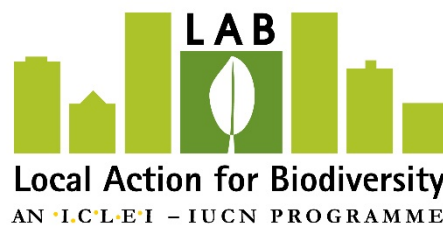


Overberg District Municipality

Wetland Strategy and Action Plan

(2017- 2022)

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB): Wetlands South Africa



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DISCLAIMER

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OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WETLAND STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2017- 2022)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AS	Africa Secretariat
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEA&DP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
IAP	Invasive Alien Plant
ICLEI	ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability
LAB: Wetlands SA	Local Action for Biodiversity: Wetlands South Africa
LM	Local Municipality
ODM	Overberg District Municipality
SA	South Africa
SALGA	South African Local Governments Association
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Initiative
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFW	Working for Wetlands
WSAP	Wetland Strategy and Action Plan

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INTRODUCTION

South Africa is endowed with a rich wealth of biodiversity, which offers an immense opportunity to support the country's development path by providing many goods and services which contribute to municipal service delivery, water and food security and quality of life, especially under a changing climate.

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 huge number of wetlands can be found throughout the municipality, including two RAMSAR sites of international importance. 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 and water storage (regulatory services) as well as food provision, supply of raw materials and clean drinking water (provisioning services). 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.

Within Overberg District Municipality however, a significant number of the wetlands are under threat or have already been lost. This is largely due to the spread of invasive alien plants (IAPs), deliberate draining of wetlands to make way for development and agriculture, inappropriate development within the close proximity to the wetlands, poorly regulated agricultural practices (overgrazing and ploughing) and contamination through chemical, sewage and stormwater seeps. 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.

In light of this, there is an urgent need to increase awareness of wetland importance and to incorporate natural wetland resource considerations into municipal governance mechanisms and planning. Careful management as well as the investment in the maintenance of healthy wetlands and the rehabilitation and restoration of damaged or degraded wetlands is also needed. This will ensure the continued provision of these vital ecosystem services to the municipality.

Overberg District Municipality is implementing the Local Action for Biodiversity: Wetlands South Africa (LAB: Wetlands SA) programme with support from ICLEI Africa Secretariat (ICLEI AS). The LAB: Wetlands SA project aims to ensure the protection of priority natural wetland resources, thus enabling the supply of ecosystem services, and promoting resilient communities and sustainable local economies under a changing climate within South African local governments. Through the development of this Wetland Strategy and Action Plan (WSAP), ICLEI AS will assist Overberg District Municipality in identifying the gaps in management and support with devising new and better wetlands management strategies going forward.

Supporting Documentation:

This document relies heavily on two supporting documents: The Overberg District Municipality Wetland Report (2017) and the Wetland Strategy and Action Plan Guidelines (2017).

These can be downloaded from <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/lab-wetlands-sa/>

1. WETLANDS IN THE OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

1.1. What is a Wetland?

“Wetlands are land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems, where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is periodically covered with shallow water, and which land in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil”.

National Water Act No. 36 of 1998.

In simpler terms, a wetland is a feature in the landscape which is saturated with water for a long enough period that the soil conditions change (mottling as a result of the anaerobic conditions) and the vegetation shifts to respond to these changes.



Figure 1 & 2: Mottled soils indicative of a wetland (left) and specially adapted wetland vegetation (right).

For more detailed information regarding wetlands within the Overberg District Municipality. Please refer to the Overberg District Municipality: Wetland Report (2017) which can be accessed here: <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/lab-wetlands-sa/>

1.2 The Value of Wetlands to the Overberg District Municipality

All wetland types can be classified as high value ‘ecological infrastructure’ due to the large number of ecosystem services that they provide. Wetland ecosystem services can be classified into four separate categories namely ‘provisioning services’, ‘regulating services’, ‘cultural services’ and ‘supporting services’. Provisioning services can be described as the products one can physically obtain from wetlands. Regulatory services can be described as the benefits one receives from the wetland. Cultural services are the nonmaterial benefits that one can obtain from wetlands. Lastly supporting services are the services provided that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. Please refer to **Table 1** below for a detailed description of the ecosystem services that wetlands within Overberg District Municipality provide.

Table 1: Ecosystem services identified in the Overberg District Municipality.

