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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION X/22: PROGRESS MADE BY NATIONAL, SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

- 1. In decision IX/28 and in paragraph 24 of the annex to decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties recognized the critical contribution of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to the implementation of the Convention. In paragraph 7 of decision X/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
- 2. These decisions sparked partnerships and increased cooperation between national, subnational and local governments, with the Plan of Action providing explicit guidelines on how this could be achieved. The Plan of Action intentionally and necessarily mirrors the objectives and mechanisms of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The engagement of local and subnational authorities, through guidelines provided by the Conference of the Parties, can leverage additional and complementary action and resources in all programmes of work and cross-cutting issues in the Convention, and has been the objective of several initiatives of participants in the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, a multi-stakeholder platform of CBD Parties, networks of subnational and local authorities, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and specialists in support of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- 3. In this light, the present information document summarizes initiatives, lessons learned and suggestions resulting from exchanges within the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Action for Biodiversity, of relevance to agenda item 5.4. Section I of the present document provides background information; section II discusses challenges and responses; section III provides an overview of contributions from national governments in the implementation of the action plan; section IV examines contributions from subnational and local governments and other partners; and section V contains recommendations for future action.

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I. BACKGROUND

4. Governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services implies coherent policy tools and mandates across all levels of government, and connects complementary mandates from national policy and planning to landscape-level strategies and on-the-ground legal frameworks, enforcement and action. The strength of these links is particularly apparent in certain areas of work, as illustrated in the following table of examples.

Thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues	Bearing on local and/or subnational government
Agricultural biodiversity	Local governments are typically responsible for local land use planning including zoning of, among other categories, agricultural land. Farmers at all levels interact with regional and local authorities for provisions, technical assistance and distribution of their products.
Forest biodiversity	Cities in particular are in a position to regulate the use of forests in a sustainable manner, for example by regulating the flow of forest products through major centres and ensuring that all such products conform to national or other laws. To combat the use of illegal timber in civil and private construction, the City of São Paulo – the largest consumer of Amazon wood in Brazil – works with Greenpeace to reduce trade with illegally sourced timber.
Inland waters biodiversity	Land-use regulation mandates of local governments are critical to ensure quality of water in cities; governance of catchment areas from which this water originates often requires regional and watershed-based coordination of cities' and states' mandates.
Biodiversity for development	Human populations are growing most rapidly in the developing world, with massive migration out of rural areas and into cities. The urban population is predicted to grow to over two-thirds of the total world population by 2050. Local governments are responsible for managing the impact of the ensuing rapid and often ad hoc growth of cities. Urbanization can also be an engine of social ascension: a 39% decline in the proportion of populations in slums is widely considered to have been achieved through the actions of municipalities.
Climate change and biodiversity	Cities are the main source of anthropogenic climate change. Decisions on climate change policy are also made in cities, and although ecosystem-based climate change mitigation is wide-ranging, it is in cities that adaptation and resilience to climate change affect by far the largest number of people. Ecosystems offer "green infrastructure" with multiple benefits including microclimate moderation and buffering of extreme climatic events.
Communication, education and public awareness	Arguably, the most important contribution that cities can make to a sustainable future is through outreach and education for sustainable development. Municipalities are the level of government closest to the people and have a number of tools at their disposal as well as a number of potential partners — universities, schools and business. Campaigns related to meetings

Thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues	Bearing on local and/or subnational government
	of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity demonstrate the potential of large-scale and high-impact awareness-raising of the citizens of host cities.
Economics, trade and incentive measures	Local and subnational governments are typically mandated to pass and enforce laws that govern biodiversity locally, including locally-relevant incentives to encourage ecologically appropriate behaviour.
Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments	Local governments' close association with their citizens and the dense concentrations of people in urban areas mean great potential for citizen science to contribute to biodiversity awareness and knowledge. The potential for assessing biodiversity is greater the more local and fine-scale the assessment is – therefore monitoring and assessment is arguably most critical at local and subnational levels. The City Biodiversity Index is already in operation to facilitate detailed assessment at local level in urban areas.
Impact assessment	Local governments are responsible for impact assessment of many developments within their jurisdictions which, in many cases, constitute the majority of countries land surface.
Invasive alien species	Seaports and airports are almost always located within cities and are the primary entry points for invasive species. They therefore provide the most important, convenient, and timely opportunities for intervention to control invasive species.
Marine and coastal biodiversity	The majority of the world's urban centres are clustered along coastlines and have a direct cause-and-effect relationship with the ocean. Local and subnational governments are to varying degrees responsible for managing coastal waters and are in a position to manage the way urban development progresses along coastlines and their impact on the coast and ocean. There is a movement towards decentralized integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) because of the local uniqueness of coastal zones and the consequent requirement for local management and solutions.
Protected areas	Protected areas managed by local and subnational governments constitute a significant proportion of protected areas worldwide. Besides their contribution to global protected areas, protected areas managed by local and subnational governments also contribute to the well-being of citizens by offering access to nature to the majority of the world's citizens – many of whom would not otherwise be able to experience nature.
Sustainable use of biodiversity	Cities are responsible for the vast majority of the world's resource utilization and waste production – disproportionate even to their populations. City governments typically represent the greatest purchasing power within their jurisdictions and green public procurement policies can therefore have a powerful influence on the way local economies are structured and function.

Thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues	Bearing on local and/or subnational government
Technology transfer and cooperation	Cooperation between biodiversity management agencies worldwide is becoming increasingly decentralized, thereby enabling a more direct and customized approach to technology transfer and cooperation. For example conservation agencies of subnational regions in developed countries are reaching out to support their subnational counterparts in the developing world.
Tourism and biodiversity	The governance of tourist destinations (including the health of their ecosystems) is most often the responsibility of host cities and states. Cooperation between local and national authorities also allows effective payback systems and fees for protected areas and for environmental management.
Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices - Article 8(j)	The majority of indigenous and local communities now live in cities. The influence of the urban environment presents substantial challenges to the preservation of their heritage, including its relationship with biodiversity; on the other hand, interaction between communities and local governments can create innovative urban planning and management models.

II. CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

- 5. Cities, in particular, have the potential to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity in highly efficient ways that adequately reflect on-the-ground priorities. However, they are typically not in a position to access global funding directly. Local government departments responsible for the environment therefore rely on allocations from municipal budgets to fund relevant projects. Due to the lack of recognition of the importance of biodiversity management within local government, funding from this source is often insufficient. Better coordination between national government, and local governments that have been identified as strategic implementers, could serve to overcome this obstacle and streamline the implementation of the Convention.
- 6. The rapid pace of urbanization presents one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services worldwide. The *in situ* impact of urbanization on biodiversity is small compared to the impact of agriculture, but it is, typically, extreme in its alteration of the ecosystems that it replaces. The challenge is to direct development in as efficient and sustainable way as possible. Cities' ecological footprint, however, presents a still greater threat to biodiversity. Despite the efficiency of cities as human settlements, the material wealth that they bring and the weight of human numbers in cities results in a demand for resources profoundly disproportionate to their physical size and population size. By 2050 urban dwellers will likely account for 86 per cent of the population in the more developed and 67 per cent in the less developed regions. Most of this growth will occur in the developing world. The infrastructure required to manage this growth over the next 40 years is equal to the infrastructure that has been collectively produced over the past 4000 years of human civilization. However, in cities especially, there exists huge potential to respond to the current situation. These challenges and opportunities are presented in a series of key messages in the first "Cities and Biodiversity Outlook" a global assessment of the links between urbanization, biodiversity and ecosystem services that will be launched at the Cities

¹ UN-HABITAT (2010). The state of the world's cities report 2010/11: Bridging the Urban Divide. Earthscan, London.

² http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=8051&catid=7&typeid=46.

