

MAYORS CONFERENCE LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

Parallel event to the Conference of the Parties to the UN-CBD
Bonn, Germany, 26-28 May 2008



Mayors Conference 2008 "Local Action for Biodiversity"

Main organizers:





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Introduction

Local Action for Biodiversity to realise the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

"We, the cities, want to take action!" declared Bärbel Dieckmann, the Mayor of Bonn at the end of the 2008 Mayors Conference "Local Action for Biodiversity". More than 140 mayors and senior local representatives from 34 countries came together in May 2008 in Bonn to discuss their local activities on biodiversity while national governments were negotiating further implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the 9th CBD Conference of the Parties (COP 9). The Mayors brought their results to national ministers in the High-level Segment of the COP on 29 May 2008 and declared their readiness to share the global efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity.

Cities and local authorities are the actors most affected by a loss of biodiversity and at the same time the most important actors to implement sustainable solutions. To realize the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) we therefore need "Local Action for Biodiversity". By invitation of Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of the UN-City of Bonn and Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), the Service Agency Communities in One World/ InWEnt and ICLEI - Local Government for Sustainability decided to organize a Mayors Conference on the occasion of the COP 9 in Bonn and therewith continue with the tradition of successful meetings of local representatives on global issues. Local leaders gave a powerful message: "With the mandate of the people in our cities, we want to, need to and intend to make a contri-

tribution to putting an end to the disappearance of biological diversity."

The main conclusions and results from the conference are:

- Biodiversity is more than the protection of endangered species. It serves as the basis for life and sustains the ecosystems that provide indispensable services like fresh water, clean air and food to us every day. It is this social and economical dimension of biodiversity that makes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity so relevant for cities.
- Cities and local governments are highly affected by the loss of biodiversity and at the same time are the most important actors to implement policies towards sustainable biodiversity management.
- Regardless of the level of development or regional background, biodiversity must be integrated into the overall development strategies, especially into urban and social planning, green space management, procurement policies, municipal service provision and public information and awareness raising.
- The local level has assumed the global dimension of "biodiversity": The *Bonn Call for Action* (see page 53) summarises the main reasons why local governments act and their readiness to enter into a global partnership on "Cities and Bio-diversity".
- Cities and local governments are recognised as key actors within the global

Dr. Maria Hohn-Berghorn



Ulrich Nitschke



Monika Zimmermann



strategy and debate. For the first time in history, a Conference of the Parties to a Rio Convention has formally adopted a decision called "Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity" which states that local governments are implementing partners (see page 58).

- Local Action has results to show: Many examples presented in the conference programme and in material compiled for the event demonstrate the already exist-

ing richness and variety of local biodiversity action, as well as success and results.

This publication summarises the rich variety of contributions during the two days of the Mayors Conference as well as the main results of this event. We hope that the readers will find new ideas and motivation in the examples presented in this documentation and join the process towards conservation of biodiversity and sustainable urban development.



Dr. Maria Hohn-Berghorn
*Director International Affairs and
Protocol, City of Bonn*



Ulrich Nitschke
*Head of Service Agency
Communities in One World/
InWEnt*

Monika Zimmermann
*Director ICLEI International
Training Centre & Biodiversity
Taskforce*

Note: due to limited space and to avoid redundancies the individual contributions have been shortened

Welcome Address

by **Sigmar Gabriel**

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

As Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety I would like to warmly welcome all participants in the Mayors Conference »Local Action for Biodiversity« to Bonn and to the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

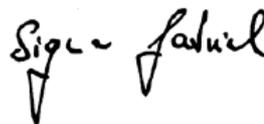
The advancing loss of biological diversity is a threat to the natural foundations of life in cities. At the same time, cities are key partners in implementing strategies through their options for action and influence locally. I am therefore delighted that the City of Bonn, together with the Local Governments for Sustainability network (ICLEI) and the Service Agency Communities in One World, has invited mayors and high-level representatives of cities to discuss options for action at local level.

Mayors' conferences such as this are an important link between local action and global debate. There is a successful tradition of these conferences in Bonn, for example the Conference on »Cities and Desertification« in 1999, the Renewables2004 Conference and the Early Warning Conference in 2006. To see the major importance cities already attach to conserving and sustainably managing biological diversity, we need only look at the

large number of mayors and other high-level representatives that have taken up the invitation to Bonn. They reflect not only the capacity of cities to act locally, but also their willingness to take on a more far-reaching responsibility for biological diversity in the spirit of global sustainable development, as already stated in the Curitiba Declaration in 2007.

On 29 May the »Bonn Call for Action« - one of the main expected outcomes of the Mayors Conference - will be presented at the High-Level Segment of COP 9. And I am sure that the mayors will not voice demands; they will offer valuable support - for which they will need partners at other levels. Cooperation at all levels increases the chances that we can develop - and implement! - the measures we need to reach the 2010 biodiversity target. This target was adopted by the international community in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It prescribes a significant reduction in the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

I am sure that you will make every effort to support this - in your own cities but also in partnerships and networks. I am very pleased about the positive signal this conference is sending!



Sigmar Gabriel



Welcome Address

by **Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul**
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Heidmarie
Wieczorek-Zeul



I wish to extend my warm welcome to you here in the Federal City of Bonn, home to the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and home to several UN organizations working for sustainable development worldwide. It is my pleasure to see the 9th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity augmented by the Mayors Forum »Local Action for Biodiversity«, emphasizing the eminent role of local governments for conserving and managing biodiversity. Without the involvement and an outstanding commitment of the local decision-makers, closest to the citizens and the economy, a successful implementation of international framework conventions is impossible.

Already half of the world's population lives in towns and cities, responsible for 75% of the global resource consumption and thus affecting ecosystems worldwide. Biodiversity is vital for preserving functioning ecosystems that build the basis for a decent urban life. And without the conservation of biodiversity we won't win the fight against poverty. It refers to the most crucial question of development cooperation: justice. Consequently, biodiversity is one of the principal topics of my ministry during this legislative period and has a high priority for me personally. But climate change, pollution, the sealing of land, the loss and cut of habitats and many other factors lead to a growing threat of biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide. We are about to destroy the natural basis of our lives. Germany as a signatory

of the Convention on Biodiversity stands by its commitments and fosters its implementation. Between 1991 and 2006 Germany has invested around US\$ 365 million in biodiversity through the Global Environment Facility. Currently we support 150 projects worldwide, helping our partners with the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the efforts for a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits accruing from the utilization of genetic resources.

Local communities play a special role in those endeavours. They are not only the place where the impact of climate change, the loss of biological diversity, poverty and other challenges are most noticeable. They are also the place where the most knowledge, experience and potential to deal with those challenges come together. Cities translate global challenges into local strategies for sustainable development. They foster potentials for cooperation, networking and the sharing of successful implementation. The Mayors Forum will be a platform that offers a unique opportunity for local decision-makers to get in contact with other local leaders from around the world and discuss, exchange experiences and build new partnerships. Moreover, valuable input will be given to the High Level Segment of the UN conference stressing the need for support and adequate framework conditions for local actions.

Let me give my special regards to the convenor of the Mayor's Conference on Local Ac-

tion for Biodiversity, Lady Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann, and the organizers of this special event, ICLEI and the Service Agency Communities in One World/ InWEnt. I thank all of you participating in the Mayor's Forum and wish you a successful conference with fruitful

discussions and good outcomes. Together we can unfold the full potential for protecting biodiversity or - following the slogan of the host-city of Bonn: Global challenges demand local sustainable solutions!

Keine wir Wiederholungs-Ziel

Opening Address

Bärbel Dieckmann

**Mayor and President of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC)
Bonn, Germany**

"As the Mayor of the City of Bonn I extend a warm welcome to the Mayor's Conference »Local Action for Biodiversity«. Last week the UN Conference on Biodiversity (COP 9) has celebrated its opening with thousands of delegates from all over the world. If you walk around in Bonn these days you will find a positive atmosphere everywhere in the city. There are manifold activities by children, young people, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Governmental Organizations (IGO). You will get an idea of this by the presentations of the Children's and the Youth Summit and during your visit of the Plaza of Diversity.

Thank you, dear colleagues, that you have followed my invitation to participate in this Mayor's Conference on biodiversity so numerous – some 150 participants from 34 nations! Mayor's Conferences have become a tradition here in Bonn, the UN City working towards sustainable development worldwide. In 1999 we hosted the conference on »Cities and Desertification« followed by »Local Renewables« in 2004 and the »International Mayor's Forum on Early Warning« in 2006. Now Mayors and senior local representatives

meet on »Local Action for Biodiversity« in the *Weltsaal* of the German Federal Foreign Office. And this time the local level will have the possibility to raise a voice in the High Level Segment of COP 9.

Built in the 1950ies, the *Weltsaal* served our Foreign Office as the main venue for briefings, conferences and the reception of ambassadors until 1999. Over the decades international policy has been carried out in this hall: reconciliation policy, European integration and since the 1980ies also more and more international environmental policy. And today from here policy is designed for the future of our earth. The UN campus and the new *World Conference Centre Bonn* are a centre of decision-making.

Bonn is devoted to the goals of the 17 Bonn-based UN-organisations and to a sustainable development worldwide. The city's responses to global challenges as climate change or the preservation of biological diversity is awareness-raising and mobilisation, local strategies and action plans in close cooperation and networking with partners worldwide.

Bärbel Dieckmann





A close cooperation with many partners is also the key to the success of Mayor's Conferences. Our partners are international organisations and networks (UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, IUCN, Countdown 2010), the United Nations in Bonn represented by Prof. Janos Bogardi (UNU-EHS) and Halldor Thorgeirsson (UNFCCC) as moderators today, our federal ministries and agencies, networks and development organisations (ICLEI, Service Agency Communities in One World/ InWEnt gGmbH), the GTZ and of course NGOs and partnership associations. My special recognition goes to Monika Zimmermann (ICLEI) and Ulrich Nitschke (Service Agency Communities in One World/ InWEnt gGmbH) for their crucial role in the concept and organisation of this conference.

Looking back on the achievements by past Mayor's Conferences, the voice of the local level becomes louder from conference to conference. In 2006, Mayor Juan del Granado of La Paz spoke to the Early Warning Conference III. At the time, we highlighted the role of cities as partners of national governments and emphasized the potential of the local level for the solution of global environmental problems. We promoted support for local projects and managed to increase the awareness of local concerns and potentials at the international level.

Now cities raise their voice for the preservation of biological diversity. In doing so, will this be enough on a global scale? How does a local authority contribute to the conservation of the rainforest and the payment of fair prices to farmers in developing countries? This means we are to ensure fair procurement in our cities. In order to protect biodiversity within our city borders, sustainable forestry

and the establishment of protected areas are possible answers. How to foster regional products? We can give valuable support by public commissioning and the choice of adequate canteens and catering services. How do we contribute to the reduction of CO₂-emissions and thus to sustainable climate protection? By solar energy in public buildings and the promotion of public transport? How do we ensure that our citizens are aware of the consequences of their daily actions? We are living in the age of cities and urbanization and the local representatives in this room stand for almost 100 million people.

Only when cities commit to manage our natural resources in a thoroughly and sustainable way we are able to preserve biological diversity. We are not impeccable. Rather we demand the first grapes in the market from South Africa and the US\$ 5 T-shirt from Bangladesh. We use cross-country vehicles for the city traffic and in Germany alone we seal 120ha of land every day for the extension of roads, squares and residential areas. Thus it is clear that we have to change our behaviour - let us start today!

Our common goal within this conference is to highlight the commitment of cities for the preservation of biodiversity, including the presentation of exemplary projects and initiatives. In doing so, we should not only celebrate success stories but also deal with critical issues. We aim at the exchange of experiences between local actors and the strengthening of city projects like *Local Action for Biodiversity* (LAB) or networks like the *World Mayor's Council on Climate Change*. We want to encourage much more cities to take action for biodiversity. We want to emphasize the key role cities play in the implementation of

the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and make the voice of the local level be heard in the High Level Segment of COP 9 with a *Bonn Call for Action* which shall be adopted at the end of the mayors conference.

Let me express my gratitude to all moderators and panellists as well as to our financial supporters - the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds from the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature

Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Sparkasse Bonn foundation »Stiftung Internationale Begegnung«. Thank you to those who made this conference possible! Thanks to all of you for coming to Bonn – and I trust that this Mayor's Conference »Local Action for Biodiversity« will be a huge success!"

Following the welcome message by Lady Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann delegations from the International Youth Summit »Go4BioDiv« and the Children's Summit presented their ideas to the plenary. The declarations are available for download at:

<http://www.go4biodiv.org/home/outcomes/declaration/> and
<http://www.kindergipfel.de/ergebnisse/-/> (German version only)

Opening: The many reasons for conserving biodiversity

Introduction and moderation by Janos Bogardi
Director of UN University EHS, Bonn, Germany

Bakary Kante
Director of UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
Nairobi, Kenya

"The world is at crossroads. All signals that nature shows to us are on red. We see ecosystems degrading worldwide and it has become clear that we are facing a severe sustainability crisis. But listening to these children from the Youth Summit »Go4BioDiv« and the Children's Summit gives us new hope because these children have such a good understanding of sustainability and it's indispensable link to education. These children are the future of our world.

But we have to take action here and now to ensure that these children can still take ad-

vantage of their future. Our woods are declining worldwide leading us to a severe forest crisis. Land is degrading and if we don't take actions we will see a significant drop in agricultural production during the next years and a significant loss of natural habitats. To make the fatal changes clear that mankind has provoked in recent history just think of our water resources. Living in the countryside in the past you could easily drink water from the rivers or elsewhere without thinking about it. Today, not even animals are crazy enough to drink water that way.

Input

Bakary Kante



The crucial question is: Are we ready to stop this crisis and change towards a path of sustainable development? And if we are not ready yet, if not now, when? Who is going to

win the fight against this crisis if not the mayors? And if we do not start taking actions at this conference, if not here, where?"

Input

Veerle Vandeweerd

**Director of Environment and Energy Group, UNDP Bureau for Development Policy
New York, USA**

Veerle
Vandeweerd



"At the EU Summit in Göteborg (2001) the national representatives decided that the loss of biodiversity in Europe should be halted until the year 2010. Furthermore, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss should be achieved at the international level until the same year. To achieve this biodiversity target we need the participation of all levels and the key role of urban areas is obvious.

Cities are the engines of change. Cities are the engines of actions. And cities are key actors for environmental stewardship. Around 80% of decisions relating to environmental issues are made on the local level. Cities are the biggest consumers of resources and the biggest producers of waste and noise. But

there are signs that cities are taking actions to change this situation and contribute to sustainable development and especially the conservation of biological diversity. This conference is an important step in this direction and I hope cities will continue with this positive development.

UNDP is strongly supporting actions at the local level. Local action is one of the four pillars in the UNDP plan and we have very successful initiatives at this level. Thus, UNDP welcomes and strongly supports this Mayor's Conference that underlines the immense importance of cities and local communities in the solution of global environmental problems"

Input

Beate Jessel

**President of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Bonn, Germany**

"Cities and conurbations are continuing to grow everywhere in the world. Their growth is one of the main factors jeopardising biodiversity. On the other hand, the wide range of structures supplies habitat and refuge for many animal and plant species. The provision of green structures is also an important factor in shaping the quality of urban life. Urban ecosystems have their own distinct characteristics. Urban biodiversity contributes signifi-

cantly to the quality of life in an increasingly urban global society and is the only biodiversity that many people directly experience. Urban areas are centres of evolution and adaptation; they are complex hotspots and melting pots for biodiversity.

But preservation is not only a matter of quantities such as relative proportions of open green spaces. It is also a matter of qualities, of safeguarding and developing different types of

sites important to species diversity. Furthermore, biodiversity has a socio-economic dimension. Societal, social and cultural qualities also flow from the conservation of biodiversity, especially in urban areas.

For decision making, information and knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem services in urban landscapes are necessary and therefore science becomes a relevant partner for decision makers. Natural sciences have to develop special methods and indicators to pinpoint the hot spots, social sciences have to develop strategies to involve the people in the implementation process. Urban biodiversity professionals have pledged themselves in their Erfurt Declaration last week to support the CBD initiative »Cities and Biodiversity« through sharing their knowledge and commit-

ment through the Erfurt conference and in the future, establishing a global network for education and applied research as well as promoting urban biodiversity through continuing dialogue with the CBD and future COP meetings, linked with a future urban biodiversity network called »urbio«. Dialogues have to be intensified and bridge mechanisms between researchers, planners, policy makers and citizens are to be established.

To be successful we have to bring together knowledge from applied sciences and local decision makers. Conferences like the one in Erfurt last week and the Mayors Forum today are a good start to raise greater awareness and encourage further research. We have to take action now."

Beate Jessel



Opening: Action is needed on all levels - local governments act

Introduction and moderation by Janos Bogardi
Director UN University EHS, Bonn, Germany

Carlos Alberto Richa
Mayor of Curitiba, Brazil

"One year after hosting COP 8, Curitiba had the honour of hosting the meeting of »Cities and Biodiversity«. The results of these meetings have already started to appear in many places around the world. By holding these meetings the Convention on Biological Diversity created space for the indispensable participation of cities in this debate, one of the most important of our times.