Ecosystem Service Type	Ecosystem Service	Description/ Case Study
Provisioning	Food and medicinal plants	The various local communities living within the Overberg District Municipality harvest local plants such as waterblommetjies and local fish.
	Raw materials supporting local economies and livelihoods	The various local communities living within the Overberg District Municipality harvest reeds from the wetlands for roof thatching.
	Clean drinking water	Local communities throughout the Overberg District Municipality use clean water supplied by the wetlands for drinking purposes (both human and livestock).
Regulatory	Water storage and stream flow regulation	Wetlands store stormwater runoff and slowly release the water as the water table drops. This contributes to sustained streamflow throughout the year.
	Flood attenuation and control	Wetlands and the associated plants (particularly Palmiet) absorb flood water and reduce the velocity of flood waters moving through the system. This contributes to the protection of infrastructure downstream.
	Erosion control	Wetland plants, particularly Palmiet, strengthen the banks of wetlands and thereby contribute to sediment stabilisation and soil retention within the catchment.
	Water filtration	Wetlands contribute substantially to improving water quality by modifying or trapping a wide range of substances commonly considered to be pollutants. This includes suspended sediment, excess nutrients, toxicants and pathogenic bacteria and viruses. This contributes to clean drinkable water downstream.
Cultural	Recreation	Recreation activities undertaken within the wetlands of the Overberg District Municipality include fishing, flower harvesting, bird watching, canoeing and kite surfing.
	Tourism	Wetlands within the Overberg District Municipality, particularly De Hoop Vlei, provide a diverse landscape and rich biodiversity that promote tourism.
	Social upliftment	The rehabilitation and maintenance of wetlands within the district provide opportunities for job creation for the local communities. These opportunities not only support local incomes but also include important skills development as well as environmental education.

It should be noted that the numerous ecosystem services provided by wetlands come at no cost to the municipality and as such, all that needs to be done to ensure continued provision of these services is to protect and maintain local wetlands. However, the inappropriate management of wetlands, can cause a loss of wetland area and subsequent loss of ecosystem services. This results in the municipalities having to invest in expensive infrastructure (e.g. water filtration plants or flood barriers) to ensure the same level of service delivery.

1.3 Threats to Wetlands within Overberg District Municipality

Despite the huge benefits that wetlands provide in terms of ecosystem services, 50% of wetlands in South Africa have already been lost and 48% of the remaining wetlands are critically endangered and/or degraded. This loss is a direct result of deliberate draining of wetlands, development and expansion

(both urban and agricultural) and pollution. Damage to wetlands results in increasingly limited functionality and subsequently a decrease in the ability to provide valuable ecosystem services.

Following verbal communications with active stakeholders working in the Overberg District Municipality, it became clear that wetlands face a significant number of threats all of which have the ability to either destroy the wetland entirely or severely compromise function and provision of ecosystem services. The key threats identified are summarised in **Table 2** below:

Table 2: Threats to wetlands within Overberg District Municipality:

Threat	Description
Inappropriate urban development and expansion	Wetlands within Overberg District Municipality are at risk from urban development and expansion. Due to increasing population pressure, there is a need for more housing. As such, development is being taken right up to, and sometimes beyond, the urban edge threatening wetlands near the vicinity of the urban edge. Due to limited knowledge of where wetlands are on the ground, the process often entails the accidental or deliberate draining or infilling of wetlands to make room for these developments. In some cases, even where wetlands are known to occur, the development goes ahead without including suitable buffers around the wetland systems which negatively impacts the stream flow as well as ecosystem service provision.
Converting and using land for agricultural purpose	Since the 1970s, due to lack of knowledge of the value of wetlands and the importance of the ecosystem services they provide, farmers have been deliberately and actively burning, draining and converting wetland land for agricultural purposes because of the relatively fertile alluvial soils, proximity to water and level land. In addition, inappropriate or poorly regulated agricultural practices such as overgrazing, ploughing within wetlands also negatively impact the wetland systems' functioning. The result is that when flooding events occur, a significant amount of erosion occurs and high volumes of sediment are washed downstream putting infrastructure and livelihoods at risk.
Pollution and Effluent Seepage	As noted above, agriculture has a significant effect on wetlands within Overberg District Municipality and their ability to provide ecosystem services. Livestock farming however poses an additional and significant threat to wetlands. Irrigation of pastures means that excess pesticides and nitrogen seep into the wetland system whilst cleaning of these farms results in the seepage of effluent directly into wetland areas. Additionally, animal carcasses have also been known to be dumped into the wetland areas. Combined this results in eutrophication as well as pollution of the wetlands. This not only poses a risk to the local flora and fauna in terms of habitat contamination but also poses a health risk to humans in terms of altered water quality. As such, water coming from the wetlands located in close proximity to livestock farms, requires significant treatment before it is safe for human consumption. As a result of expanding urbanization in close vicinity to wetland areas, wetlands are also at risk from polluted stormwater runoff as well as from sewerage seeping into wetland areas.
Encroachment of Invasive Alien Plants	Invasive plant species introduced by human actions either accidentally or intentionally, are proving a major threat to the quality and quantity of wetlands, as well as to the biodiversity within



