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BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN BASIN – FROM NATIONAL TO
LOCAL ACTION: A JOINT MEDITERRANEAN
REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES
AND ACTION PLANS INVOLVING CITIES AND
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
Montpellier, France, 17-19 January 2012

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS PLANS INVOLVING CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In response to the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and with financial support provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has conducted twelve regional and subregional capacity-building workshops to assist eligible Parties to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in 2011 and 2012. These workshops build on the experience gained by the Secretariat in organizing a series of regional and subregional workshops in 2008 and 2009, in response to paragraph 6 of decision VIII/8, in order to strengthen the capacity of national and subnational development, implementation, revision and updating of NBSAPs and the integration of components of biological diversity in relevant sectors and cross-sectoral strategies. Guided by paragraph 24 of decision X/2 (which states that “Initiatives of the Convention such as ...promoting the engagement of subnational governments, cities and local authorities...will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan”) the NBSAP review workshop series regularly invited representatives of local and regional authorities.

2. The tenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity endorsed a “Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020”¹ through decision X/22, encouraging Parties to cooperate with subnational and local governments towards the achievement of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Decision X/22 also welcomed the initiative of Montpellier (as one of the six cities of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Consulting Committee on Cities and Biodiversity) to host the First Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity, in January 2011, attended by 38 participants representing more than 2,100 cities and regions worldwide (the full report is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=IPA-SNGCOLA-01>).

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/planofaction.shtml>.

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3. Given the clear need to harmonize the goals, means and implementation of national biodiversity plans and strategies with their regional and/or local correspondents, this workshop focuses on subnational and local implementation of the Strategic Plan and the cooperation between levels of government necessary for effective results. At the invitation of Mayor Helene Mandroux of Montpellier, the Mediterranean was chosen as a region that already counted on several regional agreements (Barcelona Convention, Regional Seas Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan, etc.) and had a tradition of cooperation around the basin. This pioneering approach would enhance the complementary roles of national, subnational and local strategies and action plans in implementing the Convention in the Mediterranean region.

4. The joint capacity-building workshop for the Mediterranean region was held in Montpellier, France from 17 to 19 January 2012. It was built on previously held workshops on the NBSAPs revision process (notably for Mediterranean Parties in the North Africa and Middle East workshop in Beirut, Lebanon, from 2 to 7 May 2011,² and for Europe at Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 15 to 19 April 2011.³ Representatives of local governments from each of the invited Mediterranean countries were invited to attend. The purpose of subnational and local government attendance was in the interests of exploring collaboration in achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in line with decision X/22. The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the City of Montpellier, and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI).

5. For the first day of the workshop (17 January), national and local government delegates met separately. For the second and third days of the workshop (18-19 January), all delegates participated in a joint workshop in which approaches to collaboration were explored. Local government representatives attended an additional fourth day (20 January), during which participants agreed on elements for a future network of Mediterranean cities and local authorities for biodiversity.

6. The specific objectives of the workshop were:

(a) To review progress with, and assist Mediterranean Parties in reviewing their NBSAPs and national biodiversity targets by fostering cooperation at regional level in line with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(b) To encourage the identification of national and regional targets and identify challenges facing biodiversity and its management in the Mediterranean region and the extent to which different national and local governments share these challenges;

(c) To promote local biodiversity strategies and action plans (LBSAPs) and a regional biodiversity strategy;

(d) The establishment of a Mediterranean network of cities and local authorities engaged in biodiversity management, which would support the national level implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) To establish links and opportunities for collaboration, active learning and person-to-person exchanges between those responsible for implementing and revising strategies and action plans in national government, and those responsible in local government.

7. National, subnational and local government delegates from the following countries attended the workshop: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, Spain, and Tunisia. Participants from Palestinian Authority, IUCN, Network of Regional Government for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS), Agropolis International, Natureparif,

² <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/mena.shtml>.

³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWNBSAP-EUR-02>.

Provence University, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), and Technical Workshop on Natural Areas (ATEN) also attended.

8. This report provides an overview of the workshop sessions, discussions, the conclusions of the meeting, and the next steps going forward. Annexes to this report present more detailed information about the workshop. This report is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/mediterranean/>.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP, ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

9. The workshop started at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 January 2012. Separately, participants from governments and local authorities held a full-day pre-session where they discussed common challenges and potential mutual cooperation, needs and expectations, and were briefed on the Convention on Biological Diversity's mechanisms and outcomes related to subnational and local implementation.

10. The workshop was formally opened on Wednesday morning, 18 January 2012 and was chaired by Ms. Mandroux. She delivered an opening statement saying that the City of Montpellier felt compelled to offer its example given its model urban development and its remarkable history. She expressed their interest in being a catalyst for the creation of a possible network of cities in the Mediterranean for biodiversity. Ms. Mandroux concluded that she was delighted with this initiative and with the chance to host the platform of this network and facilitate exchanges because "biodiversity is the life insurance for life itself."

11. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in his opening remarks stated that this is the sixteenth workshop convened under the Japan Biodiversity Fund, but the first one to bring together the representatives of the government and the local authorities as a whole for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at national and local levels. He emphasized that it is time for all levels of government to work together to translate the Nagoya biodiversity compact at local, regional and national levels based on the ecosystem approach to meet the unprecedented challenges of development and urban expansion.

12. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, pointed out that this workshop is part of a critically important effort to change our understanding of the relationship between cities and the natural environment in the Mediterranean. She highlighted the need to have a green-economy perspective in this region where sustainability models will have to be tailored across the spectrum of tourism revenue, fisheries and agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ms. Barbut concluded by stressing that there is arguably no other region where these links are stronger than in the Mediterranean.

13. Kobie Brand, ICLEI Director, noted that "this workshop starts a new and exciting phase in the collaboration between ICLEI, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and pioneering cities on biodiversity and ecosystem services, when we develop coherent and specific strategies and plans harmonized from global to regional, national and subnational to local levels". She shared that ICLEI, through its Cities Biodiversity Center, is ready to share experiences and provide support for a future Mediterranean network of cities with the participation of their most recent Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) pioneer projects, the City of Montpellier.

14. Paul Delduc, of the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing, reiterated the full support of the French Government for the initiative on cities and biodiversity.

ITEM 2. PROGRESS WITH NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

15. Didier Babin of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity invited government representatives to estimate the date of submission of their updated NBSAPs and to evaluate how much their NBSAPs are taking into consideration the Mediterranean challenges on biodiversity. The results of this exercise are provided in annex I.

ITEM 3. BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

16. In a plenary session chaired by Mr. Bernard Hubert, president of Agropolis International, a panel discussion took place focusing on the Mediterranean region in the next decade.

17. Youssef Courbaj of the National Institute of Demographical Studies – France, presented in plenary the demographic perspectives in the Mediterranean region. Mr. Courbaj explained the universality of demographic transition, including demography versus economy and education.

18. Nicolas Arnaud from the Research Observatory of Environment for the Mediterranean detailed observation modalities and he explained how observation and collecting information can serve studies and can be useful for environmental strategies.

19. John Thompson of CNRS/CEFE made a presentation on the relation between the biodiversity dynamic and human activities in the Mediterranean region. Mr. Thompson said that the Mediterranean has a complex geological and climatic history, and a highly heterogeneous landscape in which human activities have greatly modified local conditions and the spatial configuration of habitats. He explored the evolutionary processes which have shaped plant evolution in the context of these major influences on vegetation.

20. Serge Morand from Montpellier University explained how Mediterranean society is linked to biodiversity and how a good management of ecosystems plays a very important role on quality of life, development, and human health.

ITEM 4. NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION TO FULFIL THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND NEXT STEPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND LOCAL OR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs OR LBSAPs)

21. Gilles Pipien of the World Bank and Maxime Thibon of Biodivnet presented the Mediterranean Biodiversity institutional Framework. They introduced the existing mechanisms, initiatives, processes and the current possibilities for participants to create a network which could build on examples or in relationship with the existing networks in the Mediterranean area, such as: United Cities and Local Governments (CGLU); Medcité; Standing Committee for the Euro Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM); and Eco-cities. Also they presented the potential donors and partners, namely: the European Union; Faculty for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Action Plan for Mediterranean (PAM) (EU+21); Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED); International Association for Mediterranean Forests, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet); and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Pre-session for Local Authorities

22. Jaques Touchon, Deputy Mayor of Montpellier, introduced the concept of biological diversity and the work the city office of Montpellier is doing in this domain.

23. Oliver Hillel of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity presented Convention objectives and commitments of the Parties at the Conference of Parties (COP), including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action Plans (NBSAPs). In line with the decision IX/28 and X/22, Mr.

Hillel described the crucial role that local and subnational governments play in the protection of biodiversity. He also introduced The Curitiba Declaration⁴ and the importance of local action for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).

24. Ms. Brand presented on ICLEI, portraying it as a network of cities from all around the world working for climate, RIO+20, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ms. Brand said that cities are drivers of change and strategic planning will reduce our costs. In conclusion, she described ICLEI's role and mission, which is to build and serve a worldwide movement in cities biodiversity.

25. Following the presentations, a session introduced and monitored by Ms. Sylvie Blangy of CNRS/CEFE during which participants were divided into three groups and asked to identify main issues of their local authority/organization in terms of biodiversity protection. First, three main clusters have been identified: (i) The Western Balkans and Adriatic Sea with Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Serbia, (ii) Western Europe with France and Spain, and (iii) Southern Mediterranean area with Tunisia, Algeria, Israel, Morocco and Egypt. More details on some of the identified issues can be found in annex II.

26. After the exercise, participants have been asked to split into homogenous groups to identify the most important concerns based on the issues outlined in the previous exercise. Six major common concerns have been identified:

- (a) Sharing knowledge with a national authority to ensure a decentralized cooperation;
- (b) Coordinated governance in terms of adequate distribution of mandate;
- (c) Green infrastructure that needs to be developed in partnership with national authorities;
- (d) Green development for economic development and jobs creation using sustainable resources;
- (e) Land use planning;
- (f) Communication, education and public awareness.

27. Based on the results of the exercise, participants were asked to define challenges, offers, and requests as a basis for future collaboration. The compiled results of this exercise are shown in annex III.

28. Russel Galt from ICLEI introduced the concept of ecosystem services. Mr. Galt explained that the Mediterranean Basin is the third biodiversity hotspot with a huge variety of species, including the 13 000 endemic vascular plant species. Today, only 5 per cent of the Mediterranean Basin is protected. The degradation of nature can be attributed to explosive population growth. Mr. Galt explained how cities depend on landscapes that provide ecosystem services. Thus, it is necessary to consider cities' resilience as a major tool to prevent biodiversity degradation in cities and surrounding bioregions.