In his book »The Natural Contract« the French philosopher Michel Serres refers to a painting by Francisco de Goya to draw a picture of contemporary men. In this painting two enemies fight against each other with sticks,

both plunged knee-deep into quicksand. The more they attack each other, the more the fighters sink. Both are dying, defeated by the scenario of their battle. The swamp painted by de Goya may have been but a local landscape then. Today it has become a global scenario - the planet earth. No one is outside the scenario. No righteous person can any longer support being a passive spectator of the absurd history of violence we are experiencing: Violence of human beings against human beings, against all other forms of life - against their very own nature.

Input

Carlos Alberto Richa



Fortunately, some signs can be seen at the horizon that the time has come to put down all weapons that threaten life. No one is entitled to abandon this fight, much less cities - the scenario where the lives of the majority of mankind is played out. It's with renewed hope therefore, that today we can see: cities are definitively involved into the discussion of global biodiversity. Actions that maintain biodiversity are in their vast majority put into practice through the work of local administrations. Thus, the success of environmental strategies and policies for regions, countries and for the entire globe depend largely on urban experiences in ecosystem preservation and protection of biodiversity. The Curitiba Conference stimulated the exchange of these experiences among cities, promoted cooperation among municipal leaders in different countries towards meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Many municipal leaders have started to integrate biodiversity issues into urban planning and actions are developed in their cities.

In Curitiba we launched the urban biodiversity program BIOCITY. It seeks to reduce losses in biodiversity by putting into practice innovative actions which refine and promote an important leap in quality in every area of the municipal administration. Together with spe-

cific projects like the re-introduction of indigenous plant species in the urban space, the eradication of exotic invasive species and environmental education, BIOCITY revitalizes rivers and contributes towards creating clean circulation and transport alternatives. The good results that are achieved by the BIOCITY program are largely owed to the implementation of other recommendations stressed during the Curitiba conference, in particular the technical and scientific support from the public administration, private initiatives and NGOs. It was this partnership that brought together the best specialist in different areas around the objectives of the program and contributed to gaining the support of the population in the task of recovering and preserving biodiversity.

We have to continually denounce the behaviour of unaware societies that still display a blindness similar to that of the fighters in the painting by de Goya. The cities in the world need to collaborate to put an end to the suicidal war between man and earth and to start transforming the messages of the Curitiba Conference into action. If every public administrator in the world believed in this message we could rest assured that the planets diversity of life will win in the end."

Input

David Cadman

President of ICLEI and City Councillor of Vancouver, Canada

"Local action changes the world. In fact, I believe that it's the only thing that will ever do so. We see nation states get together and sign agreements but then there seems to be a great pause, a hesitation in the implementation of those.

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is a five step process that seeks first of all to assess. Local governments complete biodiversity reports that assess the current state of biodiversity and its management Secondly, local councils have to express their commitment by signing the Durban Commitment on Urban

Biodiversity. Thirdly, local governments and stakeholders compile long term local biodiversity strategies and action plans. After compiling these plans that set out achievable goals, the fourth step is to get local councils to sign a commitment to implement their long-term local biodiversity strategy and action plans. Finally, local governments launch at least five new on-the-ground biodiversity initiatives in their jurisdiction. ICLEI on its part commits to support the project cities in their local work, to facilitate lesson sharing, to produce good practise biodiversity case examples, to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity, profile and promote the importance of urban biodiversity, raise the status of local government's management of biodiversity and lead the way for the next generation of participating cities. Currently, there are 21 cities that have signed on and we hope that in the next phase there will be many, many more.

Local governments are the canaries in the coalmine. We see what's happening locally and can make changes way before national governments understand that that's happening. Vancouver is a major trading port and a lot of ships come from all over the world. But with those ships come vectors and insects. We have a huge problem in our province right now with a beetle infestation. It came ashore in Vancouver, it wasn't dealt with sufficiently at an early stage - though we identified it - and now an area the size of France is standing with dead trees. We know that had we acted early enough, we could have prevented this. We were the canaries, we rang the alarm and national governments didn't act, didn't cooperate, didn't come on board and as a consequence we now have devastation in our prov-

ince and well beyond. Another example of insects that are coming as a result of climate change is the West Nile virus. It is now in every other province in Canada and in most states of the United States so we have to figure out how to deal with the West Nile mosquitoes without devastating the rest of the insect biodiversity. We are working together with environmental organizations to find ways with soap on water that can kill the mosquitoes in the water without requiring aerial spraying which is what the first response was.

There are also some other good news stories. The humpback whale that was reduced to between 1.500 and 2.000 is now up to 20.000. That occurred because a small group of people got together in Vancouver and founded an organization called Greenpeace, which has now gone global. Local actions *do* move the world. Thus, what I want to say to this COP 9 conference is that normally local governments are to do an awful lot without the commitment of national and regional resources. In Canada cities have 8 cents of the tax dollar, provinces 42 and national governments 50 cents of the tax dollar. But 80% of Canadians live in urban areas. We need to change this relationship if cities are going to fulfil their full potential. We can do it - we know that we can do it! But we can't be asked to do it and then be told »Figure out how to do it from your 8 cents«. Let me close with a statement from a 12 years old South African who died of HIV/AIDS: »We have to do all that we can, with all that we have, in the place where we are, in the time that we have«. That is our calling as people, as cities, at this point in the 21st century. The future will depend on what *we* do *now*."

David Cadman



William Jackson
Deputy Director General IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

William Jackson



"The current rate of loss of species is about 1000 times the normal background extinction rate. Species and ecosystems provide a range of ecosystem goods and services that our economies and societies depend on: they provide food and fibre, pollination of crops, filtering of air and water, regulation of diseases and natural disasters and a range of cultural services. But worldwide around 60% of ecosystem services are degraded or in decline. Much of this decline has occurred in the past 50 years with no real sign of improvement in spite of substantial efforts made nationally and internationally. I am sure that if 60% of the services your local government provides to your city were in decline citizens would not accept it. We need to realize that patterns of production, consumption, transport and waste management are beyond the capacity of the Earth to sustain. Cities have an opportunity to lead the change towards a more sustainable future.

A key challenge facing cities is climate change. It not only poses a direct risk to cities through inundation of coastal cities by rising sea levels or the effect of extreme and unpredictable weather events. It will, however, have also a much deeper and more insidious effect through changes to ecosystem goods and services, in particular to city water supply and to food productivity. Climate change, environmental degradation and human well-being are all linked and must be dealt with together

if we are to find a realistic solution to global warming. The good news is that many cities are taking steps to address climate change by improving energy efficiency, decreasing dependency on fossil fuels and by developing and implementing biodiversity action plans. To effectively address the linkages between cities and biodiversity one needs to look at issues that are location specific as well as the ecological footprint of the city. Location specific issues are progressively being addressed by cities around the world, including through the establishment of urban parks, land-use planning, watershed management planning, decreasing energy use and reducing carbon footprints, more effective waste management and through the involvement of local citizens. One area that needs more attention is the cities' infrastructure. A great deal of infrastructure managed by cities needs to be renovated or replaced every 30 to 50 years. This provides an opportunity to ensure that such replacement and renewal is environmentally sustainable.

Many cities have taken steps to address ecological footprints including by raising consumer awareness about the impact of consumer choice on production and transport of goods and materials etc. But more needs to be done. Developing a biodiversity action plan is an important first step for cities to move towards a more sustainable future."

Gerald Tremblay
Mayor of Montréal, Canada

"Cities are important. They are essential partners that cannot be left aside, especially when talking about the challenges of our future. And when talking about the future we have to consider the wishes and needs of our children. Now, the children just challenged us to stop talking and finally make some decisions about the future. Decisions that are not solely based on economic interest but take into account the ecological challenges we face on our way to a sustainable development worldwide. The young people made very clear that we are talking too much and taking to little action. Thus, can we expect anything from this conference? Let may assure you that I have very high expectations. This Mayor's Conference not only offers the mayors a panel for mutual exchange and for showcasing their good case practises and successful implementations. What is more, it offers the unique opportunity for five mayors to speak 15min before the heads of state and government. Each of these mayors has the opportunity to speak 3min before the national representatives who take the pivotal decisions. We have 3min each to tell them what we think and what we otherwise mostly discuss only among ourselves. We can tell them that cities are key actors and that we are indispensable. We can point out that we achieve great things. And we can make clear that they need us.

The heads of state and government are the ones who make the crucial decisions but if it comes to problems we, the cities, are the ones to be held responsible for the solution of the problems. In 2000 the heads of state and government decided to combat poverty, hunger and diseases worldwide. They set up the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). But who is responsible for their implementation? In 2005 not even one country was investing sufficiently to achieve these goals and in 2015 the national representatives will bring forth the same excuses like before. The children would say that the heads of government talk but take no action. Cities do. We have to take advantage of these 15min to stress that cities are already active in many ways and are taking a leading role in the implementation of the MDGs, for example in the strife for universal primary education. For the first time cities were given a political role, a responsibility by the then Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan in New York in 2005.

To secure world peace we need respect towards all kinds of living creatures. And we need justice in the distribution of available resources. The heads of state and government have committed themselves to spend 0.7% of their GDP on Official Development Assistance (ODA). Until today the governments are far away from complying with this goal. Imagine what cities could do with money, this US\$ 100 billion of ODA. Imagine what we could do for biodiversity or realizing the MDGs! Are we ready - as individuals or collective - to initiate changes in our actions and our mentality? Are we ready to find new solutions? Are we ready to create continuing richness? Are we ready to distribute resources in a better way?

I want to appeal to the heads of state and government that they stop spending money for things that are unsustainable and to stop taking decisions that pertain to cities. It's not

Gerald Tremblay



our responsibility to be blamed for everything. I came to Bonn for this 15min to tell them what to do. To tell them that it's time now to

realize what we said in Bonn: »One nature, one world, our future«.

Input

Bärbel Dieckmann

President of the WMCCC and Mayor of Bonn, Germany

"Cities offer their partnership for biodiversity. They offer it, because there won't be a solution without cities. Cities are not that kind of partners to kindly give some money to, but part of the solution of the problem. Without the local level, national governments never will achieve those solutions. There are many reasons to involve us cities: we are competent, we face daily challenges, we have a close connection to the people, we can build on structures and networks and we have the potential to realize synergies. We know that we are *concerned, affected or even threatened* by the problems, but we also know that we are able and willing to solve the problems.

Therefore the *Bonn Call for Action* urges to combine all powers that can collaborate to make a change in this world. We need the cooperation of all levels - not in hierarchical top-down structures, but together and on equal footing. Without close collaboration we won't find solutions. I quote my pre-speakers:

We bear responsibility for the future of our planet and the future of human beings. And this is exactly what the *Bonn Call for Action* emphasizes.

I wished that my distinguished colleague Tremblay would bring forward our message to the High Level Segment the way he did it today. It would be interesting to see the reactions of the national representatives. What if with a pronounced demand we could break away from the current situation that treats cities as minor partners. Despite Mayor Tremblays passionate speech I am glad to see that the voice of cities is heard, that there is a *Bonn Call for Action*. Since I assumed my office as the Mayor of Bonn 14 years ago conditions have changed. At that time the UN did not listen to cities, neither did the national representatives. Both has become quite natural today and we should pursue this path here in Bonn."

Bärbel Dieckmann



Input

Halvdan Skard

President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRAE), Strasbourg, France

This message was kindly submitted by Mr. Halvdan Skard before the conference. Due to other important obligations he unfortunately could not attend the Mayors Conference in Bonn.

"The *Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe* warmly welcomes this initiative. This conference puts urban biodiversity high on the international political agenda. Long before the word »biodiversity« entered into current usage, the Council of Europe took the lead in 1979 at pan-

European level with the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. This binding international legal instrument covers the entire natural heritage of the European continent and some States of Africa, and now has 45 contracting parties including the European Commission.

The Congress believes that the global environmental crisis takes on specific forms in urban areas and calls for resolute action on urban ecology. Biodiversity is not confined to the countryside and protected natural areas, but should also be a thriving reality in urban areas. Local authorities have a duty to take a proactive role. With this in mind, we have drafted recommendations calling for forceful action on the part of local authorities to protect and extend urban biodiversity. We believe that local authorities already have the necessary remit and political levers at their disposal to

have a real impact on reversing biodiversity loss.

The relevant international texts on biodiversity should reflect the growing importance of biodiversity in urban areas and should take into account the role of local and regional authorities in reaching the 2010 biodiversity objectives. I would like to confirm that the Congress is inviting local and regional authorities throughout Europe to join in and support the *Bonn Call for Action*."

Halvdan Skard



Panel 1: Biodiversity - a matter of life

Introduction and moderation by Halldor Thorgeirsson

Director of the Bali Road Map Support, UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn, Germany

Biodiversity is a matter of sustenance of all life on earth. It represents our future existence and our quality of life. Urban areas are very much dependent on intact ecosystems and the services they offer. However, biodiversity is threatened from global factors such as climate change, desertification, human consumption and poverty, and also through more local factors such as urban sprawl, sealing of land and growing urbanisation. Biodiversity conservation efforts aid in alleviating all of these issues. There is a global mandate for all layers of society to act – however it is the heavily concentrated urban areas of the world that have a key role in biodiversity's future.

Thomas Elmqvist

Professor at the Department of Systems Ecology, Stockholm University, Coordinator of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

"Today 25% of the world's protected areas are within 17km of an urban area. In 10 years it will be 15km - a development that really underlines that cities have to be involved into the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Urban sprawl is rapidly transforming and endangering critical habitats of global value in

particular in the Atlantic Forest Region of Brazil, the Cape of South Africa and the coastal Central America. Urbanization is also viewed as a driving force for increased homogenization of fauna and flora, i.e. that cities are often an entry point for the introduction of a species from one continent to another. Consequently, in the Northern Hemisphere the Fauna and Flora of cities tend to become more and more

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similar, also within tropical countries. We are getting a sort of a global flora and fauna which we need to monitor and understand.

But cities may also be very rich in biodiversity and a remarkable amount of native species diversity is known to exist in and around large cities such as Singapore, Canberra, Rio de Janeiro, Chicago, Berlin, New Delhi and Stockholm. Take the example of Chicago: 95 % of native species occur in Metropolitan Chicago, i.e. the city and urban landscapes are a repository of valuable native diversity which has disappeared in the agricultural landscape outside. Stockholm created the first national urban park in the world. Studies have shown that no other area in Sweden of the same size has a similar high species richness. Consequently, my 1st message is that many cities are very rich in biodiversity. This is another reason why cities should be engaged.

Moving from understanding biodiversity to ecosystem services in urban landscapes means we are now moving towards understanding the role of biodiversity for human wellbeing. There are many ecosystem services which we just partly understand or have started to investigate. Hydrologic services, recreation and other cultural services, noise reduction, air cleaning, carbon sequestration etc. Just to give you a few examples: In the Stockholm area 40% of the CO₂-emissions from traffic are assimilated by the green areas in Stockholm County. Parks may reduce air pollution up to 85% and a recent study shows that doubling the number of street trees results in a 25% reduction of asthma among children. It is important to consider that very small areas, even individual trees, may generate high values. There is an estimate from London where one single tree is estimated to

have a value of EUR 1 million if you combine all the values. In the urban social-ecological atlas project in Stockholm we map biodiversity and bundles of ecosystem services. We map property rights and access to these services and build scenarios. For example, we identified hotspots with high social and ecological value and marked them on a map of Stockholm. These maps can be valuable in urban planning as you can identify areas, which are important to the citizens as well as areas where there is a great need for restoration, both from an ecological point of view and a social point of view. My 2nd message therefore is that there are often strong links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being and we need more research to understand these linkages and how we could manage them.

The world is changing very fast. Urban landscapes everywhere are changing faster than we can understand the diverse forces that are conditioning these changes. For a sustainable future in urban landscapes we need a much deeper understanding of environmental change and innovations for sustaining ecosystem services crucial for human well-being. To meet all these challenges, we need to create new arenas for generating knowledge. We need to stretch out the hand to all sectors of society and create urban knowledge arenas to incorporate all sources of knowledge and understanding we have about urban landscapes, including scientific knowledge but also tacit knowledge, resided in people living in cities. We also need arenas for creating knowledge and efficient means for communicating and transferring it. Urban areas around the world will lead the innovation. Cities are hubs for human and financial capital and offer large opportunities for innovative experiments with

Thomas Elmqvist



the restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Plants and animals have already been exposed for a long time to a kind of selection similar to that which we expect from climate change and there has been an adaptation going on for some time. We can learn from that. Cities harbour a lot of novel species with important functions that we could use in the future. But we need to do a lot of experiments to learn. There is a lot of scope for so-

Josef H. Reichholf

The Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, Munich, Germany

In Bonn you can find an above average number of species within the city in comparison to the surrounding area. Why are cities, especially in the Central European region so attractive to many species? If we contemplate the appearance of a city, let's say Berlin, from a bird's eye view, we see a combination of land covered with buildings, more or less forest-like structures (parks and real forests) but also lakes and rivers with a multitude of other small-scale habitats contained in it. As we heard before about Stockholm, the growth of a city does not mean a decline in bird species but rather a rising diversity. This holds true for Berlin as well. The biggest city of Germany also offers the highest proportion of bird species compared to the overall number of bird species indigenous to Germany. Some species like the nightingale live there in that numerous populations that you could also call Berlin the »Capital of Nightingales«. With more than 1.000 breeding pairs there are more nightingales in Berlin than in the entire region of Bavaria with an area of 70.000km².

