

Teleconference
Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity,
14 January 2009, 9 AM Montreal time

Participants: Oliver Hillel SCBD/UNEP, Chantal Robichaud SCBD/UNEP, Christine Alfsen UNESCO, Lara de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues City of Curitiba, Jose Antonio Andreguetto Sec. Of the Environment-Brazil, Susanne Nolden City of Bonn, Monika Zimmermann ICLEI/LAB, Elisa Calcaterra ICLEI, Stephen Granger City of Cape Town/LAB, Andre Mader City of Cape Town/LAB, Kate Berrisford City of Cape Town/LAB, Seiichi Kawada City of Nagoya, Ryo Kohsaka City of Nagoya, Mr Chikara Hombo CBD/City of Nagoya, Norbert Müller University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, Lena Chan and Wendy Yap National Biodiversity Centre in Singapore, Peter Herkenrath UNEP/WCMC, Alice Kube German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). As Michèle Picard City of Montreal could not participate, she provided inputs prior to the teleconference. Mr Takagi from the city of Nagoya could not technically connect.

Agenda in brief

- I. **Opening**
- II. **City Biodiversity Index, First Technical Expert Workshop, Singapore, 10-12 February 2009**
- III. **Update on the preparation of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity meeting, Curitiba**
- IV. **Linking the Global Partnership to United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), ICLEI (beyond LAB) and other networks (Countdown 2010, URBIS, CONTUREC)**
- V. **ICLEI**
- VI. **Publications**
- VII. **Related Events**
- VIII. **Closing: Agenda item for the next teleconference call: 2010 activities from all cities.**

Minutes of the Teleconference

- I. **Opening**
- II. **City Biodiversity Index, First Technical Expert Workshop, Singapore, 10-12 February 2009**
 - a. **Update on preparations (L.Chan and W.Yap)**

Logistics

Singapore will cover all local expenses such as transportation and meals for the duration of the meeting. For more details please consult the CBD information note for participants prepared in collaboration with Ms Yap and available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-01>

Participants

Confirmed institutions: Stockholm Resilience Centre, Institute of Building and Environment - Darmstadt, London School of Economics, UNU, Nagoya City, Singapore, Curitiba, CBD Secretariat (the City of Montreal will nominate a liaison

person and will take part in the pilot phase of the project). ICLEI/LAB will soon confirm its participation.

Ms Yap and Chan are looking forward to communicating with participants and potential participants in order to provide more information on the workshop content and logistics.

Workshop Programme and content

Ms Chan will send the final version of the concept note and the programme to all members of the Global Partnership by 19 January 2009.

In view of the CBI preparatory meeting and the Singapore meeting, Mr Herkenrath underlined the importance of the 2010 indicators on status and trends on biodiversity as these indicators will allow to closely link the CBI to the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3. Ms Chan confirmed that the 2010 indicators would be taken into account in the CBI.

Considering the fact that the CBI will be applied to different types of cities, Mr Kohsaka proposed to categorize the indicators by topics to make sure that the indicators are applicable by all. Ms Chan confirmed that categories would be proposed and explored during the CBI workshop, as cities are not all comparable.

Workshop Report

After the workshop, National Parks Board will share the report with all members of the Global Partnership.

b. Introduction to the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)'s interest in the Global Partnership, update on the CBI preparatory meeting, Germany, 22-23 January 09 (A.Kube)

Ms Kube gave an overview of the work of the BfN. As scientific advisors to the German Ministry for the Environment on national and international urban and biodiversity issues, BfN's work is very relevant to the activities of the Global Partnership, particularly in relation to substantial issues such as city and biodiversity indicators on sustainability (for example, BfN proposes to take into account relevant existing tools such as the Driving forces, Pressures, State of the environment, Impacts and Responses-DPSIR framework).

BfN is currently organizing the CBI preparatory meeting due to take place 22-23 January 2009. Mr Werner will share the outputs of the preparatory meeting with the participants of the CBI meeting in Singapore.

BfN is planning on organizing a follow up event to the Erfurt Conference in 2010 in Germany. The event will serve as a preparatory meeting to the URBIO 2010 meeting, which will take place in Japan.

BfN has been proposed as a member of the Partnership and will keep the German CBD focal points at BMU informed of the progress in that regard.

Ms Zimmerman appreciates the fact that BfN and ICLEI are working with similar tools focussing on urban biodiversity and looks forward to further exchanges. Similarly, Mr Muller pointed out the importance of having a federal agency from Germany, which was host of COP9, as a member of the Global Partnership.

