

CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 · Issue 1 · March 2010

Messages



Message from Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaoui

Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

As I often say, the fight to save biodiversity will be won, or lost, at the local level. Cities, local authorities and their partners can demonstrate that they are part of the solution to meeting biodiversity challenges. I commend you all for turning

sprawling concrete jungles, into true leaders in the struggle to stop biodiversity loss.

I therefore look forward to continuing to work with you in the lead-up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) and the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, to be held as an associated event to COP10. 🌱



Message from Mr. David Cadman

President of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

I have seen, around the world and in my own country, the effects of humanity on our precious, irreplaceable biodiversity. I have seen also the indisputable links between biodiversity and the sustainability of our own species. Biodiversity is a critical link in feedback loops with climate change protection, water resource management, poverty alleviation, and *literally everything else* that our existence depends upon. In my long career in local government I have also seen what local authorities can do — often with minimal resources — to make a significant positive contribution to biodiversity conservation. As front-line managers between policy and action, local authorities are absolutely critical but often overlooked leaders in the conservation of global biodiversity — and thereby the conservation of humankind. 🌱

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Messages from mayors of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity



Curitiba Mayor Beto Richa “Last January, at the occasion of the IYB celebrations, we inaugurated the Santo Inácio urban park. Over the next two years, we plan to create more than 20 of those biodiversity islands to cover two millions square meters of Araucaria forest. With such concrete actions, we will protect these areas while taking into account their importance for local biodiversity. In these and other endeavors, I feel encouraged by the valuable support of the Secretariat of the CBD.”



Bonn Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch “Bonn has committed to biodiversity and to the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity from the beginning. After sending out strong signals with the Bonn Call for Action in 2008, cities and their partners are ready to take over an essential part in global biodiversity action. Bonn will continue to support this process as well as the work of both, the Global Partnership and the CBD.”



Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay “As mayor of the host city of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and on the occasion of the International Year of Biodiversity, I would like to emphasize the critical role played by cities in protecting their ecosystems and biodiversity as well as the work already achieved in this area.”



Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura “The year 2010 will be a very important year for biodiversity. With Aichi prefecture, the City of Nagoya is truly pleased and proud to be involved in supporting the organization and being the host city of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.”

The next issue of the CBD *Cities and Biodiversity Newsletter* will be distributed in October 2010, at the occasion of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. We would like to invite mayors to report on achievements and projects related to biodiversity by sending contributions to secretariat@cbd.int by 31 August 2010.

Cities and Biodiversity Newsletter is a biannual publication of the SCBD and ICLEI. The next issue of *Cities and Biodiversity Newsletter* will be distributed in October 2010, at the occasion of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. Contributions can be sent to secretariat@cbd.int by 31 August 2010.

Aichi-Nagoya's efforts towards COP-MOP5 and COP10

As the host region of the COP-MOP5 and COP10, Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee has been assisting the national government in hosting a safe, comfortable and well-organized conference. The committee has been mainly in charge of logistical work for the conference, such as security, emergency aid, volunteer recruitment and arrangements for official welcome ceremonies and excursions. The committee has been doing their best to welcome the conference participants and serve them well!

Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion

Committee consists of local governments (Aichi Prefecture and City of Nagoya) and local business communities, etc. The committee was established at the local level, to ensure the success of COP-MOP5 and COP10. 🌱



City Biodiversity Summit 2010

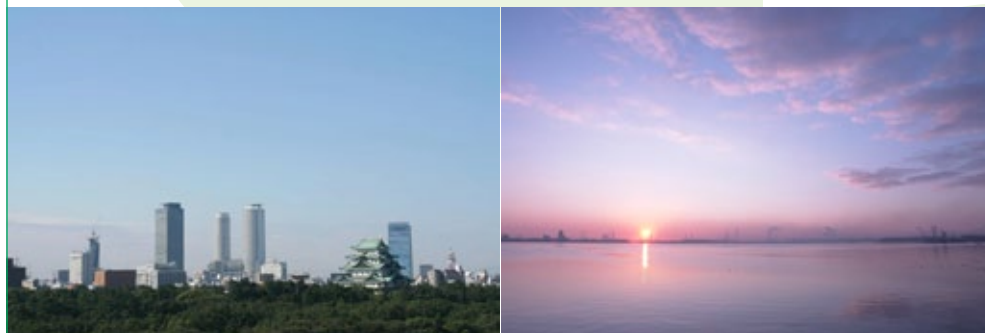
24-26 October, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

