

# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY TELECONFERENCE CALL

11 May 2010, 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Montreal Time)

## MINUTES

Participants: Oliver Hillel (moderator), Chantal Robichaud, Chikara Hombo, Toshitaka Takagi, Tsuyoshi Ito, Yuka Wakasugi, Lena Chan, Peter Werner, Karin Buhren, Kobie Brand, Andre Mader, Lara Lacerda Santos Rodrigues, Eduardo P. Guimaraes, Jose Antonio Andreguetto, Christine Alfsen-Norodom, Uwe Friedel, Elisa Calcaterra, Susanne Nolden, Bonnie James, Michèle Picard, Julie Tasker Brown, Mahito Kamada, Philippe Croze, Marie Vanhautere, Thomas Elmqvist, Michie Kishigami, Yoshinori Sakakibara, Jose Antonio Puppim de Oliveira.

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### I. Opening -

### II. The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) (**Lena Chan**)

- *Updates on the Second Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI): invitation, programme, etc.*

-Cities that are likely to join the Second Expert Workshop are: Brussels, Curitiba, Edmonton, Joondalup, King's County, London, Montpellier, Montreal, Nagoya, Singapore, Waitakere.

-A compilation of comments on the CBI is being produced in view of the Second Expert Workshop

- *Updates on the development of the CBI*

-Cities that have already test-bedded the index and made their assessments: Curitiba, Nagoya, Waitakere, Singapore.

-Cities that are at various stages of the test-bedding of the CBI: Brussels, Edmonton, Joondalup, Montreal, Frankfurt, Paris, London, Montpellier, King's County, Tallinn.

-First results from the monitoring chapters of the competition questionnaires from the "European Capitals of Biodiversity" will be ready by the end of June. (The monitoring chapters contain 11-18 questions from the CBI indicators, depending on the country)

-It is expected that European and ASEAN cities will also contribute to the development of the CBI.

- *The Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity (GP) Meeting in Singapore*

-The GP meeting would take place during the Expert Workshop. The Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD promotion committee suggests to hold the meeting either on the evening of July 2nd or on the afternoon of July 3rd.

-Suggestions on agenda items are welcome. The Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD promotion committee proposed an agenda for the meeting to discuss the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 program overview, parallel session structure, and the draft declaration of City Summit. The committee is asking SCBD, the Global Partnership steering committee member cities, Singapore, and ICLEI LAB to join the meeting and proposed that Mr. Oliver Hillel serves as the chair of the meeting.

-Please communicate your interest in participating to a GP meeting to Ms Chan, copying the SCBD.

- *Updates on the World Cities Summit, the CUGE conference and others*

-The summit will be held back-to back with the expert workshop: 28 June to 1 July 2010. It will include a session on Enhancing biodiversity in cities. Key speakers are Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, Gwendolin Smith on the role of local communities in conservation of biodiversity and Bruce Clarkson on the restoration of ecosystems in cities in New Zealand.

### III. Updates

- *City Biodiversity Summit 2010 (Tsuyoshi Ito)*

*Report on the invitation letters:*

-Invitations were sent to 100 Japanese local governments, many of which participated in pre-conference of City Summit held last November.

-Invitation letters will soon be sent through ICLEI Japan office and ICLEI regional offices, to more than 170 foreign local governments recommended by the SCBD and ICLEI, as well.

-Invitations were sent to member cities of global partnership steering committee, sister/friendship states of Aichi prefecture, i.e. Jiangsu province and Victoria State, and Nagoya's sister/friendship cities such as Los Angeles, Mexico City, Nanjing, Sydney, Turin, Geelong, individually.

-Invitations will be sent to UN heads of agencies. It was agreed that correspondence to heads of the GP institutions and Mayors of the steering committee will be copied to their representatives in the GP in order to speed up the follow up processes.

-Given that ICLEI/LAB and the SCBD are advisory partners of the Organizing Committee, it is proposed that GP members communicate with either of them for their suggestions of other relevant partners to invite. This suggestion will be considered by ICLEI and the Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee.

-The 5 winners of the European Capital of Biodiversity project will receive invitations.

