them. We ask for feedback and listen to their stories about how they're using our guidance to make a difference. This helps us see the real-world impact of our work.

Finally, we look at how many people and organizations are actually using our guidance to make their buildings and communities more sustainable. We also evaluate the success of our partnerships and collaborations, like our work on sustainability initiatives at major events. By taking a close look at all these things, we can get a sense of whether we're really making a difference - and where we need to improve.



KGBS Pathways to Change

1. **Advocacy & Research:** Setting the foundation right for a sustainable built environment from a technical and policy framework perspective.
2. **Capacity Building:** Building industry's capacity through in-person and virtual sessions on various themes in the built environment.
3. **Project Implementation Support:** Endorse and support the implementation of sustainable building certifications in market, as well as provide program leadership and support to market.
4. **Outreach:** Convene key players and foster conversations that facilitate a better built environment.

Our Impact.

This section outlines the progress and achievements made through KGBS' strategic initiatives, focusing on the key areas of impact. The analysis is structured around three primary goals, with each goal showcasing the outcomes and long-term benefits realized through our activities. The contribution of various pathways – Advocacy & Research, Capacity Building, Implementation Support, and Outreach – is also highlighted, illustrating the integrated approach taken to drive meaningful change in Kenya's built environment.

Increased Awareness of Sustainable Building Practices

Progress So Far

66%

of KGBS trainees
are certified green
building experts

KGBS has empowered professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the transition toward sustainability. Through ten expertly curated training sessions, more than **150 industry professionals were equipped** with cutting-edge techniques in sustainable construction and sustainability reporting. As a result, about 66% of the participants achieved formal certifications – IFC EDGE and GRI Experts – bolstering Kenya's technical capacity to over **200 certified individuals** in market.

Finally, Outreach efforts extended the message of sustainability beyond industry circles, directly engaging communities and the broader public. Through a strategic blend of digital campaigns, print materials, and events, KGBS reached over 10,000 individuals.

63

Number of events organised by KGBS

Key Achievements

The year 2022 saw KGBS hold the **first cross border training** where trainees from FSD Africa's Nigeria office were taken through an EDGE Expert Workshop and thereafter following through with evaluation to become certified EDGE experts.

The Society followed through with its expansion of focus areas with a series of ESG workshops from August 2023, culminating at the first specialised

training on the GRI framework in collaboration with Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) Consulting in May this year.

In a bid to foster conversations around sustainability in the built environment, KGBS organised the 2024 KGBS Annual Conference, its largest gathering yet with an attendance of over 250 built environment players. Attendees

reported increased awareness on sustainability principles such as green building rating tools and alternative building materials and technologies. With representation from government, diplomats, industry leaders and enthusiasts, **the Kenya position on the built environment was developed** in a bid to influence decision makers in the regional and global stage on leveraging the built environment as an ecosystem of opportunities.

EDGE Expert Training Testimonials (2023).

"The training was very informative, the trainer's were very clear and answered all questions posed very clearly." – Polar Amondi

"I believe that the knowledge is very impactful and would recommend to others." – Marvin Njagi

"It was a lovely experience. Setting up an EDGE certified building is especially commendable... there are also ways to leverage it professionally and financially." – Esther Karanja

"I would recommend the training to other parties. I particularly enjoyed the delivery by Amrish and John - they were well versed with the subject matter and contextualised the session for the audience. A1!" – Habel Mwashigadi



Explainer: Sustainability in Action Tours.

The Sustainability in Action Tours are an integral part of the Society's mission to increase awareness of sustainable development principles. These experiential learning journeys provide stakeholders with a firsthand look at sustainable building practices in action, showcasing innovative projects that exemplify environmental stewardship, energy efficiency, and community well-being.

Over the past year, the tours have taken participants to notable sites such as **Pallet Cafe**, a restaurant incorporating inclusive social sustainability by employing near 100% deaf staff; **Aga Khan University**, celebrated for its EDGE Advanced certification through energy-efficient design and provision of green spaces for students; **National Housing Corporation's Changamwe Infill Project**, an affordable housing project incorporating alternative building materials to achieve sustainability; and **Shah Houses**, KGBS' new home and a model for sustainable urban regeneration. These tours have successfully engaged policymakers, developers, and the public, fostering a deeper understanding of the tangible benefits of sustainable design and operations.