Overberg District Municipality

Overberg District Municipality. IAPs have the ability to alter local water quality, displace indigenous plants (and subsequently the fauna that depends on that vegetation for survival) and ultimately alter the habitat and change ecosystem functioning to suit themselves. IAPs are also 'thirsty' as they draw a far greater amount of water than the local indigenous vegetation resulting in a reduced amount of water moving through the system to downstream users.

Encroachment of Invasive Alien Fish	Invasive alien and exotic fish (including tilapia, bass and carp), also introduced by human actions either accidentally or intentionally, disrupt the delicate ecosystems which occur in the wetland ad river areas within Overberg District Municipality.
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2. GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

South Africa has an extensive legislative framework concerning the environment and biodiversity is considered in both development planning as well as national government priorities. This section outlines key legislation and policies as well as the governance structure within the Overberg District Municipality which leads to the current wetland management strategy within the district.

2.1 Policy framework

Table 3 provides a comprehensive summary of all South African legislation, policies and strategies pertinent for the management of wetlands. It is important to note that some of the legislation such as the National Environmental Management Act provides specific instructions regarding wetland management whilst other legislation indirectly supports management of wetlands such as the National Environmental Management: Waste Act.

Table 3: Legislation governing wetland management in the Overberg District Municipality

LEGISLATION/ POLICY/ STRATEGY	HOW IT RELATES TO WETLANDS
Legislation	
South African Constitution	Overarching principles of care for the environment.
National Water Act	Water use control, including extraction and construction within the vicinity of a watercourse or wetland.
National Environmental Management Act	Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for the development of a new or disturbed site within the vicinity of a watercourse or wetland.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act	Protection of biodiversity and the formulation of a number of tools (e.g. bioregional plans and threatened ecosystem lists) that feed into land use planning and EIA procedures.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act - Alien and Invasive Species Regulations	All matters related to invasive species management (fauna and flora).
National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act	Integrated landscape protection from catchment to the coast.

LEGISLATION/ POLICY/ STRATEGY	HOW IT RELATES TO WETLANDS
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act	Protection of national parks, protected areas and conservation sites. This includes the protection of wetland sites.
National Environmental Management: Waste Act	Regulation of illegal dumping.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act	Protect the utilization of the natural agricultural resources to promote the conservation of the soil, the water sources and the vegetation and the combating of weeds and invasive plants.
Municipal Systems Act	Role of local governments and the requirements for IDPs, SDFs and Disaster Management Plans.
Municipal Structures Act	Promotion of regional planning and spatial planning categories.
Municipal Health Act	Monitoring of WWTW discharge.
Policies	
National Development Plan, and associated Medium Term Strategic Framework	The NDP sets out measures to protect natural resources in South Africa. Through the creation of the MTSF and associated 'Delivery Agreements', required outputs and targets are set.
Municipal Planning	
Integrated Development Plan (IDP)	Overall strategy document for the municipality.
Provincial Strategic Development Framework (SDF)	Overarching spatial planning guidelines for the province.
District SDF	Broad spatial planning guidelines for the district (including a map of land use within the district)
Local Municipal SDFs	Strategic plans to manage municipal land at the local level.
Open Space Framework	Demarcation of Open Space Areas.
Environmental Management Framework	Map and land use guidelines for areas of environmental importance.
Sector Plans	Disaster Management Plan.
Strategies	
The National Biodiversity Framework	Provides biodiversity targets for South Africa.
National Water Resource Strategy	Speaks to protection and rehabilitation of wetlands.
Other	
Bioregional plans (draft or gazetted)	Maps Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs).
Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act	Provides a framework for spatial planning and land use management in South Africa. It sets out in its definitions that municipal planning is primarily the executive function of the local sphere of government and requires that biodiversity is adequately considered in spatial planning.
Disaster Management Amendment Bill	Outlines how ecosystems should be considered in the updated Disaster Management Act.

