



XI Conference of Parties
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012



City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit
15-16 October, 2012, CBD COP11, Hyderabad, India

Cities for Life

City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit

15-16 October, 2012

Hyderabad International Convention Centre - Hall 3, Hyderabad, India




Summit Report



In support of the 193 signatory Parties (192 countries and the European Union) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in fulfilling their commitment with the Convention and, in particular, the implementation of the Aichi Targets, the **Cities for Life: City & Subnational Biodiversity Summit** was convened in parallel with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP11) in Hyderabad, India on 15 & 16 October 2012.

The **Cities for Life Summit** was organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the CBD Secretariat in partnership with the Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD). Cities for Life provided a unique opportunity to share experiences and tools, consult experts, and strengthen multi-level cooperation to implement the CBD, with a view to enhancing management of biodiversity and safeguarding the ecosystem services upon which we so heavily depend. A central focus of the conference was the need to value biodiversity and ecosystem services, as outlined in the **TEEB** (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) study.

It is estimated that half of India's population will also be living in cities by 2045 and I am therefore happy that a parallel summit on 'Cities for Life' has been held on the margins of COP11 bringing together sub-national and local authorities. I am very confident that this will go a long way in bringing biodiversity back on to the urban agenda.



— Jayanthi Natarajan, *Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India*, speaking at the opening plenary of the High Level Segment of CBD COP 11 chaired by the *Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh*

- More than **500 participants**
- **45 countries** representing **all regions** in the world
- Over **150 city representatives** from **44 international cities and 39 Indian cities**
- **60 city and sub-national leaders** (governors, mayors, deputy mayors, and commissioners)






Main Outcomes of the Cities for Life Summit

- An assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action, through the presentation and launching of supporting programmes that have emerged providing a clear direction to coordinate its future implementation
- The launch of the “Local Action for Biodiversity in India: Ecosystem-based solutions to urban challenges (LAB India)” programme and signing up of ten South Asian cities
- The Hyderabad Declaration, a pledge by the mayors and governors of local and subnational authorities to develop and implement local strategies towards the Plan of Action on Sub national Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity; and to achieve the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- The presentation, during the High Level Segment Closing Plenary, of the Hyderabad Declaration by an ICLEI representative on behalf of local governments and subnational authorities
- The adoption of decision XI/8 on “Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities”: part A deals with “Subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity”




This coordination between different levels of government is very important in order to achieve our national goals as well as international commitments and the conservation of biological diversity. It is clear that in order to achieve national, regional and global targets of biodiversity conservation, both the subnational and local level government has to be supported to take proactive action.



— N. Kiran Kumar Reddy,
Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Cities concentrate much of the population and consumption in the world, but cities also concentrate a lot of the capacity to respond to the challenges. So cities are centers of learning, centers of culture, cities concentrate a number of institutions which are important to promote the knowledge and public awareness about biodiversity (...). There is a tremendous potential because most of the decisions are taken all over the world at the local level.



— Braulio Ferreira Dias,
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity



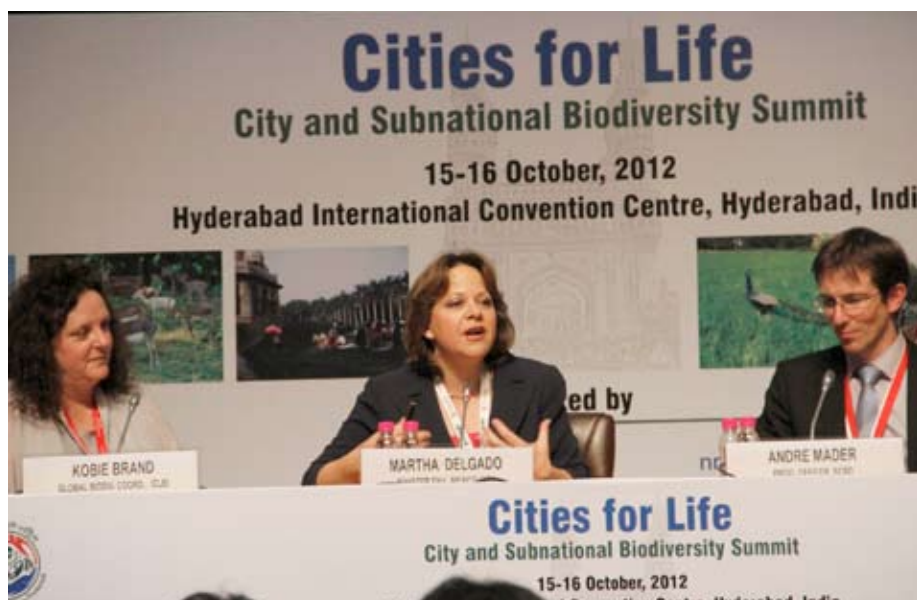
Highlights

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Convention on Biological Diversity, committing both organizations to work towards mobilizing local governments to take action on biodiversity
- Joint launch of the “Cities and Biodiversity Outlook - CBO” by the CBD and the Stockholm Resilience Centre
- Launch of the “Hyderabad City Biodiversity Index” and “The Trees of Hyderabad” publications
- Inauguration of the “Biodiversity in Cities” exhibition by Martha Delgado, Secretary for the Environment of Mexico City
- Ratification of the Hyderabad Declaration

Local authorities, you do not negotiate, you take actions. We have talked too much. Time for action is long due. Talking will not help stop biodiversity loss, only action does. And action is at its best by local authorities.



– Bakari Kante, *Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP*



We know that cities harbor unprecedented and often untapped opportunities for innovation, efficiency gains, leadership and social organisation. We know that local governments play a pivotal role in implementing commitments to ensure global sustainable development. However, we cannot do it alone. Therefore, I call upon the international community to work with us, join us in a pioneering effort at the local level for we are ready and we are willing.



– Troy Pickard, *Mayor, City of Joondalup, Australia*



Brief Roadmap to the Cities for Life Summit

2012

Cities for Life Summit, in Hyderabad, India, in parallel to CBD COP 11. Adoption by the Parties of “Decision XI/8. Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities - A. Subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity”

2010

City Biodiversity Summit 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, in parallel to CBD COP 10. Adoption by the Parties of the groundbreaking Decision X/22 and thereby endorsement of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

2008

Mayors Conference in Bonn, Germany, in parallel to CBD COP 9. Development of an intervention on behalf of local governments, presented at the COP. Adoption by the Parties of decision IX/28, which for the first time recognises the importance of local governments in supporting the implementation of the Convention.

2007

Formation of the **Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity** (later renamed as the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity)

2006

Creation of the **Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)** project





Key Messages as Action Points from the Cities for Life Summit

The Cities for Life Summit brought together more than 500 participants, including over 150 city representatives, in addition to delegates from UN agencies, academia, business, and national and international organizations. Over the two days of the summit, representatives from all these groups presented their experiences, learning, tools and resources that they had developed or utilised. These provide updates on the progress made so far on the implementation of the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity* (referred to as the Plan of Action) as well as insights into opportunities towards its implementation in the future.

Key messages that emerged from the summit can be classified under four broad categories:

- Multi-stakeholder coordination
- Knowledge access and management
- Green growth
- Communication, community engagement and partnerships

These are presented below along with corresponding tools and resources and select case studies that were presented during the Summit. These key messages also provide *concrete action points* for national, subnational and local governments, international development organisations, and the scientific community for implementing the Plan of Action.



Cities for Life provides a unique opportunity for local and subnational governments



to promote greater coordination among different levels of governments to meet national and global biodiversity conservation targets, while safeguarding the well-being of local communities.

– M. Maheedhar Reddy,
Minister, Municipal
Administration & Urban
Development, Government of
Andhra Pradesh

In order to make the right decisions we as local governments need the



necessary tools and resources. Several have been presented at the Cities for Life Summit and now it is up to us to adopt and implement them. But our efforts need to be recognised and sustained by support from higher levels of government. This recognition we have received through Decisions IX/28 and X/22 adopted by the Parties to the CBD. Now we need more tangible support from them.