Through these interactive visits, KGBS continues to inspire actionable change, equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and motivation to prioritize sustainability in their own projects.



By influencing both systemic change through advocacy and individual actions through capacity building and outreach, KGBS has laid the groundwork for a future where sustainable development practices are the norm. The impact is evident in the increased interest among professionals, the adoption of sustainable principles in new projects, and a more informed public that actively supports green development.

While awareness campaigns have reached key stakeholders, community engagement efforts in communicating sustainability remain limited. Strengthening grassroots initiatives and fostering deeper connections with local communities will be a priority to ensure broader impact and inclusivity.

Policy Change & Adoption of Sustainable Development Regulations

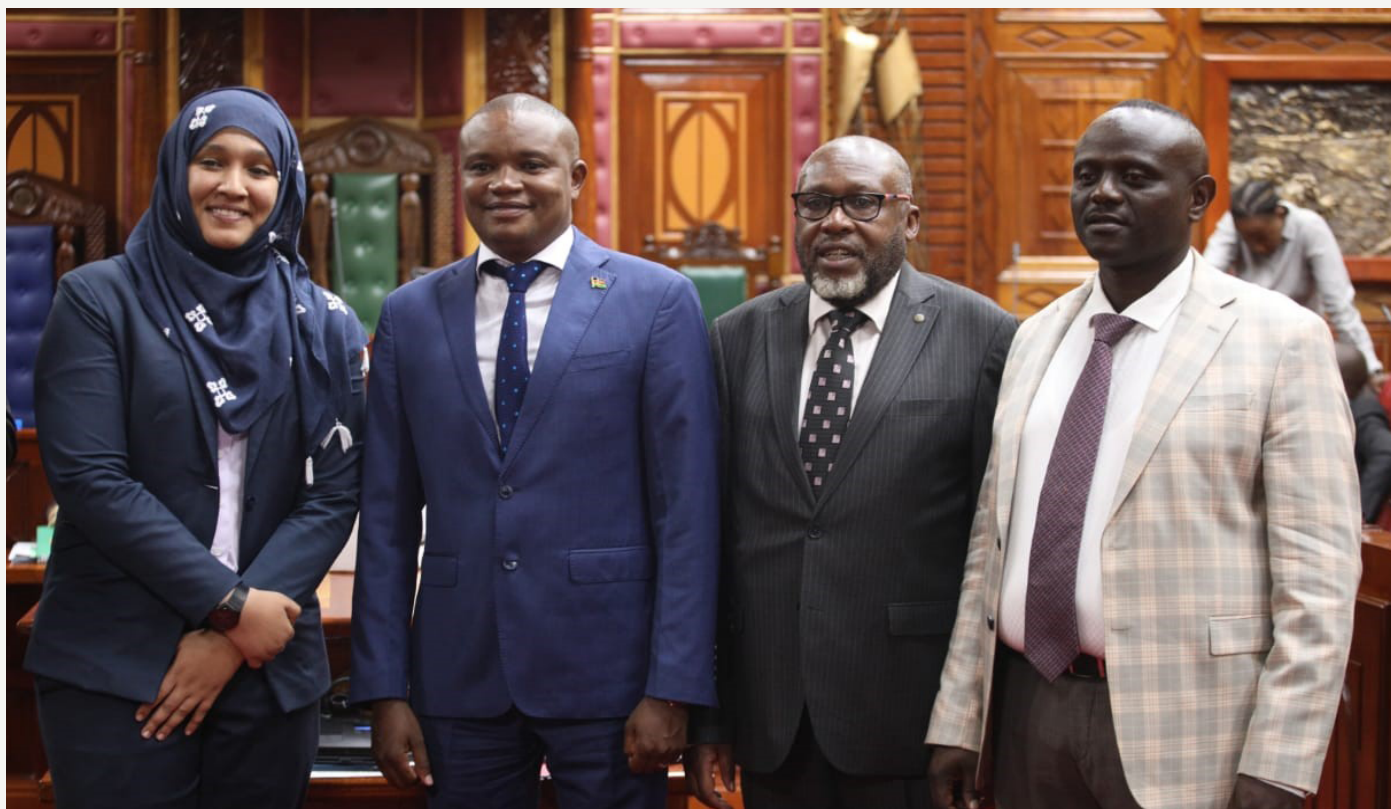
Progress So Far

Through Advocacy & Research based programs, KGBS has produced guidelines and conducted targeted engagements with government and policymakers. **Three Green Building Guideline drafts** were developed for Nairobi, Laikipia and Homa bay counties and presented to relevant government staff, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainability-focused building regulations and supporting legal frameworks. Over ten workshops convened with over 40 policymakers and industry stakeholders to explore practical pathways for integrating sustainable principles into national and local frameworks.