2.2 Wetland management within the municipality

Wetland management within Overberg District Municipality is currently a collective effort between individual departments of Overberg District Municipality (including the Environmental Management, Fire and Disaster Management, Municipal Health Services and Road departments) as well as the local municipalities within the district (Theewaterskloof, Overstrand, Cape Agulhas and Swellendam), each of which interacts with wetlands through their own functions, key mandates and legislative



requirements. Through maintenance and protection of wetlands, all local authorities stand to benefit from the ecosystem services that wetlands provide. Management strategies through these different municipal departments are summarised in **Table 4**:

Table 4: Wetland management strategies of different municipal departments within the Overberg District Municipality.

Department	Management Role
District	
Overberg District Municipality Environmental Management	Monitoring of the environment and pollution as well as assessing and reporting on negative impacts.
Overberg District Municipality Fire and Disaster Management	The control of veld fires and reaction to disaster incidents.
Overberg District Municipality Municipal Health Services	Monitoring of final outflow of waste water treatments and recreational water.
Overberg District Municipality Roads	Construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure as well as the maintenance of road verges.
Local	
Overstrand Local Municipality Environmental Unit	Local environment within the local municipal area is managed through annual monitoring and rehabilitation if required.
Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	Currently only one individual within the municipality is managing environmental and wetland related concerns.
Cape Agulhas Town Planning Department	Currently there is no dedicated environmental department, instead the local environment is managed on an ad hoc basis through active town planning.
Swellendam Town Planning Department	Currently there is no dedicated environmental department, instead the local environment is managed on an ad hoc basis through active town planning.

Wetlands are also considered in decision making of the following platforms:

- Municipal Coastal Committee;
- Regional Waste Forum;
- Disaster Management: Overberg Fire Protection Association;
- District Fire Working Group;
- Agulhas National Park project advisory committees;
- Kogelberg Stakeholder Committee;
- ABI Stakeholders Meeting;
- Estuary Advisory Forums; and the
- IDP Representation Forum.

Flowing from these regional platforms are projects, programmes and opportunities for collective planning and funding of priorities.

2.3 Local and regional partnerships and programmes managing wetlands within Overberg District Municipality

In addition to the collective municipal work that is being undertaken at both the district and local level to monitor and manage wetlands within the Overberg District Municipality, there are numerous projects and activities currently being implemented within and around wetlands by both the public and private sector as well as several NGOs. The projects currently underway within the Overberg District



Municipality are summarised in the Overberg District Municipality: Wetland Report (pg. 42- 45). The report can be downloaded at: <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/lab-wetlands-sa/>

3. DEVELOPING THE OVERBERG WETLAND STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Prior to the development of a wetland Strategy and Action Plan (WSAP), it was critical to undertake an extensive and inclusive stakeholder engagement process to gather all relevant information and inputs from key stakeholders for populating the WSAP as well as ensuring critical stakeholder buy-in. To achieve this, as part of the LAB: Wetlands SA project, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and Overberg District Municipality engaged with key stakeholders (provincial, district and local municipal officials within Overberg District Municipality as well as representatives from local NGOs, private landowners and farmers) in three key ways namely, through a Wetland Awareness Raising Workshop, one on one meetings which facilitated the development of the Overberg District Municipality Wetland Report (2017) and at a WSAP Workshop to gather the required information for inclusion in the WSAP and secure stakeholder buy-in at the local level.

The Wetland Awareness Raising Workshop was undertaken in Bredasdorp in September 2015. Prior to this workshop, a desktop study was undertaken to ascertain which stakeholders within Overberg District Municipality are working in the planning and biodiversity sectors. All identified stakeholders were invited to the workshop which was then used to not only raise awareness of the value of wetlands but also to identify possible stakeholders who should also be included in the WSAP development process.

After the Wetland Awareness Raising Workshop, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and Overberg District Municipality co-developed the Overberg District Municipality: Wetland Report throughout the course of 2016. The Wetland Report was a desktop study and aimed to include all the known information on wetlands within the municipality. One on one interviews were undertaken with all stakeholders identified up until that point and resulted in critical information being gathered for the Wetland Report. These engagements also resulted in critical 'gaps' in wetland management being identified that need to be addressed. This set the scene for the final stakeholder engagement – the WSAP Workshop.