for Life Summit being held in parallel with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- 7. The last six years have seen rapidly increasing cooperation with and between, and mobilization of, local governments in response to the global biodiversity crisis. In 2006 the global network of local governments, "ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability", officially included biodiversity as a focus area and began a worldwide programme known as Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) in which local governments were guided through a step-wise process towards improved biodiversity management. In March 2007, at the one-year anniversary of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8), the Mayor of the host city for COP 8, Curitiba, Brazil, hosted a meeting of cities and biodiversity, following and making use of the momentum created by the COP. At this historic event, local government representatives gathered to discuss the sustainable management of their biodiversity resources, implementation of practices that support national, regional and international strategies, plans, and agendas on biodiversity, and to learn from existing initiatives; points were summarized in the Curitiba declaration.³ Following from Curitiba and driven by ICLEI and the City of Bonn in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention, around 50 local governments gathered at a Mayors' Conference in parallel to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9). The "Bonn Call to Action" was subsequently presented by four Mayors to the high-level segment of COP 9. Two years later the same partners worked together to organize a similar platform at the largest side event of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, where more than 600 participants from more than 200 local and subnational governments met at the "City Biodiversity Summit", to indicate support for the implementation of the Convention and to illustrate their potential to contribute to that implementation. The Mayor of Nagoya and Governor of Aichi Prefecture addressed the high-level segment on behalf of the Summit delegates, with the Mayor drawing from a declaration that arose from that Summit – the Aichi/Nagova Declaration.⁵
- 8. The establishment of a cooperative forum of Parties, networks of cities and States, as well as international agencies (later renamed the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity) was proposed during the Curitiba Meeting in 2007 to coordinate the increasing number of stakeholders wishing to contribute to the growing movement cities and subnational governments for biodiversity. The formal launch of the Global Partnership took place at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2008 in Barcelona, in time to assist in the mobilization of a network of cities for the UN International Year on Biodiversity in 2010. The Partnership has an advisory committee of cities and an advisory committee of subnational governments to guide it, and its members have been responsible for a number of catalytic initiatives over recent years many of which are outlined in this document.

III. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

9. A number of Parties to the CBD (including Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Singapore, South Africa and the United Kingdom) have increasingly recognized the critical role of local and subnational governments in support of the implementation of the CBD. These local- and subnational-government-focused actions include the development of tools; the provision of resources and support; capacity-building and awareness-raising; formation of partnerships; promulgation of enabling legislation; and the provision of networking opportunities, as per section D of the Plan of Action endorsed through decision X/22.

³ http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/mayors-01/mayors-01-declaration-en.pdf.

⁴ http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/LABbonn2008/user_upload/Press/BonnCall_FINAL_29May08.pdf.

⁵ http://www.cbd.int/authorities/doc/CBS-declaration/Aichi-Nagoya-Declaration-CBS-en.pdf.

- 10. Recognizing the need for tools and resources:
 - The Canadian government's environmental organ, **Environment Canada**, has supported the development of a cities and biodiversity engagement strategy and publication of case studies of initiatives undertaken by municipalities leading the way in nature protection.
 - The French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea introduced the Local Biodiversity Atlas (ABC) to help French local authorities better understand, protect and enhance biodiversity in their jurisdictions. Interested municipalities apply to the project and, if successful, receive a set of tools, standards and templates to conduct inventories of local biodiversity, access to a national science platform based on the involvement of citizens and funding for training two to three young interns in biodiversity-related fields.
 - **Singapore National Parks Board** led the development of the "City Biodiversity Index" a monitoring tool to assist local authorities in benchmarking their progress in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in urban areas (www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml). As of August 2012, more than 70 cities are in various stages of test-bedding the Index.⁶
 - The **UK government** has also developed a set of indicators to help measure nationwide progress towards the 2010 target. See the publication UK Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket 2010 (www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4229) for the results of this work.
 - The **Ministry of the Environment of Japan** issued a Guide to the Local Biodiversity Strategy, based on the country's Biodiversity Basic Law and the Third National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan. It describes the need for local biodiversity strategies and a framework for planning, promotion, and project management, as well as relevant methods.
 - The **Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan** is developing an index for determining the state of biodiversity and its management in Japanese cities, based on the globally-oriented City Biodiversity Index.
- 11. Other forms of institutional or financial support have been provided by certain national governments and their agencies:
 - To ensure sustainable ecological functioning, the **Namibian Government**, along with the Global Environment Facility, set up the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA) project to pave the way for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management System for Namibia's coast. NACOMA demonstrated their commitment to local action by providing funding for the participation of the City of Walvis Bay in ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity programme.
 - In the **European Union**, co-financed by LIFE+, five national environmental organizations and two international partners are responsible for the European Capitals of Biodiversity initiative, which aims to foster and encourage local government initiatives that increase nature and biodiversity protection. The initiative invites local authorities involved in biodiversity activities in **France**, **Germany**, **Hungary**, **Slovakia** and **Spain** to enter their national competition and the EU hopes to extend the competition to other European countries.