*Report on the programme of the Summit*

-The City Biodiversity Summit 2010 will take place on 24-26 October and will include plenary sessions on 25 October (am) and 26 October (pm) during which national governments, heads of UN

agencies, GP members and others will be invited to discuss the plan of action, the commitment and the declaration. Other sessions will cover key issues such as

- 1) Environmental sustainability and local governments
- 2) Linking biodiversity and climate at the local level
- 3) Mainstreaming biodiversity into urban development and policy,
- 4) Communication, Education and Public Awareness,
- 5) Biodiversity management tools and mechanisms,
- 6) Biodiversity in local economies,
- 7) Responsibility of cities: reducing footprint and conserving biodiversity
- 8) Local Actions for Global Results

-The overall programme, list of keynote speakers, and description of sessions will be shared for comments.

*Report on exhibition space:*

-The venue for City Biodiversity Summit will be Nagoya Tokyu Hotel in Sakae area (less than half an hour by subway to get to Nagoya Tokyu Hotel from COP10 venue, Nagoya Congress Center). In the venue for City Summit, several exhibition spaces will be available to display panels, posters and brochures. The exhibition space will also be used as a place for coffee break, where participants can exchange their views with one another while seeing the panels and posters. More information including the guidelines will be available in July.

-It was suggested to coordinate and harmonize the format of the banners (based on the panels that were created for the Mayors conference in Bonn). Please contact the CBD Secretariat if you wish to have the banners templates.

#### **a. URBIS (Christine Alfsen-Norodom)**

The City Summit side-event on the URBIS designation process will take place on 23 October at the Nagoya Urban Institute, organized in collaboration with UNESCO, Stockholm Resilience centre and the Nagoya Urban Development Cooperation. It will aim at identifying the stakeholders, defining the value-added of the designation process and facilitating the links between policy and action. The expected output is a proposed procedure and perspectives for the designation/recognition of urban areas and players in the application of the biosphere concept and the ecosystem approach. Everyone is invited to participate.

#### **b. URBIO2010 (Mahito Kamada)**

-The following update was provided by Mr Kamada:

Number of Participants	460
Countries and regions	35
Number of presentation	341
Keynote talks	7
Workshop on CBI	7
15 proposed oral sessions	134
8 general oral sessions	49

-The Nagoya Declaration will be adopted at the General Assembly of URBIO on 21 May and will be submitted to Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee. The declaration will be announced during Aichi-Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit.

-The book “Urban Biodiversity and Design” which is the result of URBIO2008 previous URBIO conference, is now available from Wiley-Blackwell publishing.

#### IV. The Global Partnership

- *The twin biodiversity guidebook by ICLEI and UN-HABITAT/SCBD (Andre Mader, Karin Buhren and Julie Tasker Brown)*

-A meeting will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> June in UNEP in Paris on to coordinate both publications.

-The first draft of the UN-Habitat/SCBD/ICLEI publication is currently being developed by Ms Tasker Brown in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The outline will be shared with all in the next couple of weeks, in view of making the first draft available for review by the end of July. The thematic areas covered by second volume correspond to the key thematic sessions covered by the City Biodiversity Summit 2010.

-Participants are invited to send Ms Tasker Brown examples of best practices or case studies that can demonstrate a successful collaboration between national governments and cities and local authorities in protecting/conserving biodiversity at the local level.

- *The CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity (Oliver Hillel)*

The Secretariat is compiling over 25 comments and plans on making the revamped version of the plan of action available before the Second Expert workshop on the CBI at the beginning of July.

- *Coordination towards COP10 side events on Cities (OH)*

List of side-events at COP10/City Biodiversity Summit 2010:

- 22 October: Introducing the GP and the action to CBD delegates (title TBD) –CBD Secretariat
- 23 October: URBIS –UNESCO, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Nagoya...
- 27-28 October: European Capital of Biodiversity -IUCN

- *Coordination towards the Shanghai EXPO: exhibition, etc. (Chantal Robichaud)*

-Participants interested in contributing to the Shanghai Expo are invited to contact the Secretariat as there as still some possibilities to accommodate events in the UN agencies’ slots.

-Bonn will hold a segment on Urban best practice from 16-26 September and Montreal is planning on being present both in May and October.

- *Coordination towards the COP10 exhibition by the Global Partnership (Andre Mader)*

-The LAB team will hold a stand on behalf and for the use of the GP. More info will be made available soon.

