

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY TELECONFERENCE CALL

14 July 2009, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Montreal Time)

MINUTES

Participants: *Oliver Hillel ; Chikara Hombo; Chantal Robichaud; Lara de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues; Eduardo Guimaraes ; Jose Andreguetto ; Elisa Calcaterra ; Toshitaka Takagi ; Kazuhiro Yokoi ; Ryo Kohsaka ; Michèle Picard ; Kobie Brand ; Stephen Granger; Lena Chan ; Susanne Nolden ; Marie Biermann ; Bonnie James ; Thomas Elmqvist ; Norbert Muller ; Tsuyoshi Ito*

I. Opening –

II. Review of the Edmonton meeting (Mr Oliver Hillel)

The CBD mission report is partly available on the CBD website at:
<http://www.cbd.int/authorities/Gettinginvolved/GlobalPartnership.shtml>

Partners are asked to review the report and provide the Secretariat with comments, particularly with regards to the strategic elements that will guide the work of the Task Force (TF) of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity on its way to Nagoya and from which the post-2010 Plan for local action will be drawn. It will be important that the TF speaks with one voice and works in close collaboration in view of the adoption of the Plan for local action by the COP.

III. The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (Ms Lena Chan)

- The User's Manual :

The User's Manual is available on the CBD website at:
<http://www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml>

- The testing phase and the road map

The current version includes inputs from several cities and the CBI technical task force. Revisions are on-going and comments are welcome. Ms Wendy Yap will bring the Index and the Manual to the attention of the ASEAN cities during their upcoming meeting. The Secretariat will send a letter to thank cities that have already contributed and another letter to encourage cities that have demonstrated an interest in participating. Cities that have accepted to participate and test the CBI will be listed on the CBD website. Interested partners are invited to contact Ms Chan in order to have a list of cities that have shown interest in the CBI.

Timeline of the testing phase (included in the Manual, p.6) is as follow:

- 10 July 2009 - Posting of the Draft User's Manual for the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity on the CBD website for feedback from cities, academics, etc., on availability of data and other comments
- 30 Sept 2009 - Finalisation of the User's Manual for the Singapore Index for its test-bedding
- November 2009 - Discussion of the Singapore Index at the Curitiba Planning Event

- 31 March 2010 - Collation of the results of the first batch of test-bedding of the Singapore Index by cities
- early July 2010 - 2nd Expert Meeting on the Singapore Index
- October 2010 - Discussion on the Singapore Index at the Biodiversity Summit, Nagoya
- October 2009 - Tabling of the endorsement by the Parties to the CBD at COP10 of the Singapore Index as a self assessment
- Evaluation tool for post-2010 monitoring purposes

Ms Kobie Brand proposed to introduce the Singapore CBI in the ICLEI/LAB guidebook currently being revised in view of its official launch at COP10. ICLEI/LAB and Singapore will collaborate in this regard.

The use of the CBI as a reporting tool by Parties for the post-2010 biodiversity target will be encouraged and considered in the development of the plan for local action.

IV. The Global Partnership

- Roadmap towards COP10 & TORs for the task force (Mr Oliver Hillel)

Mr Hillel reviewed the roadmap that was circulated to the Task Force and proposed to give priority to the following meetings:

- Curitiba (Jan -Brazil)
- URBIO (May 2010-Japan)
- 2nd workshop – CBI (July 2010-Singapore)
- COP10, Biodiversity City Summit (tentative name) –Nagoya (October 2010, Japan)

It was also noted that LAB will hold a workshop during the first week of May 2010 (tentative) in Shanghai, and that Urbis will hold a meeting on 14-18 May in Shanghai as well. The Mayor of Montreal will be present at the World Expo between 14-18 May 2010.

- Proposal for the formation of the second steering committee of the CBD Parties (Mr Oliver Hillel)

The creation of a second committee composed of Parties was discussed. Since the involvement of Parties will become more and more important on the road to Nagoya and following COP-10, such a committee would allow for better communication and coordination between Parties and cities. It was agreed that the TF would continue to be driven by cities and local authorities and as such, the creation of a non-formal and open group such as the “Friends of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity” was favoured. The CBD will amend the ToRs previously circulated in order to reflect this addition and will share it with the TF for comments.

- Invitation to UCLG (Ms Elisa Calcaterra &Mr Oliver Hillel)

The objective of the collaboration with UCLG is to support the Global Partnership, its plan for local action as well as ICLEI/LAB. Taking into account that UCLG can probably not actively be involved (as it does not focus on biodiversity) and for the time being, the collaboration could take the form of a

letter of support to the Global Partnership. IUCN will follow up with Ms Giboudeau and Mr Bilsky of UCLG.

- New addition to the Global partnership: City of Waitakere, New Zealand, and correspondence with Mexico City (OH)

The City of Waitakere is willing to join the Partnership, depending on their new association with the city of Auckland. A letter was also sent to Mexico City inviting them to join LAB and the Partnership. The TF will discuss ways to involve interested cities in the Global Partnership.

