

Outcomes for Cities & Biodiversity from CBD COP10 18 – 29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Executive Summary

The adoption of the *Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Governments and Biodiversity (2011 – 2020)* at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD COP10), puts local authorities in the strongest position ever to influence international biodiversity management.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, with our more than 1200 local government members, mission has been to bring sustainable solutions to global challenges, through local action. ICLEI's global biodiversity programme, Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB), and initiative run in partnership with IUCN, worked tirelessly with partners, stakeholders and cities to lobby Parties to support this Plan.



ICLEI President, David Cadman & Global Biodiversity Coordinator, Kobie Brand, (middle) in Working Group II

The implications of the Plan for cities and local governments is that National Governments now have an obligation to consider local governments in their biodiversity strategy, and work closely with local governments to implement the objectives of the CBD.

The adoption of this Plan marks the first time any multilateral environmental agreement has made such a level of commitment to local governments.

Through the LAB Programme, ICLEI established ground-breaking partnerships with organisations to benefit of ICLEI members. These include: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the URBIS Initiative.

Background

At the previous CBD COP9 meeting held in Bonn, Germany in 2008, the first important landmark for local governments was realised with the Parties' acceptance of **Decision IX/28**.

This decision officially recognised, for the first time, the critical role of local governments in the implementation of the objectives of the CBD.

At that meeting ICLEI and partners presented the **Bonn Call to Action** – an appeal to local governments to join together in implementing the objectives of the CBD.

ICLEI, as a key coordinator of the local government Mayor Group, and partners, in particular the SCBD, have been playing a central role, once again, in preparing a consolidated local government effort for COP 10. LAB is an active member of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, chaired by the CBD, which has worked to ensure visibility and a voice for local governments on the international stage.



Oliver Hillel, SCBD Programme Manager and ICLEI President, David Cadman, share the stage, and a joke, at the CBD COP10.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CBD

1. The **conservation** of biological diversity.
2. The **sustainable use** of components of biological diversity.
3. The **fair and equitable sharing** of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

In the run up to the event, two more declarations were made with input from the ICLEI/IUCN LAB team, these were: the *Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity* and *Towards Aichi/Nagoya: Second Curitiba Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity*.

The background to CBD COP10 and the work being done to advance the cities & biodiversity agenda on this global platform have been detailed in the attached document, distributed in early October 2010. Please see the LAB website for the full background report: www.ICLEI.org/LAB.

Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 – 2020)

Working Group II of the CBD COP10 proceedings included item 4.9c: Cities and Biodiversity. The only item for discussion was the proposed adoption of the *Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 – 2020)*. The draft Plan provided non-prescriptive guidelines, to assist national governments in aiding local governments in implementing the objectives of the CBD.

Brazil had submitted the Plan with strong support from Singapore, South Africa, Mexico and Canada.

Initially the EU and others opposed the Plan, suggesting that further discussion on its adoption should continue and before being brought to COP11 in 2012. This led to a series of nail-biting meetings of the “Friends of the Chair”, in which Parties leading the support of the Plan met with those opposing it. Eventually, with only very minor changes to the text, it was announced that the Plan would be endorsed by all 193 Parties, and the Decision related to the Plan would be adopted.

he Plan of Action is the result of many months of lobbying, consultation and hard work by a number of organizations and individuals prior to its submission by Brazil. Primary among these players are the Secretariat of the CBD, and the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Programme, representing ICLEI and IUCN.



Mayors and Local Government leaders encourage Parties to adopt the Plan of Action on Cities at a Local Government Press Conference held at the CBD COP10 venue.

(Left to Right) Brussels Capital Region Minister of Environment, Evelyne Huytebroeck; Mayor of Montréal, Gerard Tremblay; Mayor of Durban, Obed Mlaba; ICLEI President, David Cadman and Mayor of Curitiba, Luciano Ducci and translator

The **implications of the endorsement** of the Plan for local governments are that, although no financial commitments are implied, national governments now have an obligation to consider local governments in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. National governments now must work with their local authorities to align local and national biodiversity objectives, and explore ways in which they can support biodiversity implementation at the local level.