-Information (including fees) on exhibit space next to the COP10 venue (Interactive Fair for Biodiversity) is available here: <http://www.cop10.jp/fair/en/index.html>

## V. New voices

- *City of Montpellier, France* (Philippe Croze and Michael Delafosse)

-Montpellier is currently testing the CBI and will report on the results at the end of June.

-The city is implementing a project “Restore Nature back into the City” project, and is competing as the French Capital of Biodiversity, and collaborates with IUCN to develop a partnership at the city level.

-A meeting of the Parties supporting the plan of action is planned to take place on 27 September (TBC), with the aim to prepare the “choreography” of the submission of the plan to COP10.

- *Sustainable Urban Futures programme by United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)* (**Jose Antonio Puppim de Oliveira**)

-The UNU IAS project team will be at URBIO. Mr de Oliveira is seeking comments/advice on the upcoming draft of the UNU publication on cities and biodiversity, to be distributed in the next few weeks. See annex for details on the project.

## VI. Varia

1. The city of Curitiba made a few announcements:

- Curitiba’s new Mayor, Mr Luciano Ducci will follow the steps of Mayor Richa with regards to its participation in the GP and biodiversity initiatives
- Mr Beto Richa is running for governor of the state of Parana with the intent to expand the biodiversity programme to the level of the state
- the city of Curitiba won the award of the most sustainable city (48 cities took part in the competition)

2. The Launch of TEEB-D2 (local administrators) will take place in 4 different countries (South Africa, Curitiba, Delhi and Brussels) on 9 September. The final draft is being peer reviewed in order to be completed at the end of June. Mr Sukhdev will be in Toronto on 20 May and at the CBD secretariat on 18 May.

3. List of upcoming related events:

- Sustainable Cities Conference, Dunkirk, France, 19-21 May
- Resilient Cities, in Bonn, Germany, 28-30 May
- WGRI Side event on Cities and Biodiversity, Nairobi, 26 May
- European Green Week in Brussels, Belgium, from 1 to 4 June 2010
- IPBES, Korea, 11 June
- Biodiversity Conference under the Belgian EU Presidency, September 2010

- High Level Segment on Biodiversity (potential session on urban biodiversity would have to be coordinated with UNDESA)
- Meeting of the Parties supportive of the plan of action, Montpellier, France, 27 September

**VII. Closing of the teleconference (10:25 am)**

**United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)  
Policy Report (Abstract)**

Authors: Puppim de Oliveira JA; Balaban O, Doll C, Gasparatos A, Iossifova D, Moreno-Penaranda, R, Suwa, A

**Governance, Cities and Biodiversity: Perspectives and Challenges of the  
Implementation of the CBD at the City Level**

Main Question: How are cities related to biodiversity,<sup>1</sup> particularly with regards to the implementation of CBD?

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was agreed by world leaders in Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. CBD has three broad (and ambitious) objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of its genetic resources. The main component for preservation of biodiversity is the habitats where the species live. The loss of ecosystems is among the main threats to biodiversity.

The way cities<sup>2</sup> develop definitively influences biodiversity conservation and the distribution of its benefits among different groups in society. The CBD even recognized the importance of involving cities and local governments in its implementation in the COP-09 in Bonn in 2008. However, how the process of interaction between cities and biodiversity takes place is little understood, both in theory and in practice. The conceptual gap needs to be filled if we want to move the implementation of CBD, as most of the world population lives in cities today, and more will live in the future. The lack of a conceptual understanding of the city-biodiversity interaction hinders the development of effective governance mechanisms to manage the impacts of the cities on biodiversity and vice-versa. To start this discussion, we have to address several basic questions analyzed below.

The first question is: how cities influence biodiversity? There are three levels of interaction between cities and biodiversity. Cities and biodiversity interact within the urban fabric. There are a number of animal and plant species living in a city, called urban biodiversity, including those well-adapted to the urban life, such as humans, rats and pigeons. Urban biodiversity influences the city form and its inhabitants. The development of a city also impacts directly the urban biodiversity and how it is distributed among the different groups of the population.

Cities can also have a huge impact on the biodiversity in their nearby surroundings, what we call regional biodiversity influence. City activities generate sewage, solid waste and air pollution, which generally impact the biodiversity in the nearby areas, such as rivers or sea.

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<sup>1</sup> "Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms." (CBD, 2010)

<sup>2</sup> There are many definitions for cities. In this paper we will use a broad definition of a city as a geographically limited area dominated by a mostly urban landscape, which can include a part of, one or various administrative units.