While responsibilities for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity rest primarily with the Parties, its engagement by all stakeholders including cities and local authorities is essential to implement the Convention effectively.

As recognized in the COP decision IX/28 on promoting engagement of cities and local authorities, local governments have great potential to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. In order to promote local biodiversity initiatives, holding a biodiversity forum on cities and local authorities is of significant importance, where local governments worldwide gather and discuss their relevant problems, and exchange information/best practices on biodiversity management.

As the venue of COP 10, Aichi prefecture and City of Nagoya will hold the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 as an associated event to COP10, to affirm the importance of cities and biodiversity, while calling out to the world the necessity of further expanding local efforts.

The Summit outcomes will be consolidated in a declaration to be presented at COP10 High-Level Segment, introducing initiatives taken by local governments worldwide. 🌱



DATE: October 24 (Sunday) – 26 (Tuesday), 2010

VENUE: Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

ORGANIZERS: Aichi Prefecture, City of Nagoya, Aichi-Nagoya COP 10 CBD Promotion Committee

CO-ORGANIZERS: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability

For more information, please see: www.cop10.jp/aichi-nagoya/english/

COP-MOP5 and COP10

11–29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10) will be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 18 to 29 October 2010. A high-level, ministerial, segment of the COP will take place from 27 to 29 October 2010. Prior to the COP, the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 5) will be held in Nagoya from 11 to 15 October 2010.

At the tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will assess progress achieved for the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss. The new biodiversity strategy will be integrated in the new Strategic Plan of the Convention for 2011–2020.

The Parties will also adopt an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, which will operationalize the third objective of the Convention, i.e.: the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

The meeting will be held with the active engagements of all stakeholders including local authorities, parliamentarians, business, youth and NGOs. COP10 will be a landmark event in the life of the Convention on Biological Diversity, being held during the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, declared by the United Nations General Assembly. 🌱



Life in harmony,
into the future
COP10/MOP5
AICHI-NAGOYA
JAPAN 2010

Mayors invited to COP10

Through Notification 2010-023, informing Parties of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 in Aichi/Nagoya, the Executive Secretary invites Parties to nominate Mayors and local authorities as part of their COP-10 delegations.

For more information, the Notification is available at the following link: www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-023-cities-en.pdf (also available in French and Spanish).

Celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) in Curitiba



Joel Richa, Secretariat of Media Relations of the Curitiba City Government

On the margins of the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity, Brazil convened an international event to celebrate the diversity of life on Earth and the start of the IYB. The high level panel of the event was composed of Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister of National Development of Singapore, Ms. Izabella Teixeira, Acting Minister of the Environment of Brazil, Mr. Jean Lemire, Canadian explorer, film-maker and scientist, Mr. Eric Blencowe, National Focal Point of the Convention for the United Kingdom, Mayor Beto Richa, host of the event and a member of the Steering Committee of Cities of the CBD Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, and CBD Executive Secretary, Dr. Ahmed Djoghla. The celebrations which took place on 7 January from 2 to 5pm were attended by 95 participants, and included the inauguration of the Santo Inácio urban park of 11,000 square metres. The park is an island of biodiversity specifically dedicated to the Convention, and a look-out has been named in honor of CBD Executive Secretary Dr. Ahmed Djoghla for his personal contribution to the city. National media coverage was extensive and launched the first national campaign on the IYB. 🌿

Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity

The Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity took place in the city of Curitiba, Brazil on 6 and 7 January 2010. The meeting was organized with financial support from the City of Curitiba and the governments of Norway and Brazil. The meeting aims were to: a) Prepare a draft plan of action on cities and biodiversity in the context of the CBD, to be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; b) Discuss the experience gained in piloting the City Biodiversity Index (CBI); c) Provide a platform of discussion for participants to agree on the roadmap to the City Biodiversity Summit 2010; d) Give an

opportunity for participants to plan their celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB).

