

## Background:

Started in 2003, the development of the proposed URBIS Designation is a work in progress. Cities continuing to be involved in the URBIS concept include Stockholm, Montreal, Shanghai, Cape Town, Chicago, Istanbul, New Orleans, and New York.



### VISION

Urban regions as sustainable social, cultural, and ecological systems contributing to equitable access to ecosystem services production, distribution, and consumption.

### MISSION

1. Recognize and promote comprehensive sustainability efforts.
2. Increase the resilience of urban social, cultural, and ecological systems.
3. Improve equitable terms of access to and management of resources.

### APPROACH:

To collaborate on a designation that cities can achieve through:

1. Platforms for local and international connections, education, and communication.
2. A framework for designation to recognize cities who meet international standards.
3. Knowledge sharing of best practices and scenario building.

### VALUE PROPOSITION:

Benefits of investing include:

1. Global recognition and international visibility for sustainable urban planning.
2. Increased quality of life for residents and improved performance on environmental indicators.
3. Enhanced global competitiveness and leadership in the green economy.
4. Tools for multi-scale planning and adaptation to environmental changes.

# The URBIS Partnership Proposal for Global Designation



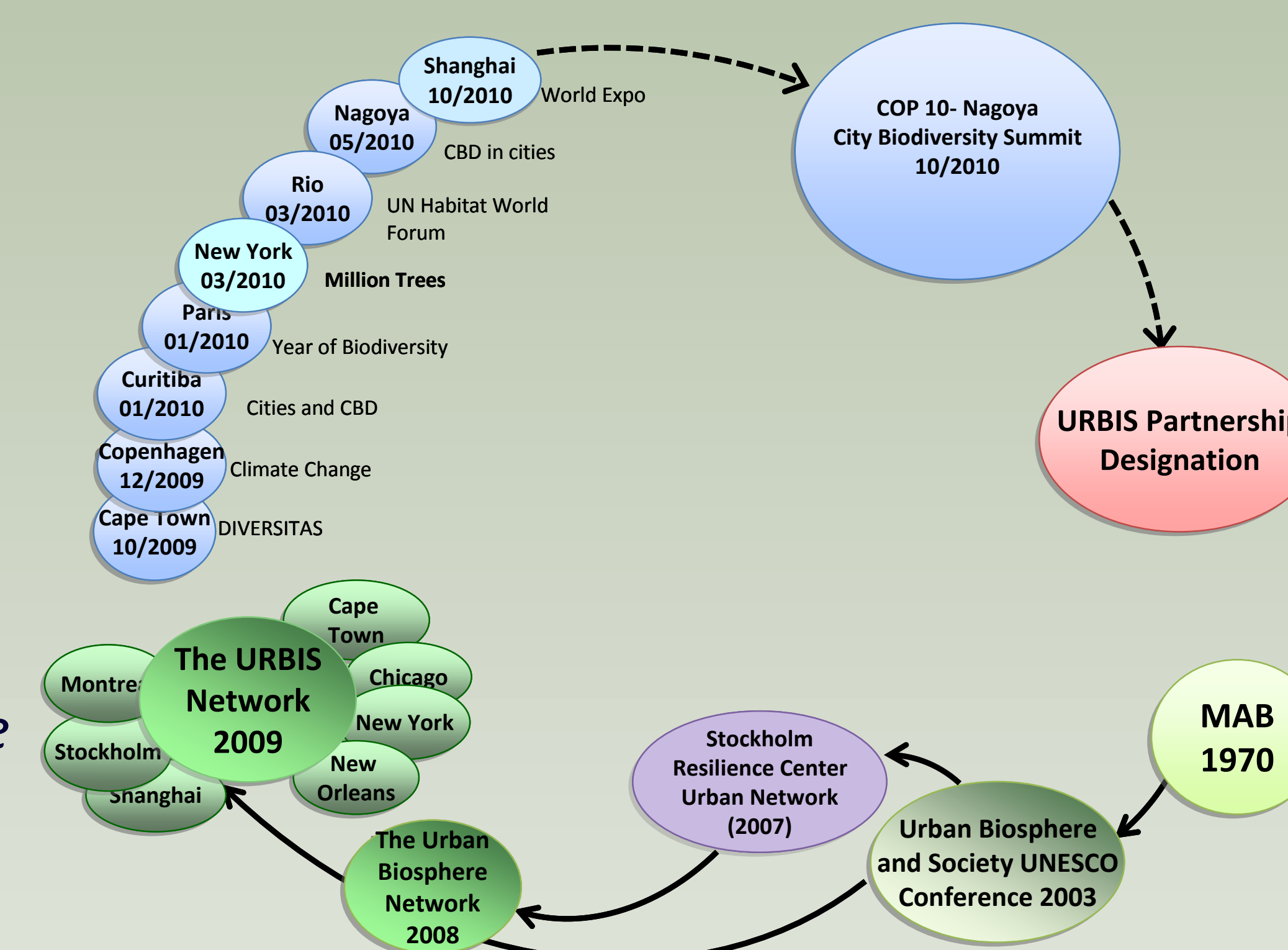
New York Office

**Christine Alfsen**  
UNESCO, New York Office  
**Laura Dickinson**  
UNESCO, New York Office  
**Keith G. Tidball**

Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University

## The URBIS Partnership Proposal

*The URBIS Partnership is proposing a designation process to recognize urban regions efforts to engage in participatory, inclusive, and comprehensive approaches in urban planning for sustainability. Through this process, sustainable management practices would be developed and then cataloged for sharing and dissemination as part of a site-based global knowledge network. The URBIS Partnership is inviting expertise in fields including urban ecology, environmental education, policy, and urban planning to develop this process. This will culminate in the establishment of the URBIS Partnership within the CBD Global Partnership of Cities and Biodiversity and other collaborators at the City Biodiversity Summit at Nagoya, Japan; the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.*



## Proposed Designation Approach

<b>TIER 1</b>		<b>Conduct Inventory</b> of activities, plans and concerns. SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Upon completion, City becomes an <b>URBIS Partnership Participating City</b> .
