



# CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

## Messages



©SCBD

### Message from Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif

**Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

As you know, the historic Nagoya Biodiversity Summit (COP 10) is about to start. At COP 10, the Parties to the CBD will discuss the draft Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity, which aims to support CBD Parties in engaging sub-national governments, cities, and other local authorities to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

I invite you to stay informed of the outcomes of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, to be held on the margins of COP 10, where more than 500 local authorities from all over the world will gather and exchange their experiences on biodiversity management. Representatives of CBD Parties and the local leaders will take this opportunity to discuss the Plan of Action for its submission to the COP. I sincerely hope that the proceedings in Nagoya will be a huge success for Parties, cities and local authorities. 🌱



### Message from the Aichi-Nagoya Committee

**Chairman Mr. Masaaki Kanda (Aichi Governor) and Deputy Chairman Mr. Takashi Kawamura (Nagoya Mayor)**

Aichi-Nagoya, as the venue of COP 10, established the Aichi-Nagoya COP 10 CBD Promotion Committee in September 2008. The core members are Aichi Prefecture, City of Nagoya, Nagoya Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Chubu Economic Federation. Since then, the Committee has been cooperating with the Japanese government to provide logistical support for successful organization of COP-MOP 5 and COP 10. We would like to welcome your attendance in the conferences with the utmost hospitality.

Additionally, Aichi-Nagoya has been leading local efforts at biodiversity conservation and has engaged in several actions, including the organization of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. This meeting convenes more than 200 bodies including leaders of local governments around the world to exchange information and experiences on the topic of cities and biodiversity. We will emphasize the importance of local implementation of the Convention, by delivering the results of the Summit to the High-Level Segment of COP 10. 🌱

## Table of Contents

Messages .....	1	<i>Local Action for Biodiversity</i>	
from Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif .....	1	<i>LABNetwork takes off .....</i>	6
from Mr. Masaaki Kanda and		<i>2010 Legacy project .....</i>	7
Mr. Takashi Kawamura .....	1	National governments	
from Mr. David Cadman .....	3	supporting local action	
Plan of Action on Sub-		for biodiversity .....	7
National Governments, Cities		<i>Canada: Support to local</i>	
and Local Authorities for		<i>action and engagement dur-</i>	
Biodiversity 2011-2020 .....	1	<i>ing the International Year of</i>	
City initiatives on		<i>Biodiversity .....</i>	6
biodiversity .....	2	<i>Japan: "Guide to the Local</i>	
<i>Montréal, Canada .....</i>	2	<i>Biodiversity Strategy" .....</i>	8
<i>Nagoya, Japan .....</i>	2	News from the front .....	8
<i>Curitiba, Brazil .....</i>	3	<i>Update: European Capitals of</i>	
<i>Bonn, Germany .....</i>	3	<i>Biodiversity competition .....</i>	8
Sustainable wetland		<i>Update: EU Committee of the</i>	
management and		<i>Regions .....</i>	8
biodiversity .....	4	<i>Update: TEEB for Local and</i>	
City Biodiversity		<i>Regional Policy Makers .....</i>	9
Summit 2010 .....	5	<i>Report on URBIO 2010 .....</i>	9
<i>City Biodiversity Summit 2010 .....</i>	5	<i>Green infrastructure .....</i>	10
<i>UNESCO side event at the City</i>		<i>Report on the Second Expert Work-</i>	
<i>Biodiversity Summit 2010 .....</i>	5	<i>shop on the Development of the</i>	
ICLEI NEWS .....	6-7	<i>City Biodiversity Index .....</i>	11
<i>Update on ICLEI's Local</i>		<i>Urban biodiversity, a hot topic in</i>	
<i>Government Biodiversity</i>		<i>the Belgian EU Presidency .....</i>	11
<i>Roadmap .....</i>	6	Cities and local	
		authorities during	
		COP 10 .....	12

## Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020



©younis08, on Flickr

Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020, an outcome of decision IX/28, was a result of discussions with partners in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, in collaboration with several CBD Parties, in view of the enormous potential for synergies between the various levels of government for local action on biodiversity. The second Curitiba meeting on Cities and Biodiversity (see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MAYORS-02> for more information), in January 2010, produced its first draft, and subsequent consultations enhanced its reach and scope.

The Plan closely reflects the draft 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention, in particular as it refers to implementation at the sub-national and local level. It sets an ambitious vision to fully engage the Parties' local authorities in support of the CBD by 2020, proposes to develop policy tools to support cooperation across different levels of government, including national and local biodiversity strategies and action plans that are mutually supportive, focuses on local awareness-raising and educational campaigns, and encourages the use of monitoring systems at the local level, such as

# Montréal in Action

## Montréal Mayor Gérald Tremblay



Along with other cities at the heart of the Curitiba Declaration, Montréal is actively engaged in international networks that seek to protect and increase urban biodiversity.