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⁶ UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/45, see http://www.cbd.int/cop11/doc/.

- One of the most influential biodiversity-related activities of the **Spanish government** and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities (FEMP)'s Local Government Network + Biodiversity 2010 initiative is an annual competition which awards substantial grants to local authorities for best practices in restoring and protecting biodiversity in urban areas.
- The **Ministry for the Environment of New Zealand** supported the Action Bio-Community (ABC) Programme with the aim of building local capacity for biodiversity management and strengthening partnerships of local, regional and national actors.
- The **Brazilian Ministry of the Environment**, with funding and technical support from the World Bank, developed an e-learning program with the goal of decentralizing environmental management through capacity-building and training of municipal environmental managers
- The **South African Ministry of Environmental Affairs** partnered with ICLEI to fund a series of local government biodiversity capacity-building workshops aimed at municipal officials, as well as providing funding for the production of a guidebook on local biodiversity management that was used at these events.
- The **government of New Zealand's** Biodiversity Advice Fund provides financial support to projects that encourage landholders and groups to better protect indigenous species on their land, as well as a guide for councils, available on their Action Bio-Community website, on how to apply for and receive Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds.
- 12. A great deal has also been achieved by Parties through forging partnerships with local governments:
 - Natural England is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body responsible to the **United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**. It works with Local Strategic Partnerships led by local authorities to develop Sustainable Community Strategies, which set out the long-term vision for an area and identify the priorities for action. Natural England is a partner with over one quarter of local authorities delivering environmental improvements through Local Area Agreements (three-year agreements between a local authority, on behalf of local partners, and central government).
 - In **Belgium**, representatives of subnational regions and communities join the federal government to compose the Coordinating Committee for International Environment Policy, a mechanism to ensures coherence of international environmental policy at the national level.
 - **Mexico's** nation-wide cooperative endeavor, "*Programa Integral de Playas Limpias*", brings together key federal departments including the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, the Secretariat of Health, and the Marine Secretariat, as well as state and municipal governments, and diverse community organizations, to collaborate on keeping the country's beaches clean.
 - The **national government of Tanzania** implemented a Strategy for Urgent Actions on Land Degradation and Water Catchments at all levels (including local authorities and communities, and the private sector) and across sectors with the goal of restoring ecological productivity in key watersheds and wetlands.
 - The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), an agency of **India's national Ministry of Urban Development**, has established two Biodiversity Parks to restore the vanished heritage of two of the country's capital's land forms, with four more are under development, bringing the

total protection area to two thousand hectares and the Biodiversity Parks are developed and managed by a team of scientists assisted by technical staff and fully funded by DDA.

- 13. In certain cases, and with support from and coordination with, national governments, a decentralized approach to biodiversity management has proven to be an effective means to achieve biodiversity aims.
 - The **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park** in the Philippines is a national park that was devolved to, and is successfully managed by, a local authority. Since the national government granted management of the National Park to the City Government of Puerto Princesa, the site has been recognized as an example of best practices for biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and recognized as a core part of the Palawan Island Biosphere Reserve.
 - The **government of Ecuador** has set up a decentralized system of efficient and participatory environmental management (*Sistema Nacional Descentralizado de Gestión Ambiental, SNDGA*) to transfer competencies from the national government to local authorities in areas related to forest management, forestry, forest monitoring, wildlife management, and environmental quality.
 - The Peruvian national park "Refugio de Vida Silvestre Los Pantanos de Villa", near **Lima**, **Peru**, was ceded for administration to the local authorities and subsequently received, at the Ramsar COP 11 in Bucharest, Romania, in July 2012, the prestigious Blue Globe award from the World Wetlands Network for the quality of its administration and for best practices in wetlands management. The agreement is between the Ministry of Environment of Peru and both the state and local authorities in Lima.
- 14. National governments have also played a key role in forging links between their local governments to strengthen biodiversity management through shared experiences and local partnerships.
 - **China** and **Mexico** are both working with their subnational governments (and cities, in the case of China), to produce subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans (SBSAPs) compatible with the relevant NBSAPs.
 - **Japan's Ministry of Environment** helped to set up, and is initially coordinating, a network of Japanese local and subnational (prefectural) governments to share biodiversity management experiences and expertise. Through this network, prefectural governments are also being encouraged to produce biodiversity strategies and action plans. Almost half of Japan's prefectures have done so along with an increasing number of local governments.
 - La Red de Gobiernos Locales + Biodiversidad 2010 is a collaboration between the **Spanish Federal Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs**, its public foundation, the Biodiversity Foundation, and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities, dedicated to promoting local policies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the conservation of Spain's natural heritage. The network integrates 219 local authorities in Spain, totaling almost 22 million inhabitants, offering members technical support in promoting biodiversity conservation and improvement. Members of the network undertake to carry out a number of nature conservation objectives.
 - A network of 14 Nordic municipalities of the five Nordic countries (**Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**) was set up to undertake specific projects with the aim of supporting the achievement of the Convention for Biological Diversity's 2010 target to

significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. This forum enables local politicians and civil servants to exchange experiences in implementing biodiversity conservation projects which include habitat restoration, invasive alien species control and the use of municipal plans as instruments.

- In 2009, the **Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management** launched a national campaign on biodiversity called *Vielfaltleben* (Living Diversity) in partnership with NGOs. Within this campaign, a network of Austrian municipalities was set up to support local governments in meeting the 2010 target to reduce the loss of biodiversity. As of 2010, 30 municipalities had joined the network, and which is showing success in bringing the topic into the local arena.
- 15. Legislation to encourage or reward improved biodiversity management by local government is another important tool for national governments; this has already yielded considerable success in various parts of the world:
 - Through an environmental tax incentive called the "Ecological Merchandise Circulation and Services Tax", the **Brazilian government** rewards local governments that promote conservation of biodiversity and other environmental initiatives. Municipalities receive additional financial resources in those states that have legally defined environmental criteria for sharing part of the portion owed to the municipality. Since it introduced the instrument in 1992, the State of Paraná has generated about U\$170 million towards conservation and has increased by 158% the number of protected areas in the State it has also launched the first Brazilian NBSAP-compatible strategy through its BIOCLIMA programme.
 - **Japanese government** legislation obliges prefectural and municipal governments to prepare local biodiversity strategies and action plans,
 - **France** has also adopted legislation aimed at ensuring the development of regional and local biodiversity strategies and their alignment with national strategies.
 - In the **United Kingdom** the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act places a statutory duty on all public authorities, including regional bodies and local authorities, to have regard for biodiversity conservation during the exercise of their functions.
 - All local authorities in **South Africa** are obliged to prepare a five-year Integrated Development Plan, which must be aligned with, among other things, provincial Environmental Implementation Plans and national environmental legislation.
 - Local biodiversity plans are required under Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, adopted in 2002. A guidance document, Guidelines for the Production of Local Biodiversity Action Plans, was prepared by the **Irish Government's Department of the Environment**, **Heritage and Local Government** in cooperation with the Heritage Council to assist local authorities.

IV. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER PARTNERS

16. In support and encouragement of Parties' actions, local governments, organizations, and UN agencies have collaborated with the common aim of supporting the Plan of Action and thereby supporting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. These efforts include a number of key meetings, including the 2011 ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity meeting in Bergrivier Municipality, South Africa (1-4 February 2011); the first meeting on the implementation of the Plan of Action, in Montpellier, France (17-19 January 2011); the Livable Cities Forum: Designing Biodiversity Friendly Communities,

organized by Environment Canada in partnership with ICLEI in Montreal, Canada (21-22 August 2011); the General Assembly of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) in Quebec City, Canada (29-31 August 2011); meeting of the ICLEI's BiodiverCities Advisory Committee and of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity and its Advisory Committee of Cities in Bonn, Germany (5-6 September 2011); Third Expert Workshop on the Development of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (City Biodiversity Index) and preparatory meeting for the production of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook in Singapore (11-13 October 2011); meeting of the partners of the urban biosphere initiative (URBIS) in New York, USA (16-19 October 2011); meeting on a lusophone cities' initiative on biodiversity in Lisbon, Portugal (24 November 2011; Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy in the Mediterranean Basin: From National to Local Actions in Montpellier, France (17-20 January 2012); meeting on urban policies and biodiversity in Paris, France (24 January 2012); the third meeting on the implementation of the Plan of Action, including a meeting of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity and its Advisory Committee of Cities, in Nagoya, Japan (22-23 March 2012); and the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments (of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity) in Paraná, Brazil (24-27 April 2012).