As a result of the meeting, all 91 participants, including representatives of 13 cities from 11 countries, adopted "Towards Aichi/Nagoya: Second Curitiba Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity". The declaration is available in all 6 UN languages, as well as the report of the meeting, at: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MAYORS-02.

Participants also agreed on the process in view of taking the draft plan of action on cities, local authorities and biodiversity



to COP10. Once reviewed by all interested stakeholders, the draft plan will be sent by Brazil to the CBD Secretariat, for distribution to all Parties by the end of March. The outcomes of the Second Curitiba meeting will be presented to the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 at Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on 24-26 October 2010. 🌿



World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro (22–26 March 2010)

With half of humanity already living in towns and cities, it is projected that in the next 50 years, two thirds of us will be urbanized. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the rights of the urban poor to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water, sanitation and energy and to achieve environmentally friendly, smart urban growth and development. The theme of this year's World Urban Forum is therefore "The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide." To achieve these rights – all enshrined in the Millennium Development goals – better urban planning, good governance, proper financing and

gender and youth policies incorporated at every level are some of the roads to smarter and more sustainable cities of the future that will be explored in Rio 2010.

A unique feature of the World Urban Forum organized by UN-HABITAT every two years is that it is one of the most open gatherings on the international stage. It brings together government leaders, ministers, mayors, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, non-governmental and community organizations as well as academics, grassroots organizations, slum dwellers groups and the private sector in open dialogue and exchange. More information can be found at www.unhabitat.org/wuf.

URBIO2010 (18–22 May 2010)

URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research with the aim of promoting urban biodiversity through a continuing dialogue with the CBD-coordinated Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity. URBIO was founded by the participants of URBIO 2008

– the first international conference "Urban Biodiversity and Design – implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in towns and cities" – held in 2008 in Erfurt, Germany. For more information on the URBIO network and to receive the URBIO newsletter, with information on upcoming scientific conferences, urban biodiversity news, upcoming URBIO conferences regularly, please visit the URBIO website www.urbio2008.com.

The second International Conference on Urban Biodiversity & Design (URBIO 2010) will be held in Aichi/Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 22 May. More than 380 participants from 27 countries and regions are planning to join this conference, and 320 presentations have been submitted. The theme of URBIO2010 is "Urban Biodiversity in the Ecological Network". Registration is open until the end of March. The results of URBIO 2010 will be summarized to support the "Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity", which will be presented for adoption during COP 10. For further information please visit the website: www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010/doku.php.



ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) activities

Besides the Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap (see article in this newsletter), the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) coordination team has been busy with a variety of activities in recent months:

- ▶ The LAB team was responsible, in cooperation with the CBD Secretariat, for drafting both the CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity, as well as the Second Curitiba Declaration;
- ▶ ICLEI Africa Director Kobie Brand hosted a dedicated biodiversity session at ICLEI's Local Government Lounge at the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen, where a panel of experts discussed the linkages between biodiversity and climate change;
- ▶ At stakeholder consultation workshops held in new LAB local authorities Jerusalem and Cape Winelands District, officials, organisations and community representatives were briefed on the purpose of LAB participation and engaged in discussion;
- ▶ The LAB team has been supervising and co-supervising consultations on behalf of the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) initiative – a major international study that has a component dedicated to local administrators;
- ▶ New LAB cities (the latest being Mexico City) and returning LAB pioneers are progressing with their first deliverables, focused on biodiversity assessment and links between biodiversity & climate change, and biodiversity & CEPA;
- ▶ The LAB team is currently running a series of workshops, funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, in three South African provinces, with the aim of raising biodiversity awareness and building capacity to better manage biodiversity;
- ▶ Preparation is underway for the inaugural meeting of the LAB Advisory Committee on 26th March 2010 at UN-HABITAT's 5th World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, made up of political leaders in local governments and heads of some of the most significant global biodiversity organisations;
- ▶ Within the broader organisation of ICLEI, biodiversity is a growing focus as the Japan Office, the European Secretariat and the South America & Caribbean Secretariat are in the process of developing biodiversity activities in cooperation with the LAB team at the ICLEI Africa Secretariat. 🌱