The Overberg WSAP Workshop was held in Bredasdorp in October 2016. All stakeholders identified during previous engagements were invited to attend. During the workshop feedback on the findings of the Overberg District Municipality: Wetland Report were presented to the stakeholders, namely the critical ecosystem services the wetlands within Overberg provide, the threats to these wetlands and the gaps in wetland management. This set the scene for the development of the WSAP.

The WSAP is outlined below and includes all identified issues as well as proposed solutions as developed by all stakeholders present at the WSAP workshop as well as those that contributed to the Overberg District Municipality Wetland Report. The WSAP was developed with close reference to the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Wetland Strategy and Action Guidelines which are an ICLEI – developed tool freely available for download: <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/lab-wetlands-sa/>



4. OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WETLAND STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2017- 2022)

VISION STATEMENT

"Working together, from catchment to coast, towards a legacy of healthy functioning wetlands in the Overberg, for the benefit and enjoyment of all."

VALUES

- ✓ ***Collaboration around common purpose***
Multi-stakeholder collaboration, promoting partnerships and working together towards a common purpose and goal; Bringing people with shared interests together; Multi sectoral and stakeholder approach to development and planning.
- ✓ ***Inclusivity***
Inclusive and participative management and buy-in of landowners; Bottom-up approach; Consideration for all stakeholders in participation for planning and implementation; Respect for all people and their needs.
- ✓ ***Holistic approach***
Apply best practice and innovative strategies to wetland management and system improvement; Willingness to learn from each other; Scientifically informed practices.
- ✓ ***Empowerment***
Promote education initiatives on wetlands and ecosystem services, alien clearing within wetlands etc.; Increase knowledge and understanding of the value of wetlands; Awareness amongst all affected parties.
- ✓ ***Performance Measurement***
Implement effective monitoring and evaluation of wetlands on a continuous basis; All stakeholders should link their efforts to key performance indicators; Action, not just talk.

- ✓ **Accountability**
Responsible reporting to all parties including the Green Hub in a transparent manner; Transparency; Alignment with existing legislation.
- ✓ **Equitable**
Sharing of benefits and access to services provided; Includes sharing of information; Equal opportunity to access information; GIS surveys; EIAs; Mapping.
- ✓ **Passion**
Lead by example; Share your passion.
- ✓ **Sustainability**
Principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability.

FOCUS AREAS (3 – 6 strategic interventions / priorities):

1. *Roles, responsibilities, funding and capacity.*
2. *Coordinated wetland management strategy aligned with the IDP.*
3. *Baseline assessment, mapping and monitoring.*
4. *Awareness raising and education.*
5. *Stakeholder collaboration and the Green Hub.*
6. *Constraints to land owner buy-in and involvement.*



Overberg District Municipality

(S.M.A.R.T.) GOALS FOR EACH FOCUS AREA

**(Action, Detail, Measure, Unit, Deadline)*

FOCUS AREA 1: <i>Roles, responsibilities, funding and capacity.</i>	Goal 1.1: <i>Clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved with wetlands within the Overberg District Municipal Region by October 2017.</i>
	Goal 1.2: <i>Identify operational capacity gaps and constraints of the wetland stakeholders needed for effective wetland project implementation by January 2018.</i>
	Goal 1.3 <i>Develop a costing model to address identified capacity gaps and constraints (to be finalised by DEA and SALGA).</i>
	Goal 1.4 <i>Collectively source and secure alternative funding to support the costing model and identified bankable projects on an annual basis by means of the IDP review.</i>
FOCUS AREA 2: <i>Coordinated wetland management strategy aligned with the IDP.</i>	Goal 2.1 <i>Include WSAP into the next 5 year IDP cycle of Overberg District Municipality by September 2017.</i>
	Goal 2.2 <i>Include the WSAP into the next 5 year IDP cycle of Theewaterskloof, Overstrand, Cape Agulhas and Swellendam Local Municipalities starting in March 2018.</i>
FOCUS AREA 3: <i>Baseline assessment, mapping and monitoring.</i>	Goal 3.1 <i>Conduct a baseline wetland assessment for the Overberg District Municipal Region by 2019.</i>
	Goal 3.2 <i>Develop a decision-making tool that prioritizes wetlands in a manner that complies with international and national standards and legislative requirements by 2020.</i>
	Goal 3.3 <i>Establish and implement a wetland monitoring system that is aligned with the existing catchment and coastal monitoring programmes by 2021.</i>
FOCUS AREA 4: <i>Awareness raising and education.</i>	Goal 4.1 <i>As part of the IDP Mapping process, map current awareness raising and education initiatives and identify the gaps within the Overberg District Municipal Region by February 2018.</i>
	Goal 4.2 <i>Develop partnerships with existing NGO's and community based education organisations on an ongoing basis.</i>