How can we explain that? If we take a closer look at the structure of cities we will find a structural richness in general. Moreover, this

cial innovation in cities building innovative management and governance schemes, for example urban commons, where you bring different stakeholders together to manage and govern urban green areas. Thus, my 3rd message is that there is an urgent need to build urban knowledge arenas and to look out for opportunities to create synergies between the different networks."

structural richness of buildings and open spaces is combined with green areas with low levels of nutrient input. Though from the utilisation point of view they appear rather inappropriate these conditions are very favourable to the development of urban biodiversity. The structural richness of some parts of urban areas, for example in Munich, even leads to the appearance from an aerial view as a tree population with low density and some intermediate rocks.

But within the cities of Central Europe there are not only species that are common and widespread and thus of less interest for the protection of species; rather you can find very well some of the so called flagship species within those cities. The Peregrine Falcon, for example, considered as a particularly endangered species some decades ago, comes across the safest breeding area within cities. No climbers will disturb the broods at the Cologne Cathedral or at other churches and cathedrals, as well as at the towers of power and heat supply stations. As breeding areas these places are safer than anywhere else in the countryside. This holds true for Eagle Owls and many other bird species, too. The

Input

Josef H.
Reichholf



difference between urban areas and the countryside will become even clearer as we consider other species and different urban districts. According to our studies the inner city of Munich with 120 butterfly species shows a way higher diversity than the agricultural land in the surroundings. Gardens and parks are well above average and certain urban districts could easily compete with the species diversity in natural protected areas. This should make us think and consider these areas as what they are: highly valuable to conserve biodiversity.

What are the reasons for these conditions? If we look at Central European circumstances we see that wide areas of land are highly over-fertilised. This eutrophication, especially with nitrogen compounds, cools down and humidifies the ground-level area leading to a decrease or even complete disappearance of thermophile species in the countryside while in cities they are able to survive or even in-

crease in population. If we look at a map showing the degree of over-fertilisation, the degree of fertilisation per hectare per year, Berlin is shown as a green island with a low amount of kilogram nitrogen per hectare per year. In Munich or Cologne/ Bonn we find similar conditions while the big agricultural areas are heavily burdened with 150-200kg nitrogen per hectare per year on average. To a great extent this eutrophication accounts for a loss in biodiversity of plants, insects and other animal species.

To conclude, cities in Central Europe account for around 10% of the land, almost 10 times the size of our natural protected areas. The potential of cities deserves increased attention. Open Spaces within the city should not be merely contemplated as expected land for building in the future but as part of the special quality of life in cities - also for human beings, not only for animals and plants."

Comment

S. Nana Ato Arthur
Regional Minister of Cape Coast, Ghana

S. Nana
Ato Arthur



"Central Region is one of the ten administrative regions of Ghana. The capital is Cape Coast, with a population of 1.7 million and a land area of 9830km². The region has 14 major coastal wetlands - ecosystems whose formation has been dominated by water, whose processes and characteristics are largely controlled by water and have developed specially adapted vegetation and other organisms. Coastal wetlands in the Central Region are mainly found in river estuaries and lagoons.

What are the threats to our Coastal Wetlands? We face a high population growth rate of about 3% and consequently a rapid urbani-

zation. As a result we are reclaiming the Coastal Wetlands for housing and development. Another threat is the declining observance of cultural beliefs and taboos as a result of western education and Christianity. We are dumping waste from garages, saw millers and homes, particularly into the Fosu Lagoon in Cape Coast. Of course, as a result of tourism development a lot of species now are useful for hotels and as tourist attractions. Additionally, the Coastal Wetlands is also the place where we are mining salt and agricultural expansion also takes place there. A further problem is the low environmental concern of the people's attitudes towards water bodies.

The wetland management is ineffective, as we can suppose from »the tragedy of the commons«, nobody owns the wetlands and anybody can do anything with it.

We try to do more to raise environmental awareness through the media, educational institutions, traditional authorities and other stakeholders. The Fosu Lagoon needs to be dredged in order to resuscitate the Coastal Wetlands. We need to redirect the metropolitan waste from our lagoons. Local governments have to enforce byelaws to encourage people not to develop in wetlands. As a way

Jairaj M. Phatak
Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai, India

Mumbai has now 14 million people, it is the eighth-biggest city and the population is still growing. By 2020 we are expected to become the second-most populous city in the world with a population of around 26 million. Unlike any other city, these 14 million people are located within an area of about 480km² leading to a population density of almost 30.000 people per km² - the highest in the world.

In the suburbs of Mumbai there are three lakes and population is growing on both sides. The Pawai Lake used to be the main source of water supply. The Tulsi Lake is all surrounded by forest area but this is all handled by the Forest Department of the State Government and not by the City Corporation. Only the inhabited portions on both sides are in the Municipal Corporation. The areas around the lakes form the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, which the Forest Department guards very zealously. There is a Forest Conservation Act not allowing the change from forest to non-

forward we need to encourage more stakeholder participation and establish partnerships and cooperation among local governments to share best practices. We are especially looking forward to the partnership between the Central Region of Ghana and North-Rhine Westphalia and the Cape Coast - Bonn sister cities partnership. Urban biodiversity is a major concern to us in Ghana and despite all our efforts we welcome support from development partners to the Central Region in order to protect our coastal wetlands and thereby sustaining biodiversity."

forest use. The Park is a biodiversity hotspot with more than 1.000 species of plants, 150 species of butterflies, 50 species of herpetofauna - reptiles -, 300 species of birds and 40 species of mammals. The conflict comes as residential population is coming into forest areas. Also wild animals like leopards attack the residential population and sometimes get killed by them in return. But nevertheless there are 18 million trees and we are having competitions now for greenest localities and greenest schools. Mangroves protection has also been ordered by the High Court.

But biodiversity per se can not be given the same high priority which is given elsewhere because the basic needs of many citizens are not yet fulfilled. I have an elected body of 227 elected corporators, each of whom represents 50.000 citizens. In our corporation debates the problem of biodiversity is hardly ever mentioned. Apart from that India is a federal country. We have the government of India, we

Comment

Jairaj M. Phatak



have the government of Maharashtra, the state government, and we have the city government. Police, transport and pollution control are subjects of the state government and are thus often not discussed at the city level.

Finally, when environmentalists and NGOs call me about the need for open spaces I bluntly tell them that it is my priority number 13. When the corporation was elected, a newspaper carried out a survey of what the citizens expect from the new city government: 86% wanted road repairs and paving, 83% better medical facilities, 78% improved garbage collection, 76% cleaner and not clogged

drains and sewerage, 75% clean water supplies to suburbs, 73% general cleanliness to prevent diseases, 71% a 24 hours water supply, 69% faster disaster management, 64% greater transparency in administration, 59% greater transparency in fund utilization. At number 11: 53% wanted more trees, which we plant through a tree authority. And 50% wanted more open spaces, priority number 13. I nevertheless give attention to it, but ultimately answerable to the elected corporators, I have to look after their immediate needs and demands which are apparently more for roads, hospitals, waste collection etc."

Comment

Juan del Granado Cosio
Mayor of La Paz, Bolivia

"When Lady Mayor Dieckmann invited me for this event while visiting La Paz last year I told her about one difficulty: Today, the 27th of May, we celebrate Mother's Day in Bolivia. But soon I realized that we are going to talk about the mother of all of us there: Mother Earth or *Pachamama*, like our Native People say in Bolivia.

Juan del Granado Cosio



There is no doubt that Mother Earth is suffering today from severe problems related to climate change which affects the basic services of my city, its infrastructure and its municipal services. La Paz lies in a broad canyon at an average altitude of 3.600m above sea level. We have more than 300 rivers and creeks, canyons and ravines, which all turn into enormous channels of water in the case of rain. Recent climate change has led to an increase in hydrological phenomena like the increase in precipitation, both concerning intensity and its prolongation. In former times the raining seasons lasted no longer than two

months. Today we have rain during five or six month each year, leading to serious problems, especially flooding. Along our watercourses there are four basins and around 300 affluents that naturally overflow if they don't have adequate hydraulic systems. Sometimes even the hydraulic systems themselves are affected by the growth of the rivers. The flooding is accompanied by hail leading to a sudden increase of the water current together with a large amount of materials, glass and earth. But, what is more, the geological structure itself - created by the hydrology of the rivers - causes severe problems of landslides in densely populated areas where at least 40 - 50% of the population live.

One of the main investments we realize in the city relates to the protection against risks, which means protecting the life of our citizens, their belongings, their dwellings, urban infrastructure and biodiversity. We are especially active in the protection of our rivers with in-

vestments of more than US\$ 40 million. Keep in mind that our whole budget is no more than US\$ 100 million. We have spent an important share of our budget to hydrological systems and worked on Early Warning Systems, collaborating with the City of Bonn, and civic education. But one of the most important measures is the forestation of our basins and river banks. Apart from the establishment of 27 Municipal Protected Areas we constructed our Urban Central Park, which is not only supposed to be a place of public recreation but also to generate more species and protect biodiversity.

We are trying to fulfil the mandate and obligation that every son has with his mother, in this

Ali Ould Sidi
Chief of Cultural Mission, Timbuktu, Mali

"Timbuktu is situated in the north of Mali, between the coast and the Sahara desert. This special geographical location has made Timbuktu a city at the crossroads of regional trade - salt from the north, gold from the south - and between the 14th and 16th century Timbuktu was considered a cultural, intellectual and spiritual capital of the region with its renowned Sankoré University and the three great mosques. Thus, the city has always been open to external influences and maintained partnerships especially with Europe.

Nowadays we face serious threats, above all from droughts. The long term consequences of these droughts we face are sand filling and desertification. And this advancement of the desert is also threatening our cultural assets. The sanding up is especially perceivable at our famous Sankoré Mosque, where only around 30cm of the door lintel can be seen on

case with our Mother Earth. The challenge is huge because the resources are insufficient. Like every local government we have to account for a whole range of necessities of our community, necessities more urgent in daily life in the opinion of the people: health, education, basic infrastructure. But we did not lose sight of the strategic character that the protection of the environment and biodiversity has. Thus, on this Mother's Day, I want to close with a quotation of a former president of my country, which we should bear in mind while dealing with ecosystems and biodiversity: »God always forgives. Man sometimes. Nature never.«"

the eastern side - the rest is buried in sand. The advancement of the desert is estimated to be around 20cm every year. Hence the fight against its further advancement has the highest priority for us and together with the national government we devised several plans. Our goals are to establish a methodology for intervention concerning the protection of land from sand filling and wind erosion, to provide a basis for a sustainable use of our natural forest resources, to educate our national staff accordingly and to elaborate a scheme for the fight against sand filling. Together with the national government, with inclusion of civil society participation at the community level and with funds of the European Union we have implemented a series of measures to achieve those goals.

So far we managed to remove the sand from our mosque and to construct a stonewall

Comment

Ali Ould Sidi



around the building. We furthermore established a buffer area to protect our mosque from further sand filling and also from traffic

noise nearby. I'm confident that we will be able to stop the further advancement of the dune that has piled up around Timbuktu."

Comment

Takehisa Matsubara
Mayor of Nagoya, Japan

"As we heard before, cities occupy only 2% of the world's surface area but consume 75% of the resources worldwide. Consequently, cities are sometimes called parasites. Until today we are mainly concerned in profit maximizing. For the future we have to put the protection of our environment into the centre of our considerations.

is indispensable to change our lifestyles. Between 1999 and 2006 we already managed to decrease the amount of our garbage by 30% and at the same time the amount of recyclables increased 2.5 fold. This was possible because of the joint efforts of residents, companies and the city government. But it was limited to garbage reduction. What we need is a complete change of lifestyles though. The City of Nagoya took actions to raise awareness about nature and biological diversity. We appealed to our 2.2 million citizens to adopt a more ecological lifestyle in order to preserve limited natural resources, help prevent global warming and create a better living environment for future generations. Until now 350.000 citizens have already signed the agreement and we expect more to follow. Some suggestions for a more ecological lifestyle are the reuse of water within the family or a slow start with your car after a traffic light. These are simple steps but if we all do it we can have a real impact."

Takehisa
Matsubara



Our neglect of environmental protection can easily be noticed in our daily lives now. In Japan, for example, we eat a lot of eel and algae. Last year 1kg of eel used to cost ¥ 170.000; meanwhile the price has gone up to ¥ 240.000, a 40% increase. Why? Eel breeding is difficult and we witness extensive overfishing. Our forests are also affected by the past negligence of nature: they suffer from lead pollution. Our soil quality is very low in some areas and there are many other examples that make clear: We cannot continue that way. We have to find a compromise between what human beings want and what nature wants. We have to find a path for peaceful coexistence of man and nature. Therefore, it

Discussion

Yasmin, *Local Municipal Corporation, Pune, India*, noticed that the list of priorities, set out by people and mentioned by the Commissioner of Mumbai is not directly linked to biodiversity and ecosystems but has some important elements of it inherent. Because the people don't see these links yet the Commissioner should

endeavour to explain those connections to them. Mr. Phatak expressed his doubts about a connection between road repairs, better medical facilities and biodiversity. Yasmin insisted on the existence of such a link and explained her fear that we loose the big picture if we don't realize it.

Brent Butler, *State of Washington, USA*, noticed that one of the challenges communities may have is that there might be a lot of action at the local level but not much at the federal level. He shared his experience that some state actions such as the designation of na-

ture conservation areas serve as a model. The challenge though is to multiply to other communities. Brand Pater expressed his gratitude about some examples he heard during the day and which he is eager to implement in his country.

Panel 2: Urban ecosystem services, economic value and human well-being

Introduction and moderation by Christine Alfsen

Senior Programme Specialist for Sciences, UNESCO, New York, USA

Biodiversity offers multiple benefits to society. These include economic benefits like filtering water and buffering storm damage, or social benefits like a higher quality of life. Losing biodiversity is very expensive and can be more expensive than protecting biodiversity in the first place. Biodiversity is not only key to environmental issues and goals, but relates to the security and poverty alleviation aims laid out in the Millennium Development Goals.

Marco Keiner

Chief of Urban Environment Section, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya

"We've heard about urbanization as one of the main challenges to urban biodiversity. Because the urban population in developing countries will increase tremendously in the coming decades urban poverty is an important issue and the loss of biodiversity is closely interlinked with it. So one path to what a solution could or should be is to alleviate urban poverty.

Another challenge for biodiversity is climate change which may influence the pattern of flora and fauna. Invasive species will have new space to come and to push traditional species away. Regions in Africa that are already dry will get dryer and dryer, accompanied by a further loss of biodiversity. In some parts of Africa, however, we will have more rainfall, also influencing the structure and the

patterns of biodiversity. Another issue of climate change is sea level rise. One meter of sea level rise in Egypt will have a severe impact on marshlands, lagoons etc. In Florida the Everglades, a hotspot for biodiversity worldwide, will most probably completely change. Tropical cyclones that lead to flooding and heavy storms can influence the composition of species, fauna and flora. They can destroy living spaces once for all. If tropical cyclones will increase in future and be more intense then also biodiversity and habitats will be threatened.

We might say: »In big cities there is no space for biodiversity!« But even in a big city like New York, we have some nice niches and parks though they are not enough netted. But

Input

Marco Keiner



is it enough just to have parks and gardens? Green is not automatically biodiversity.

Poverty is linked to biodiversity loss, we have waste problems. A lot of other problems linked to the developing world are detrimental to bio-

diversity. But even in such a situation there are potentials we have to see. We should discover in developing cities where the potentials are and how to strengthen them."

Input

Pushpam Kumar

Study on the cost of loss of biodiversity, University of Liverpool, Great Britain

"Last year the Federal Ministry of Germany and the European Commission constituted a group of experts from all over the world. This initiative was called *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (TEEB). TEEB's goals are to mainstream the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity in the decision-making process, to address the needs of the »end-users« of these economics (i.e. policy-makers, local administrators, corporations and citizens), to review extensively the current state of related science and economics and to arrive at some conclusive evidence about what should be recommended as a valuation framework and methodology. The different components of this study, lead by different members of the study group are a synthesis of the evidence, a scoping science study, the COPI report (»The Cost of Policy Inaction«), a forest biodiversity valuation, the European Wetlands Study and the COP 9 or Interim Report.

areas which are far away from cities. But decision-makers and politicians often don't realize what kind of ecological foot print they are inflicting somewhere else.

The ecosystem approach has widely been accepted as a useful framework to analyse, understand and also design policies for sustainable land use planning. It typically helps in addressing the issue of urban poverty and brings the linkages of changes in the character of urban footprint and livelihood options for the poor people. With growing trade and direct investment (largely located in urban areas), the trans-border flow of goods, services, people, information, etc. has increased the urban »ecological footprint« and some of these factors operate as drivers of change in ecosystem services and biodiversity in peri-urban areas. Without addressing these drivers through valuation and other decision making tools, the design and execution of policies for good city planning might be very difficult.

