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**Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other
local authorities to enhance the implementation of the
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Review of the role of subnational and local governments in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 7 of decision [15/12](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake a review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to submit the report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Pursuant to that request, and subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat commissioned ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability,¹ with contributions from Regions4² to prepare such a review on subnational actions. The review includes a desktop assessment of readily available information, including case studies, commitments and actions reported through relevant platforms and initiatives related to subnational and local biodiversity action. While the full review is still under development, the annex to the present note contains an executive summary of the review, prepared in collaboration with ICLEI to support consideration of the matter by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

3. The review provides a high-level overview of actions and initiatives undertaken by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in support of implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It also highlights the role of institutional support arrangements, partnerships and relevant platforms, including CitiesWithNature³ and RegionsWithNature,⁴ in supporting knowledge exchange, visibility, voluntary reporting and coordination of biodiversity action by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities.

* [CBD/SBI/7/1](#).

** The present document is being issued without formal editing, with the exception of the draft recommendation in section III.

¹ <https://iclei.org/>.

² <https://regions4.org/>.

³ <https://citieswithnature.org/>.

⁴ <https://regionswithnature.org/>.

4. The present note contains a summary of key findings emerging from the annexed executive summary, complemented by concise information emerging from the seventh national reports and related analyses prepared for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It also contains elements of a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body (sect. III).

II. Key findings

5. The review highlights the important role that subnational governments, cities and other local authorities can play in supporting implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and institutional arrangements.

6. The review documents examples of actions and initiatives undertaken by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in areas including biodiversity-inclusive planning, ecosystem restoration, protected and conserved areas, urban biodiversity, ecological connectivity, awareness-raising, capacity development, monitoring and reporting. The review further highlights the role of institutional support arrangements, partnerships and voluntary platforms in supporting coordination, knowledge exchange and visibility of subnational and local biodiversity action.

7. The review also identifies recurring challenges related to institutional coordination, technical and financial capacity, and the integration of subnational and local information into biodiversity monitoring and reporting processes.

8. Information emerging from seventh national reports and related analyses prepared for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework further suggests that implementation of several targets of the Framework involves areas in which subnational governments, cities and other local authorities frequently exercise important responsibilities and functions, including spatial planning, restoration, protected and conserved areas, urban planning and stakeholder engagement.

9. In particular, information emerging from seventh national reports highlights the relevance of Target 12 of the Framework for cities and local authorities, given its focus on increasing the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas through biodiversity-inclusive urban planning. Related analyses prepared for the global review indicate growing attention to urban greening, ecological corridors, restoration of urban ecosystems, urban biodiversity planning and nature-based solutions, while also highlighting continuing challenges related to monitoring systems, methodologies, data availability and implementation capacity relevant to urban biodiversity action.

10. Overall, the findings emerging from the annexed review and information contained in seventh national reports suggest that strengthening coordination, cooperation and engagement across levels of government, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances, could support more effective implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

III. Recommendation

11. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision [15/12](#) of 19 December 2022,

1. *Takes note* of the executive summary⁵ of the report of the review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁶ and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁷

2. *Encourages* continued efforts to strengthen coordination, cooperation and engagement across all levels of government, including in the context of the implementation of the plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity (2023–2030),⁸ in support of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework.

⁵ CBD/SBI/7/9, annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁸ Decision [15/12](#), annex.

Annex

Executive summary of the report of the review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The executive summary of the report of the review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is reproduced below in the form in which it was received by the Secretariat.

I. Introduction - Maintaining the momentum from Montreal and Cali to Yerevan

The report responds to decision 15/12, paragraph 7, which requests the Executive Secretary to undertake a review of the role of subnational and local governments in implementing the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) ahead of COP17. The time frame of this review aligns with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF. Although the time frames correspond, and subnational and local contributions to the KMGBF targets reported on the [CitiesWithNature](#) and [RegionsWithNature](#) Action Platforms have been submitted to the CBD clearing-house mechanism, the review of subnational and local engagement under decision 15/12 is an entirely separate process and report. To clarify the difference between the global review and the review of the role of subnational and local governments, the report starts with a brief outline of each of these review processes, before outlining the role of subnational and local governments in implementing the KMGBF.

1.1. Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Following the adoption of the KMGBF Parties have translated its ambition into national priorities and action: By February 2026, 119 Parties had submitted national targets aligned with the framework, and 44 have updated their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). These documents are essential in defining how governments intend to deliver the KMGBF's 23 global targets by 2030 and achieve its four long-term goals by 2050, and determining the framework for subnational and local action.