For more LAB news go to: www.iclei.org/index.php?id=7926



The Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap

ICLEI's highly successful Local Government Climate Roadmap attracted significant positive attention in the lead-up to, and at, the UNFCCC COP15 in December last year. ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) coordination team is now using a similar approach in representing local authorities on biodiversity concerns, centered on the upcoming CBD COP10 and the parallel City Biodiversity Summit 2010 in Nagoya in October this year. This high-profile, multi-stakeholder biodiversity equivalent of the Climate Roadmap also highlights the strong and critical links between biodiversity and climate change protection.

Through the coordination of the Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap process, LAB is working with partners to create an enabling platform for local governments,



6th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns (19–21 May 2010)

The 6th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns will take place in Dunkerque in France, from 19 to 21 May 2010. The Dunkerque 2010 conference will explore how local sustainability can represent an answer to the current economic, social and climate challenges and how it can be further implemented at the European level under the actual financial and political frameworks. It will also offer a unique opportunity to assess and push forward the progress and achievements of European local governments in the field of sustainable development. ICLEI's International Training Centre (ITC), based in Freiburg, Germany,

will be involved in various aspects of the conference. Cities that have participated in the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Initiative will have speaking slots at the conference, focusing on biodiversity. One of these will be the hosts of the 2007 international LAB workshop, the City of Zagreb. For more information on the event, go to www.dunkerque2010.org.

Resilient Cities 2010 (28–30 May 2010)

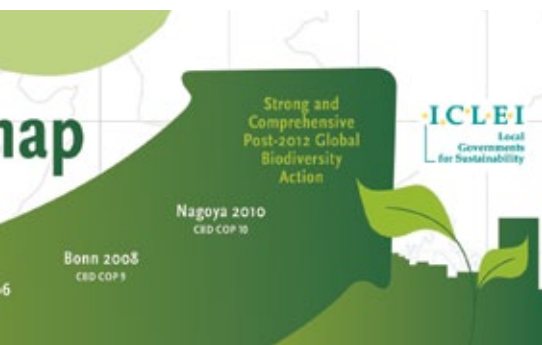
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will jointly host Resilient Cities 2010, the first edition of the annual global forum on urban resiliency and adaptation to climate change. The Congress will be held on 28–30 May 2010 in Bonn, Germany, between the Carbon Expo in Cologne (26–28 May) and the UN Climate Talks in Bonn (31 May–11 June 2010). Resilient Cities 2010 will be a prime opportunity to share the latest scientific findings, state-of-the-art approaches and effective programs on climate change adaptation

and resilience-building in cities and urbanized areas.

ICLEI is the first local government network to support the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation. Resilient Cities 2010 will enhance exchange, learning, networking, debate and policy development on approaches and solutions to climate change adaptation for cities and local governments. It also aims at setting the direction for future planning of and investment in urban infrastructure. The event will bring about policy propositions and impulses for innovation. For more information, go to <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org>.

