

Subnational Action towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments
Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity

MEETING REPORT AND WORK PLAN 2013-2015

Barcelona, June 17-20, 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

Increasingly over recent years subnational governments all over the world have fostered and implemented biodiversity conservation policies, thus making their role more visible in the international scene. This growing contribution of subnational governments was recognized by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP 9 – Bonn, Germany in 2008) and expanded upon at COP 10 (Nagoya, Japan in 2010) through the Decision X/22 and the associated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity.

The Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments first convened in Curitiba (Brazil) in April 2012¹. More than fifty participants, from national and subnational governments, and different international organizations agreed on its objectives, activities and members, as well as on technical-scientific cooperation and technology transfer issues.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments to the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity convened for the second time, in the City of Barcelona from June 17th to 20th, 2013. In attendance were representatives of the City of Barcelona, the Government of Catalonia (hosts, Spain), the State of Andhra Pradesh (India), the State of São Paulo (Brazil), Aichi Prefecture (Japan), Gangwon Province and Pyoungchang County (South Korea), the Government of Québec (Canada), Rhône – Alpes Region Council (France), the Government of Spain, the Global Footprint Network, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, nrg4SD, IUCN, UN-Habitat, the Western Australia

¹ UNEP/CBD/SNG/1/2 (26 September 2012)

Local Government Association, Europarc – España, and the local NGO Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (the Observatory on Debt in Globalization / Debtwatch).

Other members excused their attendance, like the African regions of Fatick (Senegal) and Tlemcen (Algeria), Sichuan (China), Brussels capital region (Belgium), Victoria (Australia) and North Rhine Westfalia (Germany).

The meeting began with an institutional welcome session, followed by introductions and overviews of the purpose and context of the workshop. The body of the workshop was structured according to three themes that were meant to be developed into projects:

- (1) Integrated and aligned biodiversity planning. Theory and subnational experiences on designing and implementing biodiversity strategies and action plans
- (2) Ecological footprint on global biodiversity. Measuring the impact on biodiversity outside administrative boundaries, to highlight governments' responsibility to preserve biodiversity worldwide and change international policies and investments, to avoid perverse incentives for biodiversity
- (3) Nature conservation criteria in land-use planning policies. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into land-use planning: updates on landscape connectivity and city-region planning

The process to select these main items was led by the Government of Catalonia and the SCBD through e-mail and internet contact with all the AC SNG members and experts, and also with the members of the Working Group on Biodiversity of nrg4SD. Two basic documents served for this purpose:

- the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING for subnational decentralized cooperation (Paraná, 2012) that addressed technical-scientific cooperation and technology transfer on different topics; and
- the proposals of work recommended at the 11th COP, Hyderabad, 2012, by the nrg4SD Working Group on Biodiversity to the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments of CBD.

For each theme, a speaker introduced the concept, followed by others who presented case studies to illustrate its practice. Finally, another speaker presented a proposal as to how the themes could be implemented in specific project, headed by the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments to the Global Partnership. The summary of the specific projects are included in Annex 2.

The final day was dedicated to a meeting of the members of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments, who discussed operative and structural issues of the Advisory Committee, as well as preparations for CBD COP 12 and the associated summit of local and subnational governments which has been a feature at the past three CBD COPs but so far with only a nominal subnational focus. Thanks to the presence of representatives of the subnational governments (Aichi and Andhra Pradesh) that hosted the two past CBD COPs, there was the opportunity for upcoming hosts, Gangwon Province in Korea, to draw on the experience of previous hosts as they begin preparation. There was general consensus that there should be a stronger subnational element to this summit at the upcoming CBD COP.

The meeting was offset by well-organized field trips that exposed participants to the City of Barcelona and some of its surrounding ecosystems on which environmental management has been oriented to face the growing pressure of infrastructures and changes in the land use around.

3. OUTCOMES: WORKING PLAN 2013-15

The meeting echoed the objectives of the Advisory Committee: to invite subnational governments from around the world, with the cooperation of the Secretariat of the CBD, to implement biodiversity policies at subnational level that effectively contribute to the fulfillment of Aichi Targets; and to advise the Secretariat of the CBD and parties to the CBD on subnational implementation of the Convention.

