



Biodiversity Summit For Cities & Subnational Governments 2014



Report





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Introduction

Overview

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 (CBD) and host governments, to organize one of the largest events associated with the COP: a summit for local and subnational governments. These Biodiversity Summits unite 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 decisions¹ at each of the past four CBD COPs, including the “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 other representatives, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, high-level representatives of the United Nations, and other international and local organizations. Outcomes of the Summits have been presented to the Ministerial Segment of the COP by representative mayors and governors, or ICLEI, and included in the report by the COP President.

Milestone : The Biodiversity Summit for cities and subnational Governments is the main parallel event with CBD COP12 participated by 500 members from 47 nations which is the biggest among the other parallel events.

¹ Decision IX/28; Decision X/22; Decision XI/8

Statistics

- 500 delegates in total participating over the 2 days, from
- 47 countries, and
- 86 cities/regions, with
- 27 local and subnational government leaders (mayors, governors, commissioners and ministers), and
- 57 speakers in total contributed to the diverse and thought-provoking program.

Organizers



Hosted by the Government of Gangwon Province and the Government of the Republic of Korea, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) organised the Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments.

Supporting partners



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Research for Governance of Social-Ecological Systems





Objectives for 2014

- Reiterate the importance of local and subnational governments for achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, complementing and building on existing subnational CBD COP decisions and increasing the understanding that biodiversity underpins local and subnational government service delivery, improving livelihoods and creating healthy, happy communities.
- Integrated and interactive discussions between local, subnational and national government representatives, for mutual support and cooperation between government levels for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.
- Create a platform for the exchange of local and subnational government expertise and experiences.
- Improve understanding of the integration and links between biodiversity and the water, food and energy nexus, in the context of climate change.
- Compile a resolution by local and subnational governments on biodiversity management and CBD implementation, which characterizes the global subnational biodiversity agenda and builds on past declarations.
- Take stock of the main initiatives that have emerged as a result of, or in support of, the Plan of Action, in order to strengthen and build upon the implementation of the Plan, including the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, and ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity Program and coordinate future implementation of the Plan of Action through various programs and partnerships.

Milestone : With more national governments participating than ever before, dialogue between all levels of government was a key feature of the Summit.



Outcomes from discussions

The program was highly interactive and included time for questions and discussion between the panellists and the audience around the session topics. The session topics were selected for their current relevance and the need for dialogue.



[The opening session involved a handover ceremony from the previous subnational hosts (Andhra Pradesh State and Telangana State) from India to the Gangwon Province (Korea).]



**Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity**

We're talking about the future of life on earth for future generations. The responsibility to meet the Aichi Targets is not just with national governments – much of the decisions relating to biodiversity are taken at the subnational level, by provinces, states and cities and therefore this engagement that we have at the Biodiversity Summit with states, provinces and cities from all over the world, is really critical and so important.



**Yeonman Jeong, Vice-Minister,
Ministry of Environment (Korea)**

The role of local governments in rolling out our reinforced actions will be more than crucial. Without the subnational governments' effective implementation and management, the central government's national strategies cannot fulfil its initial goal.



Moonsoon Choi, Governor, Gangwon Province (Korea)

As there is very limited access to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), it has become a rich repository of biodiversity, and is the only place of its kind in the world. The DMZ must therefore be preserved as a great asset for all of humanity.



Sisung Kim, Chair, Gangwon Provincial Council (Korea)

The destruction of biodiversity threatens the life of humanity. Because many of the resources we need for survival, such as food, medicine, water, significantly depend on biodiversity, therefore the economy, food security, conservation of ecosystems, and the value of life should be integrated.



**David Cadman, President,
ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability.**

As E.O Wilson once said, "Biodiversity is the assembly of life that took a billion years to evolve. It has eaten the storms, folded them into its genes and created the world that created us. It holds the world steady". Biodiversity is inextricably linked to our livelihoods, our economy, and cultural identity. Indeed, protecting our world's biodiversity is one of the fundamental pillars of achieving sustainable development, and to 'holding steady' the success and well-being of present and future generations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Local / Subnational Governments

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals aimed at tackling 21st century challenges, which are currently under discussion and confirmation. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs focus on both the developing and developed world. Of these, the proposed SDG on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements, the so called 'Urban SDG' (SDG11), is unique in dealing with fundamental urban issues and could be transformational by empowering local authorities.