Urban ecosystems, managing its services and its constituents like the capacity of the land area to mitigate or absorb waste are real problem areas. One of the reasons for this is the very fast growth pattern since 1800. The problem is that unlike other ecosystems the consumption and produce of the people in densely populated urban ecosystems has a very strong bearing in the peri-urban area,

In TEEB there are three components: ecology, valuation and discounting. How do we go from ecology to economics? We are mapping changes from biodiversity and ecosystems to economic values, starting from land use change to the corresponding changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services and to its economic value. If we don't act, how much do we lose and if we act what are the corre-

Pushpam Kumar



sponding costs and benefits? Our study intends to estimate these questions until the final report in 2012. Development Projects have a tangible present value. But what is a stream of biodiversity benefits worth today? The monetary approach is not the only approach but it helps in case of trade-offs, conflicting goals and competing resource demands. There are a lot of examples like the Global Biodiversity Assessment 1995 or the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment from 2005. They show that there are different types of values that *can be* but presently *are not* captured. But unless they are not captured and then included in the decision-making process we are far away from sound and green policies.

Valuation can help in creating and sustaining new types of markets or market-based in-

Stephen Kabuye

Chairman of Lake Victoria Municipalities, Vice-President of ICLEI, Mayor of Entebbe, Uganda

"Lake Victoria is the second-largest freshwater body in the world with a total surface area of 68.000 km². Its catchment includes swamps and wetlands which differ a great deal from each other and form the lake itself. These geographical and physical features make the lake shore region abound in richness of biodiversity. It is a source for drinking water and for agriculture. It offers both social and economic uses in tourism, traditional medicine, food security and trade in traditional handicraft goods. The rich biodiversity of Lake Victoria and its catchment has been a source of income and livelihood for over 30 million people who depend on the lake.

struments. One of these instruments which has become quite popular in urban areas is called *Payment for Ecosystem Services* (PES). There are examples from all over the world where transactions between the two parties - beneficiaries and providers - are really helpful. We are planning to identify the institutional requirements for PES and to analyse in detail if PES is good or bad and if it's good what conditions are necessary. PES is only one of the things this group is exploring.

Politicians have been very receptive in the last 30-40 years but somehow action has not happened. We publish a report, publish papers, they appear in a journal but action-wise we are not doing much. But we will be judged by the effectiveness of our action and policy as it critically determines the global poverty and condition of the ecosystems."

But the Lake has a lot of challenges. It is surrounded by urban centres like Entebbe and the natural habitats are under threat from rapid population growth rates. The high demand of fuel wood and building materials because of the overflow of people leads to deforestation. The rapid expansion of unplanned settlements and a lack of expert knowledge in sustainable land and water resources management are other problems as well as the over-fishing accompanied by poor fishing methods. Among the effects of all these challenges are air and water pollution, a scarcity of green spaces as well as deforestation and wetland degradation due to poor land use practices.

Comment

Stephen Kabuye



What measures have local authorities taken? The *Catchment Protection Program* is trying to plant some trees around the lake to stop deforestation. Apart from afforestation and agroforestry we work on soil and water conservation and good agricultural practices, which we are trying to convey to the people. Other measures are the rehabilitation of waste treatment facilities and cleaner production technologies, the provision of alternative livelihood systems, the enforcement of environmental laws, community awareness and participation, capacity building of institutions and all stakeholders as well as a deepening regional cooperation. UN HABITAT has assessed specific biodiversity conservation initiatives by the Lake Victoria Cities as part of the city development strategies. Those local

initiatives include improved solid waste management, environmental education and awareness raising and also tree planting.

But further concerted efforts are required by local authorities in favour of public awareness campaigns. We need to put in place legislative and regulatory frameworks for the protection of threatened species. We have to ensure the mainstreaming of tools such as environment/ social impact assessments and deploy information and monitoring systems on biodiversity, including research centres. Local actions aimed at protecting biodiversity can have direct positive impacts as well as contribute towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals."

Comment

Ruud Vreeman
Mayor of Tilburg, Netherlands

Ruud
Vreemann



"Many people say that environment and biodiversity bring a lot of costs but few benefits. Let me prove them wrong! Tilburg is located in the south of the Netherlands with a population of 200.000 inhabitants. We have been the first city to sign the Countdown 2010 in 2005 and nature, environment and biodiversity are issues that have been included in our urban planning already for years.

Tilburg and its surroundings are very green, due to several initiatives of our local government. In the 1980ies we started with the construction of the new district Reeshof in the Northwest of Tilburg, which today is home to 45.000 people. Deliberately, we decided to *not* cover the area completely with buildings. We kept a free strip of 150m along the course of the small river Donge to establish a nature protection area. We found that this was not

only good for flora and fauna but also helped creating an attractive residential area. In those times almost no one talked about biodiversity and we have probably been declared crazy by some people for letting expensive construction areas lie idle. Altogether we invested around 10 million EUR in the development of those protected areas and it is a huge success. The Donge Valley has become a unique selling point for the estate agents of Tilburg and is of high value for the city marketing.

Because of Tilburg's rapid growth the Organization for Environmental Protection of Brabant gave us a warning of the high pressure the nature in and around the city was exposed to. Additional measures had to be taken requiring the courage, energy and assertiveness of local politicians. The experiment in the Donge Valley served as a model for the idea of a

complete »green belt« around the city which will be realized during the next years.

In Tilburg we have an agreement between building's investors, organizations for the protection of environment and many more parties to compensate nature that is lost by residential construction or infrastructure projects. Compensation should primarily be realized by the establishment of new natural areas within

or outside the city. If this is not possible a certain amount of money has to be paid which facilitates other measures for the protection of the environment. Without compensation the project cannot be implemented. This agreement contributes to the conservation of biodiversity. We show that nature really has a value for us!"

Parmananthan Naidoo

Member of Mayoral Committee, Johannesburg, South Africa

"Johannesburg is the main economic hub within South Africa and it is a city of great contrast where both ends of prosperity and of poverty can be witnessed. Some of these imbalances are even evident in the city's landscape: In the northern part of our city we have over a million trees, in the southern part there is hardly any tree. Biodiversity challenges have become increasingly significant in recent years, social and economic development, urbanization, population growth, the scarcity of water and poverty are increasing and testing the capacity of our ecosystems to provide goods and services. Today biodiversity challenges cannot be considered in isolation from the challenges of sustainable development.

As a city we are not only concerned about local environmental conditions but also about global sustainability. We therefore need at local and national levels to make sustainable adjustments in institutions and governments, policies and incentives of social behaviour factors. Our constitution in South Africa guarantees everyone the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing, an environment that is protected for the benefits of the present and future generations. We

are trying our utmost to balance the needs of economic growth and development with the imperatives to look after our natural resources. For this reason the city has an environmental management framework including environmental statements of intent that we are providing our citizens with clean water, clean air, open green spaces and that we are reducing land pollution.

The City of Johannesburg initiated a number of projects that are beneficiary to biodiversity enhancement, human wellbeing and ecosystem goods and services, for example the Klipriver/ Klipspruit Project. There are two river systems in the city and the one in the south has been neglected over years. The Klipriver Project involves the rehabilitation of the river as well as greening and eco-park plans. It includes transforming the vast green open space corridor into an optimal functional ecosystem characterized by clean, healthy rivers and functional wetlands that are free from pollution and odours. Rehabilitated portions of the river system are enhancing the biodiversity and ensuring the functionality of the aquatic system in providing ecosystems goods and services. The city is finalizing its

Comment

Parmananthan Naidoo



biodiversity assessment soon to be followed by a genuine biodiversity strategy to ensure that biodiversity and ecological systems are protected and enhanced.

The gap between the rich and the poor is increasing in an unacceptable range increasing the dependence by the poor on natural resources for their survival as well as their vulnerability to the effects of biodiversity losses and associated environmental disasters. The consequences of biodiversity losses and ecosystem destruction are the harshest for the poor. The impact also poses a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other environmental

sustainable plans including the Johannesburg Plan for the Implementation that was conceptualized during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. We need a kind of development that provides real improvement in the quality of human life and at the same time enhances the capacity of our ecosystems to sustain biodiversity and provide ecosystem goods and services. We must take no more from nature than nature can replenish. This in turn means adopting a lifestyle and development path that respects the word »within nature's limits«. It really can be done, especially at the local level."

Comment

Debra Roberts

Head of Environmental Management Department, Durban, South Africa

"Durban is the largest port and city on the east coast of Africa and the eThekweni Municipality is the local government responsible for managing that city. If we look at the biodiversity along the eastern coast of Southern Africa we have the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Region, a global biodiversity hotspot. This region has been identified within the South African National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment as one of 9 priority areas for conservation action. Unfortunately, it has also been identified as the 2nd out of 9 in terms of pressure on biodiversity, pressure from urbanization, deforestation, mining and the spread of agriculture.

The eThekweni Municipality's vision is to be Africa's most caring and liveable city by 2020. In terms of this vision residents, business and visitors should enjoy access to clean and green natural areas within the city. Consequently, the municipality had to make some key strategic choices about its future. Two out

of these six choices are key to understanding and planning biodiversity: Choice 5 is to use environmental assets to promote tourism and healthy lifestyles - a recognition that our natural resource base is key to our future. Choice 6 is to ensure ecological integrity - the recognition that we can't have a sustainable urban environment without having an ecological viable natural resource base. Why have we put such great priority on our natural resource base? Because we recognized that this natural resource base supplies a broad range of free ecosystem services, including direct benefits (provision of water, food etc.), indirect benefits (e.g. flood prevention), option benefits (e.g. a potential cure for HIV/AIDS with the vast botanical resource base) and existence benefits (green and blue landscapes make Durban an attractive place to live and work). It's not surprising then that Durban has a very long history of open space planning, since the late 1970's. The *Durban's Metropolitan Open*

Debra Roberts



Space System (D'MOSS) plan includes the land- and waterscapes which we believe supply most ecosystem services. This plan represents 64 000ha or 27% of the municipal area. Much of this land can't be developed due to topographical and other reasons, but the rest will need to be secured & managed in order to ensure the supply of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity.

It's one thing to design a plan to protect environmental goods and services but how do you communicate the importance of it to your stakeholders? This is where we used the tool of resource economics to calculate the replacement value of these environmental goods and services. What would it cost us as a city to replace those services if we had to lose them? In 2003 we did the first assessment of the value of the ecosystem services supplied by D'MOSS (excluding their contribution to the tourism sector) and it was conservatively estimated at US\$ 400 million per annum. In the same year the combined municipal capital and operating budgets were

around US\$ 1.2 billion per annum. Thus, our natural resource base is not only valuable in terms of sustainability but it's absolutely critical to the city's financial viability. Certainly the use of this tool has helped us to increase political and stakeholder understanding and support for D'MOSS. The plan was approved by the eThekweni Council in March 2003 after an extensive consultation process with our stakeholders and politicians and it has been mainstreamed in the co-planning of the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan. The Municipality has participated in the *Local Action for Biodiversity* (LAB) Pilot Project since its inception. We are the first city to complete the LAB Biodiversity Report and now work is beginning on our Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and we are beginning to select our 5 implementation projects. Moreover, we are looking forward to hosting the 2nd LAB workshop in September 2008 and signing the »Durban Commitment« and the equally important Countdown 2010 Declaration."

Panel 3: Local Action Planning for biodiversity

Introduction and moderation by Monika Zimmermann

Director ICLEI International Training Centre & Biodiversity Task Force, Freiburg, Germany

Whereas a variety of local activities and commitments to biodiversity do exist, local governments must now focus on mainstreaming biodiversity into municipal planning and decision-making throughout the various areas of municipal actions. Land-use planning, social development planning, municipal services, procurement and awareness raising are among these actions. Instruments for biodiversity management may include regulations, financing biodiversity actions and step-by-step approaches to local urban biodiversity.

Input

Erach Barucha

Director of Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune, India

"The city I live in is one of the fastest developing cities in India: Pune, Maharashtra. But why do we need to protect urban diversity in a developing country? I believe that the presence of urban biodiversity is a very important indicator of the quality of life in cities. There is a rapid transition from wilderness to rural areas, to urban and industrial areas. This transition is making enormous changes in the people's quality of life in and we observe a loss of information on the value of biodiversity in traditional societies. The crucial question is how to elicit local public support in a city like Pune. Creating local awareness of the need for preserving biodiversity comes through the formal and the non formal sector of education leading to the development of advocacy from people which are able to influence local governance for preserving urban biodiversity. If we want to *protect* urban biodiversity we have to *enhance* urban biodiversity which raises public awareness of the need for its conservation. We need that awareness developing capacity

from NGOs, from local experts and translate it into public action.

Integrating biodiversity conservation into city governance is important. We can't do this without documenting local biodiversity first. We need clear-cut eco-restorative strategies for open public spaces and have to implement them. We need to look at the number of public spaces and private gardens and how to raise biodiversity in these areas. Pune is a fairly ideal place to do this with its location between the Western Ghats, a high biodiversity area, and the semi arid Decca grasslands. We have several rivers and lakes, a strong NGO support as well as a large number of educational institutions interested in biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, the rapid loss of many urban green spaces in Pune during the last decade because of the development and road widening has been perceived by many people as a catastrophe.

The footprint of Pune now extends into areas of the Western Ghats, with its ever-green for-

Erach Barucha



est systems which are now becoming very fragmented. Also the fantastic semi arid grassland belt has got fragmented, threatening raptors and the Indian wolf. Among our aquatic ecosystems we have one lake with 5.000 flamingos, the largest number in Maharashtra. We have to find out how to protect this area from industrialization spreading from Pune all around that lake.

We've done studies to understand the biodiversity of green spaces within Pune and we have been able to take areas around the city and reserve them as biodiversity parks to prevent their transformation into shanty towns, slums or housing. We need an enormous amount of advocacy to protect these areas.

Maria Krautzberger

Permanent Secretary of the Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin, Germany

"Since the 1970ies the consideration of nature and landscape aspects, especially the integration of nature into city planning, has been an important issue in Berlin and public awareness has proved as important as planning in these considerations.

Apart from the build-up sections both inside and outside the city boundaries one of Berlin's defining features are the extensive green areas and the wide variety of lakes, rivers and waterways. Berlin has 2.500 public parks with over 5.500ha and 18% of the city is woodland. We have 400.000 street trees lining the streets of Berlin and 15 *Natura 2000* Sites, a part of the European System of Protected Areas. Altogether Berlin has a far greater biological diversity than one might imagine in such a huge urban complex. We share our city with around 30.000 different kinds of animals and plants and this is also due to our

Within Pune there is a whole set of gardens which we have analyzed in their botanical values. Unfortunately, we found exotic species and only little effort to green these areas using indigenous plants.

I used Pune as an example but every city in India does have a similar potential. Delhi, with its strong background on the protection of wood lots. Bhopal and Chandigarh with their large lakes. There is a whole set of hill stations notified now as *Ecological Sensitive Zones*, there is legal protection for coastal areas and those areas around hills. We believe that strong support for this kind of activities can only come from public awareness programs."

very engaged policy towards nature and landscape protection since many years.

To conserve the diversity of species we need to make the city dwellers more aware of urban nature. The close proximity of people and nature in cities brings with it risks that nature will be contained but at the same time also offers opportunities, giving many people access to natural resources and making them aware of urban nature as a key to the quality of living in cities. Since more than 10 years we are funding environmental educational institutions and support educational centres for environment in Berlin that offer information for children, young people, and adults, for schools, companies and other institutions. We want to move people towards responsible and sustainable attitudes. This is crucial as some children in Berlin don't even know about the connection between potatoes and French

Comment

Maria Krautzberger



fries. Every year we invest 1.1 million EUR in these centres.

A promising new approach in this context is our *Day of Urban Nature* which took place for the first time in summer last year. During a period of 26h over 500 single events involving 150 actors at 160 locations all over Berlin attracted around 10.000 visitors. The event was a huge success and we will continue with it yearly because it is a very good opportunity to spotlight flora and fauna as a major contribution to city living. It contributes to the special awareness of Berlin to natural resources and shows people that they can also spend their leisure time within the city, taking public transport or their bikes.

Urban landscape planning was first introduced in Berlin in 1979. Aims and measures for environmental planning are laid down in a landscape program which is prepared together with the land use plan for the whole area of the city. This approach ensures an optimal consideration of landscape planning and is also considering the urban development planning. Taken together the plans are a legally binding support, a concept for local authorities

all over Berlin. This integration between the land use plan and the landscape plan is crucial. We have to integrate both planning levels to reach good results. Evidently, developing green areas or biotope programs needs money and the German Nature Conversation Act offers us a good opportunity by regulating that any impairment to nature and landscape must be compensated. Where, for example, a plot of land is to be built-up measures supporting nature and landscape must be taken to counteract the loss of functions in the ecosystems. In Berlin we took the opportunity to concentrate and manage these compensation measures in the sense of sustainable urban planning. Hence we were able to realize some very nice new parks like the 18ha nature park Schöneberger Südgelände, a former railway area. With the money from the German Railway to offset the reconstruction of the city railway we developed this new park. We will also have to develop new areas especially for climate regulation in the city. We're currently building a new airport in the south of Berlin and therefore we closed down our two inner city airports. We are determined to build the 2nd -biggest park in this area."