This is a great step forward for the local governments of the world not only in terms of biodiversity management, but sustainability in general because it is the first time that any multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) makes this level of commitment to local governments.

It is now up to sub-national governments, cities, and other local authorities, and organisations, like ICLEI, that support them, to make use of this momentum and to seek ways to engage with their national governments in mutually beneficial ways.

ICLEI and LAB will continue the ground-breaking work that helped to make this possible. This involves working intensively with local governments on the ground to support implementation at the local level, as well as bringing these local efforts to the international level through profiling and advocacy.

LAB Technical Coordinator, Andre Mader, made the following statement on behalf of ICLEI during Working Group II:

On behalf of our 1200 member cities and local authorities worldwide, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability would like to congratulate the Parties who had the vision to bring the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

Plans and policy translate into action at the local level. But this can only happen as swiftly and effectively as it needs to happen in this age of urbanization, if the nations of the world work with their respective local authorities, enabling them to fulfil their potential to contribute to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements such as the CBD.

Endorsing the Plan of Action in its current form here at the COP10 will send a powerful message to the world that the Parties to the CBD include local authorities as important partners to these objectives.

City Biodiversity Summit

ICLEI, through the ICLEI Japan Office and the ICLEI/IUCN Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Programme, was one of the main partners responsible for organising and running one of the largest and most successful side events of COP10: The City Biodiversity Summit.

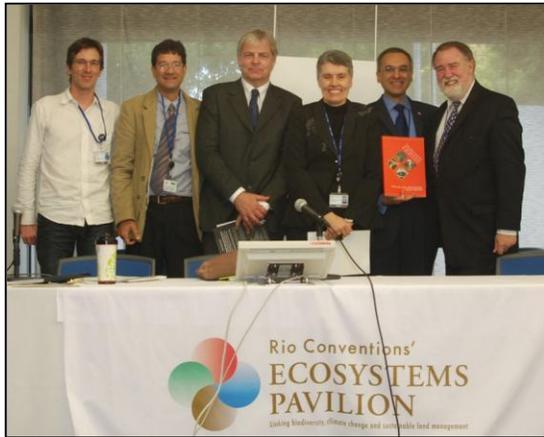
The event ran parallel to COP10 at a separate venue and received overwhelming attendance with more than 500 delegates from 230 local governments, including xx mayors and other local government leaders. Speakers included these senior representatives of national, regional and local governments; leading scientists; and the leaders of international organisations including ICLEI, IUCN, the CBD Secretariat, and the Ramsar Secretariat.

Over two days, four plenary sessions addressed overarching issues including the Plan of Action, while eight parallel sessions allowed local governments in particular to discuss their actions, experiences, successes and challenges. The result was not only a critical and large-scale networking and lesson-sharing opportunity for delegates, but also an essential show of support for the cities & biodiversity agenda at COP10 – in particular to support the Parties endorsement of the Plan of Action. The hosts, Governor Masaaki Kanda of Aichi Prefecture, and Mayor Takashi Kawamura of the City of Nagoya, represented the delegates of the City Summit two days later at the Ministerial High-level Segment of COP10. There they reported on the outcomes of the Summit and expressed City Summit delegates' support for the Plan of Action. They also presented copies of the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration, adopted at the City Summit, to the High-level Segment. The Declaration outlined the position of local governments; proceedings of the City Summit, and reasons for support for the Plan of Action.

ICLEI and LAB Side Events at COP10

ICLEI was involved in a number of side events and activities besides the City Summit, all of which took place in and around the main COP venue. The results and significance of these events are outlined here briefly.