Second Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index (1–3 July 2010)

The Second Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a follow-up to the first workshop held on 10–12 February 2009 to develop a self-assessment tool for cities to benchmark their



Biodiversity Roadmap by ICLEI

including opportunities to voice their support of the CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity, which was drafted by the LAB coordination team under supervision of the CBD Secretariat. It aims to raise awareness of the need for local governments to contribute to the biodiversity debate at the international level, through stakeholder consultation sessions attached to important meetings on the global calendar (e.g. the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010 and ICLEI's Resilient Cities Conference in Bonn in May 2010). 🌱

For more information, visit www.iclei.org/biodiversity

Preparation started for Local Action for Biodiversity Asia Initiative

In 2009 the ICLEI Japan Office started to develop a Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Asia Initiative. The objective is to improve the capacity of local governments in protecting biodiversity in urban areas and to promote sustainable use of ecosystem services at the level of local government in Asia. This project is moving in cooperation with ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat (Philippines), Thailand Environmental Institute (Thailand), and Fauna & Flora International (Indonesia), and with the guidance of the original LAB team based in the ICLEI Africa Secretariat.

Last year, research was done to understand the current situation of local governments in four Asian countries, including Japan, to determine the potential of project development to protect biodiversity, challenges and difficulties that local governments are facing, and identify related specialized institutions which could provide local governments with some assistance. We are now finalizing Country Reports in these four countries with current activities by local governments. The next step is to record case studies from the four countries and this information will be presented at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, which is an associated event to the COP10 in Nagoya, Japan on October 24-26, 2010. The goal of this project is to encourage local governments in Asia to collect necessary information and take tangible actions for biodiversity through assistance, training and information exchange among local governments. 🌱



conservation efforts and help evaluate their progress in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in urban ecosystems. The report of the first meeting is available at www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/city/ewdcbi-01/official/ewdcbi-01-03-en.doc.

At the Second Workshop, cities that have tested the draft Index will be invited to share their experience on the relevance and ease of use of the indicators proposed. The participants will review the feedback from the cities to improve and finalize the details of the Index. The Index, also known as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, is proposed as a self-monitoring tool in the Draft Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity to be considered for adoption by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the tenth Conference of Parties to the CBD. The Second Workshop is co-organized by the Secretariat of the CBD and the Singapore National Parks Board in partnership with the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity from 1-3 July 2010 in Singapore.

Biodiversity Conference under the Belgian EU Presidency (8–9 September 2010)

The Belgian EU Presidency (July – December 2010) will organize a conference at *EU-level* to inform about the current state in *biodiversity and ecosystem services*, to exchange ideas on the challenges of biodiversity conservation in an *urbanizing and changing world*, to reflect on the proposed *post-2010 vision and targets* and to highlight *options for implementation*, and to bring a *policy message to COP10*. This high-level stakeholder conference will be a milestone in the development of an EU biodiversity policy strategy for the post-2010 period and strengthen its position in international negotiations on a global biodiversity framework.

The conference will focus on three thematic areas: (1) *Biodiversity in an urbanizing Europe*; (2) *Ecosystem services – valuation of natural goods and services*; (3) *Vision and targets for biodiversity post-2010*:

implementation. The first theme of the conference will focus on the challenges and solutions for biodiversity and ecosystems management at the *local level*, especially in highly densely populated areas in Europe.

Website: www.lne.be/en/2010-eu-presidency
Contact information: Mr. Pieter de Corte,
pieter.decorte@lne.vlaanderen.be
or Ms. Elisa Calcaterra, elisa.calcaterra@iucn.org

COP10 (18-29 October 2010) and City Biodiversity Summit 2010 (24–26 October 2010)

Please see the special section on Page 2

Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity

Taking full advantage of the immense potential of local authorities to contribute to the implementation of the Convention, the Global Partnership and a number of CBD Parties propose to complement COP decision IX/28, adopted in Bonn, with a broader Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity. Building on the experiences and lessons learned by leading cities and Parties, the plan will provide suggestions to Parties on how to mobilize and coordinate local actions on biodiversity, to take CBD issues to urban residents, and to bring national strategies and plans into the urban context. A set of objectives, monitoring and reporting guidelines, as well as suggested activities for implementation are presented in the plan, as well as

an appropriate institutional framework for optimizing synergies between Parties, UN and development agencies, NGOs and networks of cities. Publications such as the ICLEI LAB manual for local authorities and the SCBD/UN-HABITAT guidebook (see article in this newsletter) will provide further guidance. For more information on the Plan of Action, please consult: www.cbd.int/authorities/strategicplan.shtml