Comment

Jan Stevens
Head of Service, Limburg, Belgium

"In the province of Limburg biodiversity and species protection is part of the *Provincial Environmental Policy Plan*. In that framework LIKONA, a group of volunteers and professional nature investigators, delivered the necessary data to scientifically indicate a few hundreds of typical Limburgian species. Our province alone cannot protect them all but some mayors were interested to help us so we launched a project together with the Regional Landscapes and European support

with the goals to establish a species specific protection program at the level of local communities together with the Regional Landscapes, to use communities as the link to local stakeholders and to link local action to international agreements.

The product we presented was the *Limburgian Species* - a species that is typical or exclusive for the province or community; that is endangered; appealing (i.e. you can tell inter-

esting stories about it) and it is useful. In fact, we see species as a regional product and an ambassador for sustainable solutions. The method we used is adoption: we let adopt a regional product - an appealing concept and easy to communicate. Our market strategy is participation. The project is participative in communicating the project, choosing a species, making action plans and realising those action plans. All our municipalities have chosen and adopted their own species after an interesting but delicate process of dividing the species among the different municipalities. Together with the municipality we wrote an action plan for each species with actions

Piet Eilander

Physical Planning Department, Amsterdam, Netherlands

"Urban nature plays an important role in the transition to a sustainable world. Although cities are not hotspots of biodiversity they do have a disproportionate effect on global biodiversity. Good cities contribute to saving biodiversity worldwide not only by being eco-efficient but also by enabling city people - especially children - to develop a sense of nature which enriches the quality of city life by offering recreational opportunities, increasing health and improving environmental quality. Good cities therefore offer a rich variety of opportunities for experiencing nature. This does not need to be spectacular. Every common city bird shows the wonder of life to a daily audience of thousands of people.

Urban nature is societal by definition. Natural places in and around cities are a form of public space and should be used by more than just one interest group. Moreover, in growing cities like Amsterdam, the pressure on open space is just too high to justify exclusive natu-

about communication, actions in the field and about monitoring. We offered these action plans officially to the mayors and all 44 mayors committed themselves and their councils to realize this action plans. We are proud because all 44 municipalities participate in the project. The adoption of a threatened species as a unique regional product convinced all 44 local authorities to engage themselves for Countdown 2010 and to take concrete actions. The dynamics the project already created in our province is very helpful. We follow up the project and will make a first roundup in 2010 concerning the status of the species and the initiatives the municipalities have taken."

Jan Stevens



Comment

Piet Eilander



ral areas. Therefore our strategy is to weave biodiversity into existing policies, to tie biodiversity into all domains of city planning and management. Once we employ a more sectoral approach with a separate organization, instruments etc. biodiversity will get into competition with other interests. Our region has been fairly successful in managing urban sprawl and thus retaining the star-like city form of Amsterdam, allowing green wedges to penetrate the city from all sides. Last year all public authorities in the Amsterdam region agreed on a concentration and transformation policy within city borders, i.e. no further urban sprawl, preserving our surrounding landscapes and building 50.000 - 70.000 dwellings within city borders in the next 15 years. Due to this successful management of urban sprawl the regional landscapes surrounding Amsterdam include many nature areas of international importance such as Dune areas, fresh water lakes, wetlands on peat and clay soils.

The management of biodiversity depends on many actors and multiple levels of government. For example the boroughs are responsible for urban parks management, the province for regional planning, NGOs manage nature reserves and the state is responsible for flora and fauna legislation. For our biodiversity strategy to be successful it's imperative that all parties work in concert and share the same agenda.

To be successful we have to turn vision into action. We have done so in the past 15 years

and we will continue to do so. We currently spend 20 million EUR on green areas and continue protecting them by improving our planning regulations. Additionally, we support nature education and promotion and monitor the state of nature on a 4 year basis. All in all, our Amsterdam Biodiversity Strategy rests upon a perspective appealing to a broad range of parties, a broad and societal approach on regional scope and a tradition of weaving biodiversity into all aspect of our urban strategy."

Comment

Aaron Durnbaugh
Deputy Commissioner of Environment, Chicago, USA

"The name of Chicago actually comes from the word *Checogou*, the Miami-Illinois Native Americans' word for the Wild Onion that grew in that area. Other nick names are »The Second City« or »The City that Works« and I recommend to consider »Chicago Wilderness« as a new name in those terms. *Chicago Wilderness* is a regional coalition of organizations started just over 10 years ago to restore, protect, and preserve the biological diversity of the Chicago metropolitan area. Today it comprises more than 215 member organizations from different sectors including federal, state and local government agencies, conservation groups, cultural institutions, universities, high schools, pre-schools and faith-based organizations. We have taskforces and a number of teams which are active all the time. In our work we try to recognize the interconnectedness of nature and culture.

The green ways which developed into our historic boulevards, the large parks and the park that stretches along our lake front have all come through planning and vision. But our

most recent history, an explosion of regional sprawl, is due to a *lack* of planning. Because we lack regional leadership it took others to step forward and become the leaders, sometimes people from middle-levels in administrations or from non-profits. Our vision of the region includes the watersheds and a lot of recommended protected land. Millions of dollars have been set aside to purchase and manage land that would have otherwise been lost to development. A similar measure at the local level is called the *Open Space Impact Fee*: Developers must pay if they are going to impact open space.

We have several city initiatives, for example we looked at the urban heat island situation and we have the Calumet Initiative - a historic area with lots of industrial development and an area of high biological significance, but also an area to bring in new kinds of industry, support the existing community, bring in new communities. There is a long history of environmental justice issues in that region, there are communities that have been left to live in

Aaron
Durnbaugh



brown fields and contaminated areas and we work very closely with them in our plans, in our implementation and also in our environmental education. The Millennium Park is another brown field development and the largest green roof in Chicago. In Lurie Garden the designer utilized native plants in a naturalistic style and it is incredibly popular. Outreach education is also important. We have a num-

Rajlaxmi Bhosale
Mayor of Pune, India

"The City of Pune is currently working on 6 Biodiversity Parks. Among the key challenges we face are the development and implementation of an integrated eco-planning, the realization of a complete and efficient fencing to prevent encroachment, rubble dumping, grazing, illegal extraction of resources etc. as well as the establishment of a multi-stake holder participation. Our proposed activities are divided into different parts. We begin with a survey including studies of topography, geology, hydrology, the existing vegetation and the definition the boundary. Protection activities include boundary demarcation, the construction of compound walls and security cabins and the installation of inspection pathways. Next, we focus on soil and water conserva-

Helio Neves
Department of Environment and Nature, São Paulo, Brazil

"São Paulo is working hard to reverse historical bad traditions on environmental questions. We are aware about the difficulties to fix a century of environmental damage. Since the beginning of the 20th century São Paulo jumped from 200.000 inhabitants to 11 million inhabitants this year. But recent experience shows us that it's possible to change. Even in

ber of programs for citizen involvement. It is indispensable to recognize the many grass-roots experts like individuals, non-profits, academics, institutions. Moreover, you have to empower the citizen scientists. We have individuals out there monitoring butterflies, frogs etc. and consequently our inventories come into shape."

tion, i.e. we check dams, contour bindings, dry boulder structures and plug gullies. Afforestation and water supply activities consist in plantation activities on the slope and plateau areas, filler plantation, boundary plantation, the construction of an elevated water storage tank, the establishment of a drip irrigation and water supply system for the plantation and the plantation in the public entry area. Education and awareness activities will focus on issues like the Nature Interpretation Centre, the Types of Ecosystem Study, environmental models, nature walk and trail, signage, brochures and leaflets. Finally, we encourage people's participation and the involvement of Civil Society Organizations."

Comment

Rajlaxmi
Bhosale



Comment

a huge city, even in developing countries as Brazil. If paradoxically economy pushes geographical exploitation, public awareness is progressively growing, too. We are in a favourable green wave in our city and in our country making the changes we are trying to establish possible. Considering it's capability to influence environmental policies not just

Helio Neves



inside its own territory, São Paulo has been implementing a series of measures for environmental protection. For instance, by the end of 2008 São Paulo will have doubled the number of parks within its area from 32 to 66. There will be 10 riparian parks surrounding bodies of water and we will have about 100 cleaned creeks. São Paulo will furthermore have 3 natural parks by the end of 2008, well preserved areas with natural vegetation to foster conservation and research activities. Last week we finalized a long period of negotiation to purchase a 500ha area to implement one of these natural parks.

Being a hub to the traffic of animals São Paulo is aware about its responsibility to protect the fauna, the native and exotic one. The municipality has dedicated a division of veterinarian medicine and wildlife management to foster wildlife health care and to reintroduce rehabilitated animals into their own habitats. São Paulo develops initiatives to foster good

governance and sustainable urban management. The city promotes strict law enforcement concerning illegal timber procurement for its buildings and works. Around 20% of the hard wood illegally extracted from the Amazon is consumed in the State of São Paulo though the Amazon is 2.000km away from our city. The municipal administration recently passed a law to secure that the timber it purchases provides all documentation of origin and São Paulo's mayor has declared the city *Friend of the Amazon* two years ago resulting in a series of initiatives to protect that region. Moreover, the city is discussing an extensive law to foster the reduction of CO₂ - emissions. Last year São Paulo created a Municipal Environmental Guard with 300 men and women as well as a team of 80 professionals to ensure the enforcement of environmental law and to release environmental licenses. Therefore, we believe it's possible to change. We *are* changing. We can be the difference."

Comment

Eckart Würzner
Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany

Eckart Würzner



"What is special about a city like Heidelberg? A lot of people know Heidelberg worldwide as a historical city in Germany integrated into a protected area. And this is also the vision our citizens have. We are convinced that our cities will only have a future if we think global, act local and integrate nature not only as one aspect but as an integral part of the city planning structure and of our city culture. Consequently, that is what we have tried to do over the last 18 - 20 years and why we are active in climate protection, buying green energy for all schools and kindergartens, reach our Kyoto targets etc.

You can do quite a lot of things at the local level but what you need first is an action plan. We have set up such an action plan in the field of climate protection, rewarded twice as European Sustainable City with the Energy Star. Now we are doing the same also in the field of nature protecting. We started with a big general biodiversity plan for the whole city area integrated into the regional city planning structure. If you have a concrete city planning structure the problem is that then you are starting to discuss the space that you want to use for industrial using or housing. That is too late, you have to start earlier. We took all the spaces we have in the city - used for wood,

farmlands, biotopes etc. - to secure that only in special areas we allow the city to build new houses or new industrial areas. It was fixed by a city council decision in our biodiversity plan to reduce urban sprawl. Especially in the United States this is very important to think more about brown field recreation structures and not just use free spaces which are very important for our species. Once the general plan is ready we can go on with special species protection plans. In Heidelberg we have a species protection plan for bats, butterfly species etc. which we developed together with our university and also integrating NGO groups.

But you must not think only about already protected or very intact systems but also farmlands for example. Farmlands are mostly not that interesting in the field of biodiversity because they consist in monocultures. But what we have done in Heidelberg was giving the farmers money to give us back small pieces of their land at the corners of their farmlands to set up a biodiversity network. It's very important that these biodiversity islands are connected and brought together. Furthermore, we have a Ponds and Rivers Recreation Plan especially for the inner city. We have also integrated an Ecological Forest Recreation Plan especially for biodiversity. We are certificated by PEFC or FSC, the Forest Stewardship Council.

By integrating all these programs we served as a model, not only for the citizens but also for other actors like industry partners. We strictly commit ourselves. We are not buying tropical forest. We force everyone who wants to cut a tree in the downtown area to plant a new tree. We are forcing all the people planning to set up an industrial company to have a

green roof program. We have more than 500 biotopes secured in the city, more than 7 huge nature protected areas which are totally forbidden to step in and 2 huge areas where you can walk in but where you are forced to think about different topics.

The main point is to not only think about the actual situation but also about the future. And if you are talking about the future you have to talk about the young generation and try to develop their thinking that nature protection is not just one puzzle piece but has to be integrated in all processes. We have to give to our citizens and especially our kids a better understanding of our nature. That's the reason why we are having what we call *school bio-hawks* or *biotigers* etc. in nearly 50% of our schools to give the youth a close link between nature and what they are doing in school. Furthermore, we have an ecological school station and several other activities.

All these activities in Heidelberg are only possible because we accepted that NGOs are not just a partner, they are the *main* partners. We have set up all these programs in close cooperation with our NGO partners and industrial companies as well as the science sector, our university. We yearly spend about EUR 2 per inhabitant to finance NGOs and they are doing the work in the field. We talk about all activities together in a roundtable discussion where we try to bring all activities and actors together to set up the next annual or biannual program. That was the reason why Heidelberg was last year awarded the Federal Capital for Nature Protection of Germany. Think global, act local, integrate your local actors, be a good model, be a strict regulator and be a good motivator."

Panel 4: Partnerships for biodiversity

Introduction and moderation by Yoko Watanebe

Programme Manager/ Biodiversity Specialist, GEF, Washington DC, USA

Partnerships for biodiversity exist within several levels of local governance. Not only do local governments actively engage with their citizens and stakeholder groups, but they can initiate cooperation with other local governments. A broader engagement may also include regional partnerships and cooperation with national and international institutions.

Input

Sebastian Winkler

Head of Countdown 2010, IUCN, Brussels, Belgium

"The World Conservation Union, today's IUCN, was created in 1948 with 100 governments and some 700 NGOs. It's an interesting partnership because NGOs are always pushing that there is a lack of implementation and we bring those NGOs together with governments at one table. We have taken the 2010 biodiversity target as a unifying mechanism because the conservation community in the past had been talking with so many languages, had so many concepts and no unified message. The 2010 target has allowed us to have that unified message and that's why we decided to create the »Countdown 2010 Initiative« to galvanize the 1000 members which work on environment under one umbrella and to remind governments of their commitment of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 in Europe and significantly reducing it by 2010 at the international level. We linked the target as well to the MDGs and the poverty alleviation agenda because it's not only about conserving species but also addressing social issues.

The challenge we have is that there is a huge implementation gap. Governments promise something but they don't manage to do it alone so partnership has become the buzzword. *Public-Private Partnerships* will solve the problem. I think governments have a responsibility and they have to assume it. They should not only tell local governments to deal with the problems but offer a truly joint partnership. We have tried to do this in Countdown 2010 for a powerful network of members. It's not enough to just have our environmental organisations to achieve the 2010 target. We need to bring others on board and to communicate the target, remind governments of what they have said, activate our movement and broaden our constituency. We are about partnerships, assessment and communication. We exchange experiences out of our 250 local governments that have joined the initiative. We have a common objective and a multitude of strategies. The power lies in co-operation but have to move from words to action."

Sebastian Winkler



Vuyelo Mathilda Mabena
Member of Mayoral Committee, Ekurhuleni, South Africa

"We do have good programs in our municipality regarding issues of biodiversity but first I want to indicate the challenges that are hindering the effective implementation of these programs. The immigration that is taking place in Ekurhuleni is causing constraints on service delivery. We have people who build their shacks on environmentally sensitive land. It's difficult to tell people of environmental issues when they lack basic needs like shelter, water and housing. But we are trying it with the partnerships that we have as a municipality - with schools taking part in these biodiversity activities, our NGOs and together with communities. And I think we are at the stage where we are really winning the battle and we are able now to implement some of the programs that we have.

Ekurhuleni has a population of about 2.5 million and we are one of the 3 metropolitan areas in Guateng. Among the pressures on biodiversity that we face are human settlements, social development, land reform & informal settlements. Moreover, our area was very active in mining and the mining activities are still going on though minimally. We are an industrial hub of Africa which causes further pressure on biodiversity, just like energy produc-

tion, transport, agricultural activities and also tourism and recreation.

Talking about the legislative context we have some applicable acts that allow for an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) to be developed specifically in our area. We have just completed our EMF, the first one in our country. The EMF is giving us information about biodiversity. We learned that the vegetation of our area consists almost entirely of the grass land biome. Nine different veld types occur in the area, giving it a rich biodiversity, especially where it is also linked to wetlands. Irreplaceable and important sites for the conservation of threatened species occur across the area. Previously we had 17 land use management schemes, now we are having only 1 overarching scheme. We also used this opportunity to create new environmental zonings that will address conservation issues and this will give more legal standing to the conservation agenda. By using environmental information in the land-use planning documents (Spatial Development Frameworks and Land-use/Town-planning schemes) the mainstreaming of biodiversity into land-use planning is being strengthened."

Vuyelo Mathilda Mabena



Gerald Tremblay
Mayor of Montréal, Canada

"Can we learn from our failures? Let me depict one of Montréal's mistakes and how we converted it into a biological park - in partnership with our citizens and stakeholders of different groups, national and international institutions. The St. Michel Environmental Com-

plex (SMEC) is situated within the limit of two boroughs and there are 270.000 people living around this former limestone quarry. Most people located there in the 1950ies/60ies without knowing that the city would use the quarry as a landfilling site starting from 1968.

Imagine the news for the people that live there, they were upset and made a lot of representations to the politicians. Consequently, we had to do something about the noise, the trucks going by and also the burns on that site. The City of Montréal bought the complex in 1988 starting the most ambitious environmental rehabilitation project ever undertaken by the city: convert a failure into an asset to the community.

