

Shaping the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: A Ten-Point Framework for Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

PREAMBLE

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED AND OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE COLLECTIVE LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

Urbanization is a key driver of ecological change and is rapidly reshaping our world. Simultaneously, urban communities are increasingly disconnecting - spiritually, mentally, physically and socially - from nature while current consumption and production patterns overshoot Earth's capacity at alarming rates. Local and subnational governments make and execute daily decisions related to the provision of infrastructure and land-use management. It is at the local level - in and around our cities - where the impacts of decisions and actions on nature and people are experienced directly, often with almost irreversible future impacts. Urgent action is needed at all levels of government and with all other actors.

Yet the current crisis also presents unique and multiple opportunities. On the one hand we stand at the cusp of negotiating a new global framework for biodiversity; on the other hand we face an increasingly urban future, with important consequences for urban-rural linkages. Cities and other urban conurbations are engines of innovation and solution. Local and subnational governments can take direct action to restore ecosystems and reverse extinction trends, while tackling a wide range of sustainable development issues. Nature-based solutions (NBS), blue and green infrastructure, natural capital accounting as well as sustainable land-use and planning measures are among our most effective tools in bending the curve of biodiversity loss, addressing climate change and achieving a new collective vision for biodiversity conservation worldwide, while reconnecting nature and people in and around our cities.

CBD Parties have already recognized the pivotal role of local and subnational governments in numerous decisions taken under the Convention since 2008, most notably in Decision X/22, the 10-year Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities adopted in 2010 in Nagoya. As this Plan of Action draws to a close, it is important to acknowledge significant achievements by Parties and many local and subnational governments, their networks and partners. It is now crucial to build on this Plan of Action through a significantly stepped-up commitment by the Parties to strengthen the role of local and subnational governments in mainstreaming biodiversity actions, nature-based solutions, restoring the vital connection between people and nature, and in supporting Parties to achieve national and global biodiversity targets. Open-Ended Working Group 1 established that the roles and responsibilities of all actors in the development and implementation of the new framework should be clearly specified and that strategic partnerships, including with local and subnational governments, is fundamental to the development and implementation of the framework.

Now more than ever, the whole of government must act individually and collectively to support the transformative global change needed for a "New Deal for Nature and People". To this end,

the “Ten-Point Framework for Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action” should form an essential component of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

To this end, **we call upon Parties to:**

- 1. Acknowledge Local and Subnational Governments as part and parcel of government and essential** in designing, committing to, and implementing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, through endorsing a multi-level governance approach that empowers transformative change on the ground at landscape level;
- 2. Unlock resource mobilisation to increase funding** for biodiversity and nature-based solutions (NBS) at local and subnational levels, available through public investment mechanisms and instruments, to enable and ensure the conservation, restoration and development of healthy ecosystems and urban-rural linkages;
- 3. Create enabling environments for significantly increased private sector investment** and development aid in nature-based solutions at local and subnational levels, as they are closer to the mainstreaming sectors and best positioned to build and sustain functional and resilient ecosystems and urban-rural linkages;
- 4. Ensure that the current nature trajectory of biodiversity loss is recognized as a global priority** for all, alongside the climate crisis, and to support inclusive and action-oriented communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) initiatives at local and subnational levels, while reconnecting nature and people in and around our cities and regions;
- 5. Create an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social and health benefits of nature at the local and subnational levels** to improve the quality of life and resilience of communities, enhance social cohesion and lead to financial benefits and savings for both individuals and governments;
- 6. Foster the interconnectedness with other global agendas through a systemic approach** to challenges that communities face daily such as shelter, food, water, energy, pollution, transport, health care, decent employment opportunities; and where NBS and green and blue infrastructures solutions can serve multiple benefits and co-benefits;
- 7. Support local and subnational governments in co-producing data and gaining better access to data and scientific evidence and expertise** to improve decision-making, enabled by improved capturing, analysis and reporting of localised and landscape-based biodiversity data;
- 8. Create an enabling environment that ensures sustainable consumption and production patterns** through the development of a circular economy that protects the environment while assuring social progress by aiming to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of non-renewable resources.
- 9. Endorse and support CitiesWithNature, a commitment and reporting mechanism sanctioned by the SCBD, where local and subnational governments** can report on, and track progress against, their commitments to contributing to NBSAPS and the implementation of the new global biodiversity framework; and
- 10. Most importantly, we call upon all Parties to move beyond recognition and to demonstrate their commitment through adopting a dedicated, significantly stepped-up Decision on the role of Local and Subnational Governments in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes the elements mentioned above.**