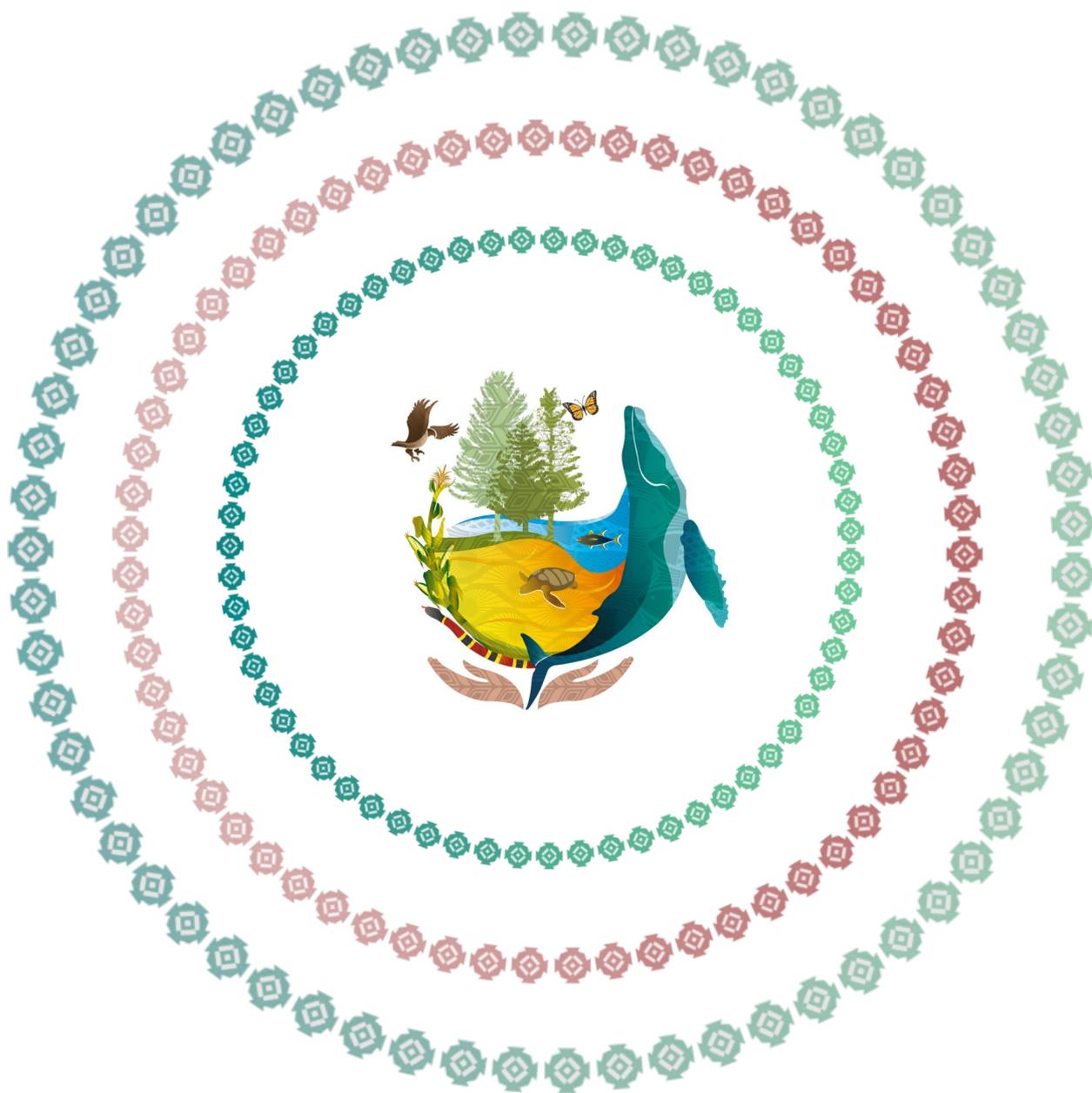


5TH GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT OF CITIES AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



Mainstreaming biodiversity where nature matters most

Parallel event to the Convention on Biological Diversity's 13th Conference of the Parties held in Cancún, Mexico in December 2016

Table of contents

Reflections by co-hosts on the 5 th Summit	1
Introduction	2
Welcome and opening by the Executive Secretary of the CBD	2
Overview of the Summit	3
Local and subnational contributions to global biodiversity commitments and actions	4
Focus on financing	7
Shaping the subnational implementation of NBSAPs	8
Taking action where nature matters most	9
Journey towards the 5 th Summit	15
CBD COP 13 Decisions focused on local and subnational governments	17
ICLEI Secretary General intervention at the CBD COP 13 high level opening	17
High level roundtable for subnational government leaders and CBD Parties	18
Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action	19
ICLEI side event at CBD COP 13	23
Co-hosts of the 5 th Summit.....	24
Welcome to new CBD Executive Secretary: Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer.....	24
Thanks	25



Reflections by co-hosts of the 5th Summit



“Over 700 participants joined the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, a major parallel event to the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP 13) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Summit reinforced the critically important role that cities and subnational governments play in achieving the goals of the Convention, its Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. During the course of the Summit, eleven concrete commitments were launched on mainstreaming biodiversity from leading cities and subnational governments and their networks. Building on the 10-year cooperation between ICLEI and the Secretariat of the CBD, this Summit has made a lasting contribution to mainstreaming biodiversity for human well-being, the theme of COP 13. I congratulate the organizers and participants of this Summit and reiterate the commitment of the Secretariat to continuing this valuable work.”

Ms. Amy Ann Fraenkel, Director, Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach Support, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

“ICLEI is proud to have co-convened the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, celebrating a decade of collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD. It was encouraging to see the growing global community of cities, regions and CBD Parties strengthening their collaboration in very tangible ways through this important biennial platform.

The number of new initiatives, alliances and partnerships announced at the Summit indicates the catalyzing power of such an important opportunity to build strong constituencies for local action, and for tracking collective implementation efforts.

Captured in the *Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action*, the Summit outcomes build on past achievements, emphasizing the importance of vertically aligned and multilevel implementation of global commitments at the local and subnational level. We were very pleased that the *Quintana Roo Communiqué* was formally presented to the CBD Parties during COP13.

We will continue to build this important global platform and move forward from Cancún with fantastic memories, new friendships and a clear sense that this 5th Global Biodiversity Summit has marked the moment where collective commitments on mainstreaming biodiversity by leading local and subnational governments, their networks and partners, have reached an irreversible, critical mass. ”

Dr. Cathy Oke, Councilor, City of Melbourne, Australia and Global Portfolio Head for Biodiversity at ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability



“Mexico had the honor of hosting the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments. For the local organizing team at CONABIO, it was a tremendous learning and collaboration experience with great achievements. Within the local scope, we were able to bring together all three levels of government (federal, state and municipal) to discuss and reflect on their contributions to biodiversity conservation, especially in highly biodiverse areas.