Gerald Tremblay



We developed a plan to convert the site into a biological park open to public until 2020. There will be a sports pole, an educational, cultural and industrial pole. The first partnership for a better environment started with a natural wood shredding centre. It has a capacity of 30.000 tons per year, 17.000 are from the city. The partnership continued with the *Ecocenter*, where citizens can bring their reusable goods as furniture, appliances and old clothing as well as construction, renovation or demolition waste and household hazardous waste such as paint, oil, batteries and other toxic waste. Another partnership was established with a sorting centre, which receives recyclables from households and commercial waste like plastic and metal cans. After being sorted recyclables are sent to processing firms. Also the *Cirque du Soleil* has decided to locate there. Together with the National Circus School and TOHU they gathered at the borders of the SMEC to create a new exciting circus microcosm for Montréal and that knowledge is exported throughout the world. The partnership continued with a power station generating about 23 Megawatts of electricity - enough for the general electricity need of 12.000 homes. The energy is coming in part from the landfill site biogas. The site contains more than 36.000 tons of disposable waste and 20km of pipes collect the gas that

is generated. By collecting the gas we protect the neighbourhood and reduce greenhouse effects - in 2006 the equivalent of 600 tons of CO₂, equal to the production of 125.000 cars during one year. The volume of gas collected is the equivalent of 45.000 Olympic swimming pools or of a little more than half of the volume of the Great Wall of China which is 4.5m wide, 7m high and 6.700km long. Finally there is a centre of expertise on waste material created in 2000 as the result of a partnership between ICI Environment (14 universities interested in environment), Réseau Environnement (network of the private sector of environment activities), the City of Montréal and the Quebec government. The Centre aims supporting the development & transfer of our knowledge and know-how on residential waste management.

Since Montréal became owner of the SMEC a special relationship has been developed to the local community to transform the landfill site into the second-largest park on the island. A series of actions have been made to assure the involvement of citizens. public hearings on the future of the site in 1989, tour guides and the partnership with TOHU, which is in charge of the visits on the site and employs most of its employees from the St. Michel district. They pay particular attention to the impact of their activities on the local population. More than 20 partners contribute to the life of the complex and its transformation towards a public park until 2020.

It's easy today to pile up garbage. But one day you have to think about what to do with the garbage. We made that mistake and every year it's costing US\$ 12 million to maintain these activities. So if we can assist to make sure other cities don't make the same mistake it would be a pleasure."

Bruno Cignini

Director of Environment and Agriculture, Rome, Italy

"The Municipality of Rome administers one of the largest European cities with a total surface of about 128.000ha. At the same time Rome is the city with the highest number of protected areas within its boundaries in Europe: 19 terrestrial protected areas and 1 marine reserve with a total of 40.000ha under protection. These areas are complemented by 3.000ha of green public areas such as historical urban parks, gardens and small local green areas. The natural heritage of the city is often interconnected with our historical heritage and represents a unique characteristic of Rome.

Our urban protected areas with their impressive richness of fauna and flora, the variety of habitats and ecosystems - ranging from wetland to agricultural biotopes, from forests to coastal dune and marine ecological communities - form the structure of an ecological network within the city and have been officially recognized as an instrument of the master plan of the city. The ecological network defined in this plan covers about 87.000ha. Our urban protected areas host about 1.300 species of plants, i.e. representing more than 20% of Italian flora. There are also 5.200 species of insects (15% of Italian species), 10 species of amphibians (25%), 16 reptiles (29%), 140 birds of which 80 are breeding birds (32%) and 30 mammals (25%).

Rome has decided to support the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Targets and thus committed to intensify its efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity by signing the Countdown 2010 declaration. The Municipality of Rome has committed to pay special attention to biodiversity conservation and the im-

provement of the local climate and environmental conditions. One measure is the *Strategic Plan for Urban Forestry* which will be implemented by the Municipality of Rome during the next 5 years and consist in planting 500.000 new trees in the city territory using autochthon species. Apart from the enlargement of the city forest areas we will witness an improvement of living standards and the diffusion of several species of birds and insects. Significant positive impacts will also be registered in terms of carbon sequestration, the lowering of the average temperature at the microclimatic level and the improvement of the landscape quality through the restoration of the degraded green areas. Special attention will be paid to the areas with the potential function of an ecological corridor within the ecological network of the city.

Another commitment is a pilot project for the construction of sustainable buildings with the use of the best available technologies, carried out together with the University of Rome. The application of the several technologies has been evaluated: wooden structure and sheeting for low energy consumption, green roof covering, the control of the overall water cycle, solar collectors for hot water production and photovoltaic systems, high performance glass in terms of light transmission, solar control and thermal isolation. These buildings will have low energy and water consumption and hence contribute to the protection of biodiversity through reducing its carbon footprint and environmental impact. Additionally it will serve as an educational and awareness raising centre and thus reinforce education towards sustainability in architecture."

Bruno Cignini



Manuela Rottmann
Deputy Mayor for Environment and Health, Frankfurt, Germany

"Frankfurt is a metropolitan area and saving biodiversity is not easy in such areas. Our main problem is lack of space. We do not have growth rates like Pune but anyway we have the problem that suburbanization and the need of space for infrastructure reduces the available space for nature and landscape. The airport will continue to grow and this is one of our major threats to biodiversity.

However, there is a broad political consensus in Frankfurt to conserve the open spaces in the city. In 1991 the Municipal Council of Frankfurt unanimously passed a resolution to preserve our so called »green belt« which now comprises 80km² of interconnected green spaces surrounding the core of the City of Frankfurt. It hosts a broad variety of biotopes and ecosystems, for example the Nidda Valley with historical parks and water meadows. We have a unique species there, the »green belt animal«, firstly observed and painted by a local artist in Frankfurt. It's a mixture of bird, pig and crocodile and it doesn't really exist. But all Frankfurt school kids are looking for it in the green belt and it became a symbol to this open landscape and for biodiversity.

The network *BioFrankfurt* refers to an old tradition we have in our city: the tradition of scientific societies and foundations. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, for example, founded and was member of scientific societies that still exist these days. Some of these institutions came together to found the network *BioFrankfurt* comprising 12 acknowledged institutions that are actively working on different aspects of biodiversity in the fields of research, conservation, education and devel-

opment. Based on the corresponding diversity of expertise and experiences we are able to contribute innovative solutions for the sustainable use of our natural resources. As a network we are increasing awareness for biodiversity in order to inform a broad public on what everyone can contribute to improve the situation. *BioFrankfurt* is a local network for global problems. Among the members are our local botanical garden and the Frankfurt Zoo as municipal institutions, a research institute and the university, developing institutions like the gtz and the kfw, our local bird protection station etc. What you definitely need for a strong network is money. We have members that are old foundations and support numerous projects in this field. Hence, I recommend to you: look for partners and also look for partners that can give money.

The network promotes the transfer of knowledge from international experts on a broad variety of subjects. Our activities include various approaches in education such as exhibitions, symposia, guided tours etc. At this moment *BioFrankfurt* organizes a week of biodiversity accompanying this conference in Bonn. The network also offers specialized offers for school teachers and classes. It includes jointly performed research projects and continuous interaction with partners from economy and society. This is just one example of measures we implement for biodiversity. But we hope that with the assistance of the local network *BioFrankfurt* we will be able to secure the species richness in our own region and worldwide for our children and grandchildren."

Manuela Rottmann



Michel Vampouille
Vice President of Île-de-France, France

"Île-de-France is the most populated region in France with around 12 million inhabitants. Most of its surface is covered by the metropolitan area of Paris. Île-de-France represents only 2% of the French territory but 20% of its population. In our region 23% of the land is used for wood, 52.5 % for agriculture, 8.8 % for other open spaces, 9.2% for housing and 5.7% for transport and infrastructure. If we look back 5 or 6 years, biodiversity was not even known in our region, but starting from 2003 we had ongoing discussions about that issue. That year the first commitment for biodiversity emerged with the regional charter for biodiversity and natural areas, signed by 150 stakeholders including local governments, the state administration, NGOs, scientists, private companies, land users and managers. Different stakeholders of course mean different opinions so coming to this agreement was a result of 4 years work with 78 organisations from 1999 to 2003. The regional council asked to sign this commitment as a condition for financing its partners' activities to improve biodiversity management. This way we managed to have all actors on board.

Pablo C. Ortega
Mayor of San Fernando, Philippines

"In the year 2002 the City Government of San Fernando selected several municipalities along the Lingayen Gulf as beneficiaries of the 5 years Coastal Resource Management Program called *SAGIP Lingayen Gulf Project* and implemented through the *Marine Environment and Resource Foundation* and the *Marine Science Institute* of the University of

In 2007 we took a further step with our regional strategy for biodiversity, which was adopted by all stakeholders. This was a crucial development in France and created the basis for a successful implementation of corresponding action plans like the Habitats Plan and the Species Plan as well as for education and outreach activities. Our goals are to realize continuity with our green and blue areas and to maintain our flora and fauna, especially our wood areas. The strategy involves land planning management as well as the issues of ecological corridors and natural reserves. The charter enables the signatories to receive funds for their actions. We agreed on the creation of a regional monitoring and educational outreach agency with all the stakeholders concerned, called *Natureparif*.

The next step we plan is the integration of biodiversity into our Climate Protection Plan and the Agenda 21 activities. We want all communities in our region to carry out operations in that field, for example concerning public transport etc., and to integrate biodiversity into their existing urban management plans within the next 2 or 3 years."

the Philippines. Prior to its implementation the *Conservation Partnership Agreement* containing all respective programs and components was signed by all parties involved. There are two major partnership programs in this project: the establishment and management of *Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)* and the *Sea Urchin Grow-Out Culture* project. To assist the

Comment

Michel Vampouille



Comment

implementation of this programs and other coastal resource management related programs the City Government created a working group composed of different national and local government agencies, city department heads, academic institutions and people's organizations.

Pablo C. Ortega



The 30ha *Kasay Marine Protected Area* was established for the replenishment and rehabilitation of its vast corals and other resources. Annual funds for this protection are provided by the City Government. The MPA is jointly managed by an organization collectively formed by 6 coastal adjacent communities. Seminars, trainings and other capability building programs have continually been conducted to empower the community in the management of the MPA including planning, administration, education, patrolling and enforcement, livelihood and monitoring.

For the sea urchin project we raise sea urchins in cages. There was an abundant supply of sea urchins in our area before but due

to over-harvesting the numbers dropped down significantly. After a few years of the project the sea urchin wild stock is increasing as well as the protection of other species such as the sea cucumber. This project serves as a resource enhancement strategy and alternative livelihood to fisher folks.

Increasing the awareness of the community as well as the status and importance of protecting our coastal resources is one of the targets of the project. Various trainings were delivered not only to the technical personnel but especially to the local community. The project ventured into the localization and integration of Coastal Resource Management Education in the basic education curriculum. In our city it has already been implemented in 7 coastal public schools. Due to the success of the *Kasay MPA* two additional MPAs were established, further highlighting our serious battle for sustainable Coastal Resource Management."

Comment

Andreas Müller

First Deputy Mayor & Head of General Administration, Leipzig, Germany

Andreas Müller



"The sister city partnership project »Zoo of the Future Addis Ababa« is a local project in a global perspective of conservation and biodiversity. Local projects, especially between sister cities are always concrete and practical. The cities of Leipzig and Addis Ababa have been linked to one another for more than 3 years by an officially sealed partnership agreement based on decades of contact between people of both cities. Leipzig Zoo has a long tradition and is considered a zoo of the future in terms of modern animal keeping, conservation, education and science.

Ethiopia has experienced a great loss of wildlife. Therefore it is necessary to raise awareness of wildlife conservation, especially of the numerous native species and the impressive landscapes of Ethiopia. During the visit of the Leipzig Zoo experts to the Lion's Zoo of Addis Ababa in 2007 it was recognized that the Abyssinian Lion is a unique flagship to develop conservation and biodiversity awareness in the country. The lion is the national animal of Ethiopia. However, to meet the standards of a zoo in the 21st century the conditions of keeping these wonderful animals

should be improved by building new facilities with natural surroundings where the lions can live and breed in social groups. Due to their unique physical appearance and their cultural significance it is of highest priority to house these animals in appropriate conditions. A new comprehensive concept for the Zoo in Addis Ababa is to be developed and the city partnership is an ideal platform for this project.

In order to realize the global goal of protecting the earth's biodiversity both expertise and education are necessary. The aim of the modern zoo, also for Addis, is to connect these activities and serve as a source of information and knowledge and to raise awareness among the broader interested public about the value of the local fauna and its protection. The zoo should not only focus on the lions but offer the opportunity to all regions of Ethiopia to present their unique fauna and to sensitize the population for conservation issues. Therefore only indigenous species to

Hedwig Mandean
Deputy Chairperson, Walvis Bay, Namibia

"The importance of environmental management was realized by the political leadership in Walvis Bay and led to the establishment of the Environmental Management Section within the Department of Water, Waste and Environmental Management. With a population of about 60.000 citizens and limited funds, our main aim is social economic development. We first have to satisfy the community needs before we can think of spending money on environmental issues.

Being the only town taking part in the LAB project in Namibia and without sufficient resources and expertise we may sort of an exception. However, we meet the challenges by

Ethiopia should be selected for the Zoo, especially those that are threatened by extinction. Furthermore, the Zoo should serve as a research centre and a link to the national parks as part of eco-tourism.

The concept paper developed by experts from Zoo Leipzig and the city administration was handed over to Ethiopian collaborators in 2007 on the occasion of the 1st Annual Citizen Voyage to Ethiopia. A zoo committee was established in Addis Ababa and a pre-feasibility study of this committee was given to the political decision makers in Addis. It is planned to set up an office for the zoo project with its own budget for planning and building the first phase of the zoo in Addis Ababa. Leipzig is supporting this project by organizing the knowledge transfer and the capacity building of the colleagues in Addis Ababa in the field of spatial, business and operation planning. It is planned to hold a master-plan workshop in Addis Ababa in September 2008."

controlling human activities impacting on the fragile ecosystems throughout various environmental management policies, strategies and programs. With assistance and networking we might be able to continue.

The integration of biodiversity into the city's governance has helped to improve the promotion of sustainable development as each form of development is subjected to scrutiny by the council's environmental staff. The general public in Walvis Bay is involved in the decisions on biodiversity at various levels. The public can raise its concerns regarding the proposed development. Through this process

Comment

Hedwig Mandean



the less privileged residents are given a platform if they feel that the proposed development will compromise their access to biodiversity and other natural resources. Members of the public are also invited to serve on some environmental committees and associations where decisions regarding biodiversity management are made. The municipality of Walvis Bay has a strong environmental awareness raising program that includes public talks during environmental days, publications in municipal newsletters and lectures at the recently inaugurated Solid Waste and Environmental Information Centre, as well as bird counting in peak summer seasons.

One of the most successful and biggest initiatives to date was the Walvis Bay Local Agenda 21 project, divided into several closely related components: development of an environmental policy, strategy and action

plans for Walvis Bay; undertaking of a Coastal Area Study to gain a full and authoritative understanding of natural processes and human impacts affecting the Coastal Area; a study of the municipal budget and tariff system aimed at creating incentives to save scarce resources such as water and energy as well as at funding current and future environmental activities and initiatives and finally, together with citizen participation, the implementation of Local Agenda 21 'micro projects' that visibly express the environmental strategy and action plans to create further public awareness on environmental issues and resource shortages. The municipality of Walvis Bay was the executing agency of the project but many other stakeholders and consultants were involved in the implementation of the various project components."

Discussion

Jhenny Ivone Muñoz Hilares, *Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Ashanicas, Satipo, Peru*, expressed her gratitude for sharing all those experiences and commitments of the panellists which motivate her to go back to the Río Negro district and implement many of the examples and models that were presented in Bonn. She shared her concern for Peru's huge national parks. The current president of Peru seems to be more attached to transna-

tional oil and mining companies than to biodiversity conservation and sustainable forestry. Mrs. Muñoz highlighted the support from the Local Agenda 21 team in Munich as a strategic partner. Together they fight for what the indigenous people are entitled to according to the law. International timber companies continue to extract resources from their territory without compensation.

Discussion

Erach Barucha, *Director of BVIEER, Pune, India*, noticed that the need for twinning our urban biodiversity initiatives to adjacent protected areas initiatives is a topic that hasn't been dealt with sufficiently. He shared his experience from a project where his institute

linked the school programs of villages around the 3 major tiger reserves in India to the local district township. A lot of synergies were created as well as support from the urban centre for the adjacent protected areas. He stressed that this approach should be further explored.

Closing Session

Moderation by David Cadman

ICLEI President and City Councillor of Vancouver, Canada

Stephen Granger

Chair of LAB Steering Committee and Manager at Environmental Resource Management Department, Cape Town, South Africa

Summary

Mr. Granger summarized briefly the main ideas of the presentations during the conference and closed with the thoughts outlined hereafter. The summary given by Mr. Granger is available for download at the conference website (see »Links and Further Reading« below)

"»Less speak - more action!« was the very sharp edge of what the children requested from us yesterday. So how can we move from commitment to action? I would suggest: making connections, moving forward. We can think of making connections on two levels. First of all we have to connect with stakeholders both at the grass-roots level and at the national and international level. We need to recognize these partnerships. Second, there is the importance to engage with other networks that are doing similar things. We can see these things happening at 3 levels. At the first level there is the creation of a global partnership which could be made up of local governments, national governments, funders and foundations, scientists and practitioners, coming all together to facilitate and to plan. At the moment there is an interagency task force coordinated by the CBD Secretariat which is

exactly doing this successfully. The next level is representation at a political level. It has been suggested that the WMCCC should take a role in biodiversity as well. That includes the 5 key cities that have been given a special mandate, the hosts of COP and the WSSD, to represent us at the High Level Segment tomorrow and to lobby and to secure resources for us. Finally, moving from the commitment to action, we have the program and project-based level. One of the projects we often referred to during the conference is the LAB project: *Local Action for Biodiversity*. We're currently moving into a second phase of LAB and I invite interested cities to let us know what would be your needs and requirements. The important thing about LAB is action: Getting new projects on the ground to enhance biodiversity and make a difference to the cities, the regions and finally to the planet."