On the Implementation Support front, KGBS

played an active role in implementing impact projects designed to meet emerging green standards. By guiding 10 projects in aligning with IFC EDGE criteria, KGBS demonstrated the feasibility and benefits of compliance. These projects served as practical models, reinforcing the value of sustainable building practices to policymakers and developers alike.

KGBS raised awareness among the public and industry players about the importance of policy change. Educational campaigns highlighting the benefits of green building standards, and a supporting legal framework reached over **1,000 stakeholders**.



KGBS was part of KEPSA's presentation of comments on the Affordable Housing Bill in February 2024.

Our Impact.

Key Achievements

KGBS' coordinated efforts have catalyzed significant progress toward embedding sustainability in Kenya's building policies. Policymakers are now better equipped and more motivated to integrate green principles into national standards. Key legislative milestones include **adoption of the Climate Change Act** in Nairobi City County in late October 2024 following a number of strategic efforts. The county in late 2023 demonstrated leadership through action by certifying the Governor's Office as the **first EDGE certified government office in Africa**, a milestone realized after the announcement of this ambitious goal in a Climate Change Stakeholder

Breakfast held in May 2023 in collaboration with C40 Cities.

The ripple effects of these efforts are evident in the attention the EDGE certification received from media including CNBC Africa, Forbes, and others. Additionally, there is growing alignment of stakeholders with sustainable regulations. Developers, and clients are increasingly seeking compliance with green standards, and the public is becoming more vocal in demanding policies that promote environmental stewardship. KGBS' role in facilitating this momentum highlights its pivotal contribution to Kenya's sustainability goals.



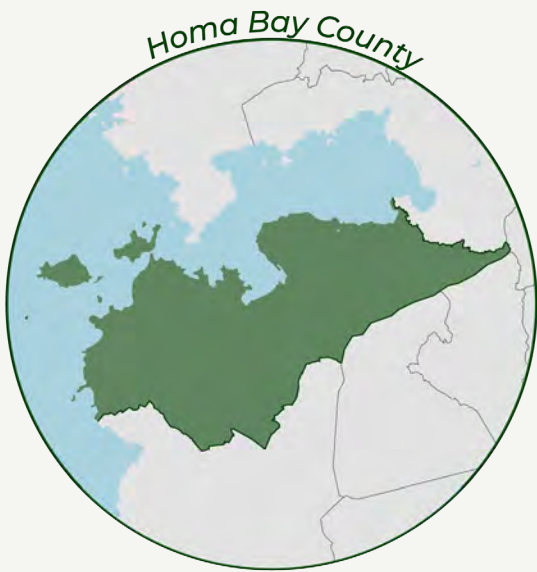
KGBS at the Sustainability in Action Tour | Coast Edition, with the County Government of Mombasa, National Housing Corporation and Swahilipot Hub

Despite progress in policy and advocacy, the potential of our member network remains underutilized in driving legislative change. Enhancing member engagement in these efforts will be a key focus area to amplify our collective influence and impact.

Supporting Counties in Enabling Sustainable Built Environments



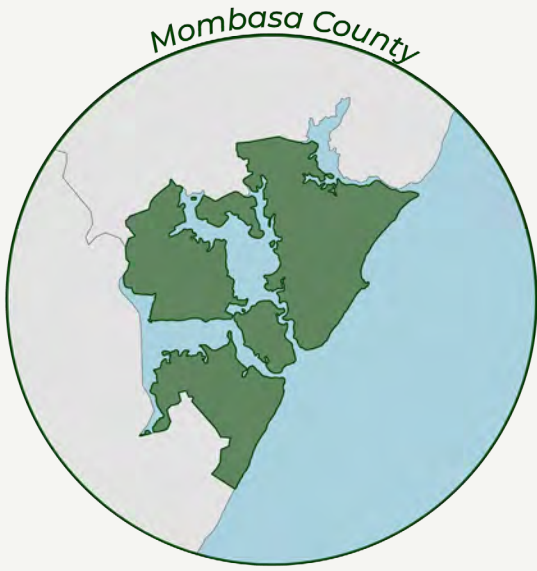
- Signed MoU in 2022
- Green Building Guidelines for the County drafted.
- County Staff trained on EDGE certification program.
- Zero Carbon Building Accelerator piloted in the County.