<b>TIER 2</b>		<b>Set Overall Vision and Goals</b> Assess and Prioritize areas of concern related to social- ecological urban practices.
<b>TIER 3</b>		<b>Develop Comprehensive Plans</b> according to Tiers 1 and 2. Identify financial, educational, technical requirements and partners.
<b>TIER 4</b>		<b>Implement Plans</b> using financial, educational and technological assistance and resources available.
<b>TIER 5</b>		<b>Evaluate Progress and Determine Next Steps</b> . Upon review, city becomes an <b>URBIS Partnership City of Distinction</b> . Continues monitoring and self assessment.

## Main Concepts:

- Informed by local and global challenges
- Driven by internationally agreed development goals
- Adapts the *ecosystem approach* to urban landscapes
- Uses a collaborative management, multi-scale, and multi-disciplinary approach
- Builds on innovative local technical and scientific expertise
- Locally led and implemented
- Driven by science, both peer-reviewed and community-based
- Provides tools for building resilience and adapting to global environmental change



Biodiversity is life  
Biodiversity is our life

## CBD Convention of the Parties (COP) 10 City Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya (Oct 2010) and Beyond:

- Identify stakeholders and determine value added by proposed designation
- Propose and discuss designation process
- Establish the science to policy partnership
- Develop the roadmap forward



ANIEC 2010



## Current Partners Also Include:



Stockholm Resilience Centre  
Research for Governance of Social-Ecological Systems

## References

1. Urban Biosphere and Society Partnership of Cities, editors: Christine Alfsen, Benjamin Lane, Melody Corry. Available at: <http://www.nyas.org/Publications/Annals/Detail.aspx?cid=984606c-79f6-4310-95bd-55b83691b101>
2. UN University Institute of Advanced Studies, "Defining an Ecosystem Approach to Urban Management and Policy Development" available at: [http://www.ias.unu.edu/binaries/UNUIAS\\_UrbanReport1.pdf](http://www.ias.unu.edu/binaries/UNUIAS_UrbanReport1.pdf)
3. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Article 2, available at: <http://www.cbd.int/convention/articles.shtml?a=cbd-02>
4. "Solving the Puzzle: the Ecosystem Approach and Biosphere Reserves" adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the CBD, available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001197/119790eb.pdf>
5. The Introductory Notes from the Norway/UN Conference on the Ecosystem Approach for Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity
6. Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and Seville Strategy, available at: <http://sovereignty.net/pland/mab-sev.htm>
7. Elmqvist T., C. Alfsen, J. Colding J. (2008) Urban Systems pp. 3665-3672 in Jørgensen, S.E. and Fath, (ed). *Encyclopedia of Ecology* Elsevier/Oxford