Milestone : 1 of 17 SDGs proposed is a stand-alone goal on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

“The Urban SDG is relevant, unique, transformational, empowering and timely.”

– **Andrew Rudd, UN-Habitat**

In a progression from the MDGs, which only recognized the environment and not biodiversity per se, goals focused specifically on biodiversity have also made it into the proposed list of SDGs being considered. The proposed SDG 14 is to: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and SDG 15 will: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. In addition, biodiversity also underpins many of the other SDGs, as they aim to offer solutions to the problems of the world, including consideration across all the goals, of the environment, economic and social dimensions.

Milestone : 2 of 17 SDGs proposed, are explicitly aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

When discussing next steps of determining indicators for the SDGs, once confirmed :

“We need to consider that cities are embedded in regions, where we have flows of resources in and out. This is not only to measure the impact, but also how we can prompt responsible stewardship.”

– **Professor Thomas Elmqvist, Stockholm Resilience Center**





The Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity

“The Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity is the nourishing ground for discussion.” – **Honourable Reinhard Limbach, Deputy Mayor, Bonn, Germany**

The Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity is convened by the SCBD and consists of local and subnational government representatives, interested non-governmental organisations and research institutes, that come together to collaborate and communicate around issues of urban biodiversity.

The Advisory Committees of the Global Partnership are selected as leaders to represent local and subnational governments, and to provide a platform for interaction and cooperation between cities and subnational governments, for example, building cross-partnerships around the ecological footprint of cities outside their boundaries.

Representatives of the Advisory Committees of the Global Partnership shared some of their experiences :

- In **Catalonia (Spain)**, local governments have been empowered through the devolution of powers by the Catalanian government. Accordingly, biodiversity has been mainstreamed into landscape planning, providing local governments with increased decision-making capacity.
- Subnational governments serve as bridge between government levels and therefore act as leaders of biodiversity conservation. **Quebec Province’s (Canada)** Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is aligned with the CBD Strategic Plan and includes the participation of the Province in the Global Partnership. **São Paulo State (Brazil)** acts as a bridge to facilitate conversation between national and local discussions and activities, and thereby supports national activities to conserve biodiversity.
- **Bonn (Germany)** is one of the epicenters of the global biodiversity agenda, as the seat of major players like the UN Climate Secretariat, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification or the new Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The city has also founded a new academic network, BION, which brings together experts of the traditional areas of biodiversity research and a range of other disciplines, with international, national, governmental, non-governmental, as well as academic institutions. It links initiatives and generates international and interdisciplinary perspectives for informing policy makers, the scientific community and society at large about biodiversity-related topics and the importance of biodiversity for man, ecosystems and the earth.

Science and policy

“Data is only knowledge if placed in the context of need.” – David Maddox, *The Nature of Cities*

“We cannot manage what we cannot measure” is an underlying premise in the quest to understand biodiversity. The success of plans and actions to address critical biodiversity issues – such as food security, invasive alien species, deforestation, land degradation, the spread of diseases, and marine productivity to name a few – depends on the availability and communication of relevant, reliable biodiversity information.

Meaningful interaction between the scientific community and practitioners and policy-makers at the local level need to overcome the following challenges :

- Biodiversity research and data is often not actively communicated, nor available to local and subnational governments in an accessible format for their practical use.
- Local and subnational governments may generate a large amount of biodiversity data, but these are often not easily accessible nor in a format that is readily usable by scientists, and have a valuable role in contributing towards free and open data mobilization.
- The specific research needs and requirements of local and subnational governments should be more clearly understood, which should drive the research agenda. In other words, knowledge generation should become more solution-oriented.

