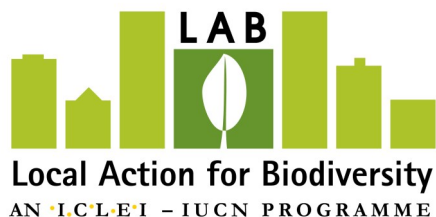




LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY:

WETLANDS SOUTH AFRICA

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The LAB: Wetland SA is being implemented by the ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center, which is coordinated by the ICLEI Africa Secretariat.

Through enhanced awareness of wetlands, and the integration of wetlands and biodiversity considerations into local government planning and decision-making, the project will build the capacity of 11 municipalities to prioritise and effectively manage wetlands and biodiversity at the local level. The project will focus on government departments and working with community stakeholders to increase awareness and community buy-in.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project has several key outputs that will enhance knowledge and build capacity within each municipality. These include general outputs such as:

- Wetland Report Guidelines
- Wetland Strategy and Action Plan Guidelines
- Wetland Awareness Raising Video
- Local Government Wetland Management Guidelines

And municipality specific output such as:

- Wetland Reports
- Wetland Strategy and Action Plans
- Bankable Project Proposals

For more information, please scan the code to the right, or visit our website here:
www.cbc.iclei.org/project/lab-wetlands-sa



ABOUT ICLEI

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. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability, supporting cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, and low-carbon.

ICLEI Africa Secretariat is the Sub-Saharan office of ICLEI and serves our local and sub-national government members across the region in line with the ICLEI Strategic Plan. ICLEI Africa also hosts the global ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center.

OUR PARTNERS



OUR FUNDER



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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality is located in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa and covers an area of 2 515 km². The biodiversity within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality is immense and represented in 2 different biomes; namely Savannah and Albany Thicket. As a result a high percentage of South Africa's rare and threatened ecosystems and species can be found within the region. In addition to rivers, thickets, indigenous forests, grasslands and estuaries, numerous wetlands, of high ecological value and exceptional beauty, are found throughout the municipality. These provide crucial habitat for not only a number of species specially adapted to the various biomes found within the region but also provide habitat for a variety of nationally critically endangered flora and fauna species.

WHY WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT TO BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY ?

The wetlands within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality are considered to be high-value 'ecological infrastructure', in that they provide vital habitat for flora and fauna, but also provide critical ecosystem services to the municipality. These include:

- Flood attenuation and stream flow regulation
- Water filtration and purification
- Erosion control
- Water storage
- Food and medicinal plant provision
- Supply of raw materials
- Clean drinking water

The wetlands within the municipality also play a pivotal role in disaster risk management as well as reducing the impacts of climate change within the district.

THREATS TO THE WETLANDS WITHIN BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, a significant number of the wetlands are threatened. This is largely due to:

- Historical degradation
- Erosion
- Deliberate draining and clearing of wetland areas to make way for urban and rural development and expansion
- Inappropriate development within too close proximity to the wetlands
- Poorly regulated agricultural practices within wetland areas (grazing and ploughing)
- Contamination through sewage, stormwater and nutrient seeps
- Pollution and dumping
- Spread of invasive alien plants

Degraded wetlands are unable to function to the same degree as healthy wetlands and as such ecosystem service provision from these wetlands is severely hindered or even lost altogether.

"Wetlands are the most threatened of all of South Africa's ecosystems with 48% of wetland ecosystems being critically endangered."

- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), National Biodiversity Assessment, 2011.