Ms Alfsen pointed out that the work of the city of Berlin (Landscape Programme) could be linked to the BfN and Global Partnership. Ms Alfsen will send the coordinates of the persons in charge of the Landscape Programme to Ms Kube, who offered to invite them to take part in the CBI preparatory meeting.

c. Presentation of “Monitoring of biodiversity in European Cities” project funded by European Commission, and its potential links to the CBI. IUCN/Countdown 2010 (E.Calcaterra)

Ms Calcaterra explained that the project (2008-2011) is led by a consortium of partners including ICLEI and IUCN and aims at developing a monitoring system for European urban areas.

Ms Calcaterra and Ms Chan will arrange for a bilateral conversation to explore possibilities for the EU to test-run the CBI.

Singapore will provide available details of the CBI to Ms Calcaterra.

Ms Calcaterra will discuss the possibility to adapt the CBI to the project with other members of the consortium at the next meeting at the beginning of February.

Ms Calcaterra will send the web link of the project to interested members of the Global Partnership.

III. Update on the preparation of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity meeting, Curitiba 2009 (L. de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues and J.A.Andreguetto).

The meeting in Curitiba would allow the Global Partnership members to discuss the strategy on the road to Nagoya and to plan their 2010 activities.

The city of Montreal suggests postponing the meeting to September or October 2009, i.e., one year before COP10. The Secretariat pointed out that it might be easier to involve Parties to join the meeting if it takes place in the fall. However, ICLEI/LAB might not be available at that time.

Since the above proposal just came in, Curitiba will discuss this option nationally, with the Secretariat and other partners before finalizing the dates and the concept note.

IV. Linking the Global Partnership to United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), ICLEI (beyond LAB) and other networks (Countdown 2010, URBIS, CONTUREC) (OH and all)

UCLG

The Secretariat is preparing a letter in view of inviting the president of UCLG and mayor of Paris Mr Bertrand Delanoë to involve UCLG in biodiversity-related issues before 2010 and to eventually join the Global Partnership.

*Once signed and distributed, the Secretariat will send the letter to all.

Ms Alfsen pointed out that Ile-de-France region is already part of LAB and other regional programmes and might be more likely to work on biodiversity than the city of Paris is.

Ms Zimmerman reported that UCLG is interested in the Global Partnership but has limited capacity to work on biodiversity and as such, UCLG might prefer to work with ICLEI on these issues.

Mr Hillel suggests that UCLG could develop a commitment on biodiversity for its members to sign at the UCLG 3rd World Congress in 2010. In order to avoid a multiplication of declarations, the (Mexico) Commitment would refer to the Bonn Call for Action.

Ms Calcaterra said that she might attend the Naturparif meeting on January 20th in Paris (with Mr Winkler, who will be a moderator) and will be able to report on the outcomes of the meeting (and possible discussions with Metropolis and UCLG) at the next teleconference call. For more details on Natureparif, see http://www.natureparif.fr/countdown_2010.html

WMCCC

Members of the Partnership are invited to give their advice on how to get involved with WMCCC.

Other networks

*Ms Lacerda Santos Rodrigues will send a description of RED's work in LAC in order for the Partnership to envisage that RED becomes a member.

V. ICLEI

a. Support to LAB Phase II (S.Granger):

The aim of LAB phase II is to involve 50% of cities from the global South (compared to 35% during Phase I). For more details, please consult "Statement regarding agenda item V: Support to LAB Phase 2" prepared by Mr Granger (annex). Mr Granger will report on the status of LAB/Phase II at the Congress in Edmonton and reminded the Partnership that all members are invited to attend their activities.

Mr Hillel presented ways in which the Global Partnership can help LAB Phase II:

- 1- Present ICLEI/LAB as the most technically consistent network
 - 2- Help in raising funds for developing countries cities to join
 - 3- Establish links with national governments in order to open up funding opportunities.
- In this view, LAB should prepare an information package on biodiversity-related activities and outcomes, specifically designed for national governments.

* Mr Herkenrath will contact Mr Granger to discuss the possible involvement of two British cities (and Ms Alfsen has good contacts with Brighton and Hove).

b. Urban Nature (11-13 June) and ICLEI World Congress, Edmonton, Canada, 14-18 June 2009

Mr Hillel (on behalf of Ms Picard) indicated that a side event of the Urban Nature Congress in Edmonton is being considered as a platform for Canadian cities to gather and discuss urban biodiversity planning. Mr Granger confirmed that, following the experiences of South Africa and Durban, Urban Nature is a good occasion for local authorities to converge at the national level.

Ms Zimmerman also proposed that Urban Nature could be a meeting point for cities and the scientific community to discuss about the Global Partnership's strategies and objectives.

VI. Publications

a. Cities publication (guidelines/cases), case studies in GBO3, on CBD web site (O.Hillel)

This item will be further discussed at the next teleconference call in order to involve UN-Habitat and UNEP in the discussions around the publication of case studies and guidelines endorsed by all members of the Partnership. Mr Granger reminded that such publications are part of the core component of LAB.