	<p>Goal 4.3 <i>Develop standardised up-to-date education packages/ resources to raise awareness of the value of wetlands by October 2021.</i></p>
	<p>Goal 4.4 <i>Develop and roll out a coordinated capacity building campaign on wetland awareness and education on an ongoing basis (this is also dependent on budget approval).</i></p>
<p>FOCUS AREA 5: <i>Stakeholder collaboration and the Green Hub</i></p>	<p>Goal 5.1 <i>Identify and secure commitment from key stakeholder champions within the Overberg District Municipal Region to contribute to a collaborative wetland platform by continuous participation.</i></p>
	<p>Goal 5.2 <i>Establish a focus group responsible for developing the Green Hub and communication with stakeholders by December 2019.</i></p>
	<p>Goal 5.3 <i>Establish the Green Hub to coordinate wetland related initiatives in the Overberg District Municipal Region by June 2020.</i></p>
<p>FOCUS AREA 6: <i>Constraints to land owner buy-in and involvement</i></p>	<p>Goal 6.1 <i>Identify the legislative obligations and constraints that landowners face within the Overberg Municipal Region by February 2021.</i></p>
	<p>Goal 6.2 <i>Develop land use/ management guidelines for landowners on legislative requirements, compliance and best practice land use by June 2021.</i></p>
	<p>Goal 6.3 <i>Develop a programme to provide implementation support to landowners by December 2021.</i></p>

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
Focus Area 1: Roles, responsibilities, funding and capacity.			
<p>Goal 1.1: Clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved with wetlands within the Overberg District Municipal Region by October 2017.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a responsible person to undertake stakeholder mapping. • Develop an initial stakeholder map of who is doing what and where using the LAB: Wetlands SA Overberg District Municipality Wetland Report. • Circulate map to all relevant stakeholders within Overberg District Municipality to confirm/clarify that all key stakeholders are included. Individual roles and responsibilities should be confirmed at this time. • Stakeholder map to be finalised. <p>*Note: The stakeholder map should include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Each entity/individual working within Overberg District Municipality; 2) Roles and Responsibilities; 3) Current / Historical wetland related projects; 4) Areas of jurisdiction (including buffer areas); and 5) Contact details. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability</p> <p>Overberg District Municipality</p> <p>Overberg District Municipality</p>	<p>Goal start date: October 2017</p>
<p>Goal 1.2: Identify operational capacity gaps and constraints of the wetland stakeholders needed for effective wetland project implementation by January 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stakeholders and their respective responsibilities using the stakeholder map (Goal 1.1). • Review relevant legislation to identify what each stakeholder/ entity (e.g. CapeNature, SANParks etc.) working within Overberg District Municipality is required to do. • Needs Assessment: Part 1: Identify ideal personnel and tools required to effectively implement roles and responsibilities. • Needs Assessment: Part 2: Identify present status of personnel and tools currently on the ground. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality Individual stakeholders/entities Individual stakeholders/entities coordinated by ODM Individual stakeholders/entities coordinated by ODM.</p>	<p>Goal start date: January 2018</p>

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
	<p>*Note: Identified gap between Needs Assessment Part 1 and Part 2 are the areas to address.</p>		
<p>Goal 1.3 <i>Develop a costing model to address identified capacity gaps and constraints by July 2018.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on Needs Assessment (Goal 1.2) identify gaps in personnel and tool requirements on the ground of each individual entity. Breakdown personnel and tool requirements into separate, agreed upon line items. Costing model to be taken to respective financial offices as proof of what is required on the ground (costing model should be used as a motivation for funding in the following financial year as well as proof of alignment with other stakeholders). 	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p> <p>Individual stakeholders/entities in collaboration with Overberg District Municipality</p>	<p>Costing model to inform funding to local authorities to be finalised by DEA and SALGA. They are already in process to determine the roles and responsibilities and then the costing model will follow.</p>
<p>Goal 1.4 <i>Collectively source and secure alternative funding to support the costing model and identified bankable projects on an annual basis by means of the IDP review.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a 'landscape initiative' including district and local municipalities as well as individual/ private NGOs to collectively source and secure funding for the larger group (rather than competing individually to privately secure funding). Identify areas within Overberg District Municipality that need to be addressed, where external funding could be of assistance and develop bankable projects that will holistically address identified issues. Source alternative funding through existing networks (websites, newsletters, personal relationships etc.). 	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p> <p>Landscape Initiative</p> <p>Landscape Initiative</p> <p>Landscape Initiative</p>	<p>Goal start date: Annually as part of the IDP review.</p> <p>Funding applications will be completed as the call for funding proposals are made available.</p>