Pressing research needs identified in the discussions at the Summit include :

- Unpacking and increasing understanding about how biodiversity contributes towards urban health and human well-being.
- The concept of the ‘insurance value’ of ecosystems and risk reduction through investing in ecosystems. Research can help to provide information to investors and land owners on the value of restoration and protection of ecosystems in view of climate change.

Examples of global research and information organisations that bridge the science-policy gap :

- The **Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO)** is an open worldwide scientific network for research. The URBIO Conference was held in Incheon just prior to the Summit, and produced the *Incheon Declaration – URBIO 2014*. The Declaration was then presented to the Chair of the ICLEI BiodiverCities Advisory Committee, Mayor Troy Pickard, at the Summit, marking a significant strengthening of the partnership between local governments and the research community.



- **Future Earth** is a global platform designed to close the gap between science and policy communities. An urban platform within Future Earth will focus on the co-design of research questions by practitioners and scientists, as well as the co-production and co-implementation of the results.
- The **Global Biodiversity Information Facility** (GBIF – www.gbif.org) is an online, international, open data infrastructure. GBIF allows governments to freely access and publish biodiversity data, through a widely used centralized source of biodiversity information, which informs better decisions to conserve and sustainably use the biological resources of the planet.

An example of a local government taking the initiative to improve science-policy interaction :

- **eThekweni Municipality (South Africa)** has a partnership with the University of KwaZulu Natal which aims to generate much-needed knowledge to assist managers in the municipality in making biodiversity and conservation decisions, but also to build capacity and support student research activities at the university. Such novel institutional partnerships are important for addressing the gap between scientific research, policy development and management within a local government setting.

“City areas are hotspots for relevant biodiversity data. Our cities and peri-urban areas can be seen as observatories to detect changes in biodiversity. Through monitoring and understanding what is going on in these areas...will provide the best possible picture...I urge you to consider data management and sharing to support biodiversity management in your cities and beyond.”

– **Donald Hobern, Executive Director, GBIF**

“I was a researcher on marine conservation and I understood that political will is important for research and implementation. That is why I became a politician.”

– **Honourable Jong Geel Je, Mayor, Ansan City, Korea**

“Scientific language is not always accessible for practitioners, and in non-environmental scientific planning conference there is hardly any discussion on biodiversity – this has to be improved.” – **Jose Puppim de Oliveira, UNU-IAS.**



Biodiversity planning for a greener future

Cooperation between levels of government is of utmost importance in order to optimize the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the equitable sharing of its benefits. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 provides Parties with guidance on biodiversity planning, which is translated into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Increasingly, local and subnational governments are developing local and subnational BSAPs, and when these are aligned with NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan, cooperation between levels of government is facilitated. Understanding mechanisms for aligning biodiversity planning at the different government levels has made progress through, for example, the EU Committee of the Regions study on Multi-level governance of our natural capital, focusing on local and subnational governments' contribution to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, and a study underway by ICLEI and SCBD, profiling the links between government levels in biodiversity planning.

Discussion on how to manage urban growth rates and sprawl highlighted that there are limits to how compact a city can be before green spaces are lost, leading to undesirable living conditions. Cities should be planned to increase density while at the same time maintaining sufficient green areas for citizens, and for the provision of ecosystem services, such as climate change resilience. The need for capacity building in the area of urban planning was identified, both for local and subnational governments, as well as for national governments, in order to develop meaningful and effective subnational and national urban policies that will respond to these issues.

"Cities are a center of wealth and knowledge and a hub for communication – cities can play a leading role to bring about change. A number of cities have produced Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs) and I'd like to encourage all the cities around the world to do the same."