A policy to protect and enhance natural habitats has been protecting up to an additional 200 hectares of terrestrial habitats each year, mostly in 10 ecoterritories selected for their ecological importance. Montréal is protecting 17% of the island, including aquatic habitats and 2,641 hectares of natural terrestrial habitats.

Montréal has also established a “canopy index” that can be used to assess and increase tree coverage in the city. Trees now cover some 20% of the island, reducing heat islands and helping to maintain biodiversity.

Montréal’s nature museums, the Botanical Garden, Biodôme, Planetarium and Insectarium, welcome 1.7 million visitors each year. These institutions emphasize education, conservation and research



oriented around such themes as a better understanding of biodiversity. This year, at the Botanical Garden, Montréal will open the Biodiversity Centre, currently being developed in partnership with the Université de Montréal and the Secretariat of the CBD.

On the international scene, Montréal is working with other cities to develop the City Biodiversity Index, notably by testing its application in the city. This new tool will facilitate the near-term formulation of an action plan to preserve biodiversity as

## Plan of Action on Cities

continued from page 1

the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) proposed originally by Singapore.

The goals of the plan include increased regional and global coordination efforts among local authorities. It includes an indicative list of activities Parties could pursue. Responsibility for the implementation of the Plan rests with Parties, with the Global Partnership and an advisory committee composed of the city governments of past and future COP venues, providing suggestions and mobilizing partners. In the first plenary session of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, on October 25, 2010, several Parties will announce their contributions to the Plan. 🌿

proposed by LAB and ICLEI. The city also intends to participate in the URBIS partnership (see related article in the newsletter) to hone its skills for developing an ecosystemic approach to urban biodiversity tailored to its situation.

Networking and best practice exchanges remain essential tools to enable the world’s cities to take action to protect and maximize their biodiversity. 🌿



## Nagoya’s actions on biodiversity

### Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura

The City of Nagoya established the 2050 Nagoya Strategy for Biodiversity with the aim of creating a city where we can continue to lead good lives with a variety of living things and ecosystems. To achieve this, the City and its citizens are jointly working on several projects and activities to preserve biodiversity.

We have initiated activities such as the West Forest Creation Plan, which aims to leave a rich forest for future generations, and launched surveys on biodiversity in reservoirs which are performed as a collaborative effort between citizens, experts and the city. Through these efforts, the city intends

to create an environment where people and other living things can coexist.

In order to conserve water sources for the city’s 2.25 million citizens and protect the entire watershed area, we are promoting headwater-downstream area cooperation model projects and developing collaboration among various stakeholders connected to the watershed area. Additionally, we’re promoting more effective use of timber thinned from forests in remote headwater areas.

We promote the building of a city where citizens can live

comfortably with rich biodiversity, by utilizing local climatic characteristics, conserving and rehabilitating local nature, and facilitating a transition to a recycling-oriented society. 🌿





### BioCity: inductor of urban management in Curitiba



#### Curitiba Mayor Luciano Ducci

In the wake of a long environmental tradition, the city of Curitiba takes a new leap in quality through the BioCity Program. The Program refines the concept of environmental management, striving for restoration and preservation of biodiversity in the urban environment. "Biodiversity is our main inductor in urban management", says Mayor Luciano Ducci.

BioCity covers themes such as the

re-introduction of indigenous plants, eradication of exotic invasive species, incentives for conservation of private green areas and environmental education. These activities are also part of global actions coordinated by CBD, such as The Green Wave project.

BioCity encompasses revitalization of rivers, highlighting the largest urban river basin recovery project, the Viva Barigui Project. The project includes 45 km<sup>2</sup> in restoration activities, covering close to one third of the territory of Curitiba.

The city also has a plan of action to combat the greatest threat to its biodiversity, which is climate change. The



local plan also seeks to protect the population from the effects of these changes.

Integration represents the core principle of nature and sustainability, and BioCity endeavours to reproduce this concept in public actions. 🌱



#### Bonn Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch

Two years after COP 9 in Bonn and on the threshold of

COP 10 in Nagoya, the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) has further inspired the City of Bonn and many actors within the Bonn-based Sustainability Cluster to organize events, mobilize action or create outreach opportunities on education for sustainable development. Throughout the year, biodiversity is the focus of attention, involving many organizations and addressing a broad public. The range of activities includes exhibitions, traditional garden contests and "open garden" events, lectures, workshops and guided tours. Just after COP 10, the student-organized Bonn International Model United Nations Conference will debate



and approve its own "convention on biodiversity".