Rio Pavilion Side Event: Local: *Local governments and ecosystem-based adaptation*



LAB organised a local government session at the Rio Pavilion – an event that ran for the duration of the COP with the aim to facilitate complementary links between the three Rio Conventions. The Pavilion will be a feature at the upcoming UNFCCC and UNCCD COPs. The local government event at the CBD COP10 Rio Pavilion attracted good attendance and speakers were of very high quality and mostly scientific background. The panel, chaired by Andre Mader technical coordinator of the LAB team, consisted of TEEB Study Leader, Pavan Sukhdev; Stockholm Resilience Centre Professor Thomas Elmqvist; City of Durban's Deputy Head: Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department, Dr Debra

Roberts; United Nations University Professor Jose Puppim de Oliveira and ICLEI President David Cadman. The implications of this event are that local governments are recognised as key players in the Rio Pavilion and that ICLEI and LAB are recognised as ambassadors for local government in this regard. Given the long-term goals of the Pavilion, this is of critical importance to positioning local governments.

Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Fair: *The use of CEPA by local authorities to implement the objectives of the CBD*



The Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Fair was also a multi-day event that ran for the duration of the COP meeting, in which ICLEI and LAB were given the opportunity to present a local government session. A distinguished panel consisting of Prof. Satoshi Chikami of Nagoya's Nihon Fukushi University; ICLEI President, David Cadman; The City of Edmonton's [Office of Natural Areas | Parks, Grant Pearsell](#); [City of Curitiba's](#) Head of Department of International Relations, Lara de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues., discussed the importance of communication, education and public awareness in the local government context. Input from the audience during the question and answer session indicated that it was well received. CEPA is a cross-cutting theme that is critical to biodiversity in any context, but perhaps most of all at the level of local government, where citizens are so critical to the success of any intervention. CEPA is one of LAB's focus areas, many cities, such as Edmonton and Curitiba, who have completed the initial LAB Project are now taking part in LAB's three-year intense CEPA Project.

Official LAB Side Event: *Accelerated Local Biodiversity Solutions to Global Challenges*



The ICLEI side event with the broadest focus –*Accelerated Local Solutions to Global Challenges*, gave some excellent local government speakers the opportunity to discuss ways in which they had implemented meaningful biodiversity actions at the local level.

This was another opportunity for LAB cities to profile their commendable efforts before an international audience. Panellists for this event were Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, Imma Mayol; Manager, Policy & Outreach: Environment Canada, Bonnie James; UN-HABITAT's Andrew Rudd, Oliver Hillel of the CBD and IUCN's Regional Director for Pan Europe, Hans Friederich. ICLEI's Global biodiversity Coordinator, Kobie Brand, chaired the session and ICLEI President David Cadman, gave the welcome address.

The session was a great success thanks to interesting presentations and strong statements of support to the LAB Programme from the partner organisations and other panellists.

Launch of the LAB Guidebook

The *Local Action for Biodiversity Guidebook: Biodiversity Management for Local Governments*, and a sister publication produced by UN-HABITAT and the SCBD, were officially launched at the LAB Side Event.



The LAB Guidebook, an international guidebook for local government practitioners, is the first publication of its kind. It has been produced by the LAB team with years of experience using case studies from leading local government participants of the LAB Programme.

UN-HABITAT and the SCBD produced a complementary publication titled: *Supporting*

Local Action for Biodiversity: The Role of National Governments, which guides national governments support of local governments.

The Guidebooks were launched to much fanfare at the event.

Cities and local governments are encouraged to join the LABNetwork in order to receive the LAB Guidebook free of charge. The LAB Guidebook will also be distributed at workshop events presenting the tool, the next workshop will be in February. Please email lab@iclei.org for more details.

Local Government Press Conference at CBD COP10

Prominent mayors and leaders of local governments were invited to hold a press conference at the COP10 venue, after the City Biodiversity Summit.



Brussels Capital Region Minister of Environment, Evelyne Huytebroeck; Mayor of Montréal, Gerard Tremblay; Mayor of Durban, Obed Mlaba; ICLEI President, David Cadman and Mayor of Curitiba, Luciano Ducci, took part in the press conference where they encouraged parties to adopt the Plan of Action on Cities.

Mayor Gerard Tremblay of Montréal and Mayor of Curitiba Luciano Ducci Curitiba signed up to the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) at the press conference.