Pre-session for Governments

29. This session started by introductions made by Mr. Christophe Morales of the city of Montpellier, Mr. Delduc, and Mr. Andre Mader and Mr. Babin of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

30. An interactive exercise tasked participants to identify, in country groups, threats to biodiversity. Participants reported the following results: (i) overexploitation of ecosystems; (ii) marine pollution; (iii) lack of resources; (iv) weak mainstreaming of biodiversity; (v) lack of regional cooperation; (vi) unstable political environment in Arabic countries; (vii) lack of education and public awareness; (viii) increase of population; (ix) lack of capacity-building.

31. Based on threats to biodiversity identified earlier, participants reported the following common areas for assessing their current situation (2012) and evaluating their objectives for the future (2020): (i)

⁴ <http://www.internationalrivers.org/curitiba-declaration>.

governance; (ii) threats and pressure on biodiversity; (iii) research and knowledge; (iv) financial and human resources; (v) cooperation; (vi) communication, education and public awareness. The results of this exercise are provided in annex IV.

32. Based on the results of the previous exercise, Mr. Babin invited government representatives to work in groups and map out technical, scientific, and other related elements needed for cooperation with local authorities and then, to identify their needs and offers. The results of this exercise are provided in annex V.

Joint sessions for government and local authorities' representatives

33. Mr. Mader introduced the Singapore Index as a tool to support local government in biodiversity management. This index is a set of biodiversity indicators, specially designed for cities, with three components: Ecology, ecosystem services and governance. Mr. Mader introduced the Local Authority Biodiversity (LAB). The LAB was the first international initiative of its kind which included the following steps: (i) assessment; (ii) commitment; (iii) planning; and (iv) implementation. He also presented other tools that local governments can use: the LAB guidebook, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, the City Biodiversity Outlook (CBO), the NBSAP review module and the LBSAP guidelines, compiled by the United Nations University (UNU), ICLEI, the Convention on Biological Diversity with a strong focus on alignment and integration. These tools cover assessment, planning, valuation, and merging issues.

34. Mr. Hillel and Mr. Babin facilitated wrap-up sessions to conclude on common challenges faced by government and local authorities' representatives. Participants tried to match needs to requests and agreed on four main challenges that could become a basis for their strategies:

- (a) Mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity in urban planning, infrastructures, land use planning, green industries, business and local action plan;
- (b) Sharing and exchange of information;
- (c) Knowledge interface, improved access to information, including decision-making, education, and assessments;
- (d) Ecological footprint of cities as a main tool for economical evaluation of biodiversity.

35. Based on the first day exercises, participants tried to wrap it up by matching local authorities' requests and offers to government requests and offers and vice versa. This comparison is attached as annex VI.

36. Participants continued the work on defining actions that would need to be taken in order to tackle biodiversity's erosion. Many of them presented what they could do at their level in order to help the network to be efficient.

37. Participants were divided into four groups and were asked to develop four projects related to the issues listed in the previous paragraph. Results of this exercise are in annex VII.

ITEM 5. ESTABLISHMENT AND FIRST MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES NETWORK

38. On 19 January 2012, Ms. Hélène Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier, launched the Mediterranean network of cities engaged in biodiversity named "Medivercities".

39. During this meeting, Mr. Wolfgang Teubner, General Manager of ICLEI - European Secretariat, presented the main objective of ICLEI which was to support cities and local governments to become sustainable. Also, Mr. Wolfgang concluded his presentation by describing ICLEI's activities and main structure.

40. Mr. Hillel announced the creation of the Medivercities steering committee and then facilitated a discussion on the next steps. Participants agreed that the next steps should focus on (i) operation, reach-out activities; (ii) organization of the second meeting of the network; and (iii) development of projects.

41. Mr. Hillel facilitated a discussion to set up the terms of reference and objectives of the network for establishment of the network Charter in the forthcoming meeting. Participants identified the following potential terms of references:

- (a) Outreach and information (e.g., Blue Plan, International institutions, etc.);
- (b) Resources (e.g., Japan Fund, Monaco, private sector, World Bank, France, etc.);
- (c) Key players (e.g., United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GIZ, Mediterranean MEDWET, RAMSAR, Medcities, Eco-cities, etc.).

Next steps will be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ICLEI, the steering committee⁵ and Montpellier city.

42. Mr. Babin facilitated a discussion on the upcoming meeting of Medivercities which is envisioned to take place later this year. Participants agreed that the main purpose of this meeting is to produce a report to be submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity's eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in India in October 2012. The objectives of this two-day workshop will include: identification of common priorities and concrete projects, sharing of experiences and signature of the charter of the network by mayors and governors. The dates of this meeting will be announced after the discussion with the host city (to be identified).

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

43. Mr. Giorgi Hristov of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) made a presentation on the structure, mission and priorities of NALAS. Also, he spoke of major challenges presently addressed by NALAS to achieve its objectives.

44. Mr. Danijel Katičin, Mayor of Tkon and member of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) presented on biodiversity-related issues as well as the structure and main activities of ARLEM.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

45. Closing remarks were delivered first by Ms. H  l  ne Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier. She congratulated participants for their hard work during the workshop. She also pointed out the common Mediterranean issues, including (i) integration of biodiversity in cities landscaping; (ii) experience and knowledge sharing; (iii) public awareness; and (iv) integration of economics of ecosystems and biodiversity into national economics strategies.