At the municipal level, a new action programme on biodiversity has been launched, advancing nature and species conservation, open-space management and education of citizens. In the field of international city-to-city cooperation, Bonn

is currently supporting a Bolivian application for funding under the International Climate Initiative (ICI). Bonn and La Paz have been partner cities for more than a decade now. Together, they recently completed a successful early warning project. In order to adapt to climate change, La Paz plans to strategically link its 27 protected areas and improve conservation management, in line with the "LifeWeb" initiative of the CBD. To support this project, the City of Bonn has mobilized relevant Bonn-based institutions and NGOs. Most of them have already agreed to support future implementation of the project with their expertise.

Furthermore, the City will of course continue to serve in the steering committee of the CBD initiative on Cities and Local Authorities and to advocate a follow-up of the important decisions taken in Bonn 2008. 🌱



#### Message from Mr. David Cadman

President of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD is one of the high-points on the calendar of this busy, but exciting, International Year

of Biodiversity. Never before have local authorities been so visible and well recognized in the global biodiversity arena. This well-deserved visibility and recognition is thanks to countless tremendous efforts at the local level, as well as ever-increasing collaboration between members of the Global Partnership. I'd like to commend the excellent work of Dr Djoghlaif and the CBD Secretariat in making this the most successful COP yet. 🌱

# Sustainable wetland management and biodiversity: the role of local authorities

As urban areas increasingly expand in size and importance, there is also an unprecedented increase in societal dependence on ecosystem services from urban landscapes, including wetlands located within urban and peri-urban environments. Wetlands are a source of several vital and unique ecosystem services for urban communities, which include but are not limited to provision of fresh water, wastewater treatment, flood regulation, supporting food production, job creation and economic earnings, especially from tourism development, reduction of vulnerability of human settlements and infrastructure to storm surge events, and harbouring rich biodiversity. They are increasingly seen as “green infrastructure” within the urbanized landscapes which contribute to the physical and mental health and well-being of residents.

Achieving or striving towards a wise use of the ecosystem services and eliminating some of the challenges posed to both cities and ecosystems within the context of an urbanizing world requires promoting and strengthening broad-based partnerships based on constructive engagement between urban planners, local governments, national institutions and non-governmental organizations. Some of the most critical ecosystem services, such as the purification and supply of water resources, are linked to the delivery of key responsibilities of local authorities, such as providing water resources to their own local populations.

This crucial role and involvement of local authorities in sustainable wetland and watershed management, including through protected areas, to ensure water supply to their citizens, has been recognized and acknowledged, especially by UN-Habitat, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the global NGO Wetlands International. These organizations are collaborating on a partnership to provide technical guidance and support to local authorities in this area. One of the main goals is to encourage national governments to build the capacity of local authorities to mainstream biodiversity into the delivery of essential services and land use planning, and to manage wetlands in an integrated way, supported by national guidelines and policy tools. To that end, it is useful to integrate cities as part of wider dynamic landscapes and regional ecosystems, such as river/lake basins or large coastal ecosystems.

These activities and roles of local authorities contribute to the implementation of key resolutions and decisions of the CBD and Ramsar Convention. In addition, CBD decision IX/28 and the upcoming Plan of Action on Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity offer another important window for collaboration and mobilization of Parties to support the wise/sustainable use of wetlands. Further synergies can be explored between Ramsar and CBD, with the support of UN agencies and NGOs such as Wetlands International, and will be showcased at the CBD COP 10. 🌱



### CASE STUDY: Urban wetlands management in Lake Victoria Basin Musoma Municipality, Tanzania.

Musoma municipality is one of the many expanding urban centres along the shores of Lake Victoria. Various development activities in the municipality have generated significant impacts on the wetlands in the area. However, it has been recognized that wetlands in Musoma play an important role in terms of supporting livelihoods and providing ecosystem services, including fishing, brick-making and agriculture. A pilot project has been established using the Kitaji Pond, in the centre of the town, aimed at mobilizing the community to improve the pond for its own benefit. Whilst some issues are emerging as potential problems, such as breeding mosquitoes and odours generated from informal solid waste disposal, the municipality now recognizes that a good strategy is one that actively involves interest groups and stakeholders from a diverse range of interests.





# City Biodiversity Summit 2010

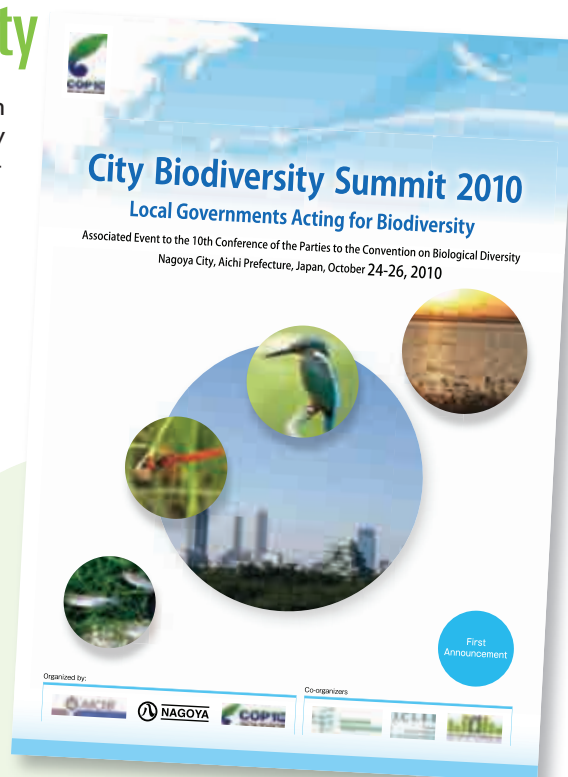
## Local Governments Acting for Biodiversity