- Signed MoU in 2021.
- Green Building Guidelines for the County drafted.
- First Affordable Housing Project EDGE certified in the county.



- First EDGE certified Government Office in Africa.
- Green Building Guidelines for the County drafted.
- Passed Climate Change Management Act in 2024.



- Signed MoU in 2024.
- Portfolio certification of public buildings underway.

Market Transformation Towards Sustainable Development Practices

In a goal with the most notable strides made yet, KGBS continues to play a key role in reshaping the built environment sector to prioritize sustainability. The Society has driven demand for sustainable urban development, enhanced the supply chain for sustainable materials, and supported the growth of a skilled workforce ready to lead the transition.

Progress So Far

In research efforts, KGBS in collaboration with FSD (Financial Sector Deepening) Kenya and BuildX Studio conducted studies showcasing the **viability of alternative, sustainable building materials and technologies** available in the Kenyan market. Findings were shared through a market-focused report demonstrating comparisons and environmental benefits of different alternative building materials and technologies. The report was presented at industry forums attended by over 100 developers, investors, and architects, sparking critical conversations about market transformation.

KGBS also led the local development of **a roadmap for the decarbonisation of the buildings sector at a subnational level**, in Laikipia county. Part of the Zero Carbon Building Accelerator project by the World Resources Institute, KGBS conducted a series of stakeholder engagement sessions with County Government of Laikipia and industry stakeholders that informed a baseline assessment and gap analysis, with the county choosing key

goals accelerating energy efficiency of buildings towards achieving net zero carbon buildings. This initiative was recognised at regional level, being showcased at the Africa Climate Summit, and featured in the Advancing Net Zero Status Report in 2023.

At the regional level, KGBS joined in arms with other African based Green Building Councils (GBCs) in formulating and launching the **Africa Manifesto for Sustainable Cities and the Built Environment**. The manifesto sets out actions needed from policymakers and businesses across the continent to deliver the Africa We Want. This closely followed the appointment of KGBS CEO Nasra Nanda as Chairperson of the WorldGBC Africa Regional Network.

At the global level, KGBS was part of collaborative research efforts resulting in the publishing of two market focused reports: **The Circular Built Environment Playbook** and the **Sustainable and Affordable Housing Report**.

87.8k

Total number of impressions of the Jenga Green App.

Total number of visits in KGBS website.

9.8k

KGBS with the generous support of FSD Kenya developed and launched the **Jenga Green Library**, a database of verified sustainable building materials and services in market. Available as a website and mobile application, the digital database has had over 300 downloads, and supported different projects in selecting the right materials and components to achieve green building standards.

Through Implementation Support, KGBS encourages and facilitates the adoption of green building rating tools in the market, notably the Society being IFC's local implementation partner for the EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) rating system. The Society also recognizes the unique business cases of the different rating tools in Kenya, promoting the rating tools to suit different use cases. This has resulted in the certification of **over 150 green**

buildings in the Kenya as at November 2024.

KGBS actively facilitated the adoption of green practices in 8 building projects in the EDGE Clinics workstream. By performing assessments and providing technical guidance on certification processes, these projects are positioned to achieve green building status. This demonstrated feasibility has begun shifting market preferences toward sustainable buildings.

Outreach efforts complemented these activities by raising awareness at local, national, regional and global levels about the opportunities to be exploited by adopting a sustainable urban development approach. Participation in forums emphasized the improved health, energy efficiency, and environmental benefits associated with sustainable spaces.

Jenga Green Library User Feedback: Africa Logistics Properties.

What sustainability challenges did your organization face before using the Jenga Green Library, and how did the product address these challenges?

Knowing what design features to incorporate in the design to achieve green sustainable buildings has always been a challenge, the Jenga Green Library offered a platform for the ALP and the design team to efficiently identify sustainable green products.

What measurable outcomes or improvements have you experienced since implementing the Jenga Green Library?