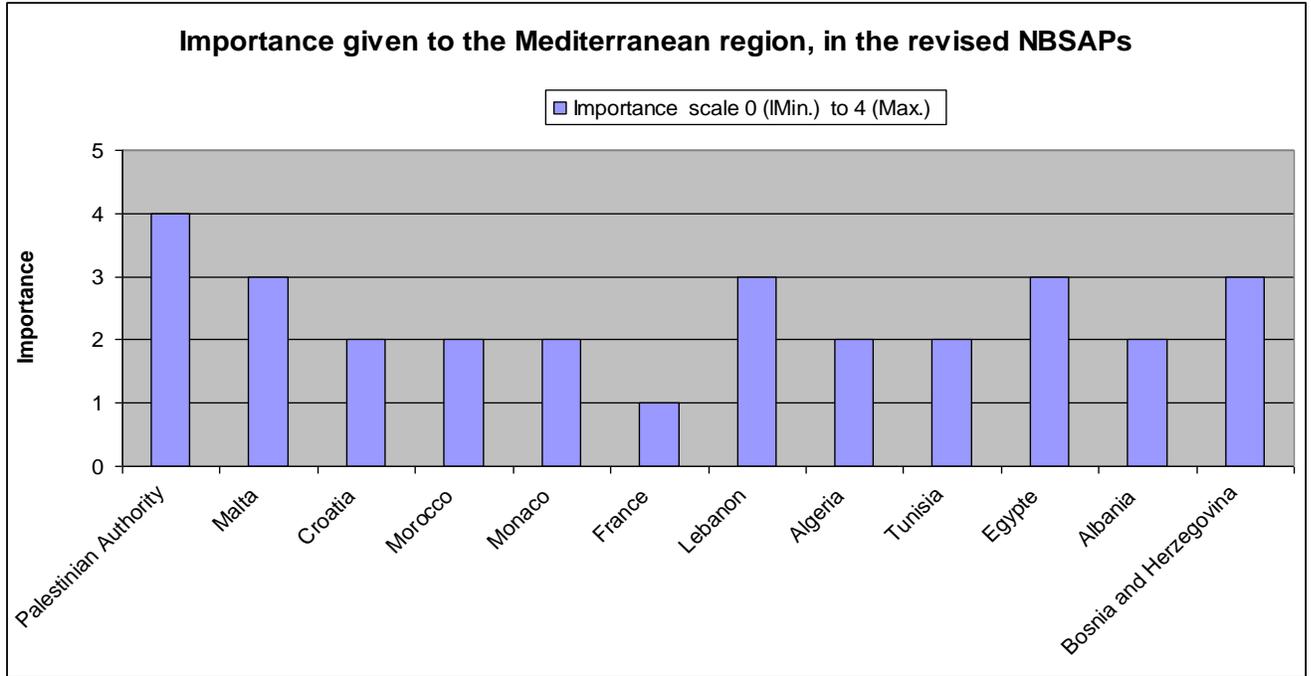
46. At the end of her statement, Ms H  l  ne Mandroux delivered the Montpellier Declaration attached as annex VIII.

47. Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaflaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, thanked Ms. Mandroux for hosting the workshop and for demonstrating that cities are not the enemy of biodiversity. Mr. Djoghlaflaf hoped that this network would be a model to be reproduced by other regions.

48. Mr. Seif el Islam Abdel Bari, Vice Governor of Cairo, Ms. Kobie Brand of ICLEI and Mr. Edmond Panarati, Deputy Mayor of Tirana, also delivered closing statements.

5 Mr. Haris Piplas: haris.piplas@gmail.com (Bosnia), Mr. Danijel Katicin: dan@tkon.hr (Croatia), Mr. Patrick Berger (France), Mr. Oliver Hillel: oliver.hillel@cbd.int (CBD), Mr. Georgi Hristov: hristov@nalas.eu (NALAS), Ms. Maruxa Cardama: mcardama@nrg4sd.org (nrg4SD), Ms. Kobie Brand: kobie.brand@iclei.org (ICLEI), Ms. Salima Demnati: demnatisalima@yahoo.fr (Morocco), Mr. Khaled Allam Harahash (Egypt), Mr. Edmond Panarati: edmond.panarati@tirana.gov.al (Albania), Mr. Mohammed Mahassneh: mahassneh2000@yahoo.com (Palestinian territories), Ms. Lara Samaha: l.samaha@moe.gov.lb (Lebanon), Ms. Eulalia Comas: eulalia.comas@gencat.cat (Spain), Mr. Simon Woodworth: woodworth.simon@cr-languedocroussillon.fr (France), Ms. Florence Clap: florence.clap@uicn.fr (France), Ms. Chantal VanHam: chantal.vanham@uicn.org (IUCN), Mr. Michel Saraille: michel.saraille@gmail.com (France), Mr. Motyl Lavie: motil@tiberias.muni.il (Israel).

Annex I



Annex II

Main issues in terms of biodiversity for local authorities		
The Western Balkans and Adriatic Sea	The South Mediterranean	The Western Europe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A lack of budget for a better cooperation with national governments, companies and NGOs. – A lack of strategic documents on all levels, certain documents and strategies on national level. – A lack of communication with all levels (NGOs, academies, associations). – A need for raising public awareness and participation. – A need to improve legislations related to biodiversity, deforestation, waste management, birds ecosystems, greenhouse gases, illegal hunting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A need to raise public awareness. – A need to maintain a network of green areas, and to protect better their access and protection. – A need to conserve Cultural heritage and in the same time conserve biodiversity (Israel explained there were excavation operations that were destroying ecosystems, but these excavations were necessary in the perspective of conserving cultural heritage of the area). – The difficulty to protect biodiversity in a context of poverty. – The problem of water quality. – The issue of political and social instability in the area as well as the immigration problem. – A need for a better autonomy of the regions. – A need to improve legislation in terms of environmental protection and mainstreaming biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A need for a better management of fisheries stocks and to reduce overfishing. It is necessary to improve water quality, reduce pollution, support more protected areas conservation of marine species and habitats. – Issues related to climate change pressures on biodiversity. – The need to reduce the presence of invasive species. – The problem of sea level elevation. – The population growth: job population, social and economic development, green economy, multiple benefits. – The need for capacity-building for local governments through decentralization.