Today more than half of the world's population lives in cities. The production and consumption habits of city dwellers have a major impact on biodiversity across the globe, and the accelerating rate of urbanization also puts more pressure on habitats around the cities. At the same time, through collective efforts and initiatives, cities hold great potential and problem-solving capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It is not too much to say that local initiatives undertaken by cities and local authorities are key to shaping the global environment of the 21st century.

COP 10 will be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, 18-29 October 2010. Coinciding with the meeting, the Aichi Prefectural Government and the City of Nagoya will host the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. Attendees from more than 200 bodies, including relevant international organizations and leaders of local governments around the world, will gather at the Summit to exchange information and experiences on the topic of cities and biodiversity.

In addition to working sessions during which local governments will talk about their experiences and knowledge along eight themes relating to biodiversity management at the local level, Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to be submitted to COP 10 for adoption, will be discussed by representatives of several CBD Parties. The summit will also introduce local action initiatives, tools and updates by the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, TEEB, URBIO 2010, and other partners.

The highlight of the summit is the presentation and adoption of the City Summit Declaration on the last day of the meeting. The declaration and the outputs of the Summit will be presented at the high-level segment of COP 10.



### City Biodiversity Summit 2010

**DATES:** 24-26 October 2010

**VENUE:** Nagoya Tokyu Hotel

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

**CO-ORGANIZERS**  
Secretariat of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity, ICLEI-Local  
Governments for Sustainability  
[www.cop10.jp/citysummit/english/](http://www.cop10.jp/citysummit/english/)

**TEL:** +81-52-972-0081

**E-MAIL:** [citysummit@cop10.jp](mailto:citysummit@cop10.jp)

Note: Pre-registration for the City Biodiversity Summit is over. Please be aware that there is no registration on site.

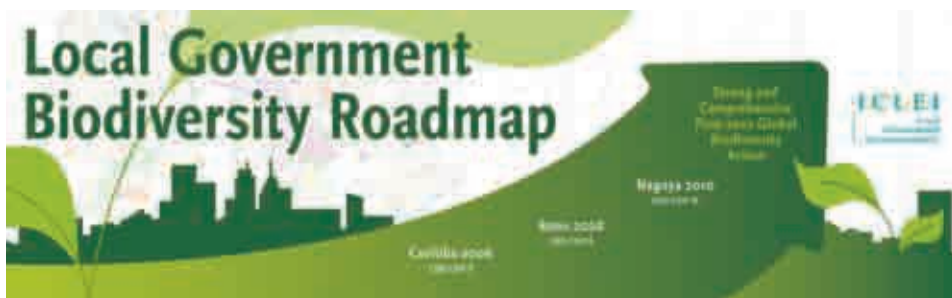


### UNESCO Side Event, 23 October, at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010

This side event, organized by UNESCO and the Stockholm Resilience Centre and co-sponsored by IUCN, CBD Secretariat and ICLEI, will present the URBIS Partnership, a global network of scientists, planners, educators and policy makers that provides a platform for discussion and sharing of ideas and approaches for developing more resilient and equitable urban regions. The URBIS Partnership is also proposing a designation process to recognize the efforts of urban regions to engage in participatory and comprehensive social and ecological approaches in urban planning for sustainability.

Collaborators at this side event include representatives from municipalities, universities, agencies and other institutions who have expertise in fields such as urban ecology, environmental education and participatory planning. The goals of the event are to identify relevant stakeholders and examine an official designation process to recognize leadership; facilitate links between science and policy through collaborative efforts and develop a roadmap forward and contributions to Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The morning session of this one-day workshop will re-acquaint participants with the mission, vision and objectives of the URBIS Partnership and will feature presentations on sustainable management practice developed in their affiliate urban regions. The afternoon session will focus on the proposed designation process and the applicability of the tiered process; the proposed designation approach and the development of a URBIS Partnership roadmap will also be discussed.



## Update on ICLEI's Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap

The Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap is a process that aims to make local governments aware of their role in global advocacy for biodiversity and provides a platform for them to voice their valuable and often unique comments and concerns.