At a global level, the collaboration with ICLEI, through its Cities Biodiversity Center, and the Secretariat of the CBD, made it possible to assemble different cities, states and regions from around the world that presented very interesting case studies regarding mainstreaming biodiversity within the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors. One of our main accomplishments was the alliances that were forged during this event, as well as the follow-up that was done on previous initiatives. This Summit was only a step forward, but there are a lot of things that can be done in the future by following up on Mexico’s proposals, as well as encouraging new ones.”

Ms. Andrea Cruz-Angón, Coordinator of Biodiversity Strategies and International Cooperation at CONABIO



Introduction

The 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, an official parallel event to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13), took place in Cancún, Mexico in December 2016. For the fifth time, ICLEI partnered with the Secretariat of the CBD to co-host the Summit, and on this occasion, also with COP13 host government, Mexico, as co-hosting Party. Aligned with the theme of COP13, the Summit focused on **mainstreaming biodiversity** within the context of the pivotal contributions of local and subnational governments, their networks and partners, towards the attainment of global ambitions for biodiversity.

“We know that it is achievable, economically viable and socially imperative to develop thriving cities in harmony with nature.”

His Excellency Mr. Ashok Sridharan, Lord Mayor of Bonn and First Vice President of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (via video message at the High level roundtable for subnational government leaders and CBD Parties)



His Excellency Carlos Joaquin González, Governor of Quintana Roo, hands over a Mexican 'tree of life' to previous Summit host, His Excellency Maeng Sung-kyu, Vice Governor of Gangwon Provincial Government, Republic of Korea

Summit statistics

Over 700 delegates registered

73 countries represented

Over 200 local and subnational governments present

90 speakers contributing to a **diverse Summit program over two days**

Welcome and opening by the Executive Secretary of the CBD

Dr. Braulio Dias*, Executive Secretary of the CBD at the time of the Summit, welcomed delegates by highlighting the importance of the Summit in light of the pivotal role subnational governments have to play to implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

“It is our duty to continue to help ICLEI and its partners in mainstreaming nature-based solutions into urban planning and development frameworks. As we look ahead, it is critical to expand these approaches towards an organized community of practice, involving cities, subnational governments, agencies and experts. We need new and improved assessments of the effectiveness of coordination of levels of government for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its targets, at global and regional levels, and new initiatives to apply their findings.”

*Dr. Dias left the position on 14 February 2016, having been succeeded by Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer.



Overview of the Summit

The Summit heard presentations from 90 speakers from around 70 countries. Aside from having endorsed the *Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action 2016*, the Summit facilitated decentralized cooperation and supported project development. It also further developed the capacity of Parties, their subnational and local authorities and partners, as well as the United Nations and other international agencies, to cooperate for the implementation of the CBD Decisions at all levels of government.

Summit themes

Under the overarching theme of *mainstreaming biodiversity where nature matters most*, the Summit provided an opportunity for vertical integration and horizontal alignment of local and subnational biodiversity action through the following Summit themes:

- **Enabling multi-level partnerships for mainstreaming city and subnational actions, projects and new initiatives**
- **Driving biodiversity mainstreaming to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism through city-region landscapes**
- **Unlocking access to resources for city and subnational biodiversity action**
- **Exploring reporting mechanisms for city and subnational commitments, actions and measurable contributions to global agreements**
- **Providing insights and experiences for biodiversity mainstreaming to national governments at the CBD COP 13.**

“The Convention on Biological Diversity has raised the need for cities to consider biodiversity as a basic element of their infrastructure, for environmentally sustainable planning and development schemes, as well as ecosystem services; considering that the existence of urban environments rich in biological diversity will have a positive effect on the health, quality of life and financial economy of its inhabitants.”



His Excellency Dr. Miguel Ángel Mancera, Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico and Vice President of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, addressing delegates at the opening plenary of the Summit

The Summit provided an opportunity for local and subnational governments and their partners to take stock, learn, shape, connect and innovate together as a growing constituency. Leaders, gathered at the Summit from across the world, affirmed their collective understanding that local and subnational action is pivotal to address global biodiversity commitments.



Local and subnational contributions to global biodiversity commitments and actions

The Summit served as an important subnational platform to further explore and strengthen the global contribution of local and other subnational governments in protecting biodiversity and effectively managing those ecosystems providing a wide range of essential goods and services to a rapidly growing urban population.

The Summit gathered governors, mayors and local practitioners, together with their networks, partner research organizations and community-based organizations to engage directly with CBD Parties and leaders in the international biodiversity community on innovative solutions at local and subnational level. The Summit demonstrated the diversity of, need for, and collective impact of mainstreaming biodiversity locally and regionally, from:

- Local and subnational development policies and action plans,
- Cutting-edge action research initiatives,
- Integrated subnational project design and implementation,
- Global and regional engagement and commitment platforms,
- Collective local and subnational commitment and reporting platforms,
- Local to global community actions, to
- Contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as other global sustainable development instruments such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.

Local and subnational governments also demonstrated, in a variety of interactive sessions, workshops, roundtables, panel discussions and plenary sessions, that they are in many instances already taking bold action, driving community-level innovation and seeking localized solutions to complex and systemic global sustainability challenges. The Summit demonstrated that this 'Century of Cities', which already sees the majority of people living in cities, provides local and subnational leaders and their partners with unprecedented opportunities to shape and reshape our cities to ensure livable and thriving cities, while contributing significantly to the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Discussions from various sessions focused on leveraging the role of subnational and local authorities in the global biodiversity and development agendas; financing innovative horizontal and vertical cooperation initiatives; promoting nature-based urban planning and development; sustainable land-use planning; preserving urban cultural and natural heritage; promoting urban health and well-being; monitoring and evaluation; and upscaling innovative approaches. Presentations also addressed the four main economic sectors handled in this conference, namely agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.



Local and subnational contributions to global biodiversity commitments and actions

Numerous examples were shared, highlighting the many challenges faced by local and subnational governments, but also showcasing exciting new developments and innovative solutions.

The innovative and forward-thinking *Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015* is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of **Wales**. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more integrated approach. This new law will mean that, for the first time, public bodies listed in the Act must do what they do in a sustainable way. In this way, Wales is using legislation to integrate and mainstream action on biodiversity and climate change within a framework of Sustainable Development Goals.

Presented by: Mr. Rhodri Asby, Deputy Director for Environment and Rural Affairs, Government of Wales



Kidron Valley Basin Restoration in Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Bioregion Center (JBC) for Ecosystem Management was established in 2014 to promote sustainable eco-system management in **the Jerusalem region**, act as a resource for local and regional biodiversity initiatives, and help local governments in the area find ways to factor ecosystem management into their infrastructure planning efforts. The JBC evolved following the implementation of the ICLEI LAB Program, a global initiative for promoting sustainable development at the local level. Participation in the LAB Program enabled the City of Jerusalem to play a lead role in the development of frameworks for integrating biodiversity protection in the local planning system.