Stephen Granger



Oliver Hillel

Programme Officer, UN CBD Secretariat, Montréal, Canada

"You are making history here. There are many new things happening at COP 9 at the moment but certainly one of the most relevant things in the long run is the growing impor-

ance of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention. National governments obviously will continue to be the main implementers of the CBD but their role

Comment

as coordinators and supporters of local action will become more important. The Conference of the Parties has already adopted as a legal document a decision on cities and biodiversity and it says among other things that national governments are encouraged to recognize the role of cities and local authorities in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. It invites those governments and many other agencies and banks engaged in projects that include infrastructure development for cities and local authorities, to integrate biodiversity considerations into those projects. It invites those governments to assist cities and local authorities in encouraging and promoting practices, innovations and achievement in biodiversity. And it further invites parties to engage in the application of the tool box we have in the Convention at the local level. From now on basically the parties are saying that in their reports to the Convention they would like to hear from you. We are talking about compilation of information on biodiversity trends and activities to national governments. You are now actors and that this is definitely an evolution.

Oliver Hillel



We now need to face this new request from the 192 parties to this Convention. We need new structures and possibly a partnership that would take the examples and lessons learned, the kind of exchange you have had up to scale. How do we go beyond the challenge put by my executive secretary of 191 cities? Why not make it a lot more than that? We need to start thinking about how we can integrate the local level with the global or regional level, cities with international organizations, UN agencies, international NGOs and others. There are probably 3 levels in that: The first is those like ICLEI, UCLG and the WMCCC who are actually playing a representational as well

as a project implementation role. At the ground level we need projects that are learning, that are getting the experiences that you all have. At the second level we need global city leaders and networks that can be leading in this process of exchanging. It's not from one government to the other; it's also from one city to the other across national borders.

Finally, we do need a collaborative network such as the one that has brought a lot of results up to here: UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT and several other UN agencies including the Secretariat of the CBD which allow countries to support that structure. Because many developing countries' cities do not have the means to come here, listen to the experiences share and learn. But even larger cities do not have the means because their citizens did not give them the mandate and the money to spend all the time sharing information and putting up structures to share those experiences. The level of effort that you are achieving here comes fundamentally from the vision of leaders and from the dedication of many city officers. But who can fill the gap through which the cities can then address the needs of others? I think that is the role that the international community needs to play and our challenge now is to create a structure through which donors - be it international organizations, be it national governments - feel that whatever contribution they give to the process of assisting cities to implement the Convention is managed and structured in a way that is in agreement with their guidelines. We need to create ways for parties, donor organizations, development banks and others to invest in a structure that will allow more developing countries' cities to join and that will allow leaders and developed cities to make available their experiences."

Beate Jessel

President of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany

"There is an importance of cities for biodiversity but also of biodiversity for cities. City areas worldwide comprise only 2.8% of the surface but they account for about 75% of natural resource consumption. Thus, we cannot achieve successful nature and resource conservation without the commitment of people in cities. On the other hand, cities and urban areas also heavily depend on ecosystem services providing for fresh water resources, clean air, natural areas as main places for recreation - in short: very essential and important resources for human well being.

Bakary Kante yesterday said that the world is at crossroads and this is clearly true. On a global scale many cities struggle today for securing the survivability of the cities' systems and the inhabitants. This is closely related to security aspects, to social aspects, but also includes the provision of fresh water, clear air

Sebastian Winkler

Head of Countdown 2010, IUCN, Brussels, Belgium

"It has been an exciting journey and I was glad to join that journey in Curitiba with the Curitiba Declaration, then we had the Erfurt Declaration to bring in the science input and now we have the Bonn Call for Action. And »action« is the word I want to stress here. We need more than 190 cities. We actually have achieved already 250 cities that have made fantastic commitments to biodiversity for the Countdown 2010 initiative. Climate change has been on the forefront but biodiversity is the new issue. It has been discussed at the G8+5 summit last week and it will be high on

and food. A living city thus means providing place for life for people but also for nature. Indeed, cities are important habitats for many rare and endangered species but also and essentially for men.

In the future the development of cities will decide on the weal and woe of biological diversity on earth. Ahmed Djoghlaif once said that the struggle for biodiversity will be decided in the cities. Therefore we have to engage altogether in this important issue: science, citizens and local politicians. We need approaches that connect aspects from natural sciences and social sciences. We need a close and worldwide network of cities.

It is an important step to present tomorrow at the COP 9 the results of your conference, the *Bonn Call for Action*, and I wish you very good luck for that."

Comment

Beate Jessel



Comment

Sebastian Winkler



Gerald Tremblay
Vice President UCLG and Mayor of Montréal, Canada

Gerald Tremblay



"We are going to have a unique opportunity tomorrow to talk at the COP 9 to what they call the High Level people. We are just a side event. But what I recall is that the theme of the COP9 is »One Nature, One World, Our Future«. *One* is the important word! We're all partners here. There are organizations, individuals, mayors, representatives of mayors and we have been working hard for decades.

UCLG has over 1.000 mayors as members and we were instrumental in convincing the UN to admit us as a real partner for the MDGs. We put banners on our cities in the year 2005 that said: »2015. No excuses. Let's work for a better world.« Now we are half point and we are looking at the results: Unless major changes occur we are going to hear excuses why things have not happened in 2015 again.

We had a unique opportunity with the youth and the grass roots experts. They remind us every day of the world they are living in and they told us that they are very concerned. They are frightened to live in a world of catastrophes. And they are telling us also that we have the responsibility to act. We are elected representatives, most of us by universal suffrage, and consequently we should be think-

ing about our future but also their future and not only about money. The conclusion is that we need a *true* partnership. And a true partnership for me starts by having an input upstream on the decisions that are taken at a higher level. The moment to do so has come now - a historical moment because it's very difficult to convince other levels of governments that we are true partners. We have to revise the roles and responsibilities and allocate the funds accordingly. The idea is not to generate more income or tax people more. The idea is to avoid duplication and make sure that all funds are properly allocated. To do that is to recognize the important role of the cities. Thus, I sincerely hope that when we are in Nagoya there is going to be *one* meeting. Not a high level meeting and a side meeting where they give us an opportunity to express to them in 15min what we can do together. That's going to be the test because if we are part of the solution and if our partners - federal governments, provincial governments etc. - really accept that we are true partners that means that at COP 10 we should not be part of a side event. On the contrary, we should be parties to the major decisions that are going to affect the quality of life."

The Bonn Call for Action

Introduction by Ulrich Nitschke

Director Service Agency Communities in One World/ InWEnt gGmbH, Bonn, Germany

"»Paper doesn't work«. That's actually a sentence that we are all challenged with. But I think what we have heard during the last 3 days was encouraging that we can overcome this sentence. We *need* a piece of paper at the end of the day, a political declaration. Something we can show in our own council to reorganize commitment and to get societal change going. As the organizers we are very proud that we have received 7 very substan-

tial comments. And not just comments, even challenges to make the draft Bonn Call for Action clearer, more concrete and decisive on what you are up to do. The first draft came from ICLEI and the City of Bonn. We have then received substantial contributions from Montréal, Pune, Tilburg, Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town as well as from IUCN, Countdown 2010, the UNESCO and ICLEI."

Ulrich Nitschke



The declaration was recited by David Cadman and Ulrich Nitschke as follows and subsequently unanimously adopted by the participants of the conference.

Cities and Biodiversity: The Bonn Call for Action

Local governments offer true partnership for biodiversity

Local governments stand for the well-being and the will of half of the world's population. They offer their experience and their influence to strengthen and promote implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity within a global and multilevel partnership.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, upon which the well-being of humankind is dependent.

Local governments are key actors in conserving and managing biodiversity – both locally within their own administrations and globally, as resource consumption within urban areas affects ecosystems around the world.

Mayors and key decision-makers from local governments around the globe convene on the occasion of the 9th Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity from 26-28 May 2008 in Bonn, Germany. They demonstrate their commitment towards cooperation and action and, at the same time, request a multilevel partnership to improve biodiversity globally.

The local level of government, closest to citizens and the economy, plays a key role in the successful implementation of international framework conventions. Cities and towns have a fundamental role in the implementation of the UNCBD Convention. They therefore appeal for substantial support in their endeavours and for policy framework conditions which enable them to fully unfold the local potential for protecting global biodiversity. In

addition, they offer to work with national governments and the international community as reliable partners for implementation, communication and outreach.

Local governments are key actors

Local governments and their networks are key and accountable actors in biodiversity management both locally and globally.

Worldwide, no agency is in a better position to manage urban biodiversity and educate citizens about its importance than local government.

The role of local government in biodiversity management is crucial, because:

- more than half of the world's population now lives in urban areas;
- urban inhabitants and economies consume 75% of the resources utilised by humankind;
- a major part of worldwide incomes is generated in urban areas,
- local governments are experienced in implementation, planning, decision making and awareness-raising; and
- they have long-established structures for networking, experience exchange, cooperation and partnership.

Local Action for Biodiversity reflects the mandate and responsibilities of local governments to act within their own jurisdiction as well as beyond. Their populations depend on natural resources from within and outside their boundaries.

- **Locally:** Biodiversity enhances ecosystem services. Local governments depend on functioning ecosystems to provide mu-

nicipal services, e.g. healthy catchments for water supply and purification. They are also responsible for conserving and improving the biodiversity in their own territory.

- **Globally:** Local governments act to raise the awareness of their citizens and of business, which can influence behaviour at the level of individuals and decision-makers. This is critical as patterns of resource consumption in urban areas affect ecosystems all around the world. Local governments also foster exchange of experience and thus offer great potential in partnerships for biodiversity.

Urban biodiversity under threat

Urban biodiversity embodies the dependency of mankind on natural resources, and is much more than the presence of animals and plants in our cities. Urban biodiversity is threatened to the same extent as biodiversity and ecosystems globally. However, urban areas have increasing potential for the development and growth of biodiversity.

The reasons for the growing pressure on species and their habitats in urban areas are manifold: sealing of land; uncontrolled urban sprawl – often caused through economic pressure in spatial planning; loss and degradation of habitats; climate change; pollution; exploitation of species and many more. Growing urbanisation will further increase the pressures on biodiversity.

The fatal link between poverty, limited access to natural resources and the loss of biodiversity is clearly visible in urban areas; and the loss of biodiversity has immediate impacts on

poverty and social exclusion and the well-being of citizens.

Biodiversity and ecosystems provide the basis for urban life

The conservation of biodiversity not only has environmental benefits, but also brings a variety of economic and social benefits to cities. Urban technology of the future shall follow the principle of harmony between man and nature - integrating development and biodiversity.

Biodiversity contributes directly towards sustainable development in many ways. Examples are:

- provision of sources of food, fuel, medicine;
- ecosystem services like water and air purification, maintaining healthy soils, control of pollutants, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, reduced vulnerability to impacts of disasters, recovery from unpredictable events and mitigation of natural disasters, and pest control;
- citizens' well-being and enhancement of quality of life;
- cultural and aesthetic value to citizens;
- opportunities for tourism and recreational activities;
- resources for education, research and monitoring; and
- opportunities for income generation.

Local governments unfold their potential

Local governments accept their responsibilities and use their great potential for conserving and managing biodiversity. In doing so, we are already investing consid-

erable parts of our budgets in biodiversity management and in the development and implementation of urban biodiversity strategies.

Many examples presented in Bonn demonstrate that cities, counties and regions:

- develop and implement long-term local biodiversity strategies;
- integrate biodiversity in all aspects of local planning, such as land-use planning including compensation mechanisms, mobility planning, economic development planning, as well as conservation planning;
- manage natural areas and green spaces, restore and rehabilitate degraded natural areas and control invasive species;
- value biodiversity for assisting with the provision of municipal services, e.g. fresh and waste water treatment, energy and housing, and support urban agriculture as a contribution to food security;
- purchase eco-certified and fair-trade goods and services, e.g. certified timber; and
- value biodiversity as a contribution to social development, poverty alleviation and job creation

Local governments raise awareness and involve stakeholders

Local governments are mandated by their citizens. To a growing extent they use this position to influence their awareness and behaviour.

Therefore local governments can:

- raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity in all sectors of society, often with a special focus on youth;

- educate their citizens;
- engage citizens and other stakeholders in participatory decision-making;
- develop and strengthen capacities within and outside the administration;
- interact with organisations and business in order to draw on their potential for conserving and managing biodiversity;
- include biodiversity in city partnerships and cooperation projects; and
- demonstrate their accountability by reporting back to the public.

Local governments cooperate globally

Mayors and key local decision-makers from around the globe commit themselves to cooperate on local strategies for the protection of biodiversity.

Local governments are increasingly partnering at a global scale to work together towards sustaining biodiversity. For example, they:

- have already initiated global cooperation through the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity in 2007;
- show their collective commitment by signing Countdown 2010;
- have initiated global projects, such as "Local Action for Biodiversity";
- aim to develop tried and tested instruments and indicators related to biodiversity management;
- take part in research projects; and
- cooperate in other projects which illustrate the potential of local action.

Leading local governments and networks like ICLEI and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change wish to extend this global cooperation to many more cities and towns and invite their colleagues to join.

Local governments need enabling framework conditions

Local governments are offering to strengthen their commitment, their influence, their action and their cooperation towards global biodiversity initiatives management. They call upon all other levels of government, such as states, national governments and supra-national actors to provide enabling framework conditions. This means prioritising major biodiversity goals, tasks and resources.

To unfold the full potential of local governments to contribute locally and globally to the conservation and management of biodiversity, common understanding is needed of what are the priorities, major biodiversity goals, tasks and resources to successfully achieve the 2010 target. Therefore, local leaders call on their partners on all other governmental levels to consult local governments upstream on discussions that can affect biodiversity, as well as to recognise and endorse local contributions to global strategies.

As the Mayors Conference is held in parallel to the High Level Segment of the COP of the UNCBD, local leaders will use this opportunity to have their voices heard in the international community by networking with key representatives from national governments and UN representatives. A statement of mayors on behalf of local governments at the High Level Segment will summarise the local positions.

The value of partnerships: Cities & Biodiversity Initiative

Local leaders express their explicit interest in partnership and cooperation. While offering their contribution, they also request the international community to support global cooperation by local governments with appropriate projects.

Cities and Biodiversity is a global initiative of UN agencies, local governments and other partners to strengthen the capacity of cities, towns, counties and interested regional governments for improving management and conservation of biodiversity through technical cooperation, capacity building projects, communication, and joint advocacy.

Host cities of UN CBD COP support international cooperation

Local governments hosting a UN CBD event are called upon to express their commitment by inviting other local governments.

Mayors and other key decision-makers from local governments express their gratitude to those cities who have hosted events in the past and especially to the Mayor of Bonn for hosting the Mayors Conference on "Local Action for Biodiversity" in May 2008. The host cities for the next UN CBD Conferences of the Parties (COPs) are asked to follow this excellent example. Local leaders wish to convene again soon to evaluate existing partnerships and showcase achievements.



Gerald Tremblay, Bärbel Dieckmann and David Cadman presenting the Bonn Call for Action during the press conference after the Mayors Forum

Decision of the Conference of the Parties

Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif

Executive Secretary Convention on Biological Diversity, Montréal, Canada

Dr. Ahmed
Djoghlaif



"COP 9 in Bonn has been a landmark: for the first time in the history of multilateral environment agreements, a decision has been taken on the engagement of cities as an officially recognized stakeholder, in this case on biodiversity. The Mayors Conference on »Local Action for Biodiversity« generated strong messages that contributed significantly to the decision on cities and biodiversity, to the suc-

cess of the COP and to the further engagement of cities in the work of the Convention. I encourage cities to collaborate, in the parameters set by COP decision IX/28 and the *Bonn Call for Action*, in planning, implementation and cooperation within the global and multilevel partnership on biodiversity initiated in Bonn."