The upcoming COP 10 and the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 are important milestones in the Roadmap process. The Roadmap, guided by ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, will serve as a banner under which local authorities can rally as a consolidated voice. In this way, local governments can, for example, show united support for the proposed

CBD Plan of Action on Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The Plan, in turn, will encourage support for local governments so that they are better able to complement national efforts by implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the local level.

The Roadmap, as well as the members of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity supporting it, will be visible throughout the proceedings in Nagoya, including the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, CEPA Fair, the Rio Conventions' Pavilion, Local Government Lounge, and side-events on cities and local authorities. 🌿

## CANADA: Support to local action and engagement during International Year of Biodiversity

In recognition of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program targeted biodiversity-related project proposals such as urban re-naturalization and habitat restoration for 2010. As a result CA\$ 2.17 million was allocated to support 58 biodiversity projects in communities all across Canada. More information about this Program is available at the following address: [www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction).

Environment Canada's Biosphere centre in Montreal also developed Biokits to encourage urban Canadians to go outdoors and discover the biodiversity in their neighbourhoods, parks and urban spaces. Copies of the Biokits can be obtained at: [www.ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits](http://www.ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits).

In addition, Environment Canada entered into a partnership with ICLEI—Canada, developing a Cities and Biodiversity Engagement Strategy to provide an overview of how local governments are addressing biodiversity. The second phase is to develop a Canadian Urban Biodiversity Case Study Series that will highlight the diversity of actions being taken by Canadian communities and provide a mechanism for sharing ideas and approaches across the country. 🌿

For more information, visit [www.iclei.org/index.php?id=8806](http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=8806)



## LABNetwork Takes Off

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is pleased to announce that the LABNetwork has signed up its first members. We would also like to extend a special thank you to IUCN Director General, and LAB Advisory Committee member, Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, for encouraging the IUCN Countdown 2010 cities to join the LABNetwork.

The LABNetwork is an introductory option to the LAB Programme, which allows local governments lacking the capacity necessary to join the more intensive versions of LAB, to become involved in the international biodiversity movement. Through the LABNetwork, local authorities can begin to realize their potential to contribute towards global biodiversity, through local leadership, planning and actions.

Joining the LABNetwork offers local authorities access to biodiversity experts and invitations to global and regional networking opportunities, and international profiling of their local biodiversity activities through the LAB website and at events attended by LAB. Members are also able to access a variety of biodiversity tools, such as those produced by LAB and the Secretariat of the CBD. 🌿





# Local Action for Biodiversity: 2010 Legacy Projects

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is a global biodiversity programme coordinated by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is a five-step process for city governments culminating in the implementation of three projects to protect and manage biodiversity on the ground. The 2010 LAB Legacy Project is a special project initiated during the International Year of Biodiversity which will establish a legacy and commitment to local biodiversity for many years to come, taking on a dazzling array of innovative and exciting ideas.

Some of the various Legacy projects LAB cities have embarked on this year:

**WAITAKERE (NEW ZEALAND)** is encouraging private garden biodiversity through two wonderful pamphlets for distribution ([www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz)).

**MEXICO CITY (MEXICO)**, which boasts the greatest number of species of corn worldwide, is protecting native corn, thus addressing issues of food security

and ensuring corn diversity.

The City of **EDMONTON (CANADA)** plans to purchase natural areas of high biodiversity within the city to increase the amount of land secured for conservation purposes.

To protect key habitats in the city of **ABU DHABI (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)** that are under pressure from coastal development, dynamic Coastal Development Guidelines have been released, combining the protection of the coast for natural and cultural heritage, recreation and ecosystem services.

**BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (BELGIUM)**, in a pioneering partnership with railway management, is developing plans for integrating biodiversity conservation along railway lines, as well as a communication plan for the International Year on Biodiversity 2010.

**CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY (SOUTH AFRICA)** combines conservation and socio-economic enhancement through community-based restoration of local river zones and the

establishment of biodiversity corridors.