– Mohammad Majid Hussain,
Mayor, Greater Hyderabad
Municipal Corporation




Multi-stakeholder Coordination

Throughout the summit, mainstreaming and coordination were frequently discussed. A consensus emerged that, in order to meet the Aichi targets, there is a strong need for multi-level, cross-sectoral, cooperative and integrated approaches. In this pursuit, local and subnational authorities, often supported by network organizations such as ICLEI, have already made substantial progress. However there is a sense that the process of integration is still not adequately established worldwide.

Key messages and action points

- **From recognition to action:** National governments have recognized the advantages of *subsidiarity* and *proportionality*: the level of government closest to the source of the problem needs to be enabled to act, with appropriate and proportionate mandates and resources. However, these agreed principles now urgently need to be put into action.
- **Aligning NBSAPs and LBSAPs:** Concerted efforts at *aligning National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans* (NBSAPs) and *Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans* (LBSAPs) by both national and local governments are necessary. The LBSAP Guidelines, currently being developed by ICLEI, UNU-IAS and the CBD, will provide an excellent tool to support local governments in developing their BSAPs.

“We have shown that when national States struggle to find common objectives and concrete decisions, we subnational governments are already working on the ground and developing projects that have already shown their results. This needs to be better taken into account in the international stage.



— Alain Chabrolle,
Vice-President, Regional
Council of Rhone-Alpes, France





- **Incentivising action:** National governments, international donors and the private sector are asked to support and empower local and subnational governments, providing them with stronger incentives for sound biodiversity management (including greater recognition of achievements), as well as streamlined and direct access to national and international development funds for biodiversity conservation, restoration and management.
- **Sharing to learn:** New ways to *collaborate, share experiences, mutualise assets* and develop capacities must be identified, especially at the local and subnational levels, making the most of the different but complementary specificities, experiences and competencies.

Examples of multi-level coordination from around the world

South Africa

To contribute to the Plan of Action, the national government developed a Framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into local authorities and ensuring that biodiversity issues can be integrated into municipal development planning and local economic development. The South African government has thus implemented a series of measures, including financing local government environmental initiatives and providing capacity building and tools, such as the ecosystem services decision support tool (ESS).

India

Cooperation between levels of government is fostered through the Biological Diversity Act of 2002, that led to the establishment of a National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees at the local level, including urban areas, to carry out biodiversity protection activities in a complementary and coordinated way. One of the aims of this institutional set up that connects three levels of government, is also to facilitate a balance between urbanization and the conservation of biodiversity.

Japan


As part of its national biodiversity strategy, the Government of Japan has established a Network of Local and Prefectural Governments to support multi-level coordination. One of the tasks of this network is to facilitate the preparation of Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs).





- **Inter-departmental mainstreaming for success:** Assessing and valuating the city’s ecosystem services, using tools such as the [TEEB Manual for Cities](#) and the City Biodiversity Index can be a very effective tool to help mainstream biodiversity across departments, as will the forthcoming ICLEI-Cornell University toolkit, *The Nature of Mainstreaming*.
- **Nexus approach:** Biodiversity management can be used to introduce into the international, national, subnational and local perspectives the “*nexus approach*”, by interconnecting many current challenges that local and subnational governments face and linking them to biodiversity (e.g., biodiversity and climate change, biodiversity and health, biodiversity and economic development).

We need a sustainable development goal on sustainable cities or human settlements. This could be that meeting point that could help us go beyond the boundaries of the silos thinking we have fallen into and actually help us acknowledge and, therefore, further promote and further encourage the work of subnational governments and local governments in bringing these different challenges of sustainable development, including biodiversity, interconnected to many more topics than just nature conservation.



– Maruxa Cardama, *Former Secretary General, nrg4SD*





Knowledge Access and Management

A lack of interaction between the scientific community and practitioners at the local level was strongly re-emphasised during the Summit. Learning derived from research is often not transmitted appropriately, not known or not easily accessible to local and subnational governments. Knowledge about resources and tools available to better manage and protect biodiversity is crucial for decision makers to develop appropriate strategies. Further, local and subnational governments generate a large amount of biodiversity data, but often in a format that is not easily accessible or readily usable by science and decision-makers. There are therefore several mutual benefits of enhanced interactions between the urban biodiversity research community and local and subnational governments.

