



2nd monitoring report to the Advisory Board

Reporting Period: 1st February 2010 until 28th February 2011.

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The competitions

The special focus for the 2010 competition round was “Green in the City”

- Overall participation and all winners can be seen in the table 1. The overall winners were
 - Tata (Hungary, 24.000 inh.)
 - Grande-Synthe (France, 21.000 inh.)
 - Želiezovce (Slovakia, 7.500 inh.)
 - The Royal Site of San Ildefonso (Spain, 5.700 inh.).

The fact that in all four countries the best municipalities were villages and small towns highlights the high importance of these for biodiversity protection.

Table 1: Awarded municipalities in the different countries. The winners in Germany will be known shortly

	France	Hungary	Slovakia	Spain	Germany
participants	81	43	20	68	124
0 - 1.000	Municipalities below 2000 couldn't participate	1. Kunsziget 2. Győrűfű 3. Alsómocsolád	1. Želiezovce 2. Kremnica 3. Vysoké Tatry	1. Quer (Guadalajara) 2. Alberuela de Tubo (Huesca) 3. Sojuela (La Rioja)	
1.001 - 2.000				1. Somiedo (Asturias) 2. Puebla de Sanabria (Zamora) 3. Valle de Mena (Burgos)	
2.001 - 5.000	1. Jarrie 2. Courdimanche 3. Saint-Prix	1. Dévaványa 2. Hévíz 3. Csopak		1. El Real Sitio de San Ildefonso (Segovia) 2. Tineo (Asturias)	
5.001 - 10.000				3. Astillero (Cantabria)	
10.001 - 30.000	1. Grande-Synthe 2. Pont-du-Château 3. La Motte-Servolex	1. Tata 2. Balatonfüred 3. Siófok	1. Michalovce 2. Senec 3. Dubnica nad Váhom		
30.001 - 50.000	1. Pessac 2. Alès-en-Cévennes 3. Dunkerque	1. Hódmezővásárhely 2. Veszprém 3. Hajdúböszörmény		1. Vitoria (Álava) 2. Barcelona (Barcelona) 3. San Sebastián (Guipúzcoa)	
50.001 - 100.000				1. Nitra 2. Trnava 3. Prievidza	
>100000	1. Besançon 2. Lille 3. Rennes	1. Miskolc 2. Kecskemét 3. Debrecen			

Special prices	Prix « Coup de coeur » du jury : Pont-du-Château Prix Natureparif pour l'Île-de-France : Aulnay-sous-Bois Une mention spéciale a été décernée à la ville de Paris	Best project award "Nature in the City": Dévaványa	Best project award: Želiezovce	Special mention "Green spaces" Gijón (Asturias) Logroño (La Rioja) Special mention "Environmental justice" Córdoba (Córdoba) Santander (Cantabria)	
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The *overall economic situation* is also problematic for the competition as it affects municipalities a lot. As the biodiversity protection to a large degree is a voluntary task of the municipalities, it is further reduced during local budget consolidations. Reduced biodiversity staff and financial resources mean that many municipal biodiversity staff do not find the time to fill out the questionnaire or attend workshops. Reduced budget is not a completely new development of post-economic crisis times (and has been respected when we defined our targets) but the degree to which it is enforced was a development that was not yet predictable at the start of our project. In contrast, there was no negative influence on the number of participants in the workshops (over 700 participants, goal was about 350, see below). We assume that we could have had much more success (and exceeding our targets) if the economic crisis had not affected municipal budgets.

- Selection of the winners:

In all five countries a slightly different proceeding was chosen to select the winners. The points as calculated by the questionnaire were the basis for the selection in all countries. In some countries (Hungary and Germany), the winners were solely selected according to the points. The function of the National Advisory Board was to discuss points given to the projects. In other countries (Spain, Slovakia and France), a Jury was involved. In France and Slovakia, visits at the candidate cities for first places took place. In France, this led to the change of the winner. In contrast, in Slovakia this didn't change the ranking.

- Award ceremonies

The award ceremonies took place in September 2010 in all countries. The relevant ministries were co-organizers or at least attendees of the ceremonies (State Secretary of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs; Mr. Peter Jány from the Slovak Ministry of Environment; State Secretary of Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, Dr. András Rácz)

- Press coverage:

In each country articles appeared in nationwide newspapers and additionally in regional newspapers and national magazines. There were interviews on regional and national radio stations and reports in regional/local and national TV channels. Moreover numerous articles in the internet in all countries.

- After the award ceremony:

All participants received a letter of gratitude from the national competition organiser and another one from the IUCN and the Secretariat of the CBD. Since that moment national partners keeps in touch regularly with all municipalities through email sending relevant information such as the TEEB report, CBD newsletters with special mention to the project and news appeared on means of communication related to the project.



Representatives of the winning municipalities from Spain showing their certificates

Outlook on the competitions in 2011

- The agreed special focus is “land use” (Land use planning, Sustainable land use)
- The competitions were prepared analogical to the 2010 competitions. The questionnaires were revised in all countries, eliminating questions that showed relatively small relevance or importance in 2010. The brochure explaining the competition was re-edited in all countries.
- The competitions were launched in late January/early February 2011.
- The guideline for potential competition organizers in other countries will be improved upon based on the experiences in the countries

Best-practice brochures

In France, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain a brochure was edited based on the good examples gathered through the competition questionnaire.

In Hungary, in a brochure of 34 pages all winners were presented on one page and a short description of all other participants was also included. In France, all the winners from the size-categories and the special project prizes were described on 2-4 pages each, containing detailed information about the overall biodiversity strategy and a description of the best projects of the municipality, resulting in a very comprehensive 64 pages brochure. The Slovak brochure (48 pages) – besides describing best project of the winners of the categories – put a special emphasis on the analysis of the questionnaire data like the indicators. The 40 pages

brochure in Spain was structured along the structure of the questionnaire. For each of the eight chapters of the questionnaire, between 2 and 5 projects were presented (in total 35). Each brochure contained a description of the overall winners from the other countries.

Outlook for 2011

- **Another brochure will be edited in 2011 – based on the outcomes of the 2011 competitions.**
- **One brochure will be edited (in the project languages + English) containing examples from all countries**

Capacity building workshops

IUCN and ICLEI produced background material for the following training modules: Biodiversity an introduction, Communicating biodiversity, Fundraising for biodiversity, Climate change and biodiversity, Municipal planning and biodiversity.

The first round of workshops took place successfully in all countries and the targeted total number of participants was reached (over 700 participants in all workshops!).

IUCN/ICLEI and the project partners decided at the 4th project team meeting (September 2010) to update the training material continuously and amend with practical case studies.

Sources of additional information will include recent international publications (e.g. LAB Guidebook, TEEB D2, etc.) which provide numerous successful case studies. Successful case studies can also be obtained from the applications of well-performing participants in this year's round of competitions.

Table 2. Overview of the workshops in chronological order.

Date	Country	Venue	No. of participants	No. of speakers
9-Feb-10	Slovakia	Bratislava	38	6
9-Mar-10	Spain	Gernika- Lumo	45	12
16-Mar-10	Spain	Sevilla	28	10
25-Mar-10	France	Paris	80	
1-Apr-10	Hungary	Csopak	31	7
12-Apr-10	Hungary	Győr	18	5
13-Apr-10	Spain	Madrid	60	16
19-Apr-10	Spain	Gandia	61	13
19-Apr-10	Hungary	Kecskemét	15	6
20-Apr-10	France	Marseille	25	5
21-Apr-10	Hungary	Pécs	18	4
29-Apr-10	France	Strasbourg	Postponed to 2011	
6-May-10	Hungary	Miskolc	16	5
6-May-10	France	Lille	65	7
13-May-10	Slovakia	Banská Bystrica	58	9
8-Jul-10	Germany	Stuttgart	39	9
13-Jul-10	Germany	Bonn	39	9
14-Sep-10	Germany	Hannover	50	10
15-Sep-10	Germany	Jena	20	10



Workshop participants at the WS in Bonn in July 2010

Outlook for 2011

- a second round of workshops in the first half of the year in all five competition countries
- Updating the capacity building programme, i.a. with practical examples

Monitoring of Biodiversity – Indicators

The indicators were included into the questionnaires (as separate chapter in all countries but Slovakia) to cope with the main challenge of this action to get many municipalities which participate in the monitoring system. In each country between 10 and 18 indicators with special relevance for the national situation have been selected.

IUCN collated monitoring data from all countries together, including participants' comments, into a single coherent spreadsheet, before performing a screening process to identify anomalies and where possible, rectify them. Having collated the data, IUCN was performing an analysis to identify significant correlations and patterns. This analysis addressed three overlapping features of the data.

- 1) Composition and characteristics of participants
- 2) Answerability of indicators
- 3) Results of indicators

The main difficulty is the gathering of sound data in the municipalities. The required working time and expertise as well as competence are the exception rather than the rule, especially in smaller municipalities. This makes it rather difficult to establish a permanent monitoring system. Thus, the offered indicator set in the questionnaires is only one possible way to ensure local monitoring. Alternative approaches should be offered to municipalities, making it more probable that one of these approaches is applicable for a municipality.

To this end, IUCN has sought to realise synergies with other ongoing initiatives and networks. In particular, IUCN has engaged with the European Environment Agency to discuss ways to further common goals. In this pursuit, two initiatives are of particular interest, namely: a) IUME-Towards an Integrated Urban Monitoring in Europe; and b) EEA's Eye on Earth facility.

Monitoring - Outlook for 2011

- By further including biodiversity indicators in the questionnaires, the continuity of monitoring is ensured.
- A monitoring report will be written for all countries.
- Municipalities will be motivated to apply an own monitoring system.
 - Due to local specific situation (data availability), the monitoring system will have to be made more flexible which also means that we won't have one global approach in all municipalities.
 - Other opportunities (IUME and EEA) will be further explored to enhance quality and quantity of local biodiversity monitoring data.

Communication of the project (Action 12, also Actions 3-7)

National communication of the project

The launch of the competition and the presentation of the winners in France, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain brought wide media resonance and therefore in the competition countries the biggest (or even first) awareness rising campaign for the issue of local biodiversity so far. In each country some articles appeared in nationwide newspapers and additionally in regional newspapers and national magazines. There were interviews on regional and national radio stations and reports in regional/local and national TV channels. Moreover numerous articles appeared in the internet (including social media like facebook) in all countries.

International Newsletters and Press releases

Project newsletters (competition launch, presentation of winners) have been sent to 380 European contacts in our Newsletter list (Council of Europe, EP, EC, European projects and networks) and to 2700 contacts from ICLEI's e-mail mailing list as well as ICLEI's European Circular (printed, 1470 subscribers) as well at various external newsletters. Press releases have been sent to 360 international media contacts and to national media contacts in each country.

Promotion at international events

All beneficiaries promoted the competition and sought to forge new partnerships for expanding the competition at various events throughout Europe, including conferences, workshops, and numerous multilateral and bilateral meetings. Flyers were distributed and posters and roll-ups (originally not foreseen in the application/budget) were shown.

- Congrès français de la nature (IUCN: Paris, January 2010, 100 participants)

- TEEB Local Stakeholder Consultation with French Regional Representatives (February 2010) and with Flemish local governments (February 2010)
- Hearing of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, March 2010, 100 participants)
- International Conference in Portugal: "2010 International Year of Biodiversity - and what after 2010?", organised by the Committee on Environment, Territorial Planning and Local Government of the Portuguese Parliament (May 2010) with participation of many high-level European politicians (i.a. European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik). Fundación Biodiversidad presented the project in PANEL 4 - Awareness-raising and Environmental Education).
- 6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns (ESCT) campaign conference, (May 2010 in Dunkerque, more than 1800 participants). DUH presented the project at the Agora (a forum for exchange and learning taking place during the conference).
- GreenWeek in June 2010 (REC, ICLEI, IUCN, Natureparif, DUH: ICLEI has actively promoted the project to the several Green Week delegates that were visiting their stand and organised a session on “Urban Biodiversity: Local Solutions for Global Challenges”. In this session REC and NP presented the project. It raised a lot of interest and several questions about it were asked during the discussion following the presentations)
- At the Belgian EU Presidency conference, Biodiversity post-2010: biodiversity in a changing world, September 2010
- Gondomar Biodiversity Workshop – Know to protect (IUCN: Parque Biológico de Gaia, Gondomar, Portugal, September 2010)
- 52nd Georgikon Days International Scientific Conference “Economic aspects and Biodiversity” (Hungary)

A special trip: The European Capitals of Biodiversity at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan

The winning towns of the 2010 competitions from France, Spain and Hungary as well as the winner from the German 2007 competition “Capital of Nature Protection”, the city of Heidelberg, participated in the City Biodiversity Summit and COP10 as an incentive. The towns were very content to have participated and contributed to the conferences and to have had the opportunity to present the importance that smaller municipalities have for global biodiversity conservation.

City Biodiversity Summit: The 3 days summit, which was organised during the COP10, had more than 600 participants from approximately 250 local governments and international organizations, including 56 local authorities from abroad. At a lunch event dedicated to the “European Capitals of Biodiversity” at the Summit, Kobie Brand from ICLEI interviewed the representatives from the winning towns from Hungary, Spain and France. Heidelberg and the Royal Site of San Ildefonso presented their strategies in the parallel sessions.

Side event “European Capitals of Biodiversity”: The project team was happy to host one of the best-attended side-events during the second half of the COP10: Besides the representatives of the winning towns, a number of international speakers highlighted the importance of the local level for biodiversity preservation from different perspectives: Oliver Hillel (Programme Officer for local biodiversity at the SCBD), Ladislav Miko (Director at the European Commission, DG Environment, Directorate B – Nature), Carsten Neßhöver (TEEB Scientific Coordination, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research UFZ), Hans Friedrich (IUCN, Regional Director a.i., Pan-Europe) and Thomas Elmqvist (Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University).

Outlook for 2011

- Further newsletter editions and press releases will be released
- A large brochure about the project and winners will be edited in 6 languages

Our International Calendar for 2011: Meet us

in **Paris** at our 5th project team meeting

on 11-13 **May**

in **Brussels** at the ICLEI European Membership Convention

on 12-14 **September**

in **Brussels** (event to present project and winners)

in **autumn**

in **Brussels** at the Open Days

on 10-13 **October**

We will inform you about more places and dates during the year.

Beyond 2011 (belonging to Action 8: Concept European Award)

All partners would like to continue the project beyond 2011. The project team now concentrates on a concept, which will NOT foresee one European competition and winner, but concentrate on national competitions and winners in all EU countries, joint European communication and European wide networking and training.

To this end, a new LIFE-project has been applied for, focussing on national networks of municipalities for biodiversity and a Europe-wide network. The activities of the networks include the continuation of the awards in a 2-3 years rhythm. The 50% co-funding through the EU would open the door also for national funding. Italy would be included as new project country. Still our priority would be to institutionalize the “European Capitals of Biodiversity” project and find a long-term funding body in order to make it less independent from project funding and allow a continuous progress of the initiative.

Organisations from the following countries declared interest to join the project: the Netherlands, England, Austria, Latvia, Belgium, Italy, Finland and Poland. Any partner willing to start a competition can be trained and supported by DUH. Fundación Biodiversidad is in contact with some Latin American countries in order to transfer the concept of the project in Latin America!

The financial crisis also affects Action 8, as financing also turns out to be the main challenge for awards in additional countries. National funding schemes are significantly reduced all over Europe. Thus, it is quite improbable that binding promises of competition organisers for all EU countries will be found for 2012.

Outlook for 2011

- Continuous search for potential new partners and financing opportunities throughout the year, i.a. at international events
- Writing the concept for a Europe-far initiative
- Informing a large number of relevant organizations in Europe about the concept