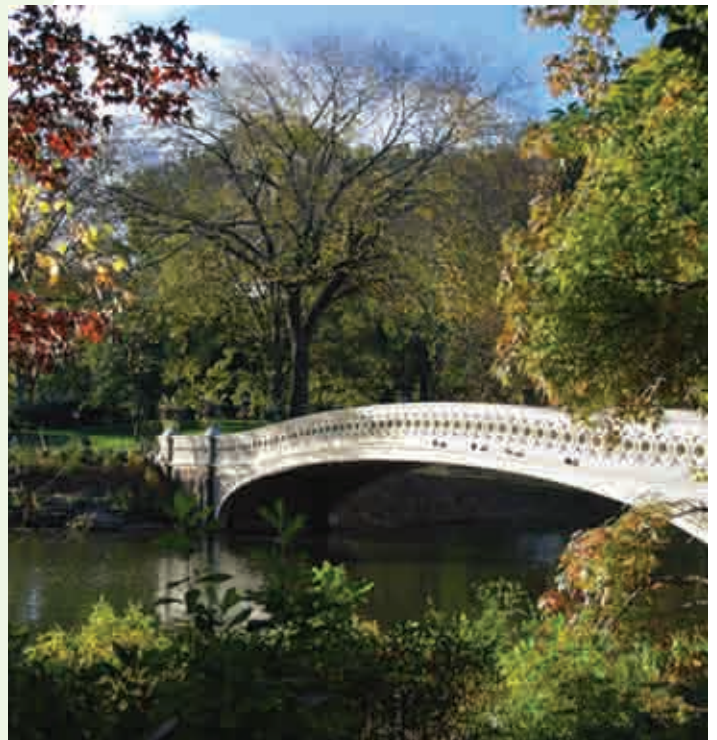
Also benefitting local communities, another South African participant, **ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY**, is restoring local biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services on landfill sites. This project aims also to sequester carbon emissions associated with hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in Durban.

Sustainable planning guidelines for the Gazelle Valley Park, a flourishing wildlife habitat in **JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)**, will be developed to protect this unique urban ecosystem as a nature reserve, and resources will be sought for the development of a visitor's centre for recreation, tourism, education and scientific research.

**JOONDALUP (AUSTRALIA)** is developing and installing interactive, accessible and user-friendly signage within the Yellagonga Regional Park. A major recreational and tourist destination for the city, it will educate visitors about local biodiversity, especially relating to indigenous culture and history. 🌿



"Calligraphie Ferroviaire" by Sam and Francis, by the route of the old railway in Woluwe, Belgium.



©LaurentL on Flickr

# JAPAN: Guide to the Local Biodiversity Strategy

Japan's Basic Act on Biodiversity, which entered into force on June 6, 2008, was established to describe fundamental policies on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and promote the comprehensive and systematic implementation of biodiversity-related policies. Under Article 13, the Act prescribes that prefectural and municipal governments are mandated to consider the establishment

of local biodiversity strategies, based on the National Biodiversity Strategy.

In line with this Article, the Ministry of the Environment created the Guide to the Local Biodiversity Strategy to support the successful establishment of local biodiversity strategies. The guide summarizes fundamental information and ideas to which local governments can refer in order to develop their local biodiversity strategies, and

provides advice on how to form an organizational structure for the effective implementation of the local strategy, and on how to monitor and evaluate progress and implementation of these strategies.

With the support of the national government, more than 10 local governments in Japan have already developed local biodiversity strategies. 🌿



A. Moreno Rodríguez / CENEAM - MMA

## “European Capitals of Biodiversity” award competition

The 2010 round of the “European Capitals of Biodiversity” competition, already being held in Hungary, Slovakia, France, Spain and Germany, will culminate with Germany's turn at the end of October 2010. From the smallest village, the Valencian village Carrícola, with 88 inhabitants, to European metropolises like Barcelona or Paris, municipalities presented their strategies and actions to preserve local biodiversity.

The responses to the comprehensive questionnaires showed that performance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is independent of the size of the municipality. For example, the Spanish winner, El Real Sitio de San Ildefonso, with only 6,000 inhabitants, was outstanding for its successful integration of cultural resources with the protection of biodiversity. The Slovak

capital of biodiversity, Želiezovce (7,500 inhabitants), won due to its very proactive approach to biodiversity protection, which is supported with real enthusiasm. The Hungarian winner, Tata (24,000 inhabitants), will become renowned as the “City of Waters” due to the restoration of the network of bounteous spring waters in the city. Grande Synthe (21,000 inhabitants) has been chosen as the French capital of biodiversity as a result of its ambitious policy to preserve nature and restore biodiversity within the city, by means of ecological green space management using alternative techniques.

Learn more about the EU Capitals of Biodiversity project at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, where the project award winners will present their cases. 🌿

For more information, visit [www.capital-biodiversity.eu](http://www.capital-biodiversity.eu)

## EU Committee of the Regions: Fighting biodiversity loss will fail unless the local and sub-national levels are more widely involved

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the European Union's assembly of sub-national and local representatives and has 344 members from all 27 EU Member States. In June, the CoR adopted its opinion on “EU and international biodiversity policy beyond 2010”. The CoR emphasizes that international and European efforts will continue to fail to halt biodiversity loss unless more is done to involve local authorities and sub-national governments. Therefore, the CoR strongly supports the proposed Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and urges the Parties to the CBD to consult local authorities and sub-national governments in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The CoR offers to contribute to the CBD process by promoting cooperation between European local authorities and those of developing countries in biodiversity and ecosystem management.

The CoR opinion is available in all official EU languages at [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu) “Opinions and resolutions” (Opinion CdR 112/2010) or by email to [enve@cor.eu](mailto:enve@cor.eu).

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions





# Urban Green infrastructure: a key for the success of the CBD Plan of Action on Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity

Urbanization and the rapid growth of urban infrastructure (for transportation, energy, waste and water management) cause pressure on urban biodiversity and continue to weaken the resilience of ecosystems and their capacity to generate essential services. Green infrastructure has the potential to moderate habitat fragmentation, loss of habitats and to reduce various threats to biodiversity in and around cities. This makes it an important tool for the implementation of the CBD Plan of Action on Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity and by extension, the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan.

Green infrastructure can be defined as an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations.<sup>1</sup> It is also a concept that incorporates biodiversity services into infrastructure planning, siting and design, and a mechanism for more informed decision-making and more integrated thinking in relation to urban and regional environmental planning<sup>2</sup>.

Natural green infrastructure encompasses waterways, soil, grasslands and forest patches, which perform ecological services of value to nature and can greatly improve the quality of life, particularly in an urban setting. Human-made green infrastructure includes eco-corridors, eco-bridges, breeding and migration assistance, pocket wetlands, porous and permeable pavements, reforestation and revegetation (particularly with local and endemic species), connections between urban and rural areas, green walls and roofs, parks, protected areas, green stormwater management, green procurement, integrated land use management and spatial planning tools. These and other solutions can be incorporated into green infrastructure networks to constitute a critical part of urban



infrastructure development respectful of biodiversity.

Green infrastructure, as a core component of investment strategy, national and local policies (for example, in relation to agriculture, water, transport, energy and land use) has the potential to link together all levels of government and a wide range of land users. Consequently, the focus on the quantity of natural capital is broadened to include the quality of natural capital<sup>2</sup>. Recognizing the benefits and economic value of investing in green infrastructure, the European Commission is, for example, currently developing a strategy for an EU-wide Green Infrastructure as part of its post-2010 biodiversity policy (see the fact sheet at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/greeninfrastructure.pdf>).

The anticipated CBD plan of action on cities and local authorities provides a global tool for Parties, cities, local



authorities and other sub-national governments to develop and support green infrastructure strategies and initiatives and to further invest in the establishment and maintenance of such biodiversity-friendly projects. 🌿

<sup>1</sup> Benedict, M. and E. McMahon, 2001, *Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century*, Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse Monograph Series

<sup>2</sup> Green infrastructure- supporting connectivity, maintaining sustainability. Aleksandra Sylwester, 2009 European Commission, DG Environment.



## Urban biodiversity, a hot topic in the Belgian EU Presidency

On September 8 and 9, 2010, in the context of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, the Flemish Ministry of Environment, Nature and Energy hosted the conference *Biodiversity Post-2010: Biodiversity in a Changing World*.

This international conference comprised three simultaneous workshops, one of which focused exclusively on Biodiversity in an urbanizing Europe. In this workshop, renowned experts and visionaries addressed the integration of biodiversity into local and regional policies, the role of green infrastructure in urban areas, the necessity for strong partnerships, and techniques for mobilizing citizens into action. The speakers provoked many in-depth discussions amongst a notably diverse audience. In his Chair's conclusions, Jan Verheeke of the Environment and Nature Council of Flanders emphasized several needs: to fill remaining knowledge gaps; to empower local authorities with practical management tools; to forge novel and stronger partnerships; to promote the regulatory and fiscal enabling conditions for green infrastructure development; and to hone communication techniques.

The conference, which also served as a launch pad for the ground-breaking study, *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Local and Regional Policy Makers*, culminated in the Message from Ghent, a statement of concerns and recommendations. The Message, as well as all presentations and the conclusions of the workshops will be published online at: [www.lne.be/en/2010-eu-presidency/events/biodiversity-post-2010](http://www.lne.be/en/2010-eu-presidency/events/biodiversity-post-2010) 🌿



©Mirek De Vos - ANB (BIO)



©National Parks Board, Singapore

## Second Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index, 1-3 July 2010, Singapore

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI, also known as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity) is a self-evaluation and monitoring tool for cities on their biodiversity conservation efforts. The Secretariat of the CBD and the National Parks Board of Singapore, in collaboration with the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, organized two expert workshops to develop the CBI (February 2009) and subsequently to review comments by cities that have tested its application, improving the indicators and finalizing the User's Manual for the CBI (July 2010).

A total of 32 experts on urban biodiversity conservation and planning, as well as city representatives from Brussels Capital Region, Curitiba, Edmonton, Montreal, Nagoya, Singapore and Waitakere City, attended the second expert workshop. At the time of the workshop, 34 cities were in various stages of test-bedding the index. Common concerns include: the need for more clarity by providing definitions and clear explanations to guide users in testing the indicators; the need to adjust the scoring range for some of the indicators; and the lack of data availability and reliability for some of

the indicators. Participants proposed a revised CBI, which now consists of a more detailed profile of biodiversity-related city information. It lists 23 indicators based on three main components: (i) native biodiversity in the city; (ii) ecosystem services provided by biodiversity in the city; and (iii) governance and management of biodiversity in the city. Participants are encouraging more cities and a broader range of stakeholders to respectively test-bed and support the testing of the amended CBI. Data received from participating cities will be used to fine-tune the indicators, and statistical analyses will be conducted to provide appropriate scoring ranges for some of the indicators.

Other applications of the CBI have emerged. For example, the indicators can act as guidelines on how to conserve and enhance biodiversity, be used for master planning of new cities, or incorporated as the biodiversity component of other environmental indices.

The report of the second workshop and the amended CBI (August 2010 version) are available at [www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml) 🌿

# Cities and Local Authorities during COP 10: Schedule of relevant events and activities

## Events to be held at Nagoya Congress Center (COP-10 venue):

**20 OCTOBER** (13:15 to 14:45), room 210: "Towards a Green Future—Biodiversity Action at the Local Level" (Nordic Council of Ministers)

**20 OCTOBER** (18:15 to 19:45), Event Hall: "City Infrastructure and Biodiversity" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

**20 OCTOBER** (18:15 to 19:45), room 232: "Wetlands and Urbanization" (Wetlands International)

**22 OCTOBER** (13:15 to 14:45), room 232: "Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity: Improving Cooperation for Local Implementation of the CBD" (Secretariat of the CBD)—for cities and local governments

**22 OCTOBER** (13:15 to 14:45), Event Hall: "Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans" (Secretariat of the CBD)—for sub-national governments

**27 OCTOBER** (16:30 to 18:00), room 212A: "Local Solutions to Global Biodiversity Challenges" (ICLEI-LAB)

**27 OCTOBER** (18:15-19:45), Interactive Fair Tent of Japan: 'European Capitals of Biodiversity – Promoting the Preservation of Biodiversity in Urban Areas' Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.v., IUCN Europe, ICLEI and their partners.

For more information on COP-10 side events, visit:  
[www.cbd.int/cop10/side-events/?mtg=cop-10](http://www.cbd.int/cop10/side-events/?mtg=cop-10)

## THE RIO CONVENTIONS' ECOSYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE PAVILION:

This is a platform which links the three conventions (CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) by hosting themed days for the duration of the COP. 26 October ICLEI-LAB will be hosting a session on the day themed Ecosystembased Approaches for Adaptation. Others who will host sessions that day include IUCN, DIVERSITAS and BirdLife.

## CEPA FAIR ON EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES 27 OCTOBER:

ICLEI-LAB will host a session entitled "The Use of CEPA by Local Authorities to Implement the Objectives of the CBD". ICLEI-LAB will have an exhibition stand at the CEPA Fair for the duration of the COP.

## INTERACTIVE FAIR FOR BIODIVERSITY

(exhibition booths): 18 to 29 October: Government of Canada, the Secretariat of CBD, ICLEI, UN-HABITAT and Stockholm Resilience Centre will display their activities on cities and biodiversity at the exhibition booths, in Shirotori Park (next to Nagoya Congress Center).

## Events to be held at other venues:

**23 OCTOBER URBIS/UNESCO EVENT**, in the margins of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. For more information, see the text on page 5.

**24 TO 26 OCTOBER CITY BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT 2010**, for more information, see the text on page 5.



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

## LAUNCH OF THE TWIN PUBLICATIONS

by ICLEI-LAB and UN-HABITAT/SCBD: The ICLEI-LAB *Local Action for Biodiversity Guidebook: Biodiversity Management for Local Governments*, and the UN-HABITAT/SCBD guidebook for CBD Parties *Supporting Local Action for Biodiversity: The Role of National Governments*, will be launched at several occasions during COP 10, such as at the ICLEI-LAB side event and ICLEI-LAB exhibition booth called "The ICLEI—Local Government Lounge" in Shirotori Park.

## Contributors

**EDITOR:** Ahmed Djoghlaif

**PRODUCTION:** Chikara Hombo, Oliver Hillel, Chantal Robichaud and Jacqueline Grekin

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY

- ▶ ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and its Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) team



- ▶ The Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity: City Governments of Curitiba (Brazil), Bonn (Germany), Montreal (Canada) and Nagoya (Japan)
- ▶ Aichi-Nagoya COP-10 CBD Promotion Committee
- ▶ United Nations partners: UN-HABITAT, UNESCO
- ▶ Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- ▶ Wetlands International
- ▶ Environment Canada
- ▶ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ▶ The National Parks Board, Singapore
- ▶ URBIO (Urban Biodiversity & Design)
- ▶ Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.v., DUH
- ▶ European Union Committee of the Regions
- ▶ Participants in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity

LAYOUT & DESIGN: Em Dash Design