Presented by: Ms. Helene Roumani, Director: Jerusalem Bioregion Center, Israel

The restoration of the Gyeongpo prickly water lily wetland in **Gangwon Province, Korea**, is an excellent example of the sustainable use of biodiversity, through restoration, to promote eco-tourism. The area was originally a marsh which was reclaimed for agricultural purposes in the 1970s. This led to a disruption of the area's hydro-ecology and reduction in biodiversity due to pesticide use. Flagship species, including the otter and endangered prickly water lily – which has cultural significance – were selected for the restoration of the wetland. The area has recovered and many species now flourish there, including both of the flagship species. The site is used to promote eco-tourism and education, and has led to an improvement in the regional economy.

Presented by: Mr. Sanghyun Kim, Director of Gangwon Provincial Government, Republic of Korea



Gyeongpo Prickly water lily wetland after restoration

Local and subnational contributions to global biodiversity commitments and actions



The GreenBlue Municipality Program is an innovative environmental initiative launched in 2007 to support the municipalities of the **State of São Paulo, Brazil**, in structuring and carrying out their own environmental actions. Its aim is to expand the municipal environmental agenda, gaining efficiency in local management. Through this program, the Secretariat for the Environment works in cooperation with local public administrations, providing technical assistance and capacity-building for municipal officers. At the end of each annual cycle, the effectiveness of municipalities in conducting the proposed actions is measured through pre-established indicators, assessed through self-reporting.

Presentation by: Ms. Martina Muller, International Affairs Advisor, São Paulo State Secretariat for the Environment, Brazil



Children fly a kite along the old landfill in Gereba

Voices of the favela and Gereba is a virtual reality experience that takes viewers on a tour of Gereba, a **Brazilian** favela that some inhabitants call a 'forgotten place.' The project pushed the boundaries of technology and explored how technology and science could be merged to provide an innovative, immersive experience. It aimed to provide the audience with not only knowledge but with a true understanding of the social-ecological complexities associated with life on the edge.

Presented by: Ms. Maria Schewenius, Research Coordinator and Project Manager at the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC)

Singapore has been undergoing a green transformation using nature-based solutions. With the aim of establishing Singapore as a 'Biophilic City in a Garden', the main strategic thrusts have been to establish world-class gardens; rejuvenate urban parks and enliven streetscapes; optimize urban spaces for greenery and recreation; enrich biodiversity in the urban environment; enhance competencies of the landscape and horticultural industry; and engage and inspire communities to co-create a greener Singapore.



"Singapore is proof that cities can take actions to bring nature back into cities."

Presented by: Dr. Lena Chan, Group Director of the National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, Singapore



The Clifford Pier after urban greening in Singapore

Focus on financing

Dr. Andrew Deutz, Director of International Government Relations at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was a member of the panel in the Summit's high level plenary session focusing on identifying new opportunities in the financing of biodiversity initiatives. Co-panelists were Dr. Mohamed Bakarr from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat and Honorable Claudia Maria Terzi, Minister for Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development from the Lombardy Region in Italy.

Dr. Deutz outlined these five steps for how municipal governments can better tap into private finance and global public finance to better meet their needs:

First – Go Green. Cities should think of nature as an infrastructure provider. It might not always be the cheapest or best infrastructure solution, but it should always be considered.

Second – Be Policy Savvy. Smart investments in clean and green solutions need supportive policy environments if they are going to scale. Smart enabling policy makes a difference to unlock cost-effective solutions and scale them.

Third – Do It Again. And Again. We need to keep repeating successful innovations until they become routine enough that they grow from individual projects to recognizable programs to investable products so that rating agencies can rate them and institutional investors can invest in them.

Fourth – Change Their Minds. Public sector financial flows from global development banks and multilateral funds will be crucial to help scale sustainable infrastructure investment in the developing world. The challenge though is that these institutions are designed to grant and lend to sovereigns, not to subnational entities. Each entity – whether the World Bank or the Green Climate Fund – has a counterpart in the national government and municipal leaders will need to learn to engage with these national focal points to convince them of the opportunities to invest in smart infrastructure at the municipal level.

Fifth – Get Together. Municipalities in the developing world tend to have a common problem – lack of creditworthiness. They can potentially overcome this challenge if they work together with the help of financial intermediation by institutions like MDBs. The upside for municipalities is enhanced access to credit and for the banks it's the development of an expanded and hungry client base.



The Nature Conservancy 



Shaping the subnational implementation of NBSAPs



All 195 Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have committed to developing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Successful implementation of NBSAPs at subnational and local levels requires vertical integration of strategic planning and implementation, efficient coordination, including agreement on priorities and division of labor and responsibilities, as well as good collaboration. As such, cities and subnational governments are increasingly recognized for their pivotal role in implementing NBSAPs.

The Secretariat of the CBD and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, with funding from The Japan Biodiversity Fund are developing guidelines to assist subnational and local governments in this task. The guidelines are intended as a tool to advance the subnational and local implementation of NBSAPs; and specifically to provide guidance on how to make best use of subnational and local government knowledge in compiling and implementing NBSAPs.

The guidelines were developed through giving Parties and networks of experts the opportunity to contribute and provide information and lessons learned. Thirty participating national governments were invited to respond to a survey questionnaire and nominate one or more subnational and/or local governments to contribute their views on the key challenges and current status of subnational involvement in NBSAPs.

To gain input and guidance from the Parties, ICLEI and the SCBD co-hosted a workshop at the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, to address this need.

Outcomes of the workshop included:

- A growing global network of local, regional and national governments committed to driving local action for biodiversity;
- A better common understanding of the potential to upscale local action through NBSAP processes;
- Framing of global NBSAP guidelines to realize subnational implementation of global targets and commitments; and
- Showcasing national and localized examples of policy and action integration between national and local levels for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Participants from 17 countries attended the workshop, in which they were given an opportunity to review and give input into the preliminary draft of the guidelines. Furthermore, Parties were invited, through CBD Notification 2017-020, to provide comments on a revised draft.

The final guidelines are expected to be released in June 2017, upon which some capacity building interventions will be held on how to best use the guidelines.



“Since the adoption of the Plan of Action in 2010, Parties and their subnational and local governments are increasing cooperation to achieve synergies in implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and creating natural solutions across levels of governance. This is why the joint initiative of ICLEI with the Secretariat of the CBD, supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, to produce guidelines for coordination and collaboration is extremely timely and necessary. This became evident to me during this successful 5th Summit, in particular the consultative workshop in which the draft guidelines were revised. I look forward to working with ICLEI, the Parties and our network of partners in further applying the guidelines.”

Mr. Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer, Sustainable Use, Tourism and Island Biodiversity, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Taking action where nature matters most

During the Summit, eleven new initiatives were launched, indicating that cities and regions are taking widespread action on a global scale.