V. ICLEI (Ms Kobie Brand)

- Review of ICLEI Urban Nature/World Congress 2009

The main outcome of the World Congress and Urban Nature forum is that there is a global commitment by global players to make biodiversity a major and cutting edge issue, particularly in relation to agriculture, climate change and ecosystems. ICLEI will circulate the council resolution, reported by Edmonton and Durban. It will also be posted on the CBD website. (The CBD Secretariat posted the resolution on the following SCBD web pages:

<http://www.cbd.int/authorities/informationresources.shtml>

<http://www.cbd.int/authorities/events.shtml>)

- Update of LAB

ICLEI will send the LAB graphic which outlines LAB Initiative and the TF is invited to explore ways to link it to the Partnership. Additionally to the renewal of more than half of the pioneer cities, several new cities are currently joining LAB. The list of new cities will be circulated as soon as the signatures are finalized. ICLEI/LAB is broadening the scope of its activities by proposing several approaches to facilitate the participation of a maximum of cities and local authorities: regional, national and a global network.

VI. GEF proposal on urban biodiversity (Mr Oliver Hillel)

Mr Hillel will inform the TF of the development in this regard,

VII. Updates

1. Curitiba meeting (Ms Lara de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues)

Following a proposal by the Executive Secretary, the dates of the Curitiba meeting are currently being discussed. The meeting would be moved from November to January (between 1 and 15th) as this would correspond to the beginning of the International Year on Biological Diversity. As soon as the dates are finalized, Curitiba will inform the Task Force. Curitiba has been in contact with the City of Sao Paulo, which has agreed to collaborate in the preparation of the meeting.

2. Biodiversity City Summit (tentative name) (Mr Kazuhiro Yokoi)

(We insert the whole text of Mr. Yokoi's inputs below, for participants who had difficulty in hearing him for the noise occurred during his inputs.)

The name “City Biodiversity Summit” is still tentative, as written on the agenda. We are considering the appropriate one in the light of the fact that the Summit is to be held in Aichi Prefecture, which includes Nagoya and is co-sponsor of the Summit.

On November 13 of this year, approximately a year before the City Biodiversity Summit, we will hold the so-call pre-Summit in Nagoya Aichi Prefecture. This pre-Summit, to be held at the Chubu International Center of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, will gather Japanese municipalities in order to foster a momentum for local action on biological diversity. More than 100 municipalities from all over Japan are to participate in the pre-Summit.

As for the City Biodiversity Summit, we are orderly making preparations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, ICLEI, and the like.

After the previous tele-conference, we established the Expert Panel, which is a Japanese committee consisting of learned individuals and related organizations to discuss substantial contents of the Summit. This Panel is subject to be held 5 or 6 times before the Summit. In the first Panel scheduled to be held on early August, we mainly discuss substantial contents of this year’s pre-Summit. From the second Meeting Panel, we will discuss matters for the next year’s City Summit, in close relationship with the members of the Global Partnership.

3. URBIO2010 (Mr Chikara Hombo)

Mr. Hombo gave some updates on URBIO 2010 on behalf of Prof. Mahito Kamada, who is the head of the secretariat of the URBIO2010 organizing committee.

URBIO2010 will follow the admirable results of URBIO2008, and coordinate with the Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee on how to incorporate the outcomes of the conference into the Biodiversity City Summit. As an organizing body, organizers established the organizing committee for the conference. Additionally, as an advisory body, they’re planning to establish the advisory board for URBIO 2010, which consists of organizers of URBIO2008, representatives from the SCBD and Japanese relevant organizations. They also plan to set up an URBIO2010 website and dispatch the 1st circular about the conference as soon as possible. As for the tentative schedule of the conference, it will be held at Aichi Industry and Labor Center and Meijo University in Nagoya City, Japan, from May 18 to May 22, 2010.

4. Urban Social Ecological Atlas and 5. URBIS (Mr Thomas Elmqvist)

Mistra Proposal

With regards to the proposal submitted in May 2009 and which would allow for some funds to be directed towards the testing and implementation of the Singapore CBI, Mr Elmqvist will hear from the Mistra Foundation Board on 15 August 2009 and will keep the Task Force informed of the result.

URBIS

Scientific and municipality representatives present at the IALE conference in Salzburg have shown their appreciation of the article published in Nature by Dr Chan and Dr Djoghlaif and expressed their interest in reviewing the User’s manual of the Singapore CBI. They were invited to contact the CBD directly in that regard.

URBIS will also meet in Shanghai at mid-August where it is expected that other universities and municipalities will show an interest in the CBI.

VIII. Proposal for a session on Cities and Biodiversity at 5th World Urban Forum (22-26 March 2010, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, (Mr Oliver Hillel)

The Secretariat will circulate a survey to see if partners want to hold a two hour session on Cities and Biodiversity during the World Urban Forum 5. It was also proposed that ICLEI could act as a representative of the TF during the event.

IX. Varia

The next teleconference will take place during the week of 31 August-4 September 2010.

X. Closing of the teleconference