



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/EW.DCBI/1/1/Add.1
4 February 2009

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**FIRST EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX**
Singapore City, 10-12 February 2009

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development adopted Agenda 21 and its chapter 28 on the role of cities and local authorities. In April 2002, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted its Strategic Plan, where the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. This overall target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly and incorporated as the main indicator for goal 7 under the Millennium Development Goals.

2. An essential part of reaching the 2010 biodiversity target is being able to measure and communicate progress. The most detailed framework of the 2010 indicators and their status is provided in decision VIII/15, which also acknowledges the establishment of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) a global initiative to further develop and promote indicators for the consistent monitoring and assessment of biodiversity and progress toward the 2010 target (see www.twentyten.net).

3. More specifically, decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties on the development of indicators for assessing progress towards, and communicating the 2010 target at the global level, the Conference of the Parties recommended that, as far as is feasible, biodiversity indicators should be identified or developed in such as way that:

(a) The same indicators may be used at the global, regional, national and local levels as tools for the implementation of the Convention and of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where so desired by Parties;

(b) The indicators relate to one or more of the various Programmes of Work of the Convention;

(c) The indicators should take into consideration relevant Millennium Development Goals and indicators developed by other relevant international processes; and

(d) Existing data sets are used.

4. In July 2007, preliminary discussions on the topic of revising the Strategic Plan were held at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties agreed on the process for the revision of the Strategic Plan (decision IX/9), in view of adopting a new Strategic Plan for the Convention and a new biodiversity target at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in October 2010.

5. During the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation, the Parties also reiterated that national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the basic tools for translating the three objectives of the Convention at national level and the vehicle *par excellence* for integrating biological diversity into development processes. Following, the recommendations adopted at the meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4, annex), the Conference of the Parties adopted decision IX/8, in paragraph 8 (r) of which it proposed that the activities supporting the NBSAP processes might make use of or develop, as appropriate, regional, subregional or subnational networks to support implementation of the Convention.

6. Also, by adopting decision IX/28, which specifically recognizes the role of cities and local authorities, the Parties to the Convention have recognized that the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) requires close collaboration with subnational levels of government.

7. In parallel and in light of this, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, and the Minister for National Development of Singapore and host of the World Cities Summit of June 2008, Minister Mah Bow Tan, discussed the need for cities to share and pool their knowledge and to develop new approaches, methods and tools in order to better face the challenges of urbanisation and sustainable development. As a follow up, at the High Level segment of the ninth Conference of the Parties, Minister Mah Bow Tan offered to jointly facilitate the creation of an urban biodiversity index that will allow cities to measure their progress in conservation of biodiversity.

8. There are currently no well-established indices to measure biodiversity in cities. The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) will be developed, tested and implemented by taking into account existing international tools and indicators, and within the framework of the 2010 biodiversity target and CBD's Strategic Plan. The CBI will help cities to better communicate to National Governments any commitments and activities that will contribute to reaching those targets. By being available to Parties and cities, the index will further encourage collaboration between multiple levels of government in the interest of the Convention, and particularly via the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (for more information, a Concept paper on the CBI is available at <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/Gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml>).

9. In light of the above, the Secretariat of the CBD and the Government of Singapore, represented by the National Parks Board (NParks) of Singapore, are organizing the first City Biodiversity Index Development Workshop in Singapore, from 10-12 February 2009.

10. The workshop is organized in close consultation with the members of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, an open platform of cities, city networks, UN agencies and NGOs that was launched during the IUCN World Congress in October 2008 (for more information on the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, please see <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/Gettinginvolved/GlobalPartnership.shtml>).

