

The organization I chose to cover for protecting biodiversity is the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Their official website, which contains extensive information about their work, is <https://www.sanbi.org/>. SANBI is the lead governmental institution responsible for biodiversity conservation and research in South Africa.

SANBI is situated in the Eastern suburbs of Pretoria, the administrative capital city of South Africa. They have offices, laboratories, and conservation sites across multiple locations in South Africa to carry out their mission.

SANBI's mission is to be a leading science institution that uses evidence-based methods to conserve and understand biodiversity, enhance resilience, promote sustainability, and inspire pride and appreciation for the natural world. More specifically, they facilitate access to biodiversity data, generate critical information and knowledge through research, build capacity amongst conservation professionals, provide key policy advice to government, showcase South Africa's biodiversity in national gardens and conserved areas, and protect species and ecosystems through direct conservation action.

I am not aware of any specific local biodiversity or sustainability development programs in my city. However, South Africa does aim to protect biodiversity through a national network of protected areas like Kruger National Park. There are also several private and community-based nature reserves across the country focused on conservation.

Major human actions implicating the biodiversity issues SANBI tackles are rapid urbanization leading to overpopulation in cities, air and water pollution from industries and households, climate change impacts, illegal wildlife trade and over-harvesting of natural resources like forests and marine ecosystems. These put enormous pressure on South Africa's exceptionally rich but threatened biodiversity.

As an individual, I could participate in SANBI's work by starting local environmental education efforts. For example, I plan to initiate discussions with neighbors in my apartment complex to identify small ways we can reduce waste, conserve resources like water and electricity, and create a greener living space by planting indigenous vegetation. I also intend to move to the countryside with my family which would reduce overpopulation pressures in urban areas and allow me to pursue more sustainable living. I can also volunteer my time and skills to support specific SANBI conservation sites and community programs.

References:

Green, C. (2018, May 11). Why biodiversity is essential for sustainable development. Blog: Climate, Energy, and Environment. United Nations Foundations. <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/biodiversity-essential-sustainable-development/>

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