– **Braulio Dias, Secretary General, Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

Local and subnational governments share good practice examples of biodiversity planning :

- As a small island state, **Hawaii (USA)** is a microcosm of the environmental challenge. Its greatest asset is the ethos of 'aloha', which means collaboration – understanding that everything is connected from the mountains to the sea and that a shared destination and vision is necessary. Hawaii's Aloha+ challenge imbues a statewide culture of sustainability and reflects Hawaii's integrated subnational approach. Key 2030 targets include 70% clean energy from a combination of increased renewable energy and increased energy efficiency; 20–30% of all food consumed to be produced locally; reversal of the trend of natural resource losses, preservation of watersheds and improved marine management; solid waste reduction of 70% through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion and landfill diversion; increasing livability and resiliency in the built environment through better planning and implementation at the state and county levels;



and increasing green jobs and education programs to support these goals. The statewide joint leadership commitment brings together 50 leaders, government practitioners across jurisdictions, communities, the private sector and NGOs to build a sustainable Hawaii, nested in a blue–green economy and landscape conservation approach.

- **eThekwini Municipality (South Africa)** is well known for their Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS), a system of green open spaces incorporating areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem service value. In South Africa, local governments don't have an exclusive constitutional mandate to protect the environment – this sits with the subnational and national governments. In eThekwini, D'MOSS has been incorporated into the municipal town planning schemes, and the valuable fine–scale information generated by D'MOSS has also been shared with the other government levels to assist with their planning and impact assessment processes. Innovative, cross–boundary, multi–level collaboration is essential for meaningful biodiversity planning, as demonstrated by the Umgeni Ecological Infrastructure Project which connects neighbouring local governments, subnational and national governments, and private entities to protect the City's most valuable river system.
- **Ontario Province (Canada)** first developed its Ontario Biodiversity Strategy in 2005, through a multi–stakeholder consultation process, including conservation and environmental groups, aboriginal groups, government, academia and industry. The strategy was revised and strengthened through another multi–stakeholder process in early 2011 to create the new Ontario Biodiversity Strategy – Renewing our Commitment to “Protecting What Sustains Us”. This 10–year strategy broadly aligns with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and with Canada's response to the Strategic Plan,. It includes three high level goals: (1) Mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors; (2) Protecting and restoring Ontario's biodiversity; and (3) Using Ontario's biological assets sustainably.

“The Aloha + Challenge targets transcend political timelines with a longer–term vision that also calls upon us to take bold action now. As a microcosm of the world's sustainability challenges, it is time for Hawaii to become a global model of how to develop innovative and collaborative solutions.” – **Honourable Neil Abercrombie, Governor, Hawaii State, USA**



"We strongly believe that protecting the diversity of life on Earth – of which we are an integral part – requires broad societal consensus and participation. That is indeed what we are doing. It is key to mainstreaming efforts."

– **Steve Hounsell, Ontario Province, Canada**

"Local government is a strong driving force to steer the way toward coordination and alignment between different levels of government but more importantly, local governments can fundamentally and structurally change the framework for action. This is exactly what the City of Durban has done despite being a medium sized city, off the global beaten path with numerous governance and environmental challenges."

– **Natasha Govender, eThekweni, South Africa**

Implementation – People and Conservation

It is important to involve **local stakeholders** in the implementation of the CBD. Local and subnational biodiversity policy development and program implementation will benefit from engaging citizens and other key stakeholders. However, in order for this to be effective, citizens and communities have to be aware of biodiversity. In developing countries, biodiversity conservation programmes that provide multiple benefits, such as reducing poverty and creating jobs, are crucial. The Mayors and Governors Roundtable – the final session of the Summit, which focused on biodiversity integration and mainstreaming – also demonstrated that government leaders recognize the importance of engaging with their constituencies for support of biodiversity projects and their involvement in the co–development of strategies and policies.

Improved mechanisms for integrating **traditional knowledge and citizen science** into decision–making are needed. The pertinent questions and needs of each community should be identified and understood, as well as their knowledge captured, which also supports bridging the science–policy gap, and to making more informed, inclusive decisions at the local government level.

Local and subnational governments share examples of participatory approaches to biodiversity conservation :

- In the city of **Nagoya (Japan)**, citizens' perceptions of the importance of biodiversity were raised by the City's hosting of the CBD COP 10 in 2010. In addition, the Nagoya Biodiversity Center was established, which allows citizens and the local authority to cooperate in conservation activities, with over 600 citizens having participated thus far, and countless others with increased knowledge and awareness of biodiversity. However, it will be important to continue education and awareness programs into the future.