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN			
FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a dedicated person to source key funding opportunities on an ongoing basis (this can be a person from the Green Hub when it has been established). <p>*Note: To date, the following bankable projects have been identified and developed by Overberg District Municipality and the Landscape Initiative to be implemented as soon as alternative funding becomes secured:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Waste to Energy 2) Biomass to Energy 3) Green Economy 4) Green Hub <p>*Note: A bankable wetland related project will be included in the above list following the completion of the LAB: Wetlands SA project.</p>		
Focus Area 2: Coordinated wetland management strategy aligned with the IDP.			
<p>Goal 2.1 Include WSAP into the next 5 year IDP cycle of Overberg District Municipality by September 2017.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Wetland Strategy and Action Plan (WSAP) to be submitted to Overberg District Municipality. Attend all IDP Meetings and make the case for including the WSAP in the IDP. WSAP to be tabled at the Portfolio Committee Meeting for discussion. Recommendations to include the WSAP in the IDP to be made to Council. Final decision to be made on whether to include the WSAP in the IDP. 	<p>ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Overberg District Municipality.</p> <p>Overberg District Municipality Portfolio Committee</p> <p>Council</p>	<p>June 2017</p> <p>September 2017 onwards</p>



HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
<p>Goal 2.2 <i>Include the WSAP into the next 5 year IDP cycle of Theewaterskloof, Overstrand, Cape Agulhas and Swellendam Local Municipalities starting in March 2018.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Wetland Strategy and Action Plan (WSAP) to be submitted to Local Municipalities. • Attend all IDP Meetings and make the case for including the WSAP in the IDP. • WSAP to be tabled at the Portfolio Committee Meeting for discussion. • Recommendations to include the WSAP in the IDP to be made to Council. • Final decision to be made on whether to include the WSAP in the IDP. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality. Overberg District and Local Municipalities. Overberg District Municipality. Portfolio Committee Council</p>	<p>June 2017</p> <p>Goal Start date: March 2018 as part of the IDP review and public participation process</p>
<p>Focus Area 3: Baseline assessment, mapping and monitoring.</p>			
<p>Goal 3.1 <i>Conduct a baseline wetland assessment for the Overberg District Municipal Region by 2019.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the scope of work including what is required for inclusion in the wetland assessment (situational analysis). • Develop a project proposal based on the scope of works document • Compile a full budget that includes all activities identified in the scope of works document. • Source funding (See Goal 1.4). • Identify project implementing parties (via a tender process) and appoint them to undertake a baseline wetland assessment. • Develop and publish a baseline wetland assessment (including identification of type, status and location). 	<p>Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality Appointed implementing party identified during the tender process.</p>	<p>Goal start date: January 2019</p>

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
<p>Goal 3.2 <i>Develop a decision-making tool that prioritizes wetlands in a manner that complies with international and national standards and legislative requirements by 2020.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review international, national and local regulations and process for wetland classification and prioritisation (e.g. RAMSAR, SANBI, CapeNature etc.). Using the baseline assessment developed in Goal 3.1, develop a map/ database which shows priority wetlands and also incorporates relevant regulations and legislation. Hold a public launch of the prioritisation map/ database. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p> <p>Appointed implementing party identified during the tender process stipulated in Goal 3.1</p> <p>Overberg District Municipality</p>	<p>Goal start date: January 2020</p>
<p>Goal 3.3 <i>Establish and implement a wetland monitoring system that is aligned with the existing catchment and coastal monitoring programmes by 2021.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a wetland monitoring system (based on best practice identified by RAMSAR and SANBI). Set up a stakeholder meeting and identify potential platforms for monitoring (e.g. Environmental Management Platform / Coastal Management Forums/ Green Hub etc.). Identify and allocate roles and responsibilities for monitoring via identified platform. Monthly report back on wetlands status (ensuring continued assessment). 	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p> <p>Members of the Greenhub/wetland platform</p>	<p>Goal start date: January 2021</p>
<p>Focus Area 4: Awareness raising and education.</p>			
<p>Goal 4.1 <i>As part of the IDP Mapping process, map current awareness raising and education initiatives and identify the gaps within the Overberg District Municipal Region by February 2018.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify stakeholders within the education sector and their respective responsibilities. Identify what is currently being done in terms of environmental education (refer to Goal 1.1). Identify what needs to be done to raise awareness and increase knowledge of the value of wetlands. <p>*Note: Refer to Goal 1.2</p>	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p> <p>Environmental education stakeholders</p>	<p>Goal start date: February 2018</p>