Annex III

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN – FROM NATIONAL TO LOCAL ACTION
<p>Objective factsheet</p> <p>Demands and offers from local authorities to national authorities in category: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE / GOVERNANCE / SHARING KNOWLEDGE / FINANCIAL RESOURCES/ CEPA</p>
<p>Issues and challenges</p> <p>- Develop green, decentralized infrastructure that derives services from local ecosystems, as an alternative to centralised infrastructure that had been proven not to be sustainable. In addition to that, traditional infrastructure is very often outdated or even completely lacking.</p> <p>Additionally, it is often unable to serve a growing urban population, having in mind the uncontrollable urbanisation boom. Infrastructure have been planned for much less inhabitants than the cities actually have today (please see the Mediterranean/West Balkan cities such as Bucharest, Tirana, Sofia and much more in the Global South). Existing infrastructure is also mainly oriented to derive ecosystem services (e.g., water, food, energy etc.) from distant ecosystems contributing to an immensely high ecological footprint.</p>
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build green, sustainable infrastructure in synergy with local ecosystems, helping to preserve biodiversity. The derived ecosystem services should not conflict but synergize with natural ecosystems and all their rich biodiversities - Reduce ecological footprint, helping to find the equilibrium between city and nature that is contrary to the approaches to urban and regional planning and design of the past where the human being, or even worse, the automobile, dominated in the main planning philosophy. The dominance over nature has been manifested in activities such as covering urban rivers, paving and surface sealing, construction of huge dams for hydropower or endless suburbs – activities that caused climate change and degradation of natural resources and ecosystems -To create additional qualities for the local inhabitants as well as for tourists (eco-tourism) - Increase ecosystem resilience - Promote renewable energy - Rational use of water - Transferring competences to local authorities - To achieve that the green infrastructure where the landscape serves as a buffer to aggressive urban sprawl, etc.
<p>Means and resources available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authorities councils - Amending laws - Dialogue - Knowledge of local (and international) NGOs - Potential to apply for funding to international institutions - Potentials to upgrade the local green industry (creating new job opportunities)
<p>Mechanisms-Initiatives-Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fact of being closer to the factual situation and being closer to the citizens - Potential PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) involvement of the private sector by making investment a win-win situation (respecting social responsibility of huge companies) as well as encouraging local industries - Knowledge of local infrastructure - Holistic approach and cross-cutting communication among different levels throughout the project development (planning-development-implementation-evaluation) with less supervision and more liberty in decision-making
<p>Methods-tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration between all different levels and dimensions as described in the previous categories - Studies on green economy - Biodiversity indicators

MISSING AND NEEDS

- Often economically not viable/rentable
- Insufficient developed technology
- High costs - therefore still dependant on public subsidies
- Insufficient number of trained experts
- Insufficient number of skilled public administration employees; capacity-building is needed (organizing seminars and exchange of employees with institutions that showed excellence: Curitiba, Montpellier, etc.)
- Sometimes problems with speculation, profit-driven approach by investors with lack of social responsibility (especially in areas with weak legislation)
- Joint venture, collaboration among the named stakeholders
- Lack of publications, guidelines and local data
- Lack of finances

*Annex IV - A****Common areas for the biodiversity in the Mediterranean*****A – Governance, biodiversity and politic**

- Insure long-term politic support
- Ameliorate Governance on biodiversity through inter-ministerial work, monitoring and coordination
- Stockholders mobilization.
- Make biodiversity a priority for government and ministries policies.
- Integrate biodiversity in different development policies
- Develop une politique integrating environment
- Reinforce control and insure efficient law implementation

B – Threats and pressure on biodiversity

- Reduce pressure (agriculture, fisheries, industry, urbanization...) on biodiversity and on different ecosystems
- Insure sustainable management for ecosystems and biological resources
- Insure efficient management of Protected Areas

C – Research and Knowledge

- Ameliorate knowledge by developing scientific research on biodiversity including TEEB.
- Implementing observatories and use of indicators, and surveys

D – Human and financial resource mobilization

- Increase human and financial capacity for enabling activities.
- Mobilize public and private budgets for biodiversity issues