At the 16th Conference of Parties (COP 16) in Cali, Parties signalled that implementation must move faster by adopting several decisions aimed at enabling and strengthening implementation and review—including on the operationalisation of the [Cali Fund for benefit-sharing from digital sequence information](#); the creation of a [permanent body to elevate the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities](#); and the [development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy 2025–2030](#).

In addition, to ensure the timely and effective measurement of progress against global biodiversity goals and targets, Parties adopted [mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF](#) (the global review) to be conducted at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties (decisions 15/6 and 16/32). This established the mechanism for **regular global review**, mirroring the climate regime, and the mechanism to report on and assess collective progress, identify gaps, and helping Parties raise ambition towards the 2030 targets and 2050 goals. Decision 15/6, mandated the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to develop the concrete procedures for the global review,

with advice from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on relevant scientific technical and technological inputs that should inform the global review.⁹

This global review process is overseen by an Advisory Committee to ensure the review is Party led and supported by the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the preparation of the report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (ASHTAG). The global review process was initiated following the adoption of decision 15/6 with the review of evidence—including national reports, scientific assessments, and input from governments and stakeholders. During the global review itself, Parties examine obstacles and lessons learned, share good practices, and clarify what additional support is needed.

Since the adoption of the KMGBF the roadmap from Montreal to Cali to Yerevan has focused squarely on the first global review. Parties, other Governments and observers will gather in Armenia for the 17th Conference of Parties (COP 17), where, for the first time since adoption of the KMGBF, the world will answer critical questions: *Are we on track to meet the 23 global targets? If not, what must be accelerated, strengthened or corrected?*

A key milestone of this roadmap was the 26th meeting of SBSTTA held in Panama City in October 2025. There delegates agreed on the draft outline of the first global progress report to assess collective progress, analyse national implementation through NBSAPs, identify remaining gaps and outline the priority actions needed to accelerate delivery across the framework.

In short, from Cali to Yerevan, the global community is shifting from commitment to action and accountability. The COP 17 global review will set the direction for the rest of the decade, ensuring that the KMGBF becomes not only a plan on paper, but a real pathway to living in harmony with nature by 2050.

1.2. Purpose and scope of the review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of Convention, its Protocols and the KMGBF

Decision 15/12 on engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the KMGBF adopted at COP 15, is a landmark decision as it is the only mechanism for multilevel governance in the three Rio Conventions. It provides a framework and comprehensive plan of action for the Decade to support Parties, and subnational and local governments in implementing the KMGBF. As mentioned above, decision 15/12 requests the Executive Secretary to undertake a review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the KMGBF, subject to availability of resources, and to submit the report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration before COP 17.

The purpose of this report is to respond to this request of the Parties by reviewing the essential role of subnational and local governments in contributing towards KMGBF implementation and the achievements of its 2030 targets, as measured against the seven action areas identified in decision 15/12. As the authorities closest to the people and responsible for land-use planning, restoration, protected areas, and community-level action, subnational and local governments operate where biodiversity pressures are most direct. They are therefore ideally placed to implement actions and solutions that are the most effective in addressing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation on the ground.

This report is **not intended** as a systematic and comprehensive report to showcase and benchmark the progress already made by subnational and local governments. Its scope is merely to provide a snapshot of some of the many initiatives, actions, programs and projects being implemented by cities - big and small - district authorities, provinces, states and prefectures around the world that contribute

⁹ The global review procedure is defined in document [CBD/SBI/4/4/Add.2/Rev.1](#) and adopted in decision [16/34](#).

to the 2030 targets and action areas identified in the Plan of Action adopted under CBD decision 15/12. This is reflected through two complementary lenses:

- 1) Firstly, a desktop overview of actions taken to implement the action areas identified in decision 15/12 from the perspective of subnational and local governments; and
- 2) Secondly a selection of representative case studies from subnational and local governments from around the world as illustration of how they are contributing towards the KMGBF targets.

By aligning with decision 15/12, the report underscores that recognising and strengthening subnational and local governments' contributions, aligns with the 'whole of government' approach embodied in the KMGBF. Subnational and local governments are a constituent part of many Parties and other Governments and their role in implementing the objectives of the Convention, as well as in monitoring and reporting, mainstreaming, resource mobilization, capacity-building and communication, education and public awareness, social participation and public access to information, is essential for the successful and effective KMGBF implementation.

1.3. Process and methodology followed in undertaking the review

Decision 15/12 is silent on the process and procedure to be followed and scope of the review to be undertaken, other than to acknowledge it is "subject to availability of resources". The lack of resources meant that it was not possible to undertake comprehensive, systematic and verified data gathering and review across all levels and sectors of