Throughout the Summit, the need for mechanisms which enable the implementation of international commitments was discussed, and finally culminated in the following significant launches:

“Let us take hands to unlock the potential of cities and regions to unlock new, and scale up existing projects, programs and initiatives for combined local action for biodiversity.”

Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ASPY 2030



Governors from the Yucatán Peninsula (pictured below), in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), expressed their desire to restore their coastal ecosystems that harbor exceptional biodiversity and are indispensable in mitigating climate change. Governor Rolando Rodrigo Zapata Bello of Yucatán, Governor Carlos Joaquin González of Quintana Roo and Governor Alejandro Moreno Cardenas of Campeche signed this historic agreement with the endorsement of the principal social stakeholders who will oversee its implementation. It commits to achieving these goals to promote the sustainability of the Yucatán Peninsula, its inhabitants and its ecosystems through the Yucatán Peninsula Framework Agreement on Sustainability for 2030 (ASPY 2030 - acronym from Spanish version).

ASPY 2030 promotes:

- Alignment of efforts of different sectors and actors to achieve low emissions growth and the successful implementation of existing sustainability strategies (REDD+, biodiversity, restoration and coastal resilience, among others); and
- Inter-institutional coordination at the state level, among the states, and with the national government, private sector, academia, financial institutions, civil society and international bodies.



[Read more](#)



From left: Governor Rolando Rodrigo Zapata Bello of Yucatán, Governor Carlos Joaquin González of Quintana Roo and Governor Alejandro Moreno Cardenas of Campeche, holding the signed agreements

Taking action where nature matters most

Montreal and Paris call upon francophone cities to take action for biodiversity

Ms. Pénélope Komitès, Deputy Mayor in charge of Green Spaces, Nature, Biodiversity, and Funeral Affairs, Mairie de Paris, France, and Mr. Réal Ménard, Executive Committee member in charge of Sustainable Development, the Environment, Large Parks, and Green Spaces, Ville de Montréal, Canada, called upon cities to take action for biodiversity and join them in sharing good practices. This is a new network for francophone cities to share their experiences in unlocking nature-based solutions in the urban context.

Montréal 



PARIS

Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform



The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) launched their Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP) which is a long-term initiative established to support regions in designing and improving their efforts on biodiversity conservation. This includes Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs) and other similar mechanisms in order to raise ambition and ensure the conservation of biological diversity and nature. The Learning

Platform has the institutional endorsement of the CBD and is aligned to its work program and approach to subnational governments. In this regard, the Platform serves as a hub to collect and provide technical input to the CBD Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments, as nrg4SD acts as its voluntary coordinator. The Platform is also connected to the initiative launched by the Aichi Prefecture, Leading Subnational Governments towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As a cross-cutting issue, the initiative also takes into consideration biodiversity actions in the context of other UN agendas. For example, on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, particularly SDGs 14 and 15 on Life below Water and Life on Land, respectively, and the Paris Climate Agreement and a nature-based approach.

During the official launch, eight governments had joined the initiative: Catalonia, Goias, Gossas, Lombardy, Palawan, Quebec, São Paulo and Wales. Today the initiative also includes the participation of the governments of Aichi and Basque Country.



[Read more](#)



Representatives of the regions who joined the R4BLP during the 5th Summit, which includes the governments of Catalonia, Goias, Gossas, Lombardy, Palawan, Quebec, São Paulo and Wales

Taking action where nature matters most

INTERACT-Bio



ICLEI and its Cities Biodiversity Center introduced a new global project called INTERACT-Bio: Integrated subnational action for Biodiversity: Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across city-regions. This project is being implemented in three countries within the Global South, namely Brazil, India and Tanzania.

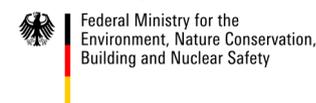
It will connect government decision-makers from national to local level supporting them in working together to incorporate biodiversity into city planning

and decision-making, recognizing nature's value and the benefits it provides; strengthen the capacity of city-regions to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions into land use, infrastructure and development planning, and to develop supporting policy instruments; provide evidence as to why investment in nature-based solutions makes sense; as well as demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach through pilot projects.

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.



Supported by:



“Integrating biodiversity means making solutions based on the preservation of nature an essential component of all our local and subnational development agendas. This means seeking in nature climate solutions, economic development and social integration to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities for future generations.”

His Excellency Dr. Miguel Ángel Mancera, Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico and Vice President of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention



Mr. Denis Landenbergue announced that the 169 countries of the Ramsar Convention have agreed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in their territories. Recognising the importance of cities and urban wetlands, the Convention has recently introduced a Wetland City accreditation scheme (Resolution XII.10). This voluntary scheme provides an opportunity for cities that value their natural or human-made wetlands to gain international recognition and positive publicity for their efforts.

WWF International, as one of the Ramsar International Organization Partners, and on behalf of the Convention Secretariat, presented and launched the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, whereby cities can be recognized as a Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention by the Conference of the Parties, depending on various criteria being met. This will, in turn, provide positive branding opportunities for cities that demonstrate strong and positive relationships with wetlands.

The process for submitting applications involves going through the Ramsar National Wetland Authority (NWA) for endorsement, following which the NWA will officially transfer the application to the Ramsar Secretariat.

Cities interested in joining this initiative can contact Ramsar: africa@ramsar.org or ramsar@ramsar.org

[Ramsar Resolution XII.10 on Wetland City Accreditation](#)



Mr. Denis Landenbergue,
Freshwater Programme
Coordinator at WWF
International

Taking action where nature matters most

#NatureForAll



IUCN launched the #NatureForAll project, which is a global movement to inspire a new generation of thinkers and doers across all sectors of society to connect with nature and take action to support its conservation. At its core is a very simple idea: the more people experience, connect with, and share their love of nature, the more support there will be for its conservation.

The #NatureForAll movement is a coalition of partners who represent a variety of sectors — health, urban, protected areas, communications, technology, education, arts, tourism, science, youth, and more. They believe that many different sectors of society will bring new insights and techniques to the goals of raising awareness and facilitating experiences and connections with nature. The movement encourages new and non-traditional partners as champions to promote #NatureForAll to join them in scaling up the movement.



[Read more](#)

ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD Network



ICLEI and RUAF launched the new CITYFOOD NETWORK which brings cities together around urban agriculture and resilient urban food systems. It will raise awareness of sustainable urban agriculture, provide information to cities, assist cities with the technical and policy implications, facilitate cooperation between these cities, as well as with civil society, create an advocacy platform to gain political recognition and support for urban agriculture initiatives, as well as design and implement projects to aid in creating sustainable food systems.

Ultimately, a sustainable and resilient city-region food system will align environmental management strategies on food, water and energy and will build diverse food systems that are more resilient to climate change and disaster risk.



[Read more](#)
[Join the network](#)

Taking action where nature matters most

Thrive app



60 nature-based solutions to improve people's lives

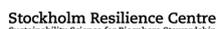
SwedBio (at the Stockholm Resilience Centre) and ICLEI launched their first-ever mobile application, THRIVE. This app, available through any Android mobile device, is an interactive guide on how to achieve the most with limited resources, while reconnecting people with nature.