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
<p>Goal 4.2 <i>Develop partnerships with existing NGO's and community based education organisations on an ongoing basis.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Awareness Raising and Environmental Forum for environmental and wetland awareness raising (sub-committee reporting to the Green Hub). 	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p>	<p>Continuously.</p>
<p>Goal 4.3 <i>Develop standardised up-to-date education packages/ resources to raise awareness of the value of wetlands by October 2021.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a wetland and biodiversity awareness raising package from up to date existing resources (e.g. Wetland Awareness Raising Report, Working for Wetlands Reports, Green Hub etc.) Utilise the Green Hub for updated information. New resources produced should be regionally specific and shared with all. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality Environmental education stakeholders</p>	<p>Goal start date: October 2021</p>
<p>Goal 4.4 <i>Develop and roll out a coordinated capacity building campaign on wetland awareness and education on an ongoing basis (this is also dependent on budget approval).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise the Awareness Raising and Environmental Forum to create a campaign design plan which includes costing model. Identify target group. Implementation/ Roll-out of campaign. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality Environmental education stakeholders</p>	<p>Continuously</p>
<p>Focus Area 5: Stakeholder collaboration and the Green Hub</p>			
<p>Goal 5.1 <i>Identify and secure commitment from key stakeholder champions within the Overberg District Municipal Region to contribute to a collaborative wetland platform by continuous participation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify government departments and NGOs working within Overberg District Municipality. Identify champions from each department and NGO to be included in the communication platform/ forum/ focus group. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality</p>	<p>Continuously</p>
<p>Goal 5.2 <i>Establish a focus group responsible for developing the Green</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using identified key stakeholders and champions from Goal 1.1 establish a focus group. Elect a chair and a secretary from within the focus group. 	<p>Overberg District Municipality</p>	<p>Goal start date: December 2019</p>

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN			
FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
<i>Hub and communication with stakeholders by December 2019.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify what resources will be required to develop a communication platform (e.g. funding, service provider, administration etc.) Develop a website to host the forum. 	Overberg District Municipality/ Focus Group Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality	
Goal 5.3 <i>Establish the Green Hub to coordinate wetland related initiatives in the Overberg District Municipal Region by June 2020.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Terms of Reference through an inclusive workshop. Develop the Green Hub. Market the Green Hub to get buy-in Develop the administrative aspects of the Green Hub. 	Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality Overberg District Municipality	Goal start date: June 2020
Focus Area 6: Constraints to land owner buy-in and involvement			
Goal 6.1 <i>Identify the legislative obligations and constraints that landowners face within the Overberg Municipal Region by February 2021.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review relevant legislation through desktop studies and interviews with government departments. Capture all relevant information into one document. 	Department of Agriculture Overberg District Municipality Department of Agriculture	Goal start date: February 2021
Goal 6.2 <i>Develop land use/management guidelines for landowners on legislative requirements, compliance and best practice land use by June 2021.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop TOR and secure funding to appoint a consultant. Identify existing resource material/guidelines. Develop new draft guideline based on legislative review and best practice from existing resources. Share the draft guideline with stakeholder for review and collaborative input. Incorporate stakeholders' input into final guideline. Launch and disseminate the guideline to landowners. 	DOA Western Cape Overberg District Mun. Appointed consultant Appointed consultant	Goal start date: June 2021

HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN			
FOCUS AREA & GOALS	KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME
		DOA Western Cape and ODM Appointed consultant DOA Western Cape and ODM	
Goal 6.3 <i>Develop a programme to provide implementation support to landowners by December 2021.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a criteria of what will be supported • Establish how support will be given on a technical, funding or capacity level. 	Greenhub/wetland platform	Goal start date: December 2021

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