- Acting on paragraph 6 of decision X/22, a second biodiversity summit for subnational 17. governments, cities and other local authorities will be held in parallel with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India, on October 15 and 16, 2012, entitled "Cities for Life: City & Subnational Biodiversity Summit". The Summit will be hosted by the Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. It will be organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Environment of Japan. Additional funding will be provided by the German Society for International Cooperation. A session, coordinated by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), will be dedicated to subnational governments in particular. The overall purpose of the Summit is to demonstrate local and subnational governments' support for their nations' implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to demonstrate their commitment to the implementation of the Convention. A coordinated response to the Plan of Action by local governments, subnational governments, academia and organizations and UN agencies announced at the Summit will demonstrate progress and commitment in this regard.
- 18. A number of tools mostly publications have also been produced in parallel with the development of the Plan of Action. They include: the User's Manual for the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (or City Biodiversity Index) discussed earlier in this document; $TEEB^7$ The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Local and Regional Policy-makers (TEEB D2) (2010) one of five volumes of a study examining the opportunities for using ecosystem valuation as a tool in governance; Local Action for Biodiversity Guidebook (2010) a hands-on guidebook, rich in case studies, for biodiversity management by local government; Supporting Local Action for Biodiversity (2010), by UN-HABITAT and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity illustrating to national governments the effectivity of supporting and engaging with local governments; Cities, Biodiversity and Governance (2010), UNU-IAS a comprehensive background and rationale that explores perspectives of, and challenges around, the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through local government; TEEB Manual for Cities (2011) a logical offshoot of TEEB D2 and a set of guidelines developed by ICLEI on how to put TEEB ecosystem valuation theory into practice in local government.
- 19. As requested in paragraph 6 of decision X/22, the first edition of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook will be launched at the city biodiversity summit, being held in parallel to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this publication, combining science and policy, scientists from around

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⁷ http://www.teebweb.org

the world analyze how urbanization and urban growth affect biodiversity and ecosystems, delivering key messages on the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources to decision-makers. Local subnational governments will have the opportunity to showcase their practices on sustainability and biodiversity and learn from existing experiences how to incorporate those topics into their agendas and policies.

- 20. Building on existing models and feedback from NBSAP workshops, and recognizing the necessary coherence and synergies between biodiversity strategies and action plans at all levels of government, ICLEI and UNU-IAS, with the support of the Secretariat of the CBD, will compile guidelines, based on best practice for the production of subnational and local plans in support of NBSAPs. The publication will complement an existing publication by the CBD Secretariat, which focuses on illustrating their importance, to national governments.
- 21. As a proactive network of local authorities, ICLEI has pledged its strong support for the CBD and the Plan of Action in an unprecedented agreement with the Secretariat of the CBD, in which an expert has been seconded for two years to assist staff of the Secretariat in their support of the Parties' strategies. This contribution demonstrates the degree of collaboration within the Global Partnership and provides the Secretariat with needed human resources in this area.