It uses nature-based solutions to improve people's lives and protect natural assets across cities in sub-Saharan Africa. The inspiration for the app is based on the premise that in order to make ourselves and our cities thrive, we need long term nature-based solutions.

The solutions range from restoring soil, to saving water, from rehabilitating green spaces, to producing food gardens, from sustainable cooking and energy, to preventing disease and disaster.

THRIVE was developed for Android and can be downloaded for free via Google play. It is accompanied by a dedicated website and introductory video.

Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre.



[Read more](#)

[Download the app](#)



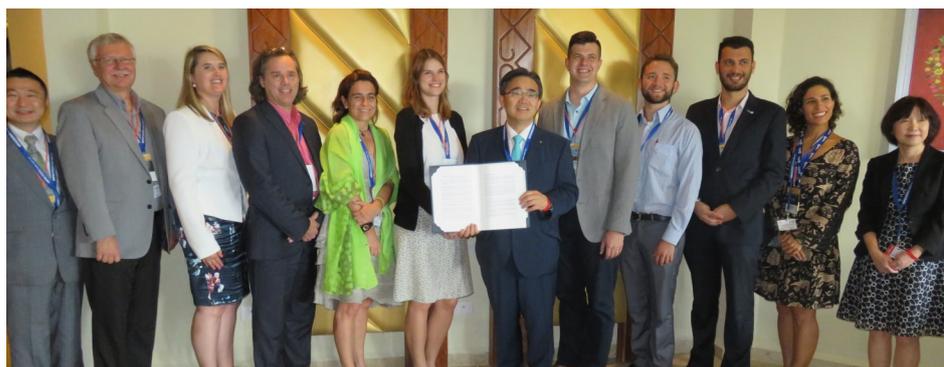
"Biodiversity is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals so we need to mainstream biodiversity into land-use planning and local government decision-making processes."

Ms. Erika Hermansson Török, Senior Advisor and Communication Strategist for SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre

Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Japanese Prefecture of Aichi, in partnership with ANAAE, Catalonia, Ontario, Quebec and São Paulo launched a new initiative to actively contribute to the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Their intention is to lead by example and enhance their own activities through sharing experiences and opinions among members, as well as to encourage other subnational governments to join and take further actions on biodiversity conservation through wider knowledge sharing. Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi delivered the joint statement on behalf of the group at the Summit and it was welcomed in the *Quintana Roo Communiqué* as one of the important initiatives developed by subnational governments. The initiative is supported by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainability (nrg4SD) and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

The group elected to call themselves GoLS (reading 'Goals'), intending to take the lead on subnational actions and achieve set goals towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Following the Summit and CBD COP 13, the group has been making concrete efforts in implementing and strengthened its actions. It has also seen the joining of Campeche, Mexico.



Joint statement signed by the founding members of GoLS - Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

ICLEI and World Urban Parks partnership



The Chair of World Urban Parks (WUP), Dr. Guillermo Penalosa and ICLEI, through Ms. Kobie Brand, Director of ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center, on behalf of ICLEI's Secretary General, announced a new partnership between WUP and ICLEI. This partnership will promote the importance of urban parks and green open spaces in cities across the world. World Urban Parks champions urban park outcomes for city livability, place-making, conservation and access. The new partnership between ICLEI and WUP will enable deeper collaboration and promotion of urban protected areas, as well as the value of urban parks for the health and well-being of urban communities in cities across the world.

"It is important for us at World Urban Parks to partner with ICLEI, an organization with great experience and members all over the world, in order to combine each other's strengths as we contribute to create vibrant and healthy cities for all. Within the lifetime of today's children, the world's urban population will double to over 7 billion; there is urgency to do things much better, more sustainably and more equitably."

Dr. Gil (Guillermo) Penalosa, Director and Chair of the Board of 80 Cities and President of World Urban Parks



New Financial Model of Municipal Systems of Integrated Waste Management with a Sustainability Approach

Secretaría de Medio Ambiente Y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) in Mexico launched their New Financial Model of Municipal Systems of Integrated Waste Management with a Sustainability Approach.



"Cities depend directly on ecosystem services to reduce risk and impacts of hurricanes and floods, amongst others, and there is an insurance value from biodiversity that should be taken into account when working with land owners or even insurance companies to revalue the value of ecosystems services for risk reduction."

Prof. Thomas Elmqvist, Professor in Natural Resource Management at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University

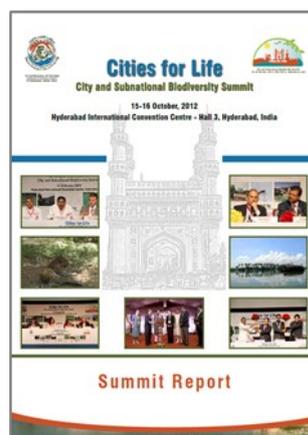
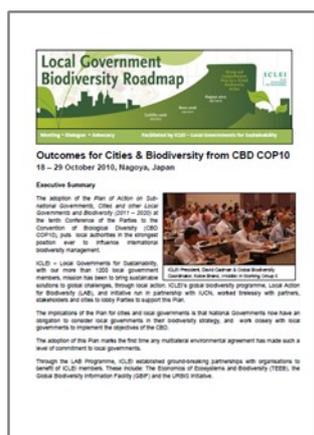
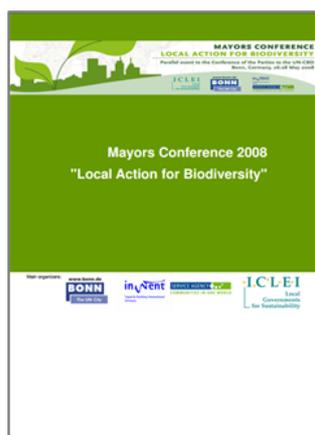
Journey towards the 5th Summit

Building on four consecutive summits convened as official CBD COP parallel engagement platforms dedicated to the contributions of local and subnational governments, the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments marked a decade of close cooperation between CBD Parties and the local and subnational constituencies.