The Plan, whose first iteration was presented by ICLEI and SCBD and received valuable comments at the Second Curitiba meeting on Cities and Biodiversity from January 6 to 8, 2010, is now undergoing a consultative process in which critical input was provided by the UK acting on behalf of the Triple Presidency of the European



Union, South Africa, Japan, Canada, Brazil and Singapore, as well as key partners such as UN-HABITAT, ICLEI-LAB, Aichi-Nagoya, Province of Quebec, the City of Bonn, IUCN Countdown 2010, the Stockholm Resilience Center and URBIO. In the near future, Brazil (possibly with the support of additional Parties) will request the Secretariat of the CBD to disseminate the plan to all Parties, in preparation for its submission to COP 10. The plan will also be validated at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 in Aichi-Nagoya, October 24 to 26, 2010 (see article in this newsletter). 🌱

The Testing of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI)

The framework of the City Biodiversity Index was formulated by the participants at the First Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index in February 2009. A Technical Task Force, comprising Dr. Nancy Holman, Mr. Peter Werner, Professor Thomas Elmqvist, Mr. Andre Mader, Ms. Elisa Calcaterra, Mr. Oliver Hillel and Dr. Lena Chan, was set up to fine-tune the indicators of the City Biodiversity Index and to make it user-friendly. By July 2009, Curitiba, Joondalup, Edmonton, Brussels, Montréal, Nagoya, and Singapore had already done a preliminary assessment of their data availability. Based on the feedback by these cities, the indicators and scoring system were further improved upon. The User's Manual for this Index is available on the CBD website.: www.cbd.int/doc/groups/cities/user-manual-singapore-index-2009-11-21-en.pdf

At the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity in January 2010, Curitiba and Singapore presented their initial scores. Montréal shared its assessment of the budget required for human resources and data collection. Nagoya provided comments on the Index and is in the process of testing the Index. To-date, 12 cities and regions, i.e. Curitiba, Joondalup, Edmonton, Brussels, Montréal, Nagoya, Singapore, Paris, Frankfurt, King County, Montpellier and London, have either test-bedded or are in the process of test-bedding the Index. European cities taking part in the European Capitals of Biodiversity competitions will be using components of the Index for their monitoring chapter. Additionally, 25 cities from the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities network will be participating in an ASEAN Workshop in April 2010, jointly organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the National Parks Board of Singapore, to test-bed the Index, acknowledged by participants of the Second Curitiba meeting (see related article) as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity. 🌱

Cities that would like to partake in the test-bedding of the Index can contact:
Dr. Lena Chan at lena_chan@nparks.gov.sg
Ms. Wendy Yap at wendy_yap@nparks.gov.sg
Mr Oliver Hillel at oliver.hillel@cbd.int

The twin guidebook publications by ICLEI and SCBD, with support from UN-HABITAT

ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) coordination team is reaching the final production stages of a guidebook designed to assist local government practitioners and others working at the local level, with a broad variety of biodiversity-related subjects. This publication, the LAB Guidebook, is a world first, providing local authorities around the globe with hands-on guidelines complemented by a rich variety of case studies — mostly through contributions from the 21 pioneering local authorities who made the LAB initiative so successful.

The CBD Secretariat is now preparing a complementary guidebook on cities and biodiversity for CBD Parties. In conjunction with the development of the draft Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity, to be submitted to COP10 for Parties' adoption, this guidebook aims to provide practical information on ways in which CBD Parties may support their local governments' contribution to the implementation of the CBD and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The guidebook will include best practices, lessons learned, guidelines and recommendations on how to support local governments, which will be needed to promote the effective implementation of the Plan of Action in the future.

