

The South African Sustainable Cities Planning and Decarbonisation Integrated Programme

Country: South Africa

Cities: Johannesburg, Thulamela, Musina, Makhado, Walter Sisulu, Elundini, Govan Mbeki, Lekwa

Implementing Agency: Development Bank of Southern Africa

Executing Agency: ICLEI Africa and City of Johannesburg

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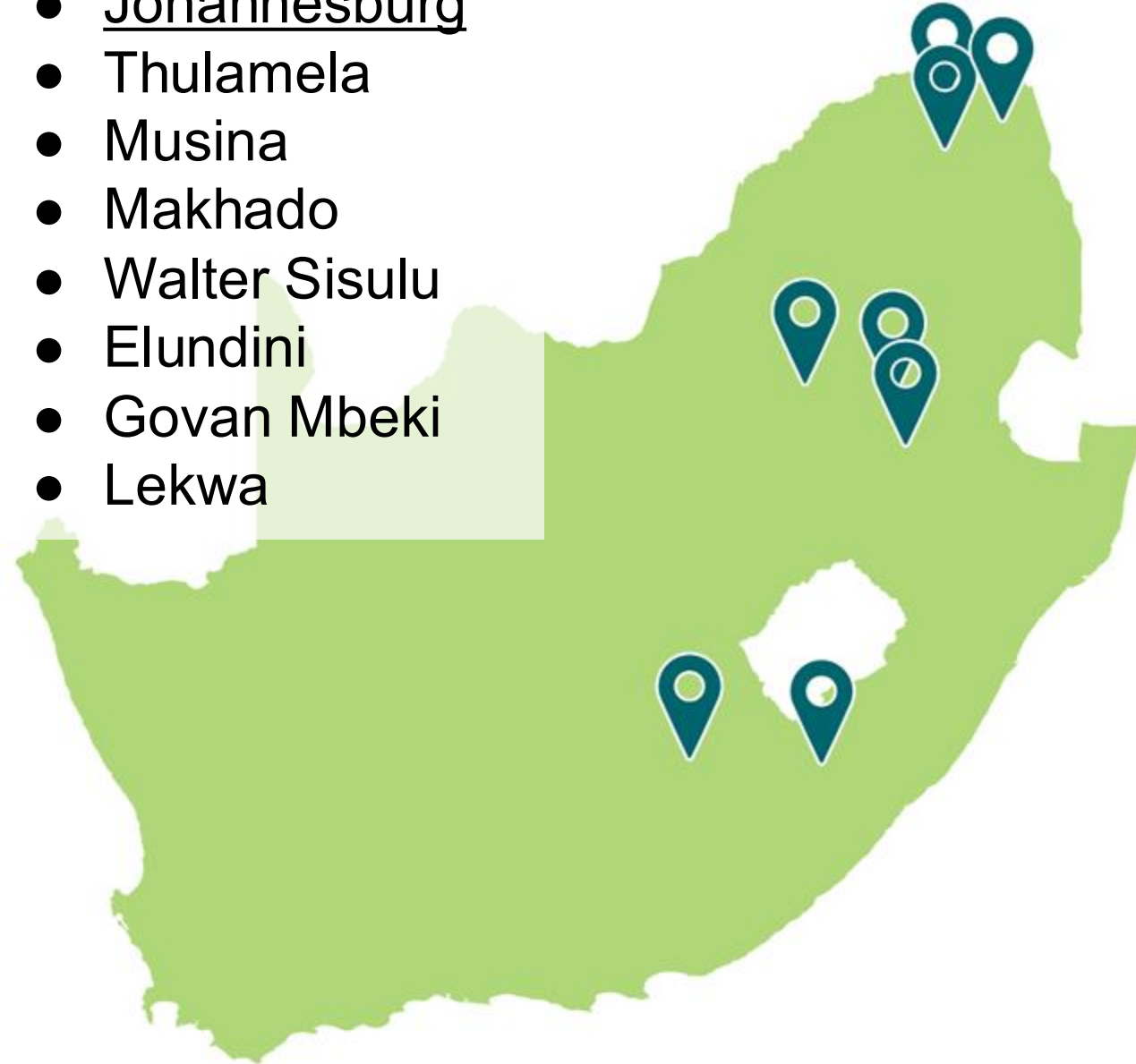


In partnership with



Project Overview

- Johannesburg
- Thulamela
- Musina
- Makhado
- Walter Sisulu
- Elundini
- Govan Mbeki
- Lekwa



Reduce GHG emissions and increase biodiversity in South African municipalities through capacity building, policy revisions and pilot interventions.

- **Comp. 1:** Governance and institutional support.
- **Comp. 2:** Knowledge strengthening and capacity building.
- **Comp. 3:** Financial and technical advisory services.
- **Comp. 4:** Implementation to demonstrate municipal-led action.

GEF Project Grant: \$7,138,841

Co-financing total: \$125,528,000

Implementation Status

Project launched May 2026

- Multi-stakeholder inception workshop convened
- Climate, energy and biodiversity gap assessments underway
- Municipal financial mechanism analysis reports underway
- Project Steering Committee (PSC) ToRs completed
- First PSC meeting to be held in November 2026



Immediate Priorities

Next 6–12 months

- Priority 1: Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (Q1 2027)
- Priority 2: Financial Mechanism Analysis reports (Q1 2027)
- Priority 3: Municipal Gap and Needs Analyses (Q1 2027)
- Priority 4: Financial Mechanism deployment (Q2 2027)
- Priority 5: Gap and Needs Analyses stakeholder validation (Q4 2027)



Key Challenges

Challenge	Support Needed
Institutional coordination	<i>None at this stage</i>
Technical capacity	<i>None at this stage</i>
Financing / co-financing	<i>None at this stage</i>
Policy / regulatory	<i>None at this stage</i>
Other: South African Local Government elections are being held on 4 Nov 2026, this may briefly impact stakeholder availability and project continuity if there are political shifts resulting in staff changes.	We have embedded our approach with technical teams that are typically not impacted by election outcomes, so we do not expect major impacts and so no support is needed at this stage.

Where GPSC & Partners Can Add Value

Select up to 3 areas and specify the support needed:

- ☐ Technical assistance
- ☐ Peer-to-peer learning
- ☐ Knowledge products / toolkits
- ☐ Training / capacity building
- ☐ Expert advisory support
- ☐ South-South exchange
- ☐ Financing / private sector engagement
- ☐ Monitoring & evaluation
- ☒ Communications & visibility
- ☐ Other: _____

Our approach of mainstreaming biodiversity is aligned with priorities identified by all participating cities regarding water security, serving as a key entry point for our support.