"Indigenous knowledge must be included in plans and policies, making local communities key stakeholders in the development of biodiversity strategies and programs."

– **Malta Qwathekana, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa.**



- **Tokyo's (Japan)** Green Action Plan 2012 encourages citizens, NGOs, private sector and government to engage in activities for conservation, including involving local businesses to enhance biodiversity management and increase awareness. An increasing number of cities in Japan have developed Biodiversity Plans and have used the Green Action Plan as an example of how to effectively engage with businesses. In Tokyo, eco-tourism is promoted, increasing understanding how important biodiversity conservation is.
- The nickel mining and smelting industry has impacted biodiversity in the **Greater Sudbury Area (Canada)**, but by working with two local mining companies, a biodiversity action plan was developed, with the aim of increasing biodiversity as part of recovery efforts. Local support has been long-standing and the biodiversity plan has been developed with the input of a range of stakeholders, students, universities, local communities, NGOs, all levels of government.

“Success depends on the involvement of the entire community, and many opportunities are enhanced by this engagement.” – **Paul Baskcomb, Greater Sudbury, Canada**

- Programs such as the **South African** ‘Working For’ programs have been successful in working with local communities to restore degraded ecosystems, thereby creating jobs and increasing biodiversity awareness. This has enabled engagement with communities that struggle with poverty daily, and where biodiversity conservation is not a priority.
- In **Suwon (Korea)**, in collaboration with private and public sector, streams that were concreted over have now been uncovered, creating a habitat for biodiversity and a place for citizens to enjoy and utilise. By increasing collaboration with businesses and citizens along riverine systems, there has been increased support for biodiversity conservation.

“Providing access to natural areas ensures that local communities are actively engaged, and emotionally attached. We have made bushland areas accessible so that people could enjoy the natural area, and to appreciate it – to win their hearts and minds.”

– **Honourable Troy Pickard, Mayor, Joondalup, Australia**



“Community–involvement is key. We want to take into account indigenous knowledge and open up space for dialogue with constituents and councilors outside of formal settings, so that there is space to engage with everyone’s thoughts.”

– Honourable Makhaya Merriman Twabu, Mayor, Mbizana Municipality, South Africa

The Green Creative Economy – reconciling parallel systems

“The financial challenges are the biggest that we have to deal with.”

– Honourable Taeyoung Yeom, Mayor, Suwon, Korea

Urban areas can play a unique role in highlighting the value of biodiversity through education and by providing (often the only) interaction and experience with nature. In order to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity to politicians and high–level officials, the language of capital can make biodiversity more accessible. Investment in ecological infrastructure – a term useful to contextualize the importance of biodiversity for local governments, where service delivery is a central mandate – can save costs in the face of ongoing budget cuts. The science–policy interface is critical for making the case that biodiversity does provide multiple benefits. In addition, the results of valuation studies need to be assimilated into cost–benefit studies, and in turn this information needs to be accessible for policy–makers. This is one mechanism for financing biodiversity conservation and management.

Local and subnational governments and governmental organisations provide good practice examples of integrating biodiversity and the economy :

- The Governor of **Aichi Prefecture (Japan)**, Honourable Hideaki Ohmura, highlighted the importance of utilising the green economy to establish a sustainable society in the Prefecture.
- The **South African National Biodiversity Institute** has made the case for biodiversity to local governments by demonstrating how ecological infrastructure can provide resilience for communities. Long term projections of the value of natural buffers against climate change and other disasters, suggests low cost with high returns and many co–benefits.
- The **City of Montréal (Canada)** explained that Montréal’s reputation as a ‘green city’ has attracted young families to the area. In order to do this, Montreal’s philosophy of working from ‘street corner to street corner’ by planting trees and enhancing below–story cover has increased the sensitivity of citizens to biodiversity, and from an economic point of view, property values in greener areas with increased tree cover have gone up.