Key messages and action points

- **Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO):** Addresses the links between urbanization, biodiversity and ecosystem services. This global assessment is an invaluable resource that cities can refer to in order to better protect and manage their biodiversity while responding to the challenges of urbanization.

I would recommend that cities begin with a comprehensive, in-depth



biodiversity report. It is through this report that you will realise that so much of the work you already do is towards the conservation and management of biodiversity. The next steps will be finding alliances within your urban bodies and with other committees and coordinating with your region to effectively restore and sustain biodiversity."

— Angelica Kappel, Deputy Mayor, City of Bonn, Germany





- **Lack of valuation data:** A current key challenge in ecosystems valuation is the limited number of empirical studies. Whether these are specific or broad in their scope, more are needed to build a better argument for the value of ecosystem valuation and provide replication opportunities.
- **Data sharing for improved action:** Information on biodiversity must be freely available and easily accessible by local and subnational governments, the research community, and other actors in order to improve opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborations. An example of widely used centralized source of information is the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF - www.gbif.org), established to encourage free and open access to biodiversity data, via the internet.
- **Measurable, Verifiable, Reportable:** There is a need for common measurable verification mechanisms and reportable commitments that could be reported at the global level. The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity or "City Biodiversity Index" is one such tool, which is already being used by a number of cities worldwide.

Like in all ecosystems each city is a biogeographic zone with extraordinary abiotic stresses. In India we still don't have very scientifically well worked-out biodiversity impact assessments. That is something which is absolutely necessary and we need to have regional environment impact assessment of cities, mainly for catchment and growth corridors of cities.



— T. Chatterjee, *Secretary,*
Ministry of Environment and
Forests





Green Growth

During the summit, a number of issues emerged that relate to the broader theme of green growth. The world today is facing a rate of urbanization never seen before, with 70% of the world population expected to live in cities by 2050. Cities have thus to find a way to expand and cope with these pressures and challenges, while avoiding the negative impacts that such urbanization could have on the environment and on biodiversity. So far, the greening of cities has been more a reaction to a problem, rather than a pro-active action.

While cities are the problem, they are also the source of possible solutions due to their enabling atmosphere; nature must be brought back into the cities and into people's minds.

Key messages and action points

- Urbanization is a challenge but is also an opportunity:** Over 60 percent of the land projected to become urban by 2030 has yet to be built (1.5 times of today): this means that today's cities do influence the sustainability of future ones, and can plan to build future infrastructure in a smart, green way and protect ecosystems on which economies are built. The Cities and Biodiversity Outlook provides concrete examples on how to do this.

Because so many of us live in cities, we could become disconnected from nature and the solutions it offers to human well-being. We need to make sure biodiversity is visible in cities and in people's minds.



— Julia Marton-Lefevre,
 Director General, International
 Union for Conservation of
 Nature





- **Integrating the greening concept:** Cities can be consistent with the growth imperative while meeting biodiversity and sustainability requirements, by integrating the concept of ‘greening’ as a proactive planning action at the city level.
- **Landscape fragmentation is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss.** It is necessary to focus on newly built urban spaces and integrate biodiversity concerns at two levels, when looking at the urban areas to be built: 1) in policies on coordinated spatial planning; 2) in city extensions, in structured and planned areas that will hopefully absorb most of the built urban space of the next 20 years.
- **Compact cities:** Focusing on more condensed and sustainable development will result in more compact, integrated and connected cities, where urban biodiversity is seen and promoted as a contributor to the socio-economic well being of cities and its citizens.
- **Biodiversity management for resilience building:** Urban biodiversity and ecosystems play crucial roles in food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, in making cities more resilient and aligning natural capital with the other pillars of development.



Examples on how to integrate biodiversity concerns into urban spaces can be found in the recent UN Habitat publication “Working with nature; Urban Patterns for a Green Economy”, which outlines how guided development can maximise the ability of ecosystems to support sustainable human and natural processes and offers a perspective on how to work with nature and the ecological processes in regions.