Participants worked towards translating these objectives into concrete actions around structuring and operationalizing the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments; proposing projects for implementation in the period 2013-2015 with a working group to facilitate their implementation; and reporting all this work to CBD COP 12. The specifics of this work plan are laid out in the following table.

Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments Work Plan 2013-2015			
Action	Responsible	Mechanism	Deadline
1. Strengthen the Committee, so that it represents all world regions adequately	SCBD (with the support of nrg4SD)	Contact willing members from remaining regions that are poorly represented, and secure their commitment to serve on the Committee, by the approval of its terms of references	December 2013
2. Promote joint efforts and a better linkage with the Advisory Committee of Cities and Local Governments, and work together in the framework of the Global Partnership	SCBD	Possible joint event in parallel with CBD COPs. More regular updates on activities of the Global Partnership, establishing a protocol to coordinate efforts with the Advisory Committee of Cities, in the framework of the Global Partnership. The SCBD proposes to streamline the functioning of the Advisory Committees by convening separate teleconferences for separate Advisory Committees, complemented by summaries of the discussions disseminated to all members of the Global Partnership	Mostly ongoing but details of parallel event to be decided by February 2014
3. Identify, within the SCBD mandates, those programs and	SCBD	Discuss, with programme officers, which decisions would benefit from	Meeting of the Working Group for

initiatives in which subnational implementation can be strengthened to more effectively implement Aichi Targets		the inclusion of text on subnational implementation	the Implementation of the CBD (WGRI) in May or June 2014
4. To develop and implement Project 1: <i>Integrated and aligned biodiversity planning</i>	Québec (<i>Aichi and Sao Paulo also interested</i>)	Elaborate a fact sheet template reporting on SNG actions already undertaken to meet the Aichi Targets; Develop appropriate tools supporting the development of domestic responses to the Aichi Targets	October 2014 (1 st stage) 3rd meeting of the Committee (Québec 2015)
5. Develop and implement Project 2: <i>Ecological footprint on global biodiversity</i>	Catalonia (<i>Andra Pradesh also interested</i>)	Expand the concept of “global responsibility” to the impact on biodiversity beyond the boundaries Establish a methodology to identify and describe the origin and processes that impact on biodiversity Set up capacity-buiding tools to implement the methodology.	October 2014 (1 st stage) 3rd meeting of the Committee (Québec 2015)
6. To develop and implement Project 3: <i>Nature conservation criteria and land-use planning policies</i>	Catalonia (<i>Rhône-Alpes, Quebec, WALGA and Gangwon also interested</i>)	Strengthen the relevance of land planning in the conservation agenda Identify land patterns that mainstream biodiversity conservation through land planning	October 2014 (1 st stage) 3rd meeting of the Committee (Québec 2015)
7. To deliver, at COP12, a development report on the actions undertaken by the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments, and on the implementation of the Action Plan approved by Decision X/22	SCBD	Elaborate a development report Summit for local and subnational governments and the COP high-level segment. Depending on how it develops, a proposed stakeholder forum could also be a key vehicle for this information to be delivered.	October 2014

Support needed for the carrying out of the Work Plan was thought to include the following:

- Identification of the appropriate technical support needed to implement the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments agreements and Work Plan.

- An agreement with nrg4SD (Working Group on Biodiversity) to support the Work Plan.
- Obtaining the best available data on subnational governments and their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity is an ongoing objective and guiding principle of the Advisory Committee.

Identification of the appropriate technical support needed to implement the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments agreements and Work Plan is partially fulfilled in the table above but will be refined through ongoing discussions between members.

