



Fostering a Green Society through the URBIS Initiative

Curitiba, January 2010



- Today, we are faced with several crises :
 - Environmental
 - Economic and financial
 - Food security
 - Water availability
 - Biodiversity loss

- Many initiatives have been put in place to address them

UNEP: The Green Economy Initiative

- **Actions:** Reshaping policies, investments, spending.
- **Focus:** clean technology, renewable energy, green transportation, green buildings, sustainable agriculture.
- **Goals:** reduce GHG emissions, extract and use fewer resources, less waste, reduce social disparities and sustain biodiversity.

UNESCO's role in a green economy

UNESCO's multi-disciplinary approach can help by informing the creation of a sustainable world.



World Heritage



Biosphere Reserves



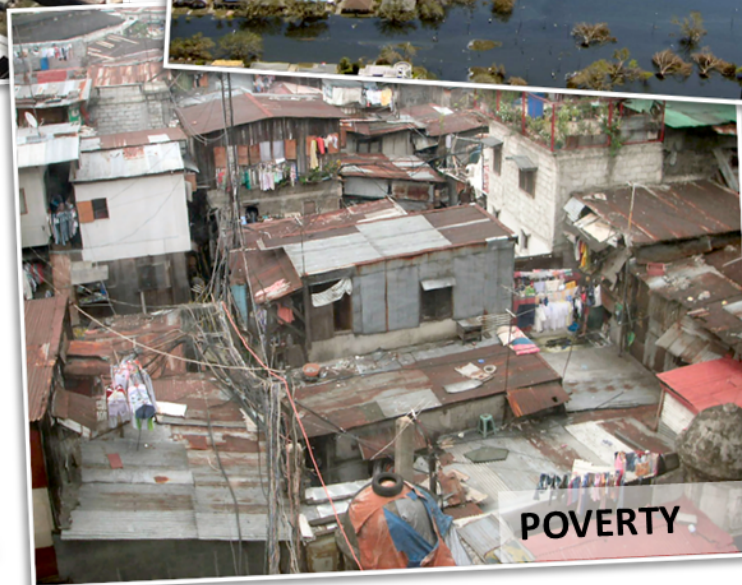
**Decade of Education for
Sustainable Development**

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

- **Education:** raising awareness, educating and communicating the vital importance of sustaining biodiversity.
- **Culture:** cultural uses and knowledge on biodiversity must be accounted for.
- **Science:** increasing the knowledge base on biodiversity.



Challenges in the Urban Landscape



What is URBIS?

- Platforms for local and international connections and communication among and between scientific, educational, planning, and governmental communities.
- Criteria for designation to recognize cities that meet international standards.
- Sharing knowledge, best practices and building scenarios to assist cities to deliberately plan for the sustainable future.



URBIS Vision

Help science to contribute to
practice and practice to inform
science to:

Create Sustainable urban socio-
cultural and ecological systems
which contribute to equitable
ecosystem services production,
distribution and consumption



URBIS Mission

Contribute to an increased urban understanding, valuing, recognition, and reconnection of people and ecosystems in the urban landscape to:

1. Increase the resilience of urban social, cultural, and ecological systems
1. Improve equitable access and management to resources
1. Promote adaptive governance

URBIS Value Proposition

- Leverage, public support, and visibility for sustainable planning through access to tools, materials, and information sharing.
- Increased quality of life for residents and improved performance on environmental indicators.
- Enhanced global competitiveness and leadership in the green economy.

