



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SECOND EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX

Singapore City, 1-3 July 2010

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, in decision VII/30 on the development of indicators for assessing progress towards, and communicating the 2010 target at the global level, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 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 Djoghlaif, 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 urbanization and sustainable development. As a follow up, at the High-Level session of the ninth meeting of the 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 the Strategic Plan of the Convention. The City Biodiversity Index 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 third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (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 Convention and the Government of Singapore, represented by the National Parks Board (NParks) of Singapore, are organizing the Second Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index in Singapore, from July 1 to 3 July 2010.

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, United Nations agencies and NGOs.

11. The purpose of the workshop is to develop a City Biodiversity Index 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/2/1. 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 Secretariat of the Convention 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 and are available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-01>.

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-02>. The workshop will be held in English.

16. Registration of participants will take place on Thursday, 1 July 2010, 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-02>.

ITEMS 1 AND 2. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP AND OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME

18. The workshop will be opened at 9 a.m. on July 01st 2010. 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/2/1).

21. The workshop features a mix of presentations with question-and-answer sessions, discussions, and interactive sessions to introduce relevant tools.

ITEM 3. PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE TEST-BEDDING BY CITIES AND REVIEW OF THE INDICATORS OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX

22. Participants will be invited to report on the results of the test-bedding carried out in their cities during the period between the two meetings (February 2009 to July 2010).

23. Detailed discussions on problems encountered and proposed improvements will follow, and participants will review the indicators according to the three components below;

- (a) Native biodiversity in the city:
 - Percentage of natural/semi-natural areas;

- Diversity of ecosystems and species in the city;
 - Measure of fragmentation in the city;
 - Percentage of protected areas in the city; and
 - Proportion of native species as opposed to invasive alien species.
- (b) Ecosystem services provided by native biodiversity in the city:
- Freshwater services;
 - Carbon sequestration; and
 - Recreation and educational services.
- (c) Governance and management of native biodiversity in the city:
- Biodiversity programmes and/or projects;
 - Rules, regulations and policy;
 - Institutional capacity;
 - Participation and partnership; and
 - Education and awareness-raising.
24. By the end of this session of the workshop, participants are expected to:
- (a) Have refined 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.
25. The City Biodiversity Index 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.
- ITEM 4. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**
26. Under this agenda item, participants will discuss and prepare for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, to be held concurrently with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
27. Building upon work in earlier sessions, workshop participants will then examine ways forward and key next steps for implementing and updating the City Biodiversity Index and ways to coordinate their future input.
28. 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 City Biodiversity Index;
 - (b) To have defined the next steps, with clear distribution of roles and responsibilities.

ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

29. 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.

30. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt its report on the basis of a draft report prepared by the Secretariat.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

31. The workshop is expected to close at 1 p.m. on 3 July 2010.

Annex

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

Day 1: Thursday, 1 July 2010

8.30 – 9 a.m. Registration

OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP AND OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME

9 – 9.20 a.m.	Opening programme - Welcome remarks - Opening remarks	Mr. Ng Lang, CEO, NParks Mr. Oliver Hillel, SCBD
9.20 – 9.45 a.m.	Group photo session and tea-break	
9.45 – 10 a.m.	Introduction and Overview of the Meeting	Dr. Lena Chan, NParks

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE TEST-BEDDING BY CITIES AND REVIEW OF THE INDICATORS OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX

10 a.m. – 1.15 p.m. Presentation of the results of the test-bedding by cities

Lunch

2.30 – 4 p.m. **Discussion session 1:**
Native biodiversity in the city

4 – 4.15 p.m. *Tea-break*

4.15 – 5.45 p.m. Continuation of discussion session 1:
-Native biodiversity in the city

5.45 – 6 p.m. Summary of day 1 and
Preparation for day 2

6.30 – 8 p.m. Welcome dinner/reception

Day 2: Friday, 2 July 2010

- 9 – 10.30 a.m. **Discussion session 2:**
 Ecosystem services provided by native
 biodiversity in the city
- 10.30 – 10.45 *Tea-break*
a.m.
- 10.45 a.m. – Continuation of discussion session 2:
12.30 p.m. Ecosystem services provided by native
 biodiversity in the city
- 12.30 – 2 p.m. *Lunch*
- 2 – 3.45 p.m. **Discussion session 3:**
 Governance and management of native
 biodiversity in the city
- 3.45 – 4 p.m. *Tea-break*
- 4 – 5.45 p.m. *Continuation of discussion session 3:*
 Governance and management of native
 biodiversity in the city
- 5.45 – 6 p.m. Summary of day 2 and
 Preparation for day 3

Day 3: Saturday, 3 July 2010

- 9 – 10.30 a.m. **Discussion session 4:**
 Finalization of the City Biodiversity
 Index
- 10.30 – 10.45 *Tea-break*
a.m.

CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD

- 10.45 a.m. – **Discussion session 5:**
12.30 p.m. Ways forward to COP-10 and beyond

CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

- 12.30–12.45 p.m. Concluding Remarks by CEO, NParks
- 12.45–2 p.m. *Lunch*
