

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY  
TELECONFERENCE CALL**

**15 June 2010, 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Montreal Time)**

Minutes

Participants: Oliver Hillel (moderator), Chantal Robichaud, Chikara Hombo, Toshitaka Takagi, Tsuyoshi Ito, Lena Chan, Peter Werner, Karin Buhren, Andre Mader, Lara Lacerda Santos Rodrigues, Eduardo P. Guimaraes, Christine Alfsen-Norodom, Laura Dickinson, Susanne Nolden, Bonnie James, Michèle Picard, Julie Tasker Brown, Mahito Kamada, Thomas Elmqvist, Michie Kishigami, Jose Antonio Puppim de Oliveira, Tomoko Idota, Muslim Anshari Rahman, Wendy Yap, John Davidson, Eric Blencowe, Ryo Kohsaka, Leanne Raymond and Shela Patrickson.

**I. Opening –**

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

**1. The 2nd Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index will be held on 1 - 3 July 2010. The updates are as follows:**

In addition to the Technical Task Force, 10 cities have been invited. The workshop programme and agenda were shared (available here: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-02> ). During the workshop, city representatives will be invited to report on the results of their test-bedding. Participants will then review the indicators according to three components, and discuss and prepare for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the City Biodiversity Summit 2010.

IUCN confirmed its participation. Conservation International is interested in collaborating on the development of a rapid-assessment programme for smaller cities –to be discussed in Singapore.

More detailed logistical information will be sent to participants one week before the meeting.

**2. Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity meeting on 3 July 2010**

A meeting of the Global Partnership will take place on 3 July, from 2 to 3 pm. A teleconference of the Global Partnership will take place at 3pm (Singapore time).

**3. Updates on the test-bedding of the City Biodiversity Index**

Currently 28 cities (which includes 18 ASEAN cities) are test-bedding the CBI, of which about 7 cities have provided their scores. The TEEB team has invited us to write a box-story on the CBI.

### **III. Updates**

#### **1. City Biodiversity Summit 2010 (Tsuyoshi Ito, Michie Kishigami): Updates on the programme overview and participants**

Mr Ito provided a draft program overview along with the proposed agenda for City Summit (which has been previously shared with all). On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Aichi-Nagoya Committee held the fourth Project Examination Meeting and presented the draft program overview to committee members. The Committee is expecting their comments, along with those of the Global Partnership members, so please read the draft and send your comments to ICLEI Japan office by e-mail **by June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The next version of the draft of program overview will be presented at the Global Partnership Meeting in July for further exchange of views.

Invitation letters were sent to more than 100 Japanese local governments, many of which were participants of pre-conference held last year. More than 60 heads of the Japanese local authorities are expected to attend the conference. ICLEI Japan office and other ICLEI regional offices have sent invitation letters to more than 170 cities abroad, recommended by the UN agencies, the SCBD and ICLEI, asking for the cities to reply by June 30<sup>th</sup>. (For your information, hotel reservation service on the web site has already been open since June 1<sup>st</sup>.)

Mayor of Changwon City, which hosted the Ramsar COP10, has already informed us of his attendance to the conference. The representatives of Zurich, Switzerland will also participate in City Summit.

The Aichi-Nagoya committee has sent invitation letters to member cities of global partnership steering committee, sister/friendly ship states and cities. Among them, Geelong and Sydney, Australia, have confirmed the attendance of their Mayor and Vice Mayor, respectively. An update on the expected number of participating cities will be made in Singapore.

#### **2. URBIO2010 (Mahito Kamada): The conference outcomes**

URBIO2010, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Network Urban Biodiversity and Design, was held from 18 to 22 at WINK Aichi and Meijo University in Nagoya City, Japan. The main theme was “Urban Biodiversity in the Ecological Network”, which was composed of two subthemes of “Ecosystem Network and Quality of Habitats in and around the Urban Area” and “Networking Conservation Activities of Urban People”. 340 presentations on theoretical and practical results focusing on ways to conserve and enhance urban biodiversity were discussed by 460 participants from 30 countries during the conference organized by URBIO2010 Organizing Committee, from 18 to 21 at WINK Aichi.

The participants recognized the importance of "City Biodiversity Index", "Mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change", "Environmental education" and "Inter-linkages between business and biodiversity" as well as "Ecological Network".

The URBIO2010 Organizing Committee is now planning to distribute the Proceedings (pdf file) through webs. The "Nagoya Declaration -URBIO 2010" was adopted by the participants at the General Assembly of URBIO (available at: [www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010](http://www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010) , [www.fh-erfurt.de/URBIO](http://www.fh-erfurt.de/URBIO) , [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int) ). The declaration has been distributed to Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee, Round Table on COP10/MOP5, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Government of Japan and Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan. All participants in URBIO2010 hope that the Declaration is widely distributed to all over the world and used during the discussion in the City Biodiversity Summit2010 and in the COP10. All participants confirmed that the URBIO network will periodically hold meetings linking with future COP meetings, in order to support further CBD initiatives on "Cities and Biodiversity"

#### **IV. The Global Partnership**

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

The LAB Guidebook, called "A Practical Guide to Local Government Biodiversity Planning and Management" is about to be completed. Printing will begin in late June or early July. The Guidebook is global in its scope but is funded primarily by the South African national Department of Environmental Affairs. A South African launch will therefore be held on 9 September in Cape Town, with a TEEB D2 report launching event there.

It was suggested that the CBD/ICLEI/UN-Habitat guidebook be entitled: "Support to Local Governments Biodiversity Planning and Management: the Role of Governments". The peer-review will also take place in August to proceed with the layout and printing in September.