Steps to Join URBIS

Identify an urban site



Explore major challenges



Establish a multidisciplinary team



Learn from other cities



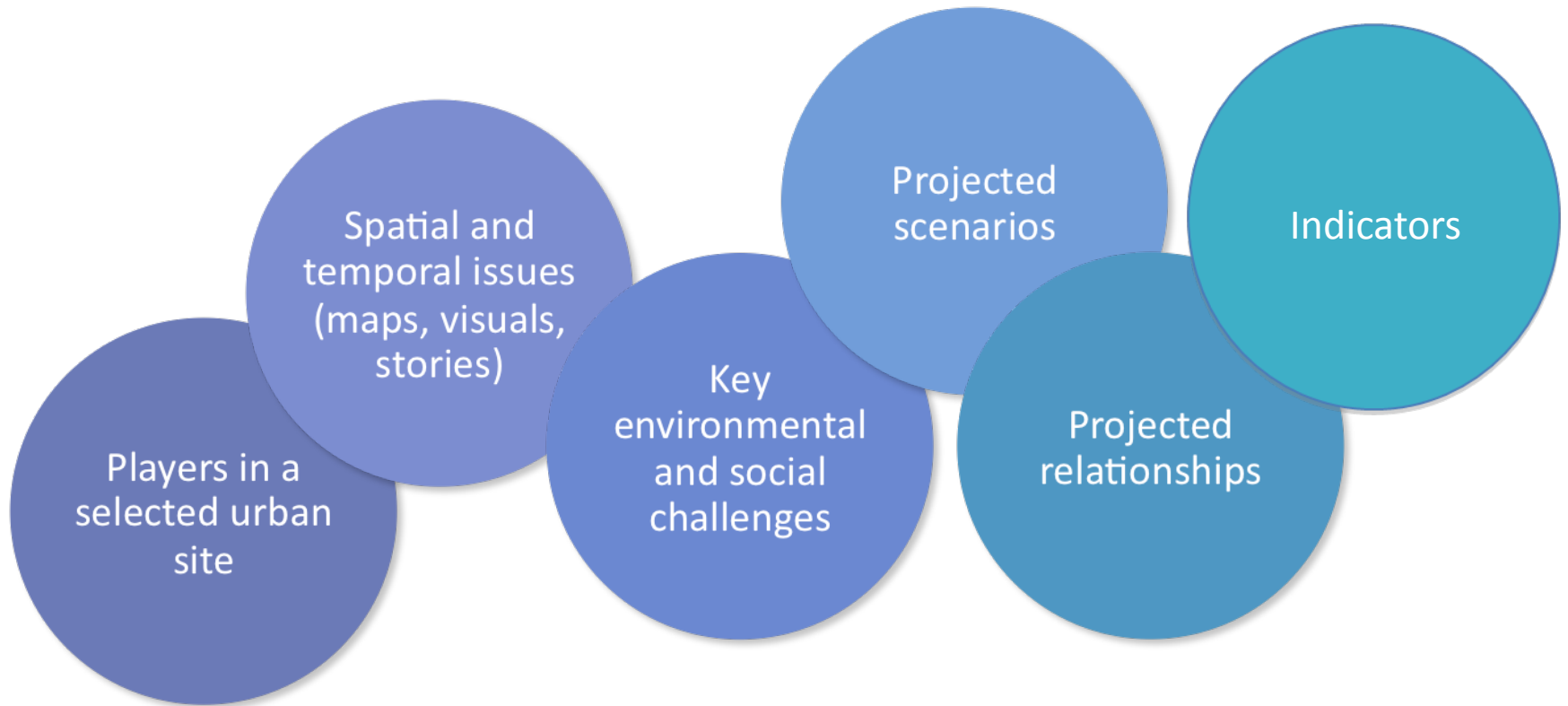
Contribute to case studies



Designated URBIS cities



URBIS Case Studies



- **Shanghai:** ecosystem services focusing on water
- **Chicago:** participation in urban planning, networking and collaboration
- **Stockholm:** scale issues, networking between municipalities
- **New Orleans:** ecosystem restoration, resilience, and post-disaster recovery
- **New York:** education related to civic ecology, resilience, and sustainability
- **Montreal:** urban biodiversity and green corridors