ALP's objective is to achieve Net Zero certification, as a result all our projects must achieve EDGE Advanced certification. The Jenga Green Library has offered valuable insight in selection of materials that are of good quality and affordable that ease the process of

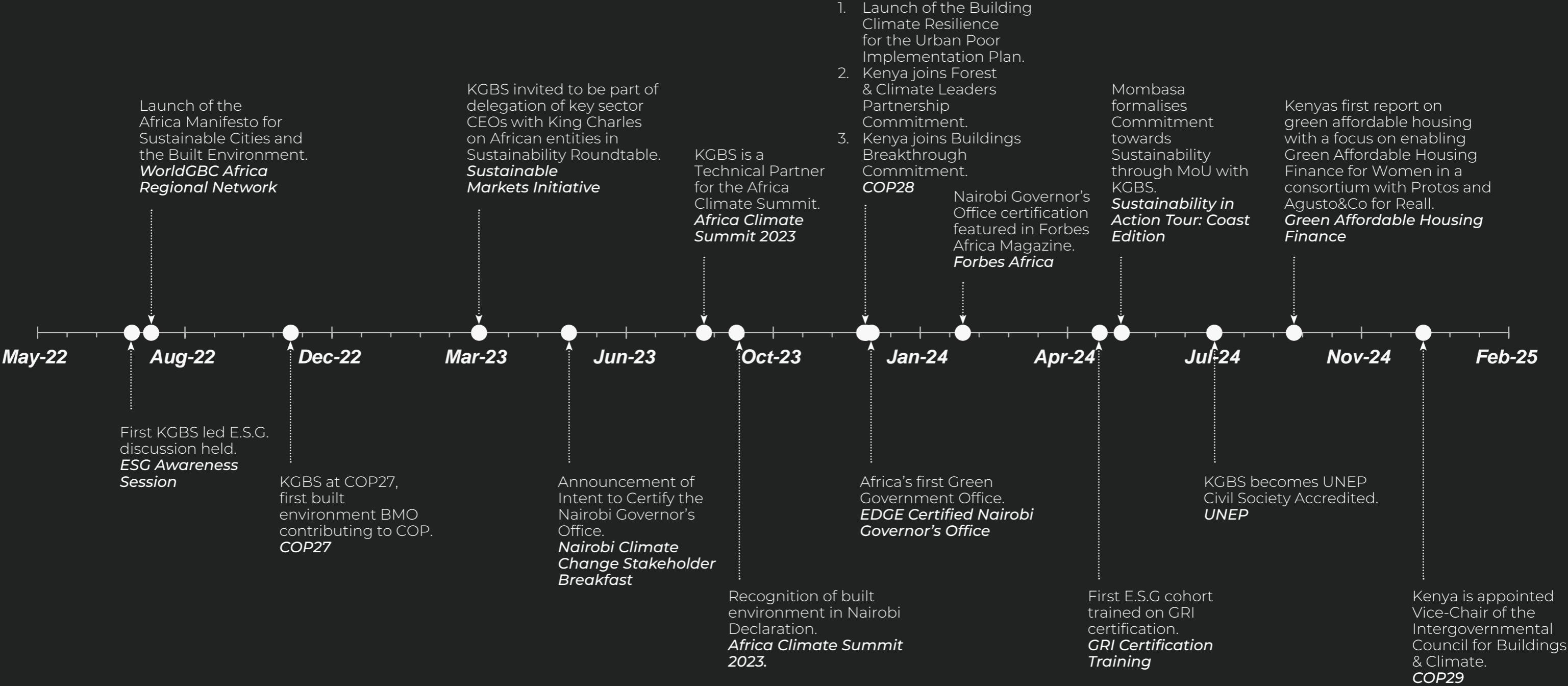
achieving edge advanced certification, particularly MEP design that impacts on utility bills.

What key lessons or recommendations would you share with others considering this product?

Key lessons and recommendations are to developers and professionals to engage Jenga Green Library to understand and efficiently identify green products.



Key Achievements



KGBS has successfully influenced market players, including governments toward sustainable development practices in the built environment. Following the milestones achieved in the different pathways in 2023, KGBS was proud to be a **technical partner of the Africa Climate Summit 2023**, successfully organising a Pre-Africa Climate Summit event amongst other side events during the conference. Outputs of these

events informed the outcome document of ACS 2023, further influencing the **Nairobi Declaration** to include the built environment ahead of COP28 in November to December 2023.