Communication, Community Engagement and Partnerships

With increasing urbanization, people are becoming physically disconnected from natural areas. However, a city alone will not manage to achieve its biodiversity goals without the involvement of the community and other relevant stakeholders. A proper communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategy that aims to engage, educate and sensitize citizens and other relevant stakeholders on the value and benefits of biodiversity, is an essential instrument of effective biodiversity management. A number of cities already have such strategies in place, but these should be made more widely accessible to other local and subnational governments in order to facilitate replication.

Key messages and action points

- **Engaging communities:** Local governments must reach out and involve other local relevant actors within a city, such as NGOs, research institutes, business, civil society, and public interest groups. All these stakeholders must be informed, consulted and included in developing biodiversity strategies and activities. The involvement of the private sector can also lead to the increase of resource mobilization towards urban biodiversity.
- **Need for community education:** There is an urgent need for community education, awareness and capacity building to be undertaken at the local level to advance urban biodiversity management.
- **CEPA tool:** Tools to measure and evaluate biodiversity communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) initiatives are needed to monitor and improve their efficacy and impact. The [CEPA Evaluation Design Toolkit](#), developed by ICLEI together with the city of Cape Town, can be of assistance to CEPA managers and practitioners.

An important step for cities is to make a political commitment to take action



for biodiversity. Considering that one cannot manage what one cannot measure, local authorities should also make the most of biodiversity assessment tools and processes; LAB cities across the world have done exactly that, supporting the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity for the benefit of citizens.

— Kobie Brand, *Global Biodiversity Coordinator/Regional Director, ICLEI Africa Secretariat*



- **Collaborating through networks:** Local government networks (e.g., clustered thematically, regionally or linguistically) can serve to facilitate the exchange of lessons and best practices whilst fostering constructive competition, thereby spurring successful implementation at the ground level. MediverCities (comprising cities in the Mediterranean region) provides such an example, whereby resources and experiences are pooled together to tackle common challenges.
- **Platforms for learning and action:** International events, projects and activities are a crucial learning tool for local and subnational governments, as a platform for discussing successful tools and best practices, and enabling their replication and mainstreaming. A great example of an exchange platform is ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) programme that enables cities to share experiences, successes and challenges of urban biodiversity management.

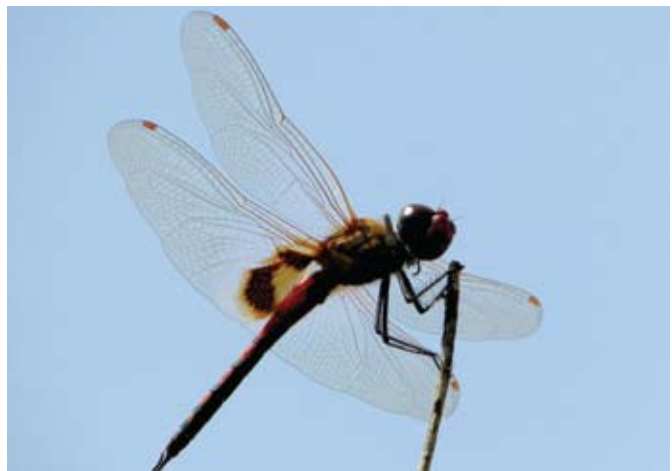
Education and awareness-raising

Chongqing

The City of Chongqing, China, is using education and awareness-raising as one of the main instruments to advance on biodiversity protection. Conservation Leadership Training Courses led to the training of over 100 students from 8 universities. Biodiversity is also mainstreamed into education, by developing text-books, training teachers and carrying out conservation projects as part of school activities. Through these measures, the administration managed to reach 15,000 students in 73 preliminary and middle schools.

Montreal

The city of Montreal has identified education and awareness-raising, especially for the residents of the affected areas, as a key measure for dealing with the issue of invasive species. Citizens have thus been involved with special trainings or through the possibility of summer jobs for students.