- The province of **Sichuan (People's Republic of China)** undertook an ecosystem services assessment in one county and then scaled this up for the Province. The value of the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity was estimated to be US\$7 billion.

“We have a responsibility to expose our younger generations to biodiversity and why nature is important. That recognition and understanding of nature is what will lead that child to value biodiversity. Cities are at the centre of education of the younger generation. We must put in every effort to value biodiversity and make use of urban biodiversity to do that.”

– **Pavan Sukhdev, Special Advisor and Head of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative (TEEB)**

“The City of Cape Town is home to the smallest and richest of the world's six floral kingdoms. Its unique environment arguably serves as its greatest asset, ensuring that Cape Town is a major destination for both tourism and financial investment.”

– **Councilor Johannes van der Merwe, Cape Town, South Africa**

“Even with limited funds, we should show our own leadership. When national government leads projects that might be contradictory for our own vision for our environment, we try to find a common-ground with national government to make their project closer to our vision, which gives us the opportunity to access funds to enhance our environment.”

– **Honourable Hideaki Ohmura, Governor, Aichi Prefecture, Japan**



Mayors and Governors Roundtable : Integration and the urban nexus

Milestone : Local and subnational government leaders – mayors and governors – took part in a high level panel on the “Urban nexus” to conclude the Summit.

While integration was a common theme across most of the Summit programme, the “Urban Nexus” Mayors and Governors Roundtable session featured high-level discussion on the importance of the integration of biodiversity across a range of sectors within governance structures.

Integration of the concept of the ‘insurance value’ of ecosystems was a discussion point, and by investing in ecosystems and managing biodiversity effectively, risk is reduced to the impacts of climate change and other disasters. The Roundtable also discussed how there is a need to plan cities in a strategic integrated manner in order to maintain sufficient green areas for citizens and simultaneously build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Lastly, the Roundtable also noted the need for leadership with regard to the limited funding that is available for implementation of integrated biodiversity projects.

Mayors and Governors describe their approach to integrating biodiversity in decision-making :

- The Mayor of **Joondalup (Australia)**, Honourable Troy Pickard, illustrated this by informing how the triple bottom line had been integrated into all policies, so that sustainability was not isolated but part of a sound framework of governance and embedded into overarching strategies, encouraging the City’s administration to take the environment into account.
- Alain Chabrolle, Vice President of the **Rhône-Alpes Region (France)**, discussed the impact of healthy biodiversity on human health, and by taking this into consideration in their Regional Strategy, the conservation of ecosystems is integrated with increasing the quality of life for citizens and by increasing adaptation and resilience to climate change.

“When we talk about biodiversity, we no longer talk about biodiversity alone. We talk about a whole nexus of interlinked and intertwined issues. This is the true challenge for us as cities : we are the glue that links problems and solutions.” – **Reinhard Limbach, Deputy Mayor, Bonn, Germany**





Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution on Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity

The Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution on Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity is a statement of the collective sentiments of cities and subnational governments from around the world, on their role in stemming the global biodiversity crisis. Contributions to its content were made at the Biodiversity Summit and more broadly in the months preceding it. The Resolution re-iterates the commitment of cities and subnational governments to supporting their national counterparts' achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It recognises the previous CBD decisions and Summit Declarations, as well as the leadership shown by Parties to the CBD and significant progress made.

Pressing priority areas that require increased attention at the local and subnational levels for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are highlighted in the Resolution, include the need :

- For more effective communication and education that will change behaviours to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity.
- To decouple consumption patterns and natural resource use from local economies and quality of life.
- To integrate biodiversity planning and management across sectors, in alignment with national planning and management.
- To further strengthen the science–policy interface for effective implementation.
- Achieving these goals will require the mobilisation of financial resources and continued strong collaboration and partnerships across government levels, with organisations and through programs and projects.

The Resolution also highlights specific aspects for which local and subnational governments require additional support, including :

- More effective mechanisms for integrating biodiversity across sectors, and especially into climate change strategies, at both the national and global levels, with a suggested mechanism to increase support for the formulation and implementation of LBSAPs in alignment with NBSAPs.