11. The purpose of the workshop is to develop a City Biodiversity Index (CBI) to:

(a) Assist national governments and local authorities in benchmarking biodiversity conservation efforts in the urban context;

- (b) Help evaluate progress in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in urban ecosystems;
 - (c) Help measure the ecological footprint of cities, and
 - (d) Serve as material on the development of guidelines for the preparation of a cities and biodiversity plan of action for the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention.
12. The agenda of the workshop prepared by the Executive Secretary is available in document UNEP/CBD/EW.DCBI/1/1. The proposed programme is provided in annex I below.
13. Members of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity have been invited to nominate technical experts on biodiversity indicators and variables as well as city executives and city representatives responsible for implementation and/or management of biodiversity and urban projects and programmes. NParks and the Convention Secretariat closely collaborated in selecting the experts and participants.
14. A preparatory meeting on the City Biodiversity Index took place in Germany on 22-23 January 2009. The results of the preparatory meeting will be transmitted to the participants in Singapore.
15. An information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-01>. The workshop will be held in English.
16. Registration of participants will take place on Tuesday, 10 February 2009, from 8.30 a.m. to 9 a.m.
17. Additional information about the workshop will be posted at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-01>.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP AND OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME

18. The workshop will be opened at 9 a.m. on 10 February 2009. Representatives of the host Government and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will welcome the participants, and selected experts will be invited to make opening statements.
19. The participants will be invited to elect a Chair and a Rapporteur for the meeting based on proposals from the floor.
20. Participants will be invited to consider for adoption the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EW.DCBI/1/1).
21. The workshop format features a mix of presentations with question-and-answer sessions, discussions, interactive sessions to introduce relevant tools, and a field study visit. By the end of this session of the workshop, participants are expected to have an understanding of the status of implementation of the Convention globally, of the challenges to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, and of the need to mainstream biodiversity across sectors and levels of governments.

**ITEM 2. SCOPE AND ELEMENTS OF A CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX
(POSITIONING THE INDEX WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TARGETS
AND INDICATORS DEVELOPED UNDER THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY)**

22. The National Parks Board of Singapore and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will provide background information on the implementation of the Convention, the 2010 biodiversity target and decisions of the Conference of the Parties concerning cities and local authorities. Experts and representatives of urban biodiversity institutions will give a summary of their efforts in implementing the CBD and present existing initiatives relevant to biodiversity conservation in urban areas.

23. Under this item, the National Parks Board will present the scope and definition of the workshop and will introduce methodologies to be applied when developing the CBI targets and indicators. The methodology for calculating the CBI should be stringent and scientifically credible and in this view, it is proposed that the CBI follows the hierarchy method of components/objectives, indicators and variables proposed by existing tools such as The 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), and The 2008 Environmental Performance Index Framework. The CBI team will define the objectives and identify the appropriate measurable biodiversity indicators and variables. Important criteria for the development of indicators and variables are that they be quantifiable, readily available and reliable.

24. Workshop participants will further discuss the components and variables, as well as categories of indicators such as:

- (a) Species,
- (b) Ecosystems
- (c) Programmes and projects initiated to enhance and improve the indigenous species biodiversity, including species recovery programmes
- (d) Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity
- (e) Capacity and capacity building initiatives.

25. The Secretariat will present the details of the CBD indicators framework and the 2010 targets, as well as relevant CBD decisions and paragraphs of the Strategic Plan. In light of this, participants will work on positioning the CBI within the CBD framework.

26. A field study visit will be arranged by the host institution and local partners during the second day of the workshop to illustrate some of the challenges and opportunities for urban biodiversity measurement tools and indicators to be used.

27. By the end of this session of the workshop, participants are expected to:

- (a) Have defined the scope and elements of CBI targets and indicators;
- (b) Be familiar with the updated guidance and tools provided by the Conference of the Parties concerning the development of indicators at the local level and the integration of local biodiversity strategies and action plans in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) Have a general overview of relevant global initiatives and tools and possible implementing partners.

ITEM 3. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX

28. Participants will determine the timeline of the implementation of the CBI. As indicated in notification 2008-157, cities of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity have been invited to test the applicability of the CBI, and to report on results at the second Technical Expert Panel Workshop on CBI, planned to take place in March 2010. The CBI will also be discussed at the Cities and Biodiversity Forum of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010).