Contributions from networks of subnational and local governments

- 22. The series of NBSAP review workshops organized by the Secretariat of the CBD with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund have increasingly incorporated the perspective of subnational and local governments. Resource persons from ICLEI and from ICLEI-nominated local governments have presented to national delegates and participated actively in a number of these workshops. One of these workshops, for the Mediterranean region, held in Montpellier, France, in January 2012, took this idea further by completely integrating the participation of State/Provincial and local governments into regional biodiversity strategies through networks of cities, subnational governments and their partners, and this model provides a template for additional integrated meetings in future.
- 23. In this sense, decision X/22 also welcomed the invitation of Ms. Helene Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier, France, to host the first meeting on the implementation of the Plan of Action on 17-19 January 2011 (the full report can be found at http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=IPA-SNGCOLA-01). A second and expanded meeting followed, the Mediterranean Regional Workshop for Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, "Coordinating Local and National Action in the Mediterranean Basin" (full report can be found at http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPRW-CLAMED-01), held in Montpellier on 17-19 January 2012, which greeted the announcement to launch a regional network of Mediterranean local authorities engaged in biodiversity, named "MediverCities", coordinated by the City of Montpellier, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ICLEI, and a Steering Committee of the network. A follow-up meeting of the participants to the network has been proposed to be held in Sarajevo in mid-April 2013 to officially launch the MediverCities network. The proposal was supported by the city government of Sarajevo, the Steering Committee, and the national focal point of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and partners are currently defining funding and logistical arrangements for the operations of the network.
- Along with this initiative the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the proposal by the urban conglomerate of Brest Metropole Oceane in France to set up a network of local and subnational authorities and their partners with a view to supporting the implementation of the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity: the **Maritime Innovative Territories International Network (MarITIN)**, whose chair, the President of Brest Metropole Oceane (Mr. François Cuillandre), has also accepted to represent local authorities in the CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI). The network was announced on 13 July 2012, at an expert meeting in Brest, as a platform for

knowledge-sharing or coordination, and a meeting to be held on 13-14 November 2012 in Brest – *Biodiversité Maritime et Territoires* – will complete the process.

- 25. The intention of the Secretariat in supporting these two networks is to identify, support and promote models for decentralized cooperation on biodiversity, within the framework of the Strategic Plan, the respective NBSAPs of contracting Parties, and national guidelines as appropriate, in line with decision X/22 and its associated Plan of Action, that could be replicated in different thematic areas, circumstances or regions.
- 26. The networks are also based on the experience of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability. In 2009, ICLEI launched an international network of local authorities to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in urban areas, named Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB). Today, ICLEI-LAB is recognized as a "gold standard" for networks of cities dedicated to biodiversity and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The members commit to adopt strategies, to provide reports, to undertake several projects regarding sustainable development and meet every year to monitor their actions and define new objectives. For instance, it is planned that MediverCities would be an open network under the aegis of ICLEI, so that, as is the case with LAB, any city or other local authority wanting to join the network would be invited to:
 - Sign on to the future Sarajevo Declaration and the proposed Charter of MediverCities;
 - Have local strategies compatible with and complementary to their respective NBSAPs, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international or regional agreements within the Mediterranean region; and
 - Undertake at least one project related to the protection, the conservation or the sustainable use of local biodiversity.
- 27. In line with the mandate given by Parties, the Secretariat will facilitate communications and cooperation between Parties and their respective local and subnational authorities by supporting guidelines on how local policy tools could reinforce their NBSAPs or even promote the development of local or subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans. The provision of technical assistance to support mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in urban infrastructure development is also planned.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGY

28. The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities has been a key force in driving support, from various quarters, for local and subnational governments' implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In a further effort to complement and respond to Parties' fulfilment of the Plan of Action, the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity is compiling a coordinated response, to be announced at the Cities for Life Summit in Hyderabad. As illustrated in the figure below, the response will be divided into four complementary strategies: a local government response; a subnational government response; a response from academia; and a response from the UN and international agencies.

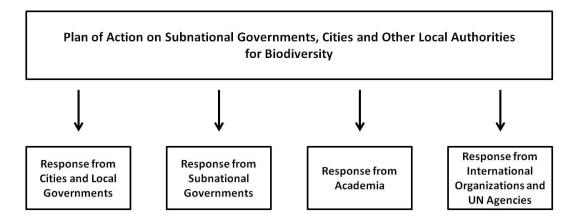


Figure: Illustration of the grouping of stakeholders producing response strategies to complement the CBD's implementation of the Plan of Action.

29. Deliberations on subnational implementation of the Convention at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties will also be informed by the Cities for Life Summit co-organized by ICLEI, the Government of India (including the state government of Andhra Pradesh and the Hyderabad authorities) on 15-16 October, 2012, and the related meeting of subnational governments co-organized with the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) on 16 October in the morning (see http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=12919 and CBD notification 2012-117 (Ref. no. SCBD/AM/OH/80589), dated 20 August 2012). Through a coordinated response, local and subnational governments and their partners intend to play a more significant and appropriate role in cooperation with their relevant national governments, in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Draft decision text for the deliberations of Parties under item 5.4 is available in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/18.