The Hyderabad Declaration was compiled as a summary of the views of those present at the Cities for Life Summit. During the Summit, participants provided their input into the document, which was then re-drafted. After being read out, in its entirety, by staff of ICLEI during the High-Level Segment of CBD COP 11, the document became part of the report of the President of the COP. The Hyderabad Declaration reads as follows:

HYDERABAD DECLARATION ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY

We, mayors, governors and other high-level officials meeting in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, from October 15 to 16, 2012, at the occasion of the *Cities for Life: City & Subnational Biodiversity Summit*:

recognize previous key meetings of local and subnational authorities for biodiversity, which have paved the way for this meeting, including the complementary “URBIO” scientific network conference linking science to policy, and its “Mumbai Declaration” adopted on 11 October, 2012;

reiterate and insist that local authorities have a critical role to play in implementing the objectives of the CBD and thereby assist national governments in preventing the continuation of biodiversity loss, and we renew our commitment to pursuing this goal;

renew the appeal made, at the City Biodiversity Summit, held in parallel with the 10th meeting of the Conference of the parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan, in 2010, to all local governments of the world and their citizens, as well as the CBD Parties and the international community, to support us in this endeavor;

recognize the importance of decision X/22 and the associated *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011 - 2012*, which provides guidelines for cooperation between national governments and their local and subnational authorities;

recognize that significant progress has been made with regard to the *Plan of Action*, by local, subnational and national governments and the organizations, networks and others supporting them, and appeal to national government to accelerate efforts to cooperate with them and to assist in the mobilization of funding, to achieve these aims.

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We furthermore support the parties' adoption of an additional decision, at COP 11, on Engagement of Other Stakeholders, Major Groups and Subnational Governments. Complementing the proposed decision, we hereby commit to playing our part in:

- continuing, individually and as networks of local governments, to implement innovative initiatives such as those highlighted in the *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook*, and which complement the *Plan of Action*;
- working with national governments and others in the development of local and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans, and mainstreaming biodiversity into land-use and climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, in line with equivalent national level plans, to ensure harmonious and coherent implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the *Aichi biodiversity targets*;
- making use of indicators, and indicator systems such as the *Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity*, to monitor the state of biodiversity at the local and subnational level, partly as a contribution to national reporting to the CBD;
- and supporting the activities of the *Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity*.

Local and subnational authorities' support will be further demonstrated through response strategies to complement the Plan of Action.

We thank the Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation for hosting the *Cities for Life: City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit 2012*. We hope that the next COP host city will continue the successful examples demonstrated by Curitiba, Bonn and Aichi/Nagoya, providing cities and local authorities worldwide with an essential opportunity to engage with one another and contribute, globally, to the movement towards stemming the tide of biodiversity loss.



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision XI/8. Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities

A. Subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes with appreciation the report of the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/32) on the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity;
2. Welcomes the key messages of the first edition of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook, as an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity requested in paragraph 6 of decision X/22;
3. Takes note of the Cities for Life summit organized jointly by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the Secretariat of the Convention and the Government of India on 15 and 16 October 2012, in Hyderabad, parallel to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
4. Invites Parties and other Governments to develop, with their local and subnational governments, guidelines and capacity-building initiatives to develop, enhance or adapt local and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans, or to mainstream biodiversity into sustainable development, in line with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, so as to ensure harmonious and coherent implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at all levels of governance;
5. Invites Parties, development organizations and other donors to support initiatives by networks of local and subnational governments that complement the Plan of Action and contribute directly to Parties' achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Such activities include the ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity Initiative, the Cities in Biodiversity Hotspots Initiative, and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity valuation exercises at the local and subnational level;

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6. Encourages the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership to develop indicators that track the progress of urban settlements towards attaining the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, based for instance on the City Biodiversity Index, and encourages Parties to monitor and report on the contribution of their cities to reaching the Targets, in particular in their fifth national reports;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to support the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action on Biodiversity and its activities as an effective platform for scientific and technical cooperation, capacity development and the dissemination of best practices for local and subnational implementation of the Convention, and to continue to involve local and subnational authorities in the series of workshops to review and update national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including regional activities.



The Cities for Life organizers wish to thank the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for their continuous support and guidance. The generous financial assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and the Ministry of Environment of Japan through the Japan Fund; and additional assistance from GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) is gratefully acknowledged. A very special thank you goes to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation for their committed support, generosity, and hospitality.



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