The journey towards Cancún is summarized below:

	CBD COP Decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments	Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COPs
2016 Cancún, Mexico	CBD COP 13 <i>Adoption by the Parties of Decision XIII/3, on Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Parties agreed to enhance their efforts to engage subnational and local governments in order to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan.</i>	5th Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments <i>Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action</i>
2014 Gangwon, Korea	CBD COP 12 <i>Decision XII/9, on Engagement with Subnational and Local Governments, requested the CBD Executive Secretary 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.</i>	Biodiversity Summit For Cities and Subnational Governments <i>Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution for Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity</i>
2012 Hyderabad, India	CBD COP 11 <i>Adoption by the Parties of Decision XI/28: It highlighted the tangible role of local governments, specifying the need for national support in implementing the Plan of Action 2011-2020.</i>	Cities for Life: City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit <i>Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity</i>
2010 Nagoya, Japan	CBD COP 10 <i>Adoption by the Parties of the ground-breaking Decision X/22 and thereby endorsement of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and encouraged Parties to support cities and local authorities.</i>	City Biodiversity Summit <i>Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity</i> <i>Support of Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 - 2020)</i>
2008 Bonn, Germany	CBD COP 9 <i>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 recognizes the importance of local and subnational governments in supporting the implementation of the Convention and in implementing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.</i>	Mayors Conference - Local Action for Biodiversity <i>Bonn Call for Action on Cities and Biodiversity</i>

See the previous Summit reports here:



Journey towards the 5th Summit

These consecutive platforms are convened by the respective CBD COP hosts and their subnational governments in partnership with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the CBD Secretariat. In each instance over the past 10 years, a wide spectrum of additional supporting partners has ensured broad participation in these platforms, enabling the growing local and subnational constituency to connect, inspire and lead collective local and subnational action for nature.

While the Summit in Cancún has yet again demonstrated the enormous and pioneering contributions by these local and subnational actors, it has also further confirmed the need for the platform to connect these actors as a parallel engagement platform to the CBD COPs. The CBD Secretariat and ICLEI committed to continue this collaboration for upcoming Summits respectively in Egypt (2018), China (2020) and Turkey (2022), with CBD Host Parties and other partners alongside COP 14, 15 and 16.

In addition to co-convening these upcoming Summits, ICLEI also announced its continued commitment to host Urban Nature Forums, alongside ICLEI's tri-annual World Congresses. The next Urban Nature Forum, as dedicated convening platform for the ICLEI network of over 1 500 cities and other subnational governments, will be convened with ICLEI World Congress Host City, Montreal, Canada from 19 to 23 June 2018, building on previous Urban Nature Forums in:

- Cape Town, South Africa (February/March 2006),
- Edmonton, Canada (June 2009),
- Belo Horizonte, Brazil (June 2012), and
- Seoul, South Korea (April 2015).

Biodiversity and nature-based solutions will be one of the major themes of the ICLEI World Congress 2018.

[Read more](#)

"If all nations formally recognize and incorporate local and subnational commitments into national action plans, they may see immediate opportunities to scale up delivery on, and even raise, national targets."

Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



We are proud to announce the next Urban Nature conference in
June, 2018 in Montreal, Canada.

CBD COP 13 Decisions focused on local and subnational governments

At least fifteen [Decisions](#) made by the Parties of the CBD at COP 13 refer to local or subnational governments, with a special section in Decision XIII/3 on mainstreaming, which focuses on their role in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

CBD COP 13 DECISIONS THAT SUPPORT AND HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACHIEVING NATIONAL TARGETS:

CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/1. Progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

14. Encourages Parties to facilitate the development by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities of subnational or local biodiversity strategies and action plans to contribute to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in keeping with Decision X/22, paragraph 2.

CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/3. Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors

Subnational and local governments

96. Calls upon Parties and invites other Governments, in view of the need for more effective engagement of subnational and local governments and in accordance with national circumstances:

- a) To enhance their efforts to engage subnational and local governments in order to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, taking into account the usefulness of networking within local governments;
- b) To raise the awareness of subnational and local governments of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems services and functions and of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the holistic conservation, preservation, sustainable use and management of biodiversity, and consider establishing strategies for the strengthening of contributions of subnational and local governments to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the respective national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- c) To include consideration of biodiversity related to subnational and local governments in relevant international processes.

ICLEI Secretary General intervention at the CBD COP 13 high level opening

On 2 December 2016, the Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Mr. Gino Van Begin, spoke at the CBD COP 13 opening.

He emphasized that some of our most pressing biodiversity challenges culminate in cities, which in turn impact directly on local economies. Because of this, in certain places, urban communities are already beyond breaking point. Yet our cities are simultaneously, and in multiple ways, gateways to achievable, measurable and transformative biodiversity gains. Cities designed, built and managed in recognition of, and in harmony with nature, provide us with truly transformative platforms towards an inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable planet.

He reiterated the increasingly important and urgent role of cities and regions as essential contributors to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets. He called for strong frameworks that directly support local and subnational governments, underlining that proper financial and capacity building support is essential to ensure that a growing number of cities, towns and regions can follow a longer term biodiversity action planning horizon.



High level roundtable for subnational government leaders and CBD Parties



Attendees at the High level roundtable for subnational government leaders and CBD Parties, with Mr. Alfredo Arellano, State Environmental Minister of Quintana Roo, Mexico (on behalf of the Governor) presenting His Excellency Maeng Sung-kyu, Vice Governor of Gangwon Provincial Government, Republic of Korea, with the Mexican 'tree of life'

Preceding the Summit, Mr. Alfredo Arellano, State Environmental Minister of Quintana Roo, hosted an intimate roundtable dinner on behalf of the State of Quintana Roo for governors, mayors and other executive leaders of local, subnational and national governments, together with Summit co-hosts CONABIO, ICLEI and the CBD Secretariat.

The Minister and Councilor Cathy Oke, on behalf of ICLEI, co-chaired the Roundtable, which included a special [video message](#) from the Lord Mayor of Bonn and First Vice President of ICLEI, Ashok Sridharan. The Lord Mayor of Bonn emphasized the critical role that cities play in achieving national and international biodiversity targets. He spoke of the 'Century of Cities' and how it brings with it major challenges and threats for cities, but also numerous opportunities.

This meeting was key to the consolidation of the *Quintana Roo Communiqué* by local and subnational leaders from around the world, and its consequent adoption on Sunday 11 December 2016 during the closing plenary. It provided the opportunity for leaders to become acquainted with one another and engage with each other, ICLEI, CONABIO and the CBD, as well as with previous Summit Host Government, including His Excellency Maeng Sung-kyu, Vice Governor of Gangwon Provincial Government, Korea.

"We are laying down a new roadmap. Together with the Convention on Biological Diversity, we have initiated a new community of practice addressing local and subnational action for nature.

Within this community, I will gladly contribute to the Agenda 2030 process and towards the New Urban Agenda. And I'm confident that Bonn, as the UN powerhouse for sustainability, will be the place where important parts of these agendas will successfully be advanced."