The Society's attendance at UNFCCC's Conference of Parties (COP) shortly after ACS led to several key outcomes. At COP28, Kenya joined two key commitments – the **Buildings Breakthrough Commitment by the Global**

Alliance of Buildings and Construction (Global ABC) and the **Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) Commitment**.

Additionally, UN-Habitat launched the Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP) Implementation Plan, where KGBS was announced as a key implementation partner in the program

In early 2024, KGBS hosted an inaugural webinar with the second highest attendance ever, around the theme of **'Unlocking the door to Sustainable and Affordable Homes in Kenya'**. The webinar brought to light key insights on affordable housing and the future state of housing in Kenya. The webinar followed the Affordable Housing submissions at the Kenyan Parliament done through Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA),

Our Impact.

where an emphasis on the incorporation of green building principles was placed.

The Society also participated in the Urjaravan ISHRAE event at Broadwalk Mall, Westlands, where industry leaders discussed the role of emerging economies in advancing low-carbon futures. Moderated by KGBS Vice Chairperson Gurmukh Singh, the event emphasized energy efficiency and sustainable development, reinforcing KGBS' commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices in Kenya.

At the Sustainable Cities in Action Forum 2024 in Dubai, KGBS, represented by CEO Nasra Nanda, joined global leaders to share Kenya's sustainability journey and highlight the role of inclusive dialogues in urban development. The forum underscored ESG as a transformative approach for Africa and fostered partnerships

for creating sustainable and resilient cities. This forum was also an opportunity for KGBS members Mi Vida and ALP to share their experiences as private sector developers alongside Dr. Konyango, the outgoing National Director of Urban Development in Kenya.

In November 2024, KGBS participated in the 12th session of **UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum**, (WUF) where the Society continued to influence key discussions on **localization of global urban agendas**, and **update the status of key commitments and programs** such as the previously launched BRCUP.

At WUF, KGBS was able to highlight local achievements to global audiences, such as the Climate Change Act for Nairobi County at a panel in the German Pavilion, alongside technocrats and legislators. KGBS was also present in



Pre-Africa Climate Summit 2023, Nairobi..

championing for localization of global agendas such as the New Urban Agenda, with an emphasis on women and youth considerations in urban development. The forum also brought together KGBS and AAK, formalizing our continued partnership on advancing sustainability in the built environment.

Earlier in the year, KGBS championed Kenya's

voice at the **Buildings & Climate Forum** in Paris, and continued our objective to support the government and paving the way for Kenya to take on a leading role as **Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate** at COP29. This is an ongoing effort to shape sustainable, resilient, and inclusive built environments alongside France and Brazil.



KGBS with the WorldGBC Middle East & North Africa Region and Africa Regional Network of GBCs during the World Urban Forum 12.

These achievements mark the beginning of a broader transformation, placing the built environment amongst key priorities in global climate action discussions and positioning sustainability as a core component of Kenya's built environment market. KGBS remains committed to accelerating this shift through continued engagement, support, and advocacy.

With the progress made on this goal, the development and promotion of the Jenga Green Library have provided valuable insights into building a robust materials and services database. Moving forward, KGBS aims to enhance its functionality and accessibility to better support stakeholders in adopting sustainable building practices.

Positive Environmental and Social Impacts Are Realized

KGBS' initiatives aim to achieve tangible environmental and social benefits by driving the adoption of sustainable building practices.

Progress So Far

In the Advocacy & Research pathway, KGBS has emphasized the importance of sustainability through research on environmental and social impact of green building principles and enablers. These efforts highlight the potential for **green finance for affordable housing to enhance home ownership with a focus on women**. Two major reports – *Assessment of Housing Finance Needs of Women*, and *Analysis of Comparable Gender-Specific Products Elsewhere and Options for Gender-Specific Guarantee Products to be Integrated Into The GAHF Model* – on underscored the link between green affordable

housing finance and enhanced uptake by women in market developed by a consortium of Protos Capital, Augusto & Co and KGBS with the generous support of Reall following the launch of the Green Affordable Housing Finance (GAHF) product.

KGBS' Implementation Support provided essential guidance to developers and stakeholders actively pursuing green building certifications. This hands-on support has catalysed the realisation of over 8,000tCO₂ of GHG savings.



EDGE Certified Governor's Office, Nairobi.