4. DECISIONS

Participants of the meeting agreed on the other following outputs of the meeting in Barcelona:

- Preparation of a proposal to the parties of the CBD to establish of a Thematic Program on subnational implementation of the Convention. This will be pursued ahead of the next meeting of the Working Group for the Implementation of the CBD (WGRI) in May or June 2014
- Approval, by the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments, of the Work Plan 2013-15.
- Conversion of the Working Plan into a report (this report)
- Creation of a clearing house on biodiversity and subnational governments, as a platform to share and exchange information on how these governments deal with biodiversity conservation

The Government of Québec offers to host the third meeting of the Committee by 2015 in Quebec city.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Region, Government, etc	Country	Nam & Surname	AC member	Position (T stands for technician; P stands for politic)
1	SCBD	Canada	André Mader	*	T Programme Officer; Local Authorities and Biodiversity; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity United Nations Environment Programme
2	CATALONIA	Spain	Marta Subirà	*	P General Directorate for Environmental Policies, Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
3	CATALONIA	Spain	Salvador Grau	*	T Head of the Unit for Natural Environment Planing, Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
4	CATALONIA	Spain	Susanna Rivero	*	T Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Adviser, Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
5	CATALONIA	Spain	Eulàlia Comas	*	T Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
6	AICHI	Japan	Yoshiaki Maeda	*	T Assistant director, Natural Environment Division, Department of the Environment. Aichi Prefectural Government
7	AICHI	Japan	Satoshi Utsuki	*	T Executive Director, Technical Matters Department of the Environment, Aichi Prefectural Government
8	AICHI	Japan	Megumi Yamada	*	T coordinator
9	AICHI	Japan	Shingo Yamada	*	T interpreter
10	ANDRA PRADESH	India	Dr. Ralladoddi Hampaiah	*	T Cahirman, Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity State Board
11	SAO PAULO	Brasil	Mr. Paul Dale		T Advisor on Biodiversity of the Secretariat for the Environment
12	UN HABITAT	USA	Andrew Rudd		T Urban Environment Officer, Urban Planning and Design Bran, UN HABITAT
13	Barcelona City Hall	Catalonia	Toni Pujol		T Afers internacionals
14	Barcelona City	Catalonia	Marga Parés		T Espais Verds i Biodiversitat; Medi Ambient

	Hall					i Serveis Urbans - Hàbitat Urbà
15	WALGA	Australia	Mark Batty	(*)	T	Executive Manager Environment and Waste
16	GFN	Italy	Alessandro Galli		T	Director for the Mediterranean Region; Global Footprint Network
17	QUEBEC	Canada	Claude Audet-Robitaille	*	T	Conseillère en affaires internationales; Direction des organisations internationales. Ministère des Relations internationales, de la Francophonie et du Commerce extérieur
18	QUEBEC	Canada	Jean Pierre Laniel	*	T	Chef du Service de l'expertise en biodiversité; Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs
19	QUEBEC (office BCN)	Canada	Mrs Marjolaine Ricard	*	T	Quebec Office in Barcelona
20	QUEBEC (office BCN)	Canada	Alfons Calderon	*	T	Attaché aux Affaires économiques et commerciales, Bureau du Gouvernement du Québec
21	EUROPARC	Spain	Marta Múgica		T	Bureau du Gouvernement du Québec
22	EUROPARC	Spain	Carles Castell		T	EUROPARC-España
23	ODG	Catalonia	David Llistar		T	Observatori del Deute en la Globalització
24	RHONE-ALPES	France	Mr. Alain Chabrolle	*	P	Vice President in charge of health and the environment; Rhône-Alpes Regional Council
25	GANGWON	Corea	Mun, Nam Su		P	Director of Environmental Policy Division, Gangwon Provincial Government
26	GANGWON	Corea	Ham, Young Hee			Environmental Policy Division, Gangwon Provincial Government
27	GANGWON (Pyeongchang)	Corea	Kim, Nam Sob			Team leader of Environmental Policy Division, Pyeongchang County
28	GANGWON (Pyeongchang)	Corea	Kang, Cheol Hui			Environmental Policy Division, Pyeongchang County
29	Government of Spain (MAGRAMA)	Spain	Ms Sonia Castañeda		P	Director of Fundación Biodiversdad

30	Generalitat de Catalunya	Spain	Josep Enric Llebot		P	Secretary for Environment and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
31	Generalitat de Catalunya	Spain	Roger Albinyana		P	Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Government of Catalonia
32	IUCN	Switzerland	Sebastià Semene		T	Senior Coordinator, Europe and Union Development Planning, Capacity Development Unit

ANNEX 2 – SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY 2015

PROJECT 1: *Integrated and aligned biodiversity planning*

PROJECT 2: *Ecological footprint on global biodiversity*

PROJECT 3: *Nature conservation criteria and land-use planning policies*