

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB): Wetlands South Africa Implementation Project

Call for Project Proposals

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Wetlands provide valuable ecosystem services to communities, such as providing water security, buffering against extreme flood and drought events and providing raw materials and food to humans and animals. However, wetlands are South Africa's most threatened ecosystems, with 48% of wetland ecosystems critically endangered, resulting in an urgent need to improve wetland management across the country.

The Local Action for Biodiversity: Wetlands South Africa (LAB: Wetlands SA) Project works with 11 municipalities across South Africa to build institutional capacity and develop local policies for integrating biodiversity, specifically wetlands, across local government departments. In the long-term, the programme seeks to contribute to disaster risk-reduction and resilience to climate change, through effective management of wetlands and enhancing ecosystem services.

The project is implemented by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Africa Secretariat (ICLEI AS), through the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) with key partners; namely the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and Working for Wetlands (WfW). The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project is being implemented in 9 district and 2 metropolitan municipalities in South Africa. More information on the project and supporting documentation can be found on <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/lab-wetlands-sa/>



LAB: Wetlands SA Project Municipalities



Project Municipalities:

- 1) Waterberg
- 2) Ehlanzeni
- 3) Bojanala Platinum
- 4) Ekurhuleni
- 5) West Rand
- 6) Frances Baard
- 7) iLembe
- 8) Amathole
- 9) Buffalo City
- 10) Eden
- 11) Overberg

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As part of the LAB: Wetlands SA project, a portion of funding has been allocated to develop and implement local pilot wetland projects within two to four municipalities, currently participating in the LAB: Wetlands SA project. The purpose of the implementation of local pilot projects is to contribute towards enhancing natural wetland resources through community involvement, supporting livelihoods, strengthening the local economy, considering gender and improving resilience against climate change impacts.

Funding will be allocated to service providers and / or other implementing agents for proposals which have been pre-approved and are being supported by the municipality and which best fit the eligibility criteria stipulated below. Individual grants will be capped at R 400 000 per project proposal. Service providers and / or implementing agents are encouraged to submit more than one project proposal, which meet the eligibility and selection criteria set out below.

Eligibility Criteria

- 1) Proposals submitted must have written municipal approval of the appropriate authority (e.g. head of relevant department or municipal manager, etc.). This must be indicated in writing and submitted as part of the proposal submission. For the

purpose of initial registration, a written “in principle” support from the relevant Municipal Manager will be sufficient.

- 2) Proposals must have a strong wetland focus.
- 3) Where appropriate, interventions requiring permits/licences/environmental authorisation need to have the requisite permissions in place prior to proposal submission in order to qualify. The requisite permission must be included as part of the proposal submission.

Selection Criteria

- 1) Projects must align with the overall LAB: Wetlands SA Project goal: namely to protect priority natural wetland resources, thus enabling the supply of ecosystem services and promoting resilient communities under a changing climate within South Africa. Hence, projects must contribute to wetland management or protection, but can include projects which will benefit different and preferably multiple municipal functions (e.g. disaster risk, infrastructure, planning etc.).
- 2) Projects should align with municipal needs, many of which have been identified during engagements with the LAB: Wetlands SA project (Draft Wetland Strategy and Action Plans are available on the website). Preferably, selected projects should be adopted by Council or be acknowledged and incorporated into the IDP. Existing projects that have previously been identified (e.g. in the IDP/SDBIP) that require funding (start up or top up) or have already been adopted by Council can also be submitted.
- 3) Project proposals need to demonstrate contributions to job creation, livelihoods and poverty alleviation, as appropriate. Project proposals which include community participation and address gender will have a higher chance of being accepted.
- 4) Service providers and / or other implementing agents must partner with the relevant municipality to design the projects. Successful implementing agents will be contracted by ICLEI Africa to carry out the implementation of the project in close cooperation with the relevant municipalities. A Service Level Agreement will be drawn up between the implementing agent, the municipality and ICLEI Africa and payments will be made to the implementing agent according to a payment schedule and completed activities.
- 5) Applicants are encouraged to partner with key national and local initiatives (e.g. Extended Public Works Programme), to obtain some level of co-funding to maximize available resources and thus increase the proposed project’s impact.
- 6) Project implementation must fall within the timeframes stipulated below.

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well the following proposal components are addressed:

- 1) Description of the problem that the proposed project will address, and the nature and severity of the impact of the problem (ecological, social and economic).
- 2) Description of the proposed intervention to address this problem.
- 3) Description of the proposed project aims and objectives, including clearly defined benefits and outcomes for wetlands, biodiversity, ecosystem services and people.
- 4) A work plan which clearly indicates proposed activities included in the project proposal, responsible persons for each activity, timeframes and budgetary considerations. A detailed breakdown of the total anticipated expenditure (not exceeding R 400 000.00) needs to be included.
- 5) The activity is addressed in the Wetland Strategy and Action Plan (WSAP) and/or in the IDP.
- 6) Description of proposed partners and external stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project as well as the partnership with the relevant municipality. Detailed descriptions of which entity will be involved, what their roles are, and their relevant experience. Including company/organization profile of implementing agencies would be of benefit.
- 7) Description of how the activity will contribute to LAB: Wetlands SA overall aims (as stipulated in the background and section above).
- 8) Description of the proposed 'maintenance plan' for the project to show that the long term sustainability of the project has been considered and planned for. This includes municipal commitment to post funding project sustainability and support. Assets or ongoing maintenance or management activities must be taken up by the municipality and the municipality must undertake to take up all unfinished processes and this must be clearly stated in a letter from the Municipal Manager.

As guidance, possible examples of projects that could be submitted are included below. Please note however, that this list is for example purposes only, and is by no means exhaustive. Other projects will be considered.

- Development of by laws; Updating of zoning schemes;
- Upgrading/refurbishing infrastructure to reduce impact (e.g. pollution/run off) into wetlands;
- Awareness raising campaigns; Development of communications plan and/or material;
- Development of monitoring or management plans;
- Collection of data (mapping, baseline assessments, etc.), to aid in planning and prioritization of activities;
- Wetland management (e.g. litter clean up, invasive species removal, etc).

Timelines

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| 22 September 2017 | Project Proposal submission deadline. |
| October 2017 | Appointments of service providers and initiation of activities. |
| 26 March 2018 | Completion of project activities. |
| 30 March 2018 | Final reports submitted to ICLEI upon completion of activities. |

Submission and review process

Proposals must be submitted to ulrike.irlich@iclei.org by no later than close of business on 22nd of September 2017. **Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.**

Once received, ICLEI will conduct the adjudication process, based on the selection criteria listed above. The Review Committee's decision will be the final decision.

For a list of documents that need to be submitted with the application form please refer to **Annexure A** in the Application Form Document.

All proposals and questions must be directed to:

Ulrike Irlich

Project Manager: LAB: Wetlands SA

Email: ulrike.irlich@iclei.org

Tel: 021 202 0391