

**Summary of the Meeting of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity**  
**URBAN NATURE FORUM –Edmonton, Canada**  
**Sunday 14 June 2009**  
**20h00-22h00**

July 14 from 9 PM to 1030 PM, the Global Partnership held its first face-to-face meeting since its launch in Barcelona, October 2008, with ICLEI-LAB, the cities of Montreal, Durban, Cape Town and Nagoya, IUCN/Countdown 2010, SCBD, UN-HABITAT, UNEP, UNESCO, and Environment Canada as observer. Main outcomes were:

- Participation of Parties (through a coalition of interested countries, such as Brazil, South Africa, Nordic countries, UK, Spain, Germany, Japan, Canada) in the Global Partnership is considered crucial in the upcoming phase, and the group agreed to redefine itself as a Task Force towards the Global Partnership to allow for institutional flexibility until the ways for Parties to participate are established. The upcoming Curitiba meeting in November is seen as a first, more informal, way to invite Parties. Curitiba and the Secretariat to explore ways in which Parties could be invited and involved.
- It was agreed that while the flexibility and open nature of the current institutional set up of the Partnership has advantages, the evolution of the initiative requires more focus on mission, terms of reference and roles and responsibilities of each participating agency, in particular towards COP 10 and the possible adoption of a plan for local action. The Secretariat agreed to produce a revised version of the plan sent before the meeting, including a roadmap for the task force and text from the background document used for the launch of the Global Partnership in Barcelona, in October 2008.
- For cities, the optimal target for 2010 is the adoption of a CBD plan for local action on biodiversity, and not guidelines, to strengthen commitments and optimize collaboration at sub-national level. The plan should formulate targets in line with the post-2010 strategy of the CBD, should include exchange and technical collaboration mechanisms, and its strategic focus should be on local action, with all levels of government being included under the coordination of national directives and NBSAPs.
- It was envisaged that some Parties may not see the value of another decision on local authorities at COP 10, unless it aggregates additional tools, targets, facilitates the contribution of cities to the CBD and to its monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and coordinates investments in capacity building,

while carefully respecting each national situation, legislation and circumstances. Contacts with Parties for joining and supporting the Global Partnership should address these issues.

- Participants highly appreciated the draft of the LAB guidebook/manual, and supported the proposal for a complementary publication (possibly through collaboration between UN-HABITAT, UNEP and the Secretariat of the CBD), focusing on the possible CBD plan for local action, follow up to COP decisions and the supporting/enabling role of national governments.
- UN HABITAT reminded participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, in March 2010, as a possible platform for the roadmap towards Nagoya and the cities' summit, as well as a follow up to the Curitiba meeting in terms of mobilizing Parties and advocacy support. UN HABITAT could explore whether biodiversity could be put on the meetings' agenda. More on <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=6863&catid=5&typeid=6&subMenuId=0>.
- Participants recommended that the Secretariat continue on its research on the ways and means through which Parties relate to their cities and local authorities in terms of decentralization of mandates on biodiversity. South Africa, for instance, has a new law that repositions all three levels as coordinated (and not subordinated). SA NBSAP goals 1.4.1, 1.4.6 and 2.3.2 refer directly to local authorities, and the biodiversity act 10 of 2004 specifies synergetic roles between all levels of governance. Research to include which city-level mandates affect biodiversity directly (watershed protection, water treatment/management, land-use planning and zoning, sustainable consumption and citizen awareness raising, municipal protected areas and parkways, etc).