Key Achievements

KGBS' efforts have resulted in measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, improved energy and water efficiency, and enhanced indoor air quality across supported projects. These outcomes contribute to Kenya's climate goals.

While the sector continues to uptake sustainable development principles at different capacities, KGBS recognises a gap in data and tools for monitoring and evaluation efforts to accurately measure the impact of these initiatives. Inadequate geographic information systems data, localized embodied carbon databases and tracking limits opportunities for evidence-based advocacy and decision-making. Addressing this gap is critical to ensuring that sustainable development initiatives are not only implemented but also deliver measurable and impactful results.

Driving Impact Together.

The achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the steadfast support and collaboration of our partners. Together, we have taken significant steps toward transforming Kenya's built environment into a model of sustainability.



Our premium and corporate members have been pivotal in amplifying these efforts, offering vital resources, expertise, and advocacy that have strengthened our initiatives and inspired broader industry commitment. Their leadership sets a standard for collaboration and progress within Kenya's sustainability landscape.



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What We Have Learned and Recommended Actions.

Lessons Learned

The Society's initiatives have yielded valuable insights into advancing sustainability within Kenya's built environment:

- 1 Collaboration Drives Impact:** We have engaged and continue to engage a diverse range of partners and members who are critical in amplifying our reach and influence. Collaborative efforts and our appreciation that the built environment is an ecosystem of diverse actors and enablers and applying it to our work has enabled us to achieve more significant milestones than working in isolation.
- 2 Capacity Gaps Hinder Adoption:** Despite the growing interest in sustainable development focus areas and notable growth in technical expertise, financial resources remain barriers for many stakeholders. Addressing these gaps is essential for scaling sustainable practices.
- 3 Consistency in Advocacy Matters:** Persistent engagement with policymakers and stakeholders is necessary to sustain momentum for regulatory and market transformation. One-off interventions are less impactful compared to continuous dialogue and advocacy.
- 4 Localization of global agendas:** To effectively make impactful public awareness efforts on sustainability in the built environment, it is essential to have increased interest in sustainability, and converting awareness into action requires targeted follow-up and practical tools for implementation.
- 5 Adapting to Changing Contexts:** Shifting economic and policy landscapes demand flexibility in strategies to ensure KGBS remains relevant and effective in achieving its goals.

Recommendations

Based on these lessons, we propose the following strategies to enhance our impact:

- 1 Strengthen Partnerships:** Expand collaborations with local and international organizations to leverage shared expertise, resources, and networks. Focus on building coalitions that can advocate more effectively for systemic change.
- 2 Invest in Capacity Building:** Develop more comprehensive and accessible training programs tailored to address technical, financial, and operational gaps. Consider scholarships or subsidies for underserved groups to promote inclusivity.
- 3 Enhance Advocacy Consistency:** Enhance collaboration and participation of the KGBS member and partner network in the built environment, establishing the Society's status as a key voice for the built environment. Create a long-term advocacy roadmap with defined milestones and regular touchpoints with policymakers to ensure sustainability remains a priority in decision-making.
- 4 Convert Awareness into Action:** Complement awareness campaigns with practical and localized guides, toolkits, and follow-up workshops to empower stakeholders to implement sustainable practices.
- 5 Stay Adaptive and Resilient:** Monitor external trends and challenges closely and integrate scenario planning into strategic decisions. This will help KGBS remain proactive and responsive to emerging opportunities and risks. Align with best practice global frameworks and agenda for sustainable urban development, for easier environmental, social and economic impact evaluations of initiatives.

Conclusion.

As we reflect on our progress, the Kenya Green Building Society stands firm in its commitment to transforming Kenya's built environment into a global benchmark for sustainability. Our efforts have laid a strong foundation, but this is only the beginning. We are determined to grow not only as Kenya's largest action network for a sustainable built environment, but also a champion and leader in Africa, in driving innovation, collaboration, and impact.

Looking ahead, we aim to deepen our influence through expanded advocacy, enhanced capacity-building initiatives, and stronger partnerships. We will continue to champion green building practices, develop cutting-edge solutions, and inspire stakeholders to embrace sustainability as a core value.

To achieve this vision, we need your voice, your expertise, and your action. Whether you are a policymaker, industry professional, developer, or concerned citizen, you have a vital role to play in this movement. Your participation is not just an opportunity to support change—it is a chance to be part of it.



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