Mayor Tremblay was outspoken on the fact that all local governments, regardless of whether they were large or small cities, had an important role to play in assisting their national governments in implementing the objectives of the CBD.

ICLEI – Local Government Lounge: Exhibition space at COP10

In the main CBD COP10 exhibition area ICLEI shared a large and well-positioned exhibition space – the Local Government Lounge – with the CBD Secretariat,

Above: David Cadman witnessing Curitiba's signing of the LAB contract with Mayor Ducci.

Below: Mayor Tremblay of Montreal signs onto LAB

UN-HABITAT, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Environment Canada. This functioned as a very useful meeting area for local government representatives; an advertisement for the work being done by ICLEI and LAB; and a venue for a series of interviews between ICLEI president David Cadman and local government representatives and others, called 'Time for Real Questions with ICLEI President David Cadman'.

Interviewees included the mayor of a Brazilian municipality Alta Floresta, Maria Izaura Dias Alfonso, situated on what is known as the 'Arc of Destruction' of the Amazon Jungle. São Paulo's Environment Secretariat's Chief of Staff, Dr Hélio Neves; the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, Naomi Tsur; Minister for the Environment of Brussels Capital Region, Evelyne Huytebroeck and Singapore's Biodiversity Index coordinator, Lena Chan.



Time for Real Questions with David Cadman and Brussels Capital Region Environment Minister, Evelyne Huytebroeck



Singapore City Biodiversity Index coordinator Lena Chan



São Paulo's Environment Secretariat's Chief of Staff, Hélio Neves



Alta Floresta Mayor, Maria Izaura Dias Alfonso (middle), and translator Edson Da Riva Carvelho

CBD: Local Government Side Event



Panelists Mayor of Nagoya, Takashi Kawamura; Deputy Mayor of Bonn, Angelica Kappel; Montréal's Michèle Picard; City of Curitiba's Head of the Department of International Relations, Lara Rodriguez; CBD Programme Manager, Oliver Hillel and ICLEI President, David Cadman.

ICLEI and the LAB team also played a central role in the Local Governments side event organised by the CBD. Here ICLEI President, David Cadman, and LAB participant cities discussed the role of local governments in the implementation of the objectives of the CBD.

The Cities of Nagoya, Bonn, Montréal and Curitiba, all LAB participants were represented on the panel, along with Oliver Hillel of the SCBD and chairperson ICLEI President, David Cadman. These cities presented the various programmes they had initiated in their cities to conserve and manage biodiversity.

Partnerships

International Union for Conservation of Nature

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) formed the Local Action for Biodiversity Programme as a partnership in 2006. Although the LAB team has been operated primarily by ICLEI, the partnership between ICLEI and IUCN has gone from strength to strength.

At the COP10 meeting ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Coordinator, Kobie Brand, and IUCN's Director General, Julia Marton-Lefèvre and Regional Director of Pan-Europe, Hans Friederich met to further entrench the ICLEI – IUCN partnership under the LAB banner, with a service agreement. This agreement

URBIS: Urban Biosphere Initiative



The Urban Biosphere Initiative, known as URBIS, was established by UNESCO in 2003. The URBIS mission has been to contribute to an increased urban understanding, valuing, recognition and reconnection of people and ecosystems in the urban landscape.

URBIS proposes to initiate a designation process that recognises urban biospheres.

At the URBIS Side Event held during the CBD COP, it was established that the URBIS Initiative could no longer be housed under UNESCO and needed to be hosted by an organisation that could facilitate the implementation of the initiative. ICLEI's global Biodiversity Programme, Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) run in partnership with IUCN, was the obvious choice.

A decision was made between all stakeholders, including the SCBD, Stockholm Resilience Centre, ICLEI, IUCN, UN-HABITAT, and URBIS supporting cities, that LAB would host the URBIS Secretariat.

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)



GBIF is the world's largest multilateral initiative for enabling free and open access to biodiversity data over the Internet. GBIF membership currently comprises of 55 countries and 46 international organizations.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)

Singapore City Biodiversity Index (CBI)

Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Nicole, Yoshiko, Michie, partners at the stand