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Tangible benefits to participants of the LAB Programme:

- Strategic global, regional and local networking and exchanges
- Awareness-raising and capacity building for local leaders and practitioners
- International recognition through global profiling to showcase local biodiversity projects: as speakers, panelists and presenters at major events; in various publications; and through a dedicated LAB website
- Access to a variety of practical biodiversity tools and products, such as the LAB Guidebook and case descriptions
- Access to leading technical biodiversity expertise from the LAB team and partners including the IUCN network of more than 11000 scientists and other experts
- Local and global advocacy – LAB provides a platform for local authorities to contribute to global biodiversity policy decisions
- The opportunity to sign the Durban Commitment, a globally-recognized agreement designed for, and by, local authorities to demonstrate their contribution to implementing the CBD
- Representation in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity
- Information sharing through regular LAB, and LAB partners, newsletters and electronic updates
- Invitations to international and regional LAB events such as the Urban Nature Workshops and other dedicated technical workshops.

In addition to the benefits mentioned, local authorities joining the LAB Pioneer Programme will receive financial support for officials to attend the international LAB Workshops. Support and funding for the production of a local biodiversity assessment report, which functions as a tool for awareness-raising, demonstrates international best practice and delivers multiple local benefits, is also included.

The LAB Pioneer Project

LAB's intensive flagship project

The LAB Pioneer Project guides local authorities from around the world through a three-year, five-step process with key deliverables.

These deliverables include:

- a biodiversity assessment report
- a strategy and action plan
- implementation of strategic local biodiversity projects developed to address local needs within specific regional contexts

Steps to improve political commitment underpin these deliverables.

Local authorities ready to step up their contribution to local and global sustainability are encouraged to become a LAB Pioneer by joining this fast-growing international project.

LAB Special Focus Projects

A range of LAB projects are being designed and implemented to address the specific needs of local governments resulting in local action with tangible benefits.

This approach is applied to biodiversity



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and ecosystem management in a specific geographical context, or to specific focus areas such as:

- biodiversity and climate change
- biodiversity, food security and agriculture
- cities in biodiversity hotspots
- biodiversity and CEPA (communication, education and public awareness)

LABNetwork

An introduction to LAB through our global biodiversity network

LABNetwork is an introductory option which allows local authorities without the capacity to participate in the more intensive versions of LAB, to take the first step towards improving their contribution to local and global biodiversity management. Through the LABNetwork participant local authorities associate with, and learn from, other LAB local governments and are kept updated on international developments in the local biodiversity arena.



Local Action for Biodiversity

AN ICLEI - IUCN PROGRAMME



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ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability's Global Biodiversity Programme:

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)

A partnership between ICLEI and IUCN

The Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Programme offers local governments the opportunity to take part in a range of unique global biodiversity projects to enhance biodiversity management at the local level.

LAB is a partnership between ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and is accepted globally as the leading action-oriented initiative dealing with biodiversity and local authorities.

LAB was established in 2006 as a pilot project with 21 pioneer cities and local authorities from around the world, coordinated by a dedicated full-time team including leading biodiversity experts.



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The LAB programme provides long-term benefits to participating local authorities through:

- Expert technical support
- Guidance in assessment, planning and implementation
- Strategic networking opportunities
- Profiling opportunities at global events
- Providing a platform for global advocacy

Guided by an international Advisory Committee, LAB serves as an enabling platform for local authorities of diverse circumstances to improve their contribution to local and global biodiversity conservation, through a variety of entry points suited to local priorities and requirements.

The LAB Programme recognizes the importance of strong political support for biodiversity at the local level, as well as the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into all aspects of local governance.

LAB's tangible outputs include:

- significantly improved local biodiversity governance;
- increased commitment to, and understanding of, the pivotal role of biodiversity at local level;
- and, most importantly, the implementation of projects on the ground.

The pioneer cities, along with a growing number of new participants, have already started to take tangible and measurable actions to protect the precious web of life on Earth – thereby ensuring the maintenance of ecosystem services for the benefit of humankind.

Through its action-oriented approach, LAB has rapidly achieved international acclaim. The LAB team works closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other United Nations agencies. LAB is also an active member of the **Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity** - a partnership of local and national governments, donors, multilateral organisations, NGOs, academia, research organisations and others committed to advancing the contribution of local governments in recognition of their potential to support the implementation of the three **objectives of the CBD**:

1. The conservation of biodiversity
2. The sustainable use of biodiversity
3. The equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity



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Participating in LAB helps to identify the value of ecosystem services

What is the value of your city's ecosystem services? LAB City Durban conservatively estimated the value of their municipal area's biodiversity at US\$ 400 million a year, excluding the considerable contribution from the tourism sector.

Ecosystems form the foundation from which not only environmental, but also economic and social benefits are derived. People in cities are as dependent as anyone on ecosystems for the provision of water, food, fuel, construction material, clean air, flood attenuation and a variety of other services.

LAB is working closely with the team behind the local and regional policy makers' component of UNEP's **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)** initiative to incorporate an even stronger component of ecosystem valuation into its projects.