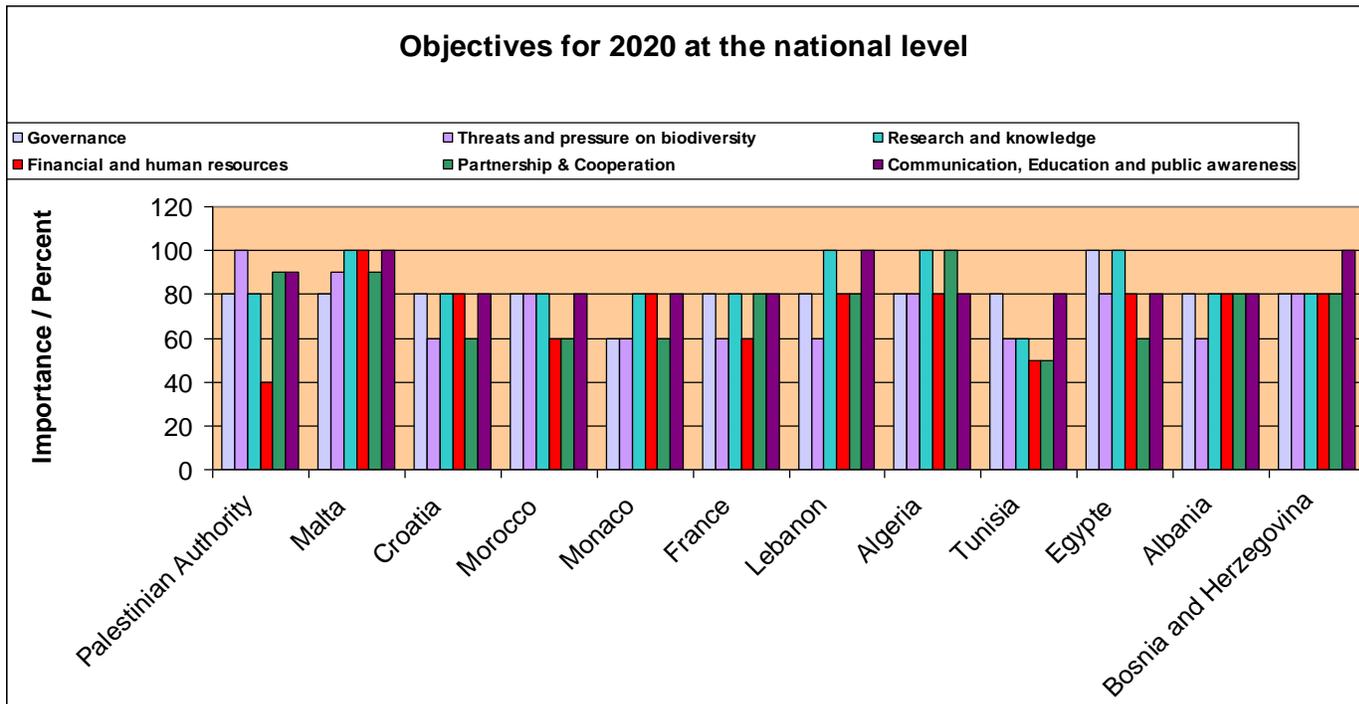
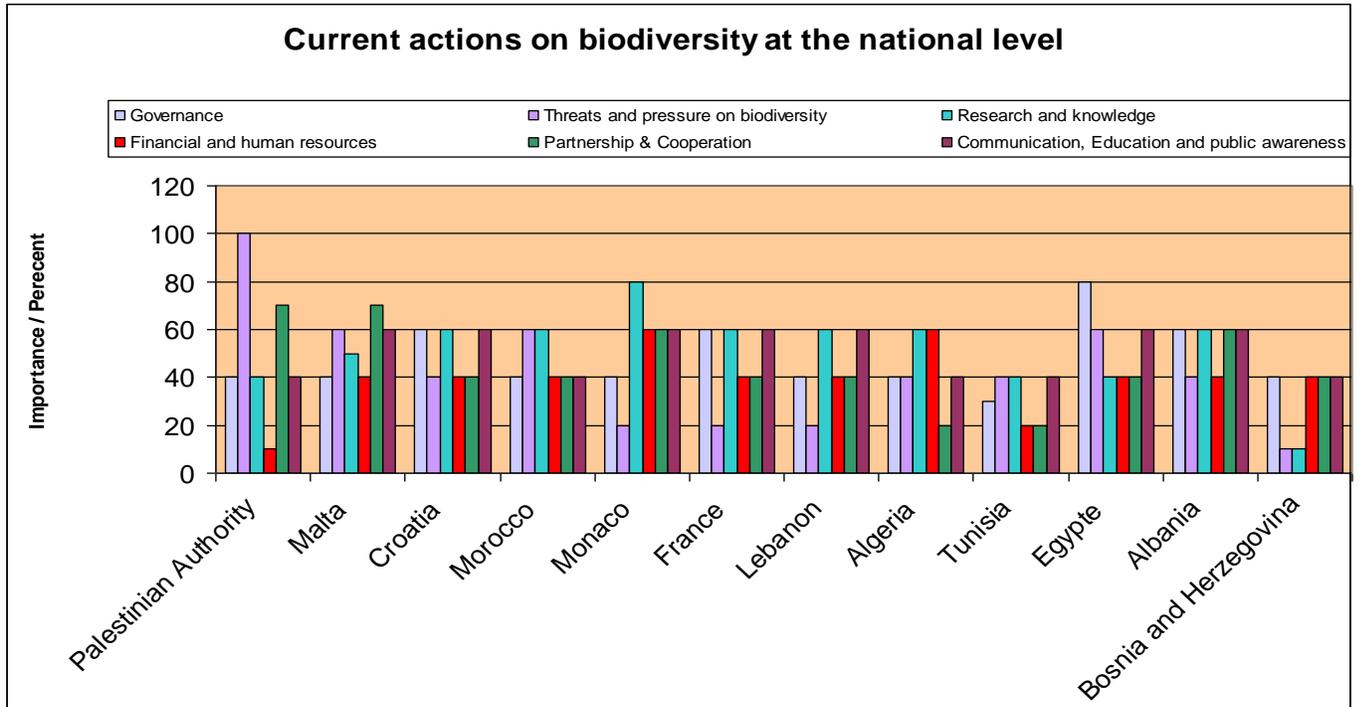
E – Reinforce cooperation