29. Further information on the proposed timeline/road map is available in the annex of UNEP/CBD/EW.DCBI/1/2. By the end of this session of the workshop, participants are expected to have determined a general timeline for the application of the CBI, including the pilot testing phase.

ITEM 4. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

30. Under this agenda item, the participants will discuss and determine relevant sites for the testing of the CBI and select relevant upcoming events for cities and local authorities. Building upon work in earlier sessions, workshop participants will then examine ways forward and key next steps for implementing and updating the CBI and ways to coordinate their future input.

31. By the end of this session of the workshop, participants are expected:

- (a) To have determined a process and the chosen sites to test and apply the CBI;
- (b) To have defined the next steps, with clear distribution of roles and responsibilities.

ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

32. Prior to the closure of the workshop, participants will also be asked to complete an evaluation form. The feedback provided in these forms will be used to improve the planning and organization of subsequent workshops organized within the framework of the Convention.

Annex

PROPOSED PROGRAMME**Day 1: Tuesday, 10 February 2009**

0830 - 0900		Registration	
I. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP AND OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME.			
0900 - 0920		Opening Programme	
		Welcome Remarks	Mr Ng Lang, CEO, NParks
		Opening Remarks	Mr Oliver Hillel, SCBD
0920 - 0945		Group Photo Session and Tea – Break	
0945 - 1000		Introduction and Overview of the Meeting	Dr Lena Chan, NParks, Singapore
1000 – 1030		Feedback on the CBI preparatory meeting, Germany, 22-23 January 2009	Dr Peter Werner
1030 – 1100		2010 target and CBD indicators	Dr Nancy Holman
1100 -1130		Scientific network: URBIS	Prof Thomas Elmqvist
1130 – 1200		Status of efforts by ICLEI/LAB	Mr Andre Mader
1200-1230		Biodiversity Index and European Cities - IUCN/Countdown 2010	Ms Elisa Calcaterra
1230 - 1400		LUNCH	
II. SCOPE AND ELEMENTS OF A CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX (POSITIONING THE CBI WITHIN THE CBD FRAMEWORK OF TARGETS AND INDICATORS)			
1400 - 1530		Discussion Session 1: <i>Scope and definition of the CBI / Methodologies to be applied</i>	NParks and SCBD
1530 - 1600		TEA BREAK	
1600 - 1730		Discussion Session 2: <i>Discussion on components/categories, indicators, and variables</i>	NParks and SCBD
1730 -1745		Summary of Day 1 and Prep for Day 2	NParks and SCBD
1830 -2000		Dinner (provided by NParks)	

Day 2: Wednesday, 11 February 2009

0900 -1230		Field trip (inclusive of tea break) – Tree-Top Walk at MacRitchie	NParks
1230 - 1400		LUNCH	

III. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBI			
1400 - 1530		Discussion Session 3: <i>Development of the CBI</i>	NParks and SCBD
1530 - 1600		TEA BREAK	
1600 - 1730		Discussion Session 4 <i>Development of the CBI</i>	NParks and SCBD
1730 - 1745		Summary of Day 2 and Prep for Day 3	NParks and SCBD
1800		Dinner (provided by NParks)	

Day 3: Thursday, 12 February 2009

0900 - 1030		Discussion Session 5: <i>Development of the CBI</i>	NParks and SCBD
1030 - 1100		TEA BREAK	
1100 - 1230		Discussion Session 6: <i>Development of the CBI</i>	NParks and SCBD
1230 - 1400		LUNCH	
1400 - 1530		Discussion Session 7: <i>Finalization of the CBI</i>	NParks and SCBD
1530 - 1600		TEA BREAK	
IV. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
1600 – 1730		Discussion Session 8: <i>Ways Forward and Test-bedding of the CBI</i>	NParks and SCBD
V. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP			
1730– 1745		Concluding Remarks by CEO, NParks	Mr Ng Lang, CEO, NParks
1800		Dinner (provided by NParks)	