**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
9th Meeting, Bonn, 19-30 May 2008**

Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling chapter 28 of Agenda 21 adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, on the role of cities and local authorities, and objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity ("Key actors and stakeholders are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies"),

Noting that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest primarily with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention, including the following:

- (a) The accelerated rate of urbanization, particularly in developing countries, increasingly concentrates decision-making and resources in cities, creating opportunities for managing better the consumption of resources that impact on biological diversity;
- (b) Urban experiences in ecosystem conservation and sustainable use can contribute to strengthening national policies, regional strategies, and global agendas on biodiversity;
- (c) Cities and local authorities play a critical role in designing and implementing land-use and zoning planning tools, urban development and infrastructure guidelines, investment promotion, and consumer awareness campaigns, all of which have direct

effects on biodiversity, and in particular on water, climate change, protected areas, agriculture and forests, marine and coastal biodiversity and communication, education, and public awareness;

- (d) Cities and local authorities are in direct contact with, and have direct influence on biodiversity managers and users at the local level;

Reiterating paragraph 8 (s) of decision IX/8, urging Parties in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategy and action plans, and equivalent instruments, in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, to promote and support local action for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by integrating biodiversity considerations into subnational and local level assessments and planning processes, and, as and where appropriate, the development of subnational and local biodiversity strategies and/or action plans, consistent with national strategies and action plans;

Noting the meeting on Cities and Biodiversity held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 26 to 28 March, 2007, which highlighted the crucial importance of the involvement of cities and local authorities in the global efforts towards the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention,

Noting the contribution of UN-Habitat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Urban Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme, and other United Nations agencies and organizations, in mobilizing key cities and

promoting the exchange of experience on urban biodiversity best practices, and the importance of voluntary initiatives such as ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability and its Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project, IUCN's Countdown 2010 initiative, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) and its biodiversity component, the World Association of Major Metropolises ("Metropolis"), and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, *inter alia*, in addressing biodiversity issues efficiently through local action,

Recognizing the importance of the cooperation between key cities for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which also stand as global references for their initiatives on urban biodiversity, such as Bonn, as host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Curitiba, as host of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Nagoya, as representative of candidate cities for the hosting of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and Montreal as host of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Acknowledging the contribution made by the Mayor's Conference on Cities and Biodiversity held in Bonn, Germany, on 26-27 May 2008, organized by the City of Bonn, InWEnt and ICLEI, prior to the high-level segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. *Takes note of* the Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity adopted in March 2007 in Curitiba, Brazil, by 24 cities and international organizations,
2. *Welcomes* leading international events to promote sustainable urbanization and

- biodiversity-friendly cities, such as the World Cities Summit (“Livable and Vibrant Cities”) in Singapore, 23 to 25 June 2008, and the World Expo 2010 (“Better City, Better Life”) in Shanghai, China, May 1 to October 31, 2010;
3. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national legislation, to recognize the role of cities and local authorities in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to facilitate the adoption by cities and local authorities of practices that support the implementation of these strategies and action plans, and to support the development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans consistent with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
 4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, regional and international development agencies and banks engaged in projects that include infrastructure development for cities and local authorities, to integrate biodiversity considerations into those projects, where relevant, and explore options for specific capacity building and programmes on biodiversity for local officials responsible for their implementation and maintenance.
 5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and international development agencies to support and assist cities and local authorities in encouraging and promoting practices, activities and innovations of Indigenous and Local Communities that support the three objectives of the CBD and achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target;
 6. *Invites* Parties to engage their cities and local authorities, where appropriate, in:
 - (a) The application of relevant tools and guidelines developed under the Convention with a view to contributing to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention and its goals and targets; and
 - (b) The compilation of information on biodiversity status and trends, including communicating to National governments any commitments and activities that will contribute to the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The official documents can be downloaded at www.cbd.int/decisions/cop9/ (COP 9 Decision IX/28) and www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008 (Bonn Call for Action).

Links and Further Reading

Background

The *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)* is one of the three Rio Conventions. With 190 signatory countries ("parties"), it entered into force in 1993. As a key instrument for sustainable development, the Convention's objectives are:

- To conserve biodiversity,
- To sustainably use biodiversity and its components, and
- To fairly and equitably share biodiversity's benefits.

At the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* in Johannesburg 2002 the participating national governments set themselves the goal to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of the world's biological diversity until 2010. In doing so they recognized the importance of biodiversity for human well being and sustainable development worldwide.

The bi-annual CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) is the occasion on which national governments meet to discuss their progress and further action to implement the Convention as well as interact with a variety of actors from civil society, science and UN agencies. In May 2008, the German government was the host of the CBD COP which was held in Bonn, a city with a long tradition of convening local leaders during international events. Never before have such a huge number of high level city representatives accepted our invitation to Bonn, a clear signal of the local commitment as well as the quality of the programme, which was mainly based on the profound expertise of ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) project (see below). It was at this meeting where the important role of local governments was brought into the official text of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity: www.cbd.int/cop9

ICLEI's Biodiversity Initiative has various components geared specifically toward local governments and cities: www.iclei.org/biodiversity

Some local governments are already taking steps toward biodiversity conservation and are leading the way for others to follow. Read about some of these inspiring examples in a series of local cases compiled by UNEP and ICLEI at:

www.iclei.org/lab/city-cases
www.unep.org/urban_environment/issues/biodiversity.asp

For a series of factsheets about various key topics on urban biodiversity, put together by Countdown 2010 and ICLEI, see the following link for downloads:

www.countdown2010.net/lara/lara-article

Also see the list of Countdown 2010 signatures from local and regional governments dedicated to saving biodiversity

www.countdown2010.net

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe have written a strong statement describing the importance of biodiversity for cities and the environment:

http://www.coe.int/t/congress/3-Sessions/sessions_en.asp

The Stockholm Resilience Centre is researching urban social-ecological systems with sites across the globe to find out more about local resource users, the role of institutions and other important actors in urban biospheres.

www.stockholmresilience.org

Mayors Conference

Organizers: City of Bonn: www.bonn.de
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability: www.iclei.org
Service Agency Communities in One World/ www.service-eine-welt.de
InWEnt Capacity Building International: www.inwent.org

Conference website (*including Bonn Call for Action and all presentations given during the conference*): www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008

Webcasts of the COP 9 Conference <http://www.cbd.int/cop9/webcast/>
(*Including the Press Conference after the Mayors Conference and the Mayors presentation at COP 9*)

Exhibition: "Cities and Biodiversity"

The exhibition consists in 31 roll up panels and can be rented out after consultation with the City of Bonn. Transport and insurance are to be covered by the lender.

Local Action for Biodiversity - LAB Project

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is a global urban biodiversity initiative launched by ICLEI in 2006. The overarching aim of LAB is to improve biodiversity management at the level of local government, in recognition of their enormous potential for contributing locally to conserving the global common good of biodiversity. In a pioneer project (2006-2009) the 21 LAB pioneer cities have paved the way for many more to follow. LAB will also be an instrument to offer concrete involvement and support to the local and regional governments signing the Countdown 2010 Initiative.

ICLEI and IUCN are therefore preparing for the future of "Local Action for Biodiversity" and count on the support of national and international co-funding. The components of the future LAB activities will be focusing around

1. LAB pioneer network of advanced cities
2. LAB cities progress groups
3. LAB multiplication: dissemination and open training
4. LAB for regional governments
5. LAB national projects
6. LAB Expert network for consultancy
7. Urban Biodiversity research & reporting
8. LAB advocacy

For more information:
www.iclei.org/lab and
lab@iclei.org

Contact:

ICLEI Africa Secretariat,
Ms Kobie Brand
Regional Director

List of Participants

	First Name	Name	Organisation	City	Country
1	Joaquin	Aguilar	Gobierno Municipal de La Paz	La Paz	Bolivia
2	Khushvakht	Akramowa	City of Buchara	Buchara	Uzbekistan
3	Gabriele	Albert- Trappe	Stadt Bonn	Bonn	Germany
4	Christine	Alfsen	UNESCO	New York	USA
5	Ould Sidi	Ali	Mission Culturelle Tombouctou	Tombouctou	Mali
6	José Antonio	Andreguetto	Prefeitura Municipal de Curitiba	Curitiba	Brazil
7	Mercy	Arhin	Cape Coast Municipal Assembly	Cape Coast	Ghana
8	S. Nana Ato	Arthur	Central Regional Coordinating Council	Cape Coast	Ghana
9	Katja	Babuszak	InWEnt-Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung	Bonn	Germany
10	Hamidou	Berthe	District de Bamako	Bamako	Mali
11	Erach	Bharucha	Bharati Vidyapeeth University	Pune	India
12	Rajlaxmi	Bhosale	Pune Municipal Corporation	Pune	India
13	Leonard Bاندیو	Bihondo	Mwanza City Council	Mwanza	Tanzania
14	Janos J.	Bogardi	UNU-United Nations University	Bonn	Germany
15	Brent Alfred	Butler	City of Port Townsend	Port Townsend	USA
16	David	Cadman	City of Vancouver	Vancouver	Canada
17	Elisa	Calcaterra	IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature	Bruxelles	Belgium
18	Luiz Alberto	Carvalho	Prefeitura Municipal de Porto Alegre	Porto Alegre	Brazil
19	Shin-hui	Cha	Changwon City	Changwon	Republic of Korea
20	Colin	Chartres	IWMI-International Water Management Institute	Colombo	Sri Lanka
21	Bruno	Cignini	Comune di Roma	Roma	Italy
22	Mischa	Cillessen	Municipality of Tilburg	Tilburg	Netherlands
23	Ingrid	Cloos	Berlin	Berlin	Germany
24	Youssouf	Coulibaly	District de Bamako	Bamako	Mali
25	Lara	de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues	Prefeitura Municipal de Curitiba	Curitiba	Brazil

	First Name	Name	Organisation	City	Country
26	Juan Fernando	Del Granado Cosio	Gobierno Municipal de La Paz	La Paz	Bolivia
27	Peter	Dery	Cape Coast Municipal Assembly	Cape Coast	Ghana
28	Bärbel	Dieckmann	Stadt Bonn	Bonn	Germany
29	Marlene	Diekmann	GTZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit	Bonn	Germany
30	Ahmed	Djoghla	UNEP	Montréal	Canada
31	Cliff	Dorse	City of Cape Town	Cape Town	South Africa
32	Aaron N.	Durnbaugh	City of Chicago	Chicago	USA
33	Piet	Eilander	City of Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Netherlands
34	Thomas	Elmqvist	Stockholm University	Stockholm	Sweden
35	Barbara	Engels	BfN-Bundesamt für Naturschutz	Bonn	Germany
36	Jochen	Flasbarth	BMU-Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Reaktorsicherheit	Bonn	Germany
37	Karl Heinz	Gaudry Sada	Alber-Ludwig-Universität Freiburg	Freiburg	Germany
38	Stephen	Granger	City of Cape Town	Cape Town	South Africa
39	Jon	Gunnes	Trondheim kommune	Trondheim	Norway
40	Camilla	Håkansson	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Uppsala	Sweden
41	Abdurahmon	Hamroev	City of Buchara	Buchara	Uzbekistan
42	Hiroki	Hasegawa	City of Nagoya	Nagoya	Japan
43	Gerhard	Hauser	Gemeente Tilburg	Tilburg	Netherlands
44	Oliver	Hillel	UNCBD-Convention on Biological Diversity	Montréal	Canada
45	Robin	Hillestad	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Freiburg	Germany
46	Maria	Hohn-Berghorn	Bundesstadt Bonn	Bonn	Germany
47	William	Jackson	IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature	Gland	Switzerland
48	Henry	Jacome	City of Makati	Makati	Philippines
49	Jean-Claude	Jacques	IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature	Bruxelles	Belgium
50	Beate	Jessel	BfN-Bundesamt für Naturschutz	Bonn	Germany
51	Stanley	Johnson	UNEP	London	United Kingdom
52	Stephen	Kabuye	Entebbe Municipal Council	Entebbe	Uganda

	First Name	Name	Organisation	City	Country
53	Marta	Kaczuro-Kaczynska	REC-Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe	Warszawa	Poland
54	Ewa	Kaniowska	IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature	Paris	France
55	Masashi	Kato	City of Nagoya	Nagoya	Japan
56	Atsuhiko	Kawasaki	Aichi Prefectural Government	Nagoya	Japan
57	Marco	Keiner	UN-HABITAT	Nairobi	Kenya
58	Valerija	Kelemen-Pepeonik	City of Zagreb	Zagreb	Croatia
59	Cecilia Njoki	Kinuthia	UN-HABITAT	Nairobi	Kenya
60	Michie	Kishigami	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Tokyo	Japan
61	Maria	Krautzberger	Berlin	Berlin	Germany
62	Anatol	Kuntsevich	City of Minsk	Minsk	Belarus
63	Karim	Lapp	Région Ile-de-France	Paris	France
64	Chee Chiew	Leong	National Parks Board	Singapore	Singapore
65	Ilan	Levine	Municipality of Raanana	Ra'anana	Israel
66	Paula	Lopes Da Silva	Câmara Municipal de Moita	Moita	Portugal
67	Eduardo	Lopes Pereira Guimarães	Prefeitura Municipal de Curitiba	Curitiba	Brazil
68	Rolf	Mack	GTZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit	Eschborn	Germany
69	Andre	Mader	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Cape Town	South Africa
70	Hedwig	Mandean	Municipality of Walvis Bay	Walvis Bay	Namibia
71	Vuyelo	Mathilda Mabena	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	Germiston	South Africa
72	Tekehisa	Matsubara	City of Nagoya	Nagoya	Japan
73	Monwabisi Roy Rodgers	Mkumla	Ethekwini Municipality / Durban	Durban	South Africa
74	Thembinkosi Obed	Mlaba	Ethekwini Municipality / Durban	Durban	South Africa
75	Norbert	Müller	University of Applied Sciences Erfurt	Erfurt	Germany
76	Andreas	Müller	Stadt Leipzig	Leipzig	Germany
77	Jhenny Ivone	Muñoz Hilarés	Municipalidad Distrital Rio Negro	Rio Negro	Peru
78	Shonisani Ma-	Munzhedzi	City of Johannesburg	Johannes-	South Africa

	First Name	Name	Organisation	City	Country
	thews			burg	
79	Parmananthan	Naidoo	City of Johannesburg	Johannesburg	South Africa
80	Helio	Neves	Prefeitura Municipal de São Paulo	São Paulo	Brazil
81	Ulrich	Nitschke	InWEnt-Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung	Bonn	Germany
82	Benjamin Kathura	Njenga	City of Nairobi	Nairobi	Kenya
83	Alessandra	Nogueira Pires	Prefeitura Municipal de Porto Alegre	Porto Alegre	Brazil
84	Susanne	Nolden	Stadt Bonn	Bonn	Germany
85	Jérome	Notebaert	Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque	Dunkerque	France
86	Pablo C.	Ortega	San Fernando City Council	San Fernando	Philippines
87	Konrad	Otto-Zimmermann	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Toronto	Canada
88	Aliaksandr	Pabiadzinski	City of Minsk	Minsk	Belarus
89	Jairaj M.	Phatak	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai	Mumbai	India
90	Michèle	Picard	Ville de Montréal	Montréal	Canada
91	Pushpam	Kumar	University of Liverpool	Liverpool	United Kingdom
92	Eva	Quistorp	Berlin, Life e.V., Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung	Berlin	Germany
93	Josef H.	Reichholf	Zoologische Staatssammlung München	München	Germany
94	Carlos Alberto	Richa	Prefeitura Municipal de Curitiba	Curitiba	Brazil
95	Fernanda	Richa	Prefeitura Municipal de Curitiba	Curitiba	Brazil
96	Debra	Roberts	Ethekwini Municipality / Durban	Durban	South Africa
97	Manuela	Rottmann	Stadt Frankfurt/ Main	Frankfurt	Germany
98	Antoine	Roulet	Conseil Général de la Seine-Saint-Denis	Bobigny	France
99	Marie-Claude	Roy	Ville de Montréal	Montréal	Canada
100	Adama	Sangaré	District de Bamako	Bamako	Mali
101	Paul	Scherrenberg	Gemeente Tilburg	Tilburg	Netherlands
102	Jan	Stevens	Provincie Limburg	Genk	Belgium
103	Seiji	Suzuki	Nagoya City	Nagoya	Japan
104	Halldor	Thorgeirsson	UNFCCC	Bonn	Germany
105	Katharina	Trägler	Nord-Süd Forum München	Berg	Germany
106	Gérald	Tremblay	Ville de Montréal	Montréal	Canada

	First Name	Name	Organisation	City	Country
107	Jean-Pierre	Triquet	Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque	Dunkerque	France
108	Fusae	Uezono	Nagoya City Assembly	Nagoya	Japan
109	Michel	Vampouille	Région Ile-de-France	Paris	France
110	Veerle	Vandeweerd	UNDP	New York	USA
111	Annika	Vogt	BMU-Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Reaktorsicherheit	Berlin	Germany
112	Ruud	Vreeman	Gemeente Tilburg	Tilburg	Netherlands
113	Stefan	Wagner	Stadt Bonn	Bonn	Germany
114	Yok	Watanabe	GEF (Global Environmental Facilities)	Washington	USA
115	Monica	Weiss	Stadt Bonn	Bonn	Germany
116	Geertje	Wijten	City of Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Netherlands
117	Sebastian	Winkler	IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature	Bruxelles	Belgium
118	Renate	Wolbring	InWEnt-Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung	Bonn	Germany
119	Tuan Wah	Wong	National Parks Board	Singapore	Singapore
120	Eckart	Würzner	Stadt Heidelberg	Heidelberg	Germany
121	Masao	Yamada	City of Nagoya	Nagoya	Japan
122	Monika	Zimmermann	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Freiburg	Germany



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Fon: +49 (0) 228 4460 - 1600, Fax: +49 (0) 228 4460 - 1601
info@servie-eine-welt.de, www.service-one-world.com

Responsible according to the German Press Law:
Ulrich Nitschke

Senior Project Manager: Ulrich Nitschke

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