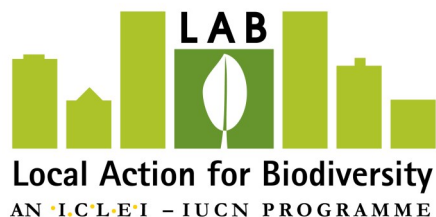




LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY:

WETLANDS SOUTH AFRICA

OVERBERG DISTRICT 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?

Overberg District Municipality is located in the Western Cape Province of South Africa and covers an area of 12,241 km². The municipality falls entirely within the fynbos biome in the Cape Floristic Region, a recognised global biodiversity hotspot with high levels of endemism and floral and faunal diversity. A large number of wetlands can be found throughout the municipality, including two RAMSAR sites of international importance.

WHY WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT TO OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY?

The wetlands within Overberg District 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
- Water filtration
- Erosion control
- Water storage
- Food 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 OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Within Overberg District Municipality, a significant number of the wetlands are threatened. This is largely due to:

- Spread of invasive alien plants
- Deliberate draining of wetlands to make way for development and agriculture
- Inappropriate development within too close proximity to the wetlands
- Poorly regulated agricultural practices (overgrazing and ploughing)
- Contamination through chemical, sewage and stormwater seeps
- Encroachment of Invasive Alien Fish

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.