- Reinforce regional cooperation in the Mediterranean/Engage local authorities
- Develop partnerships on different governance level

F – Reinforce Communication, Education and public Awareness (CEPA)

- Reinforce public awareness
- Integrate biodiversity to school programmes
- Reinforce capacity on national, regional, local level
- Develop campaign of communication on biodiversity and partnerships with the media

Annex IV-B



Annex V

Requests and offers addressed to local authorities for cooperation	
Requests to Local Authorities	Offers to Local Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Implementation of NBSAP at local level + definition of priorities + monitoring and evaluation. 2- Mainstreaming of biodiversity in local development policies, such as land use planning, green infrastructure, ecovillage 3- Use town planning to secure sites with a rich biodiversity and participate in the network of protected areas. 4- Develop alternative modes of transportation (bikes, rail, etc.) 5- Encourage environmental, friendly buildings 6- Ensure proper waste water treatment and its usage 7- Ensure the participation of local communities in decision-making and implementation process and safeguard traditional knowledge 8- Develop tools for CEPA (communication, education and public awareness) at local level 9- Seek local funding for research/knowledge initiatives (innovative financial mechanism) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Decentralization of biodiversity conservation efforts plus its management. 2- Ensure the involvement of local authorities in the development and implementation of NBSAPs 3- Capacity-building of local authorities to enforce the implementation of laws and NBSAPs 4- To ensure technology transfer and know how about conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. 5- Enhance the awareness, education and communication about biodiversity for the local authorities. 6- To provide the local authorities with scientific research on biodiversity, monitoring outcomes that support their efforts in serving biodiversity 7- Provision of positive incentives (e.g., organic agriculture) and removal of negatives incentives (e.g., mining)

Annex: VI:

National Request ←→	Local Offer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implementation of NBSAPs, including monitoring /evaluation - The mainstreaming of biodiversity in local development policies land use planning/development, for example, ecological village - The use of town planning to secure sights, places, areas with rich biodiversity - The development of transports such as bikes - To encourage environmental friendly buildings, green buildings, ensure proper waste water treatment - To ensure participation of local communities and safeguard traditional knowledge - To develop tools for CEPA (communication, education and public awareness) at local level and - To seek local funding for research, knowledge initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create job opportunities - To share knowledge - An expertise and experience of work - To provide best practices - To engage citizens - The respect of national guidelines; - To help meeting the health related national requirement
National Offer ←→	Local Request
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The decentralization of biodiversity conservation efforts plus its management : decentralize any activities biodiversity - To ensure the involvement of local authorities in implementation of NBSAP - To ensure capacity building of local authorities to enforce the implementation of laws and NBSAPs - Technology transfer - A better communication and education as well as public awareness's coordination - To provide technical researches, monitoring outcomes - The provision of positive incentives and removal of negative incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The respect of national guidelines - More land use planning tools - Green funding of infrastructures funding - Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) financial support coordination and compiling strategies - Creation of standards : and - Engagement of citizens and communities and alignment with national rules

Annex VII

Project 1 – Knowledge Exchange mechanism to enhance implementation of Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs)
<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify gaps and needs of local governments with guidelines from national governments - Introduce the concept of Environmental Strategy into land use mapping at local and national levels - Upraise Environmental Strategy at local level - Share knowledge with various levels of government, including CHM, NBSAPs
<p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced Environmental Strategy - Increased public awareness - Trained personnel - International and national recognition of local governments

Project 2 -Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land-use Planning
<p>Objectives: Land-use planning at the level of local government considers biodiversity in all decision-making.</p>
<p>Each partner may be able to offer: National governments: Facilitators and speakers at a series of workshops; funding for the production of awareness-raising and training materials Local governments: Facilitation of the attendance of local governments Organizations: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability offers facilitation of the attendance of local governments; expertise in running the workshop from a content point of view; and possibly assistance with logistics.</p>
<p>Expected results: Long term investment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government policy text reflecting the need to incorporate the consideration of environmental concerns (specifically biodiversity) into land-use planning • NBSAP support for, and acknowledgement of, local government land-use planning efforts to incorporate the consideration of environmental concerns (specifically biodiversity) into land-use planning • Land-use planners who are aware of environmental concerns (specifically biodiversity) and ways in which to incorporate these into their day-to-day work. • Relevant elected officials who are supportive of the consideration of environmental concerns (specifically biodiversity) into land-use planning
<p>Methodology and Timeline: A series of workshops will be conducted over the course of about two years, synchronized with relevant local government processes such as elections and plan reviews. Land-use planners will attend these workshops which will aim to inform them of why and how to incorporate environmental concerns (specifically biodiversity) into land-use planning. The first of these would be a background information seminar to be attended also by the relevant elected official(s). Follow-ups would be held periodically, with deliverables attached to each. These deliverables would be practical and not theoretical – in other words they would need to be exercised in real-life local government practice. For example, participants may be asked to report on how they incorporated biodiversity concerns into selected land-use planning decisions since the previous workshop. Ultimately, the aim is for these changes in practice to be reflected in relevant and overarching policy</p>

at the local government level; and to feed into the relevant NBSAPs at national level. It was suggested that the workshops could be conducted regionally, for example for all Parties in the West Balkans; North Africa; and Western Mediterranean. Although raising problems of synchronization with policy cycles, this would promote cross-border cooperation.