ICLEI, CBD and UN-Habitat will coordinate and discuss the format and printing details in order to make sure the right quantity is available in Nagoya and other places. The launch of the "twin" publications will happen at COP 10, at the side event on October 22 and at the ICLEI side event, with additional opportunities for dissemination at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010.

##### **2. Coordination towards COP10: side events on Cities, Pavilion event, outside exhibition, SCBD newsletter and banners, etc. (OH, Andre Mader, Leanne Raymond)**

The SCBD and ICLEI will be preparing the second Newsletter on Cities and Biodiversity over the summer. The partnership is invited to submit their inputs and provide advice on what other partners

should be included in the Newsletter, which will be distributed at the COP.

The SCBD has 3 existing banners and will produce two more (one on capacity building tools such as the publications, and another on the ways through which the Plan of Action will reinforce and support the CBD's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, its programme of work and its indicator framework).

Cities related events at the COP include:

- 22 October: Introducing the GP and the action to CBD delegates (title TBD) –CBD Secretariat
- 23 October: URBIS workshop–UNESCO, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Nagoya
- 26 October: ICLEI side-event (date subject to change)
- 27-28 October: European Capital of Biodiversity –IUCN
- City Biodiversity Summit 24-26 October
- Rio Conventions Pavilion (presence of ICLEI and CBD)
- Visibility from TEEB D2
- CBD CEPA fair

ICUN/WCPA Specialist Group recommended giving visibility to volunteers as citizens are essential in the implementation of biodiversity related activities at the local level.

Meeting in Montpellier: this preparatory meeting aims to bring together Parties that are supportive of the Plan of Action. We are waiting for the support and approval of the French government to proceed with the invitations.

The issue of the involvement of the cities and local authorities at the High Level Segment remains to be clarified.

### **3. Updates on the development and launch of the TEEB D2 report (Eduardo Pereira Guimarães, Lara de Lacerda Santos Rodrigues)**

On 9 September 2010, several TEEB D2 launches will take place simultaneously. Pavan Sukdhev will be in Brazil, as part of the Curitiba launch. The programme includes exchanges of experiences, debates, an official launch with the press, and workshop on how to make TEEB D2 useful at the local level.

. Other launches will happen in Ghent, Belgium (Biodiversity beyond 2010 conference – Pavan Sukdhev to give a key note speech on 8 September then Heidi Wittmer to do the main release on 9 September), Capetown, South Africa (in association with the City of Capetown, ICLEI), Augustin Berghoefer to do launch), and New Delhi (event in Delhi still very draft at this stage).

## V. Varia

### **News from the Shanghai Expo:**

At the World Expo in Shanghai, India, Kenya, New York and Stockholm present the place of biodiversity in the cities of the future. A dialogue with Elinor Ostrom, Nobel prize winner in economics in 2009, will take place on how to involve the youth in urban planning. On 18 October, there will be a discussion on the role of universities in leading the way for innovative uses of biodiversity and ecosystems in addressing future challenges, i.e. reducing impacts of climate change in cities. Innovative initiatives led by universities will be presented. More information will be available and shared in Nagoya.

The UN member states have approved the creation of the *Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES). The Global partnership is invited to build stronger links with IPBES.

### **Updates on the “The European Capitals of Biodiversity”(provided in writing, by Elisa Calcaterra, IUCN Regional Office for Europe)**

Applications for the Biodiversity Capital Award closed on May 30 in France, Slovakia, Hungary and Spain (a few are still coming in and we are still accepting them). All applicants had to test the Singapore Index and provide us with information about the availability of data for the selected indicators (please note that not all countries adopted all indicators, but on average they tested 12 to 16 of the total). The reason for inserting the indicators section was 1. to test the Singapore Index and 2. to start a learning process about biodiversity monitoring among municipalities. This means that we will not award a city because of its responses to the indicators (e.g. high or low number of species), but we will value the fact that they have been able to provide the data (more points for accurate data, less for estimates).

After a slow start, the competition seems to have captured the imagination of towns and municipalities. France received 90 applications, Spain approximately 60 and Slovakia 20 (but only large cities could apply in the Slovakian case). Hungary has not yet provided data. Germany will launch its competition in July and based on previous experiences, approximately 100 applications are expected - all of the German municipalities will also be required to test the Singapore Index.

We are compiling an analysis to be presented during the second expert workshop. We aim at including all the applications, if we do not manage for time reasons, we will include a sample from each country. From an initial analysis the quality of responses seems to vary greatly and we aim at identifying any possible relations with key variables (e.g. size of the municipality). Should we be unable to analyze all the responses by the end of June, I will send them to Lena asap after the workshop. Applicants were

also requested to provide feedback on the indicators, I will compile a summary of inputs for the workshop.

### **IUCN/WCPA Cities and Protected Areas Specialist Group**

The Group has been working with several cities including London, Rome, Hong Kong, Cape Town, Chicago and others. The group aims to bring various stakeholders together (NGO, businesses, etc). Issues of attention include: links between biodiversity and social issues, ethnic groups, green infrastructure, restoration projects...Success stories include Chicago Wilderness in the US and Groundwork Network in the UK.

UNESCO Biosphere also aims to bring together biodiversity, social and cultural aspects (Chicago Wilderness is in the process of applying to become a Biosphere Reserve). A Biodiversity and Culture for Peace event will take place on 17 June and the outputs will be shared with the Global Partnership.

### **VI. Closing of the teleconference**

The next teleconference will take place on 3 July at 3 pm Singapore time, after the closing of the second City Biodiversity Index workshop, and as part of the Global Partnership meeting. The call will be organized from Singapore.

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