- In line with the post–2015 development agenda, cities and subnational governments request support for the inclusion of the Urban SDG in the final SDGs, and urge for strong alignment between Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the SDGs.
- The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should also support and consider cities and subnational governments in their agenda.

The Resolution also requests that the Summit be institutionalised as a parallel event at future CBD COPs, as a forum for engagement across government levels. It urges the Executive Secretary of CBD to promote the good practices of the CBD in collaborating with all government levels, and to encourage other UN Conventions and institutions to follow suit, in order to achieve the global post–2015 development agenda and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

CBD COP 12

The Summit was an illustration of the groundswell of support from the subnational level for Parties, in their efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Decision XII/9, on Engagement with Subnational and Local Governments, requests the CBD Executive Secretary (ES) “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.” In addition to decision XII/9, there is reference to subnational government implementation in nine separate decisions² out of a total of 35 that were adopted at COP 12. It is partly the support from local and subnational governments towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity that has encouraged this mainstreaming of subnational implementation, which is significant as it promotes broader consideration of subnational implementation and the role of local and subnational governments.

Milestone : Nine decisions adopted at CBD COP 12 refer to local and subnational implementation, in addition to one that is entirely focused on subnational government.

² Most significantly decision XII/1(Annex); decision XII/2 (paragraphs 8(a), 20(e) and 22); decision XII/5 (Annex); decision XII/7 (Annex); decision XII (paragraph 1(d)); decision XII/18 (paragraph 5); and decision XII/23 (Annex). Note that, at time of writing, the number allocation of these decisions has not been finalized and, although unlikely, may change.

Increased **communication, education and public awareness** (CEPA) through schools, universities and other institutions, with a focus on promoting behavioural change and therefore reducing negative impact by communities and cities on biodiversity, in support of Aichi Target 1 in particular;

Strengthened biodiversity planning and management capacity building and training at the local level in support of Aichi Targets 17, 18, 19 and 20, in particular;

Emphasis on decoupling consumption patterns and natural resource use from quality of life and local economies, in particular through promotion of non-extractive economic activities, development of policies that internalise environmental and social costs, mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning and ensure coherence between sectoral policies and support of ecosystem rehabilitation within cities and in areas most impacted by cities' disproportionately high ecological footprint, in support of Aichi Target 3 and 4 in particular;

Cooperative and integrated management of natural assets such as watersheds, marine and coastal resources, and soils, including their restoration, across levels of government, and with stakeholders, in support of Aichi Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in particular;

The development of **local and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans** (BSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and updating of existing plans, in alignment with National BSAPs (NBSAPs), in support of Aichi Target 17 in particular;

A strong **scientific foundation** to inform decision-making and strengthen the science-policy interface, and development of a continuing dialogue forum between researchers and practitioners (such as the "Global Research Agenda on Urban Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Design"), in support of Aichi Target 19 in particular;

The mobilisation of, and access to, **financial resources** for local and subnational implementation in support of Aichi Target 20 in particular;

The importance of collaboration, initiatives and partnerships for cities and subnational governments, on global and regional levels, such as the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity and its Advisory Committees of Cities and Subnational Governments, ICLEI's support of the Secretariat of CBD, ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) suite of projects, the Urban Biosphere Initiative (URBIS), Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA Africa), Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Project (URBES), Network of Regional Governments for Sustainability (nrg4Sd), MediverCities Network, European Learning Network for Regions and Biodiversity, Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO), UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Urban Group, and Maritime Innovative Territories International Network (Mitin), amongst others, in support of all of the Aichi Targets especially those under Goal E "Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building";

Recognise the need for support on specific future actions, and urge the Parties to the CBD to continue, or step up efforts, to:

Support and encourage the formulation and implementation of local and subnational biodiversity strategy and action plans, with a clear articulation of their alignment with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

Integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into human well-being, cultural diversity, development, housing, public works, industrial activities, transportation, and other strategies, therefore viewing ecological infrastructure as an opportunity for social and economic development;