Means and resources available:

Not discussed – lack of detailed information and decision-making authority at workshop

Means and resources to be mobilized and possible avenues for resource mobilization:

Not discussed – lack of detailed information and decision-making authority at workshop

Project 3: Reduction of ecological footprint

Objectives:

- Improve awareness and empowerment of citizens on the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Multiply good reproducible practices

Partners :

Local authorities, NGOs, private sector, experts, scientists, associations of existing local networks.

Methodology:

Organize the collection of good practices for the following categories::

- Incentive measures (taxes)
- Corrective measures and regulations.
- Ecosystem services valuation.
- Cooperation country/ local authorities.

Expected results:

- 1- Assessment of ecological footprint
- 2 - Compendium of good practices

Project 4: Knowledge interface to bridge the gap in biodiversity

Objectives:

Make biodiversity and climate change research more responsive to real life problems by introducing a new mode of knowledge generation for biodiversity management and climate change mitigation and adaptation

Partners:

NALAS (Administration and coordination), SCBD (Monitoring), UNFCCC, League of Arab states (Dissemination of knowledge) , UNDP (Implementing partner)

Expected results:

- Establish database of the existing knowledge in biodiversity.
- Strengthen research capacities (Workshop, know how transfer, research funding, etc.)
- Awareness and media campaigns.

Annex VIII: Montpellier declaration

Montpellier Declaration on Mediterranean Biodiversity

We, representatives of national, subnational⁶ and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and other contributing stakeholders from across the Mediterranean Basin, welcome and commend the City of Montpellier's initiative for hosting the joint meeting of the Mediterranean regional workshop for national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the Mediterranean cities' and local authorities' network for biodiversity, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, from 17-20 January 2012. We are mindful that local and regional governments play a critical role in land-use planning, sustainable use as well as the valorization, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services while having limited representation and influence in international development cooperation process.

We recognize:

The exceptionally rich biodiversity of the Mediterranean Basin and its role in generating and mediating flows of ecosystem services which augment food, water and energy security, contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation and enhance human health, ultimately underpinning the prosperity of the region;

That such ecosystem services are threatened by mounting anthropogenic and climatic pressures in the region;

The track record, significant potential and responsibility of Mediterranean cities, local and regional governments, as drivers of change, to effectively address biodiversity loss;

That a collaborative and participatory planning approach is the surest means to achieving the goal of halting the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems in the Mediterranean region;

The opportunity to harness and consolidate momentum, by building upon previous declarations made in Curitiba, Erfurt, Durban, Nagoya and Bonn,⁷ as well as ongoing initiatives such as ICLEI's and IUCN Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Pioneer Project,⁸ and other networks including nrg4SD⁹, NALAS¹⁰ and MedCities.¹¹

⁶ Subnational includes regional authorities

⁷ CURITIBA DECLARATION ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY (on line):

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

CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY BONN CALL FOR ACTION (on line):

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

ERFURT DECLARATION, URBIO 2008 (on line): http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/ErfurtDeclaration_Eng.php ;

DURBAN COMMITMENT (on line):

http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/localactionbiodiversity/user_upload/LAB_Files/Durban_Commitment_14_Aug2008.pdf ;

SECOND CURITIBA DECLARATION ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND BIODIVERSITY (on line, in six languages):

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

NAGOYA DECLARATION-URBIO2010:

<http://www.cbd.int/authorities/doc/NagoyaDeclaration-URBIO-2010.pdf>

DURBAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CHARTER (on line):

http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Global/initiatives/LG_roadmap___COP_17_files/Durban_Adaptation_Charter_5Dec.pdf

⁸ For more information see: www.iclei.org/lab

⁹ Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development: <http://www.nrg4sd.org/>

¹⁰ Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe: <http://www.nalas.eu/>

¹¹ MedCities: <http://www.medcities.org/>

In line with the “Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity 2011-2020”, as endorsed by all 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹², we therefore undertake to:

Initiate and support a network of Mediterranean local and subnational governments to work for biodiversity and ecosystem management that will advance innovation in urban-regional design, city region planning green infrastructure, social development and wellbeing, pursuant of green economic opportunities and complementing the various existing networks working on sustainable development in the region;

Collaborate in the compilation and implementation of biodiversity and ecosystem service assessments, strategies and action plans, at the various levels of government, to ensure alignment, realize synergies, and maximize impact;

Improve and, where appropriate develop databases, build on the existing collection of downscaled biodiversity data usable at a local level in order to establish verifiable monitoring systems for long-term planning and enhanced decision-making and access to information at all levels;

Integrate existing data mechanisms concerning biodiversity in order to improve data collection efforts, at local levels, to establish useful monitoring systems for long term planning and enhanced decision-making and reporting at all levels.

Explore and pursue further collaborative opportunities, such as defining tangible partnerships and projects, to reinforce the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹³ in the region, with a view to the City Biodiversity Summit in Hyderabad, and further summits thereafter;

Invite every kind of donor and development partners in the Mediterranean region to afford greater consideration to the merit of local and regional governments as agents of effective local action and to include and involve local and regional governments in their decision-making and implementation strategies.

¹² CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) (online): <http://www.cbd.int/convention/about.shtml> entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives: 1) The conservation of biological diversity; 2) The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; 3) The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
CBD PLAN OF ACTION ON SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 (online): <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/planofaction.shtml>

¹³ CBD COP 10 Decision X/2 - Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (online): <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>.