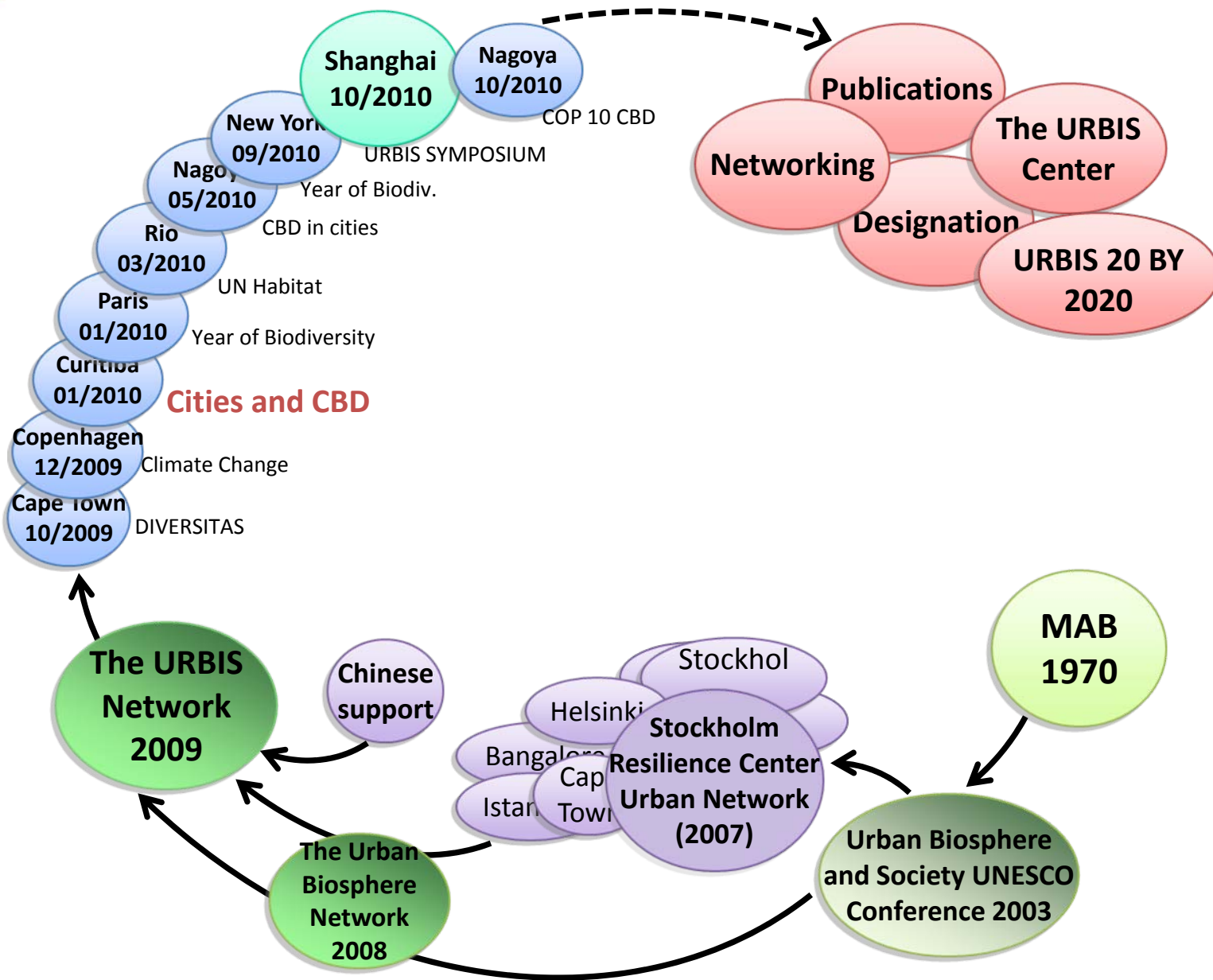
Combined
Case Study

The Urbis Initiative Symposium at the World Expo Shanghai 2010



- Two-day high-level policy conference in July 2010.
- Bridging Workshop with SRC: city planners, educators, scientists, and media.
- Case Studies and Thematic Debates on the URBIS's main theme: reconnecting people with nature in the urban landscape.
- Exhibits, cultural performances, science and technology fair and media events.

The Development Path





Join us and make your city an URBIS site

urbis.initiative@gmail.com

Christine Alfsen

alfsen-norodom@un.org