Support, and participate in, future local and subnational parallel events at the CBD COP, especially the summit for cities and subnational governments, and consider institutionalising the summit at future CBD COPs as a forum for engagement between local, subnational and national governments, to narrow the gap between decision-making and implementation;

Support and encourage future publications or iterations of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO), and support the implementation of Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, guidelines for compiling local BSAPs, and other international tools for subnational implementation of the CBD;

Assist cities and subnational governments to identify, pilot and apply innovative financing schemes and applications for grants;

Track progress and impact of cities and subnational governments in contributing towards the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity;

Request the Executive Secretary of CBD, to encourage:

Cooperation by other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions with cities and subnational governments through forums such as Habitat III and meetings with their Executive Secretaries;

Uptake of approaches such as the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020) in future decisions to be taken under other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the UNFCCC”;

Inclusion of proposed SDG 11, as well as Target 11.7, to “provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces”, and proposed SDGs 14 and 15, and at the same time urge close linkages between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDG indicators;

Inclusion and consideration of cities and subnational governments in the workplan of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

Thank the hosts, Gangwon Provincial Government and the Republic of Korea, as well as Pyeongchang County, for their leadership and initiative in hosting this important event. Within Gangwon Province, the Demilitarised Zone – which has been untouched for 60 years as a result of the Korean War; as well as Bakdudaegan Mountain Range – which stretches across both South and North Korea; are invaluable ecological assets, and should be recognised and protected for the benefit of all humankind.

2014, 10, 14

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1. Decision IX/28; Decision X/22; Decision XI/8
 2. Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities
 3. Bonn Call for Action
 4. Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity
 5. Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity
 6. Elmqvist et al. 2013
 7. Incheon Declaration URBIO 2014
 8. Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change
 9. Declaration of the French Associations of Local and Regional Authorities for Biodiversity
 10. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

Roadmap

<p>2007 Curitiba, Brazil</p>	<p>Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity • Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity : 1st of its kind 	
<p>2008 Bonn, Germany CBD COP 9</p>	<p>2008 Mayors Conference – Local Action for Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities & Biodiversity – Bonn Call for Action : Making the case for cities for global biodiversity conservation. 	<p>CBD COP 9 Decision IX/28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the key role of local and subnational governments, especially in implementing NBSAPs.
<p>2010 Nagoya, Aichi, Japan CBD COP 10</p>	<p>City Biodiversity Summit 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity • Support of Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 – 2020) 	<p>CBD COP 10 Decision X/22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity • Encouraged Parties to support cities & local authorities.
<p>2012 Hyderabad, India CBD COP 11</p>	<p>Cities for Life, City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities & Local Authorities for Biodiversity. • Support for implementation of Plan of Action. 	<p>CBD COP 11 Decision XI/28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted tangible role of local governments, specifying the need for national support in implementing the Plan of Action 2011–2020.
<p>2014 Gangwon, Korea CBD COP 12</p>	<p>Biodiversity Summit for Cities & Subnational Governments 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution for Cities & Subnational Governments of Biodiversity. • Integrated dialogue across government levels. 	<p>CBD COP 12 Multiple Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Subnational Decision, and 9 other Decisions include reference to subnational governments

Looking ahead

<p>2016 Los Cabos, Mexico CBD COP 13</p>	<p>Biodiversity Summit for Cities & Subnational Governments 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed : Biodiversity Summit for Cities & Subnational Governments 2016 	
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Biodiversity Summit For Cities & Subnational Governments 2014

12–14 October, 2014.

Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea

Symbol Mark

The Symbol Mark originates from B, which stands for Biodiversity. The blue straight line is a symbolization of City, and the growth ring is a symbolization of nature. So, the Symbol Mark means the sustainability with harmony between city and nature. Also, the concentric circle means increasing people's awareness of biodiversity through the Summit.

※ This logo and motive has been introduced by Korean Design Annual 2014.



2014 생물다양성 세계지방정부 정상회의
Biodiversity Summit for Cities & Subnational
Governments 2014



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