Ms Alfsen informed the Partnership that UNESCO is writing a chapter on cities and biodiversity, as part of a collective volume that will be published by Cambridge University Press.

VII. Related Events

a. Reports on recent events

i. UNESCO Exhibit (C.Alfsen)

UNESCO is currently looking for resources in view of preparing exhibits on urban biodiversity in Shanghai and Nagoya in 2010.

ii. World Urban Forum (C.Njenga)

This item was not discussed, as Ms Njenga could not join the teleconference.

b. Other upcoming events

iii. World Water Forum 16-22 March 2009

UNESCO, UNEP and ICLEI will participate in the WWF. Ms Alfsen, Mr Herkenrath and Ms Zimmerman will discuss with their colleagues on how to promote the importance of the role of cities in water management and transmit the names of the participants to the Global Partnership.

iv. Global Mayors' Forum, September 2009 (S. Granger)

Biodiversity is one of several issues that will be discussed at the GMF

VIII. Closing of the teleconference

The next teleconference call will take place during the week of the 1st of March 2009 (date to be determined). Items to be discussed:

- 2010 activities organized by the members of the Global Partnership
- Publication of case studies, guidelines and lessons learned
- Results of the CBD expert meeting
- Curitiba meeting

And members of the Partnership wish to congratulate Ryo for the new family member!

Global Partnership on Cities & Biodiversity Teleconference Call

Statement regarding agenda item V: Support to LAB Phase 2

Background

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is a unique global urban biodiversity programme that results in true biodiversity management by local government. Started as a pilot project in 2006 with 21 pioneer cities and local governments from across the globe, LAB is now extending an invitation to the next wave of local governments to join this ground-breaking programme.

LAB, supported by a dedicated team of urban biodiversity technical experts, provides long-term benefits to participating local governments through guidance, networking and support leading to improved biodiversity governance. LAB is an ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability programme, working in close partnership with IUCN's Countdown 2010 initiative and other international actors. LAB is coordinated by the ICLEI Africa Secretariat, based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Update on start of new phase

The vision of LAB for the future is to enhance biodiversity at local and regional level through the provision of a range of core services by a focused team of competent professionals, supported by partners, and with the flexibility of incorporating complementary and supportive programmes and projects.

Local Governments are currently being invited to join a next group of cities which wish to engage in a structured and facilitated cooperation process over a period of 3 years. Several cities including Brussels, Berlin and Istanbul are in the process of signing-up to join LAB and many more have expressed an interest in joining. An important dimension is the inclusion of cities from the developing world, in particular the Global South. It is critical to source funding to support the participation of such cities.

As the pilot project culminates in June this year, with participating cities meeting at the ICLEI World Congress in Edmonton, this new LAB project aims to commence between March and August 2009 and will follow the same methodology as the pilot project. A brochure about the Local Action for Biodiversity Programme is available at <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=future>

The total cost for facilitation of the process, provision of technical expertise, materials, profiling of the participating cities as well as participation in two international workshops, are to be covered by the participating cities. The sum for the duration of the 3 years of the project will be US\$ 50 000 (if paid up-front).

ICLEI also has plans to in future expand the activities of the Local Action for Biodiversity Programme, including a continued programme for current LAB participants (most of whom have expressed strong interest in continuing involvement in LAB) and programmes centred on regional and national authorities.

Assistance by the Global Partnership with LAB Phase 2

The LAB Project Team is actively recruiting cities to participate in the new LAB project. We value your assistance in the following areas:

1) 1) **Providing city contacts**

If you have any direct contacts to cities which you think would be keen to join LAB, please email this information to lab@iclei.org and we will contact them. Furthermore, please mention LAB in your

communication with your city contacts, in your newsletter and on your websites and encourage them to join soon.

2) **2) Profiling LAB at events**

Please let the LAB team (kate.berrisford@iclei.org) know if you are attending urban biodiversity events so that we can coordinate the best options for profiling LAB. We encourage you to promote LAB at biodiversity events and can assist in providing you with a general powerpoint presentation about LAB as well as brochures and case descriptions about cities and biodiversity.

3) **3) Funding city participation in LAB**

Many cities which are keen to join LAB and which would benefit from participating in such a programme are unable to because of lack of funding. In particular, developing country cities, which often include the richest biodiversity, are least able to afford the LAB participation fee. If your organisation is interested in funding a city, or a group of cities, to participate in Local Action for Biodiversity – or if you know of funders which we could approach - please contact ICLEI Africa Secretariat Regional Director, Kobie Brand (Kobie.brand@iclei.org).