In close cooperation with ICLEI and with the support of UN-HABITAT, the twin guidebook will be launched at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 in Aichi-Nagoya, October 2010. 🌱

UNESCO's URBIS Initiative

The UNESCO URBIS Initiative seeks to re-connect people and ecosystems in the urban landscape. Over the past year, this project has expanded with the number of municipalities as well as academic and institutional partners involved. For the last several years, UNESCO URBIS has been an integral part of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, and has also maintained partnerships with institutions including the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Now termed the UNESCO URBIS Partnership, this effort is currently developing a designation process to connect local, regional, and national governments, UN agencies, businesses, and other organizations to promote and recognize urban efforts in engaging in participatory and comprehensive social and ecological approaches. This designation is a voluntary, participatory, site-driven and tiered program approach designed to help cities make common-sense, cost-effective, and science-based decisions for equitable and sustainable urban social-ecological development. This year, COP-10 in Nagoya will be the correct forum for cities, institutions, and an extended group of partners to present their sustainable management practices and for the URBIS Partnership designation process to be further discussed and launched. 🌱

South African IYB launch motivates local authorities

Early in 2010 Honourable Minister Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa, launched the International Year of Biodiversity in her country. The Minister called upon all of society including NGOs, schools, business, and since biodiversity *action* occurs predominantly at the local level, also cities and local communities, to embrace this *International Year of Biodiversity* and make use of the profile it raises as an opportunity to implement positive change.

Each Month of the Year has a dedicated theme linking the benefits of biodiversity to society: *please see the list below*. The Themes for each month are broad and are not meant to be prescriptive, rather they allow for creativity and innovation. All are encouraged to embrace them and align them to existing planning processes, service delivery programmes and celebratory events. 🌱

A calendar of celebration:

January	BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE
February	BIODIVERSITY IS PRECIOUS
March	BIODIVERSITY IS FRESH WATER
April	BIODIVERSITY IS FOOD & ENERGY
May	BIODIVERSITY IS WEALTH
June	BIODIVERSITY IS SECURITY
July	BIODIVERSITY IS CLEAN AIR
August	BIODIVERSITY IS HEALTH
September	BIODIVERSITY IS HERITAGE
October	BIODIVERSITY IS BEAUTIFUL
November	BIODIVERSITY IS THREATENED
December	BIODIVERSITY IS OUR FUTURE

UN-HABITAT and Ramsar Convention organized Wetlands Management Workshop

Nature provides human society with a vast diversity of benefits such as food, fibers, clean water, healthy soil and carbon capture. Societies' well-being is totally dependent upon the continued flow of these "ecosystem services".



"Nairobi River"

UN-HABITAT / Shireen Bae

Poverty and the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity are inextricably intertwined. Main beneficiaries of many of the services of ecosystems and biodiversity are mostly the poor.

In the past, biodiversity conservation and ecosystems protection have been viewed as the domain and responsibility of national governments with little attention on the local government level. However, more recently, this has changed, especially in light of rapid urbanization. There is a clear need for guidance on managing wetlands and their biodiversity in urban and peri-urban areas.

In this light, UN-HABITAT and the Ramsar Convention organized a Workshop bringing together 30 Experts from local authorities, international organisations, research institutions as well as environmental managers from all regions of the world. The workshop adopted a broad approach that took into account not only urban and peri-urban wetlands, but also the significant interactive system between cities/towns and wetlands/watersheds that provide water and other ecosystem services to urban people. 🌱

The full report can be found at

www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=7823&catid=271&typeid=11&subMenuId=0.