His Excellency Mr. Ashok Sridharan, Lord Mayor of Bonn and First Vice President of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (via video message)

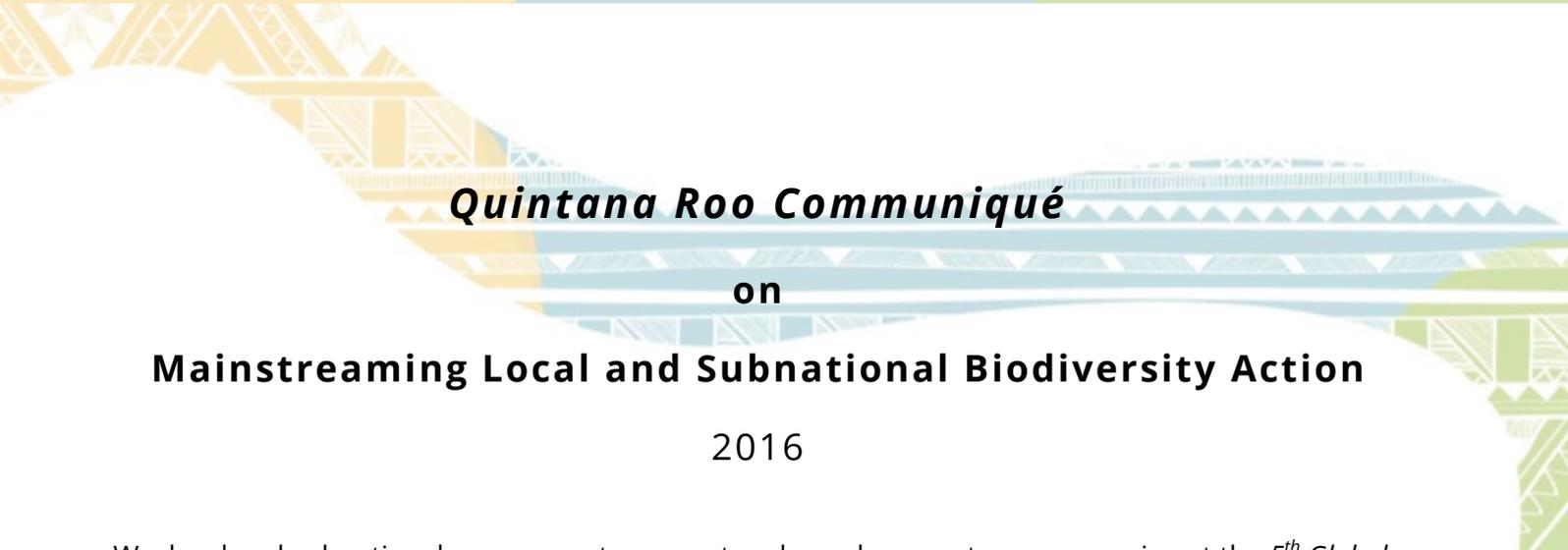


Attendees at the High level roundtable for subnational government leaders and CBD Parties discuss the *Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action* before endorsing it



Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

Building on consecutive previous Summit outcomes and declarations, the *Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action 2016*, adopted during the Summit and presented to the CBD COP 13 Plenary as outcome of the Summit, **calls local, subnational and national governments and their partners to action in this critical period of rapid urbanization**. It calls on CBD Parties and Partners to increase support to local and subnational governments through increased collaboration, accelerated capacity building and knowledge transfer, technical and financial support and the implementation of current and past COP Decisions related to these levels of government.



Quintana Roo Communiqué

on

Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

2016

We, local and subnational governments, our networks and our partners, convening at the 5th *Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments* held in parallel with the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016 from 10 to 11 December 2016,

hereby agree that,

in order to further unlock the potential of local and subnational governments and our growing urban population to **significantly, rapidly and collectively implement actions for contributing directly and measurably** to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

- the understanding that people are inextricably linked to, and part of nature, and that this connection is essential to the health, resilience and well-being of our rapidly growing urban communities and their local and regional economies **needs to be deepened, better communicated, planned for, and mainstreamed**, at all levels of society, specifically in support of Aichi targets 1, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and
- while local and subnational governments are increasingly recognised as significant and essential contributors to reach globally set sustainable development targets, notably among the Parties to the CBD, **more accurate and specific and science-based information, decision-making tools and articulation of the need, value and scope of such contributions are required**, also within the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and that
- **horizontal mainstreaming, vertical alignment, cooperative and integrated management linked to measurable reporting mechanisms by and for all levels of subnational government**, aligned with those of their national governments where appropriate, within globally set frameworks such as the NBSAP and other complementary commitment processes **are required** to formalise the recognition of these contributions, specifically in support of Aichi targets 5,6,7,8, 9, 10,11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17, and that

Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

- demonstration and mainstreaming of the **decoupling of consumption patterns and natural resource use from quality of life and local and regional economies**, particularly through the promotion of non-extractive economic activities, development of policies that internalise environmental and social costs, mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning and ensuring coherence between sectoral policies and support of ecosystem rehabilitation within cities, regions and areas of their impact **are required**, particularly in terms of Aichi targets 3 and 4, and
- **the mobilisation of, and access to, new and significantly enhanced financing mechanisms, instruments and funds** through redefined existing, and newly established partnerships, **is essential** for local and subnational governments to enable their essential contribution to sustainable development in realisation of the SDGs and Aichi targets, and
- **partnerships, collaboration, and more scalable initiatives** for, and designed by, cities and other subnational governments, their networks such as ICLEI and nrg4SD, and their partners on global and regional level **are effective drivers for local and subnational implementation** of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its associated Aichi targets, such as
 - ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) suite of locally adaptable engagement options, the new Global Community for Local & Regional Action for Nature, the Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA Africa), and the "Local and Subnational Summit" platform as formally recognised parallel event to the CBD COP at all future COPs,
 - The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity ,
 - URBIO (Urban Biodiversity and Design Network),
 - nrg4SD's emerging Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform, and
 - Mexico 's State Biodiversity Strategies initiative that could be replicated in other parts of the world,

Within this context, we therefore call on CBD Parties and partners to

- **accelerate their focus, increase and unlock collaboration, and enable frameworks** by building on, and supporting partnerships and initiatives where appropriate, for and by local and subnational governments, and their networks that address these priority themes, and
- **accelerate their efforts at building capacity and facilitating scientific knowledge transfer** by providing technical and financial support to local and subnational governments, as well as strengthening communication and information exchange and engagement between the scientific community, local and subnational governments and citizens, while ensuring that the contribution of science and research is based on, and tailored to, subnational and local needs and priorities, and

Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

- **enable and promote the implementation of the consecutive COP Decisions** related to local and subnational governments including Decision IX/28, X/22, XI/8, XII/9 and the currently considered recognition of local and subnational governments in Agenda Item 10 on “mainstreaming”, and
- **invite other global sustainable development governance processes to benefit** from the valuable, rich and comprehensive good practice of the national and global biodiversity community on mechanisms for engaging with local and subnational governments, built through more than a decade of practice under the leadership of the CBD Parties through relevant COP Decisions and programmes.