The expansion of cities, or the city form, has also tremendous impacts on the areas around it. Moreover, a lot of resources needed in a city come from its surroundings (water, food, etc).

Finally, cities consume large amount of resources coming from far away places, influencing the biodiversity of those places, what we call global biodiversity influence (related to the green agenda of cities). For example, some of the unregulated timber consumed in cities around the world comes from trees of far away forests such as the Amazon or Borneo. The high demand for bluefin tuna in some Asian cities threatens those species.

The different levels of influence of a city in biodiversity, particularly the regional and global biodiversity, also interact with the influences from other cities, as globalization has made cities interdependent of each other. Thus, for example, the total "city" impact on the Amazon comes from several cities around the world.

Another basic question is how does biodiversity influence cities and city dwellers? Biodiversity provides a series of benefits (or ecosystem services) to cities ranging from the more directly perceived such as water supplies and entertainment (parks) to less directly linked such as climate stability (for example the large forests do that) or the discovery of the cure for certain diseases. The services biodiversity provide to cities are important to city planning both in terms of design as well as convincing citizens and policy makers in cities about the importance of implementing CBD. However, those services, and the costs to keep them, are not distributed evenly among different groups of citizens in the same city, among cities, among urban and rural citizens and among countries. Understanding conceptually the main benefits brought by biodiversity to cities can help to direct policies.

Which biodiversity to preserve? The kind of biodiversity preservation varies according to the city and in the different levels of influence. Urban biodiversity may not accommodate the native biodiversity of the surroundings as this may not be compatible with the urban environment or the convenience of city dwellers. For example, Manaus in Brazil is surrounded by the Amazon jungle, but its citizens may not want to share their daily urban lives with boa constrictors or piranhas. Some trees may not be suitable for urban environment because of the natural limitations (e.g., need of space, clean air, water or certain species to survive) or due to management constraints (e.g., frequent need of trimming or cleaning beyond city reasonable capacity). Therefore, the role of cities to foster biodiversity may vary according to the level of biodiversity influence and may be different according to the city environment. For one city, the urban biodiversity may comport with the surrounding biodiversity and the city can leave a corridor for this biodiversity. The urban fabric would be intertwined with the local habitats. For another city (like Manaus), this may not be possible.

Cities also affect other aspects of biodiversity mentioned in the CBD. Cities can be a threat to biosafety, as many genetic experiments or exotic species exist in cities. The uncontrolled spill of some of those can cause problems to the urban biodiversity or biodiversity as a whole.

Thus, the governance of cities - or the way they are designed, planned and managed - is important to determine the outcomes of their influences on the biodiversity at the different levels. Understanding how cities can create better governance mechanisms to effectively help in the preservation of the biodiversity is key to implement the directives of CBD. The actors, instruments, and processes that should be in place are still not completely understood to move the city and biodiversity agenda forward. This paper will try to shed light on the

conceptual underpinnings of the relation of city and biodiversity to create the basis for policies at the global, national and local level.`

## **Table of Contents**

- 1. Introduction
  - o (an expansion of the text in this file), may include the different of green areas, ecosystem services and bio conservation in cities
- 2. The impacts of Cities on Biodiversity and Ecosystems
  - o detail the analysis of the different levels of influence, give examples
  - o analyze the different impacts cities can have on biodiversity and ecosystems
- 3. Ecosystem Services for the Cities
  - o develop the ecosystem service analysis for cities
  - o look also at costs
- 3. Governance for CBD Implementation
  - o Detail actors, approaches and processes for the different levels of involvement of cities in CBD implementation/bio preservation
- 4. Instruments
  - o Look at the main instruments for city governance and how they should be different to be more effective in incorporating CBD concerns in city planning
  - o Give some examples
- 5. Process of urbanization and biodiversity
  - o Move the debate outside cities towards urbanization (which include larger processes)
  - o A more general discussion of processes of urbanization and impacts on biodiversity. Is urbanization in general threatening biodiversity?
- 6. Challenges
  - o Summarize the main challenges, particularly those regarding governance, to make cities more effective to help us to achieve CBD objectives
  - o List policy obstacles, conceptual underpinnings, lack of instruments etc
  - o Look ate also opportunities to move the agenda forward
- 7. Conclusions