

Local Government Biodiversity Learning Network

**Learning
Event #2:**
22 September 2021
09H00 – 13H00



**The Decade
on Ecosystem
Restoration**



Local Government Biodiversity Learning Network

1. Background

The Local Government Biodiversity Learning Network (LGBLN) is a learning and knowledge exchange forum established with the intention of providing a platform for municipal biodiversity management practitioners to engage in cross-functional and multisectoral dialogue. The Network is co-convened by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

The LGBLN has from its inception has been affiliated to the Biodiversity and Land Use Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility through the UNDP which aims to increase the uptake of biodiversity within regulatory officials on the municipal scale (2015-2021), as well as to ICLEI's Cities with Nature global platform.

2. The 2021 Learning Event

The learning event to be held virtually on the 22nd of September 2021 is held as a follow up to the inaugural learning event convened in March 2018; and will present an opportunity for municipal peer learning exchanges on biodiversity management for ecosystem restoration and be exposed to opportunities for funding and technical support.

The theme adopted for the learning event, i.e. 'The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration' is in line with the global 10 year ecosystem restoration programme launched by the United Nations in 2021 with the aim of restoring ecosystems following the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Municipalities play an integral role in the implementation of the SDGs, and should consequently be further empowered to restore and preserve ecosystems.

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Objectives of the learning event:

- To engage with the community of practice of biodiversity professionals to enable them to share lessons about the implementation of biodiversity related projects.
- To capture implementation challenges and solutions, particularly with the intention of “Making the Case” for biodiversity funding models and allocations.
- To engage on strategies to enhance investment in ecological infrastructure and promote nature-based solutions in land use management practices.
- To foster relationships and partnerships between municipalities for ongoing exchanges and shared services.

Who should attend the virtual event?

- Environmental practitioners in Metropolitan, District and Local municipalities.
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment local government support personnel.
- District Development Hub personnel in District and Metropolitan municipalities.
- Spatial planning and land use management personnel in Metropolitan, District and Local municipalities.
- Provincial environmental affairs departments and their conservation agencies.
- National Government Departments such as the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; the Department of public Works and Infrastructure; and the Department of Water and Sanitation
- Non-governmental Organisations working on biodiversity management and research.



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Event logistics:

Date: 22nd September 2021

Time: 09h00 – 13h30

Platforms: MS Teams

RSVP by 20th September 2021: Ms Khaya Gumede (kgumede@salga.org.za)

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Draft event programme:

Time	Item	Facilitator
10h00	Opening, Welcome & Objectives	
10h15 – 11h45	Session 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity into municipal processes	
	i. Refresher course on biodiversity and how to integrate it into Spatial Planning & Land Use Management processes	SANBI (video)
	ii. Municipal Experience Laboratories (a) City of Johannesburg-Ingrid to confirm (b) uMgungundlovu and the UEIP- (c) eThekwini	Municipalities (ICLEI, SALGA, SANBI)
	iii. Lessons learned from the Biodiversity and Land Use Project in mainstreaming biodiversity into municipal spatial development tools - Ehlanzeni DM - uMgungundlovu DM	SANBI
12h00 – 13h00	Session 2: Opportunities for Partnership	
	i. Funding opportunities/upcoming biodiversity related projects	SANBI
	ii. Sub-national funding sources	DFFE/Pegasys (tbc)
	iii. IUCN EbA fund-Ingrid to confirm	IUCN
	iv. Other platforms which municipalities can be part of and pitch for (ICLEI for Story Book on Ecosystem Restoration and Solutions) and Transformative Actions platform (ICLEI)	ICLEI
13h30	Closing Session	
	Key take home messages	SALGA
	Event Announcements & Closure	