We further

- applaud the new global ambition and associated trajectory for sustainable development committed to since the CBD COP12 through, *inter alia*, the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015), the Paris Climate Agreement (2015) and its rapid ratification (2016), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda providing a global framework for financing sustainable development (2015), **and particularly welcome the priority set for biodiversity and ecosystems in the New Urban Agenda as main Habitat III outcome (2016) with its focus on integrated sustainable urban and territorial development**, and
- **encourage further recognition of, and calls on, local and subnational actors**, in partnership with their national governments where appropriate, and other partners, to **support and contribute to the implementation of these global commitments, through measured, reported, horizontally mainstreamed and vertically aligned strategies and actions**, and
- **recall preceding commitments, statements and calls to action delivered to the CBD** COP9, COP10, COP11, COP12 and COP13 respectively through the *Bonn Call for Action*, *Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity*, the *Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments* and the *Gangwon/Pyongyang Resolution on Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity* as collective results of the consecutive global summits as accredited parallel platforms for local and subnational governments to the CBD COP processes, and on which this communiqué builds, and
- **commend the consecutive and ground-breaking CBD COP Decisions on local and subnational governments in the global biodiversity agenda**, especially the catalytic role of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020), and further
- **welcome the recognition of local and subnational governments in mainstreaming under Agenda Item 10**, in recognition of the need for more effective engagement with local and subnational governments, to enhance their contribution the CBD Strategic Plan, increase awareness among these levels of government and their communities on their ability and imperative to contribute to implementation through local and regional strategies and actions aligned to, and appropriately recognised in, NBSAPs,

Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

- and to further include these levels of government in relevant international processes, and
- **commend the *The Panama City Declaration*** adopted by URBIO and IFLA at their joint conference of the Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects of the Americas Region (IFLA-AR) following a joint conference ‘From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health & Biodiversity’ held in Panama City, Panama, from 25 to 27 October 2016, and which emphasises the essential focus for urban landscape design on urban health and biodiversity for resilient and sustainable cities, and further
 - **commend the complementary Statement by the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets** presented at this Summit which emphasise the role of states, provinces, regions and prefectures as global actors committed to contributing to the attainment of the Aichi targets,
 - **call upon the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016, to take into account this Communiqué in its work** and request the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to include this Communiqué as part of the report of the Conference, and to collaborate with Parties, relevant international organizations and stakeholders for the advancement of mainstreaming biodiversity, and
 - **applaud Mexico for reiterating its commitment to continue collaboration with local and subnational governments** in order to mainstream biodiversity for well-being, in particular, but not exclusively, in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.

Focus on the Panama Declaration

The Summit welcomed URBIO President, Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda, after the IFLA AR-URBIO Conference held in Panama in October 2016. A key outcome of this conference was the *Panama Declaration*, commended in the *Quintana Roo Communiqué*, which states the following:

- We will be guided by the Habitat III New Urban Agenda and the Landscape Architecture Foundation’s New Landscape Declaration towards achieving the CBD “Plan of Action” and achieving the Aichi targets. We will continue to collaborate actively with ICLEI to stimulate research that meets the needs of local authorities.
- We pledge to contribute to the transformation of public policy, to innovation in design strategies, to activation of associated research agendas, and to share knowledge and experience relevant to Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs).

“Through urban planning, we can preserve biodiversity, promote urban compactness to accommodate growth and increase the percentage of protected areas.”

His Excellency Enrique González Tiburcio, Underminister of Territorial Ordinance, Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development, Mexico

ICLEI side event at CBD COP 13

Nature-based Solutions for Thriving Urban Communities



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

On 8 December 2016 ICLEI, in partnership with IUCN, the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the CBD Secretariat, convened a CBD COP 13 side event ahead of the Summit. Participants gathered to discuss the role of nature-based solutions (NBS) in creating thriving urban communities. The side event featured speakers from the City of Melbourne, SwedBio and RMIT University, in addition to the convening partners.

The discussions highlighted the importance of mainstreaming nature into citizens' everyday lives to enhance the livability of cities. With urban communities worldwide depending on nature for the provision of essential services and for their well-being, it was maintained that NBS could not be overlooked in city planning. Through applying NBS, new urban planning approaches and measures can be achieved, enabling communities to access the multiple benefits and services nature provides.

The challenge of population growth that is sensitive to biodiversity and resources, was also discussed, focusing on the need for an expanded approach to biodiversity as a concept. The notion of viewing biodiversity as more than green infrastructure, the need for resilience discussions to focus on ecosystem management and for the creation of valuable partnerships, were discussed and presented as possible solutions.

Topics covered

- Cities and Subnational Authorities
- Climate Change and Biodiversity
- Biodiversity for Development
- Knowledge Innovation and Practices
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPS)
- Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting.

“How can cities’ populations grow without cutting off the biodiversity and resources that sustain them? That is the challenge.”

Ms. Amy Ann Fraenkel, Director, Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach Support, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

“We need to focus on connecting nature to the SDGs if we want to mainstream biodiversity.”

Dr. Kathy McKinnon, Vice Chair: Biodiversity and Climate Change, IUCN/World Commission on Protected Areas

“We need to reframe biodiversity in cities as an opportunity instead of a problem.”

Prof. Sarah Bekessy, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University



From left: Ms. Kobie Brand, Prof. Thomas Elmqvist, Prof. Sarah Bekessy, Dr. Kathy Mackinnon, Ms. Amy Ann Fraenkel, and Councilor Cathy Oke



Co-hosts of the 5th Summit



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Since the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn in 2008, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability has partnered with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and host governments, to organize parallel platforms to the CBD COPs, dedicated to local and subnational governments.

These Biodiversity Summits connect local and subnational governments from around the world in a high-level setting to share ideas, discuss challenges, and showcase their contribution towards implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This strong presence of local and subnational governments has reinforced the adoption of ground-breaking Decisions at each of the associated CBD COPs, including the overarching *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)* endorsed by Decision X/22.

The Summits have been attended by local, subnational and national government leaders and key partners, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, high-level representatives of the United Nations, and other international and local organizations. Statements and outcomes of these Summits have been presented to the Ministerial Segment of the COPs by representative mayors, governors, ICLEI and partners, and are usually also included in the report by the COP President.

The 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments was the largest parallel event at CBD COP13, with over 700 registrations.



"I'd like to recognize and appreciate ICLEI's leadership and investment in the cooperation with the Convention, from assigning staff to support the Secretariat for many years to encouraging groundbreaking publications such as the *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook*, and through projects, such as the capacity building for NBSAP implementation at all levels. We need to continue leveraging this unique example of cooperation, and I commit the SCBD towards that goal."

Dr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD (at the time of the Summit)

Welcome to new CBD Executive Secretary: Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer

ICLEI and its partners congratulate and welcome the new Executive Secretary of the CBD, Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer. We look forward to building on a decade of close collaboration with the CBD, and to continuing our journey of strengthening our efforts in working with cities and subnational governments to *mainstream biodiversity where nature matters most*.



Thanks



The convening partners would like to extend special thanks to the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) for their support and partnership throughout the Summit.

We look forward to working with our partners and local and regional governments from around the world to take this proud tradition forward, and to further build this strategic global platform for subnational biodiversity action in parallel with the CBD COP 14 and beyond.



Contact the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center



www.cbc.iclei.org



@ICLEICBC



biodiversity@iclei.org