"European Capitals of Biodiversity" competitions

The first round of the "Capitals of Biodiversity" competitions started in early 2010. France, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain are now looking for villages, towns and cities with the highest commitment to biodiversity preservation. Workshops will be implemented to provide municipalities with expertise on biodiversity. The workshops will be based on material elaborated by IUCN and ICLEI and will be run in the months ahead. About 500 municipalities in total are expected to participate in the competitions. They will fill out a questionnaire including a section on the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, which will thus be tested widely in European cities, towns and villages. This will be a valuable contribution to the further development of the Index. On top of the recognition as the "national capital of biodiversity" in each of the participating countries, the winners will be invited to present their strategies and actions at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. More countries are welcomed to join the initiative and search for their capital of biodiversity. For more information, go to: www.capital-biodiversity.eu. 🌱

Integrating biodiversity considerations into infrastructure projects

By 2030, over 60 percent of the world's population will be living in cities, and \$35 Trillion in public funds will be spent on infrastructure. Most of the resources are transferred to local authorities by national governments, through technology and design that have direct and too often negative impacts on the environment. It has been demonstrated that at the current pace of urbanization and infrastructure growth, natural resources and ecosystems could by 2030 be severely damaged.

Our future quality of life and the sustainability of our planet will largely be determined by urban planning, and this is why every effort to better consider the potential for "grey" infrastructure to become "green", i.e. more sustainably designed, built and operated, will make a difference. Advantages of green infrastructure for conservation include: temperature regulation, safe habitats for urban fauna, storm water management, direct ecosystem services, positive impact on well-being, etc.

Cities and local authorities and their partners have a major role to play in promoting the positive impacts of integrating biodiversity into urban planning and development. Already, as



"A green roof on BROTHER INDUSTRIES, LTD." Mizuho Ward, Nagoya City, Japan

part of Decision IX-28, the Conference of the Parties invited 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.

The Secretariat discussed the importance of local efforts and particularly with regards to infrastructure development at the inaugural CitiesAlive World Green Roof Infrastructure Congress, in Toronto Canada on 19–21 October 2009. In 2010, several events will provide a

platform of discussions for infrastructure developers and local authorities:

WORLD GREEN ROOF CONGRESS, Mexico City, 7-9 October 2010, www.amenamex.org/land_eng.html

SKYRISE GREENERY CONFERENCE 2010, Singapore 1-3 November 2010, www.skyrisegreener.com/conference

CITIESALIVE! 8TH ANNUAL GREEN ROOF AND WALL CONFERENCE, Nov. 30, Dec.1-3 2010, Vancouver, CANADA www.citiesalive.org

IUCN supports local actions for urban biodiversity

In November 2009, IUCN made a management decision to engage with cities and local authorities on urban and local biodiversity issues. The Secretariat is currently exploring options to build on the successful experience of several initiatives within the Union and launch a programme on urban and local biodiversity. The experience is based on the work carried out by the Countdown 2010 Initiative, activities by several of the IUCN Commissions and work carried out by IUCN Members, which over the past years have successfully worked with local authorities, produced innovative research and implemented successful projects.

The IUCN Secretariat is currently supporting the implementation of Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) in partnership with ICLEI, and is a partner in the European Capitals of Biodiversity project. IUCN, through its Commission on Ecosystem Management, is responsible for the evaluation of the biodiversity indicator for the selection of the next European Green Capital, and the Regional Office for Pan-Europe is supporting the preparation of the upcoming EU Belgian Presidency



Conference "Biodiversity post-2010: biodiversity in a changing world". IUCN is also piloting a biodiversity monitoring system based on the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (CBI) within the context of the European Capitals of Biodiversity project and is supporting the TEEB (the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) team in the stakeholder review process of the study for local policy makers.

For more information:

www.lne.be/en/2010-eu-presidency

(Biodiversity post-2010: biodiversity in a changing world conference)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm

(European Green Capital Award)

www.teebweb.org/ForAdministrators/tabid/1020/language/en-US/Default.aspx

(The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Local Policy Makers)

www.capital-biodiversity.eu/

(European Capitals of Biodiversity Project)

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- Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee
- United Nations partners: UN-HABITAT, UNESCO
- IUCN
- The National Parks Board, Singapore
- URBIO (Urban Biodiversity & Design)
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., DUH
- And participants in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity