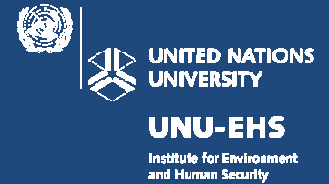


Global Partnership on Local and Sub-National  
Action for Biodiversity  
Bonn, 5-6/09/2011



# Contribution to the Panel Discussion “Dialogue with other International Organisations”

Fabrice Renaud

United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human  
Security, Bonn, Germany

# The United Nations University

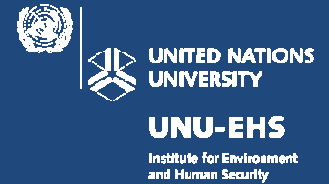


- Academic arm of the UN system implementing research and educational programmes in the area of sustainable development
- Contributes directly to the advancement of knowledge relevant to the role and work of the United Nations
- Applies knowledge in the formulation of sound principles, policies, strategies and programmes for action
- Holistic view of the complex processes that affect human security and development



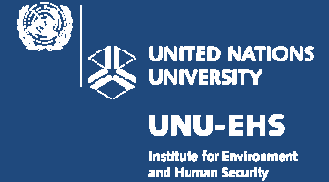
Sustainable urban futures

# The United Nations University



- Collaborative research, capacity development and advisory services
- Serve as a convenor of the international community of scholars :
  - Connect with UN organisations and Academic Institutions
  - Platform for dialogue and ideas

# Biodiversity at UNU-IAS



- Former director (prof. Zakri) co-chaired the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). One important section on Urban Areas at MA
- Biodiplomacy programme
- International Satoyama Initiative
- Sustainable Urban Futures Programme

# Sustainable Urban Futures at UNU-IAS : Cities, Local Governance and Global Environmental Challenges

## The Urban Sustainability Nexus: Our Main Challenges and Key Questions

### Urbanisation Processes



Urbanisation takes many forms including new developments like Minato Mirai 21 in Yokohama and redevelopment in Shanghai



Bicycles have always been a common means of transport in Tokyo. Recently they are being re-introduced in many cities in the developed world.

Extensive use of rapid bus transit is being used in Bogota to help manage the city's congestion with plans to cover the metropolitan area of some 500km<sup>2</sup>



### Sustainability Stresses



Some Tokyo metropolitan residents travel a long distance every week to volunteer at Adachi district organic agriculture park, the only of a kind in the city.

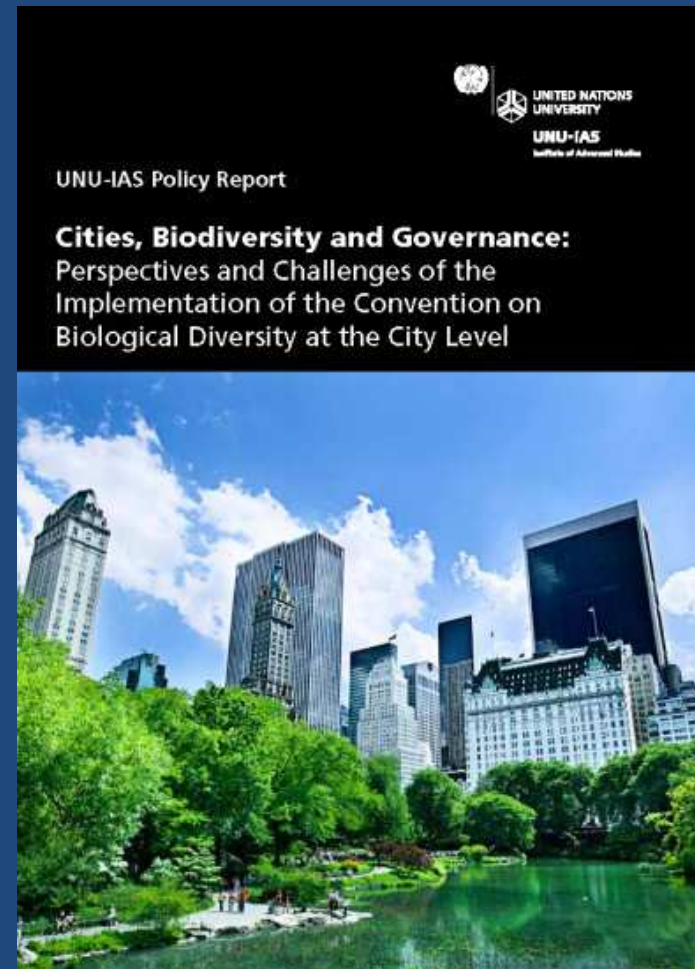


The city of Kanazawa has made efforts to rediscover the original elements of nature in its urban area

### Local Governance Solutions

# Cities and Biodiversity

- Develop a research agenda in the area
- Launched a Policy Report with a multidisciplinary team
- Joined the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity (SCBD, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, ICLEI, IUCN, Singapore, Curitiba, Montreal, Nagoya, etc)
- City Biodiversity Summit, Nagoya, Oct 2010
- Side events in CBD COP 10
- ESD in Africa, urban activities
- Collaborate closely with ICLEI-LAB and SCBD to the development of the guidelines for SBSAPs

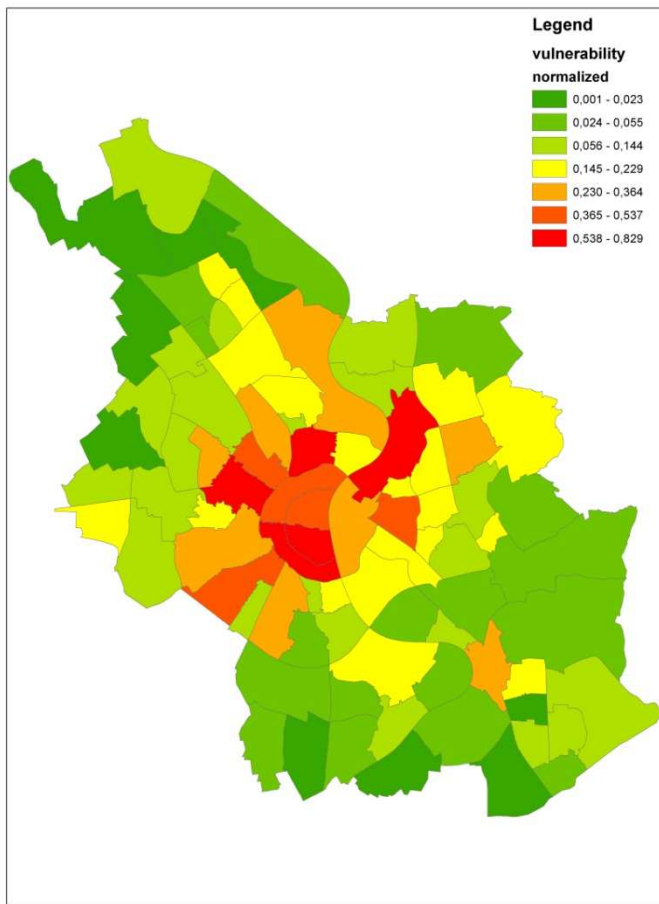


# Research

- Sustainable Urban Futures programme:
  - *Cities and Ecosystems*: Analyse how the urbanisation processes compete with ecosystems, looking at the institutional, economic and social dimensions
- Ecosystem services in the context of hazards affecting urban areas:
  - Methods for the improvement of vulnerability assessment in Europe (MOVE) – EC FP7

# Research

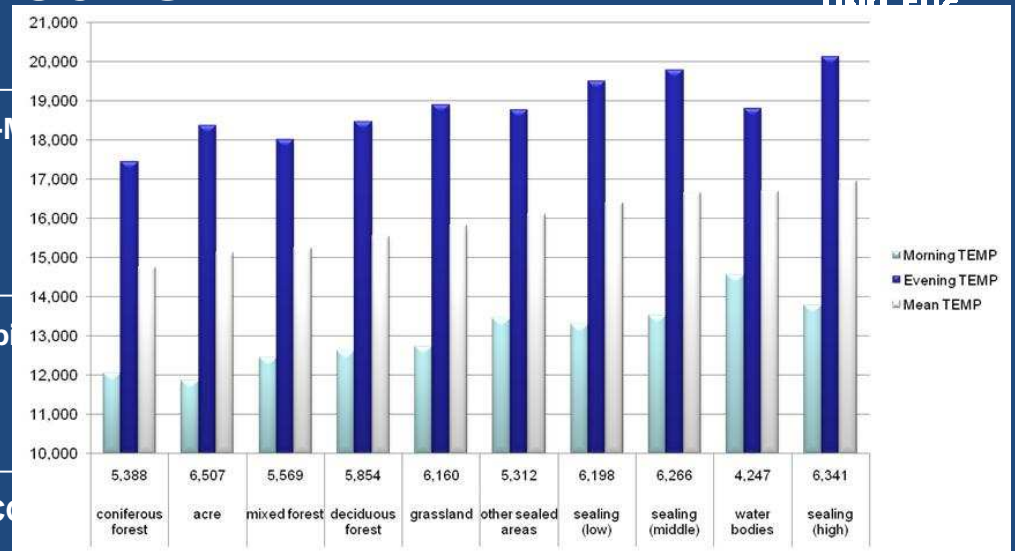
Heat-waves in Cologne, Vulnerability



HYDRO-M

vulnerab

ECO



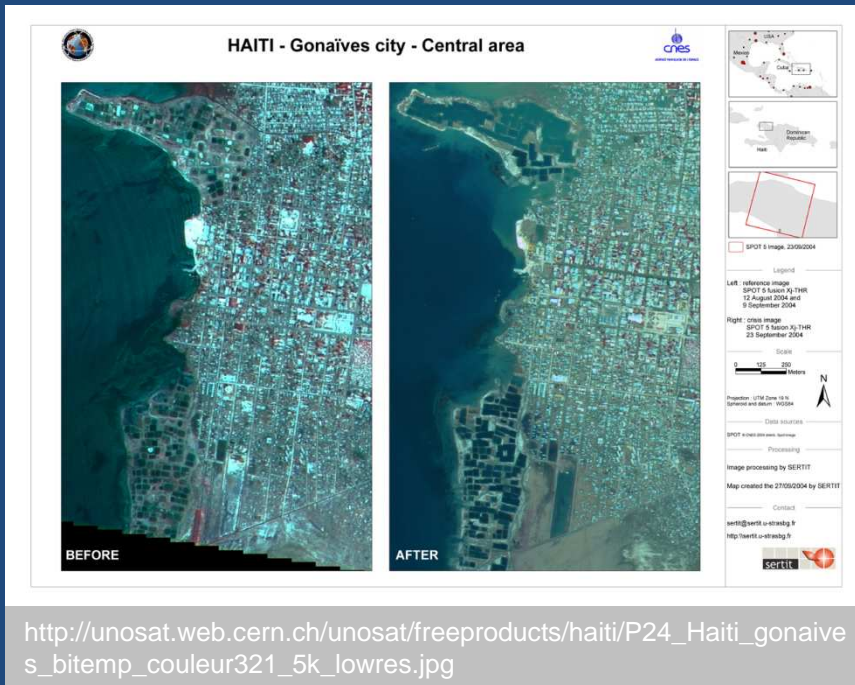
Impact

3

URBAN SYSTEM

the ecosystem services for hazard regulation which and implementation of appropriate policies and plans

# Ecosystem Services: Gonaïves, Haiti in 2004



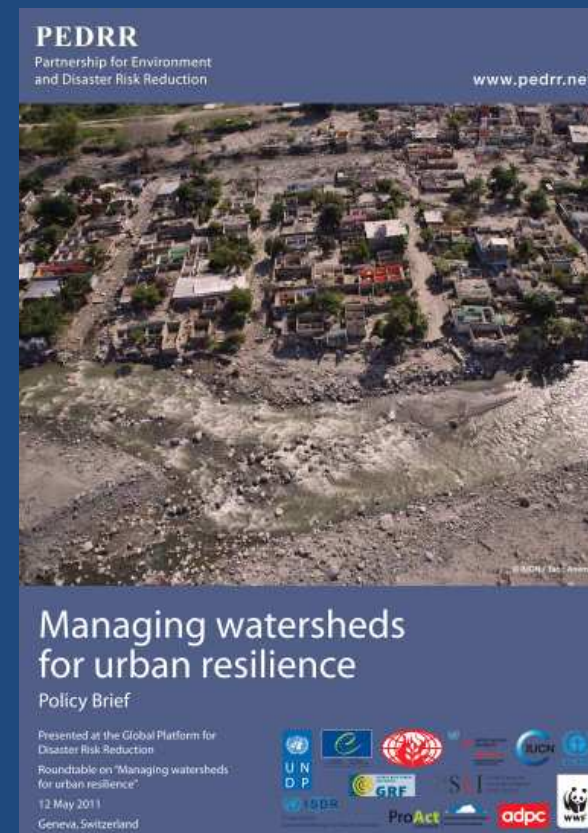
Coupled social-ecological systems  
Ecosystem services in urban and outside urban areas

# Engaging in Partnerships

## High-level roundtable discussion – 2011 UN/ISDR GP

- Ms Siththy Marina Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka (Chair)
- Ms Shraddha Shridhar Jadhav, Hon Mayor of Mumbai, India
- Mr Marcelo Rivera Arancibia, Hon Mayor of Hualpén, Region of Bío-Bío, Chile
- Mr Aisea Tuidraki, Special Administrator Nadi, Sigatoka Town Councils, Fiji
- Mr Jean-Claude Eude, Director General, Loire River Basin Authority, France
- Mr Mark Smith, Director Water Programme, IUCN

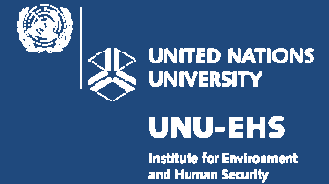
## Policy brief – 2011 UN/ISDR GP



# Conclusions

- The key role of UNU is to be at the interface of research, policy-making, and education in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- Deliver key messages to various fora:
  - Academic circles (e.g. international conferences, peer-review publishing)
  - UN system and member states (e.g. systematic participation at the COPs of the UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD; Rio+20; within UN-Water)
  - Policy-makers at the national and local levels (e.g. contribute to ICLEI congresses)
- Education:
  - UNU-IAS MSc in Environmental Governance - Specialization in Biodiversity
  - Joint UNU-EHS and University of Bonn MSc on Environmental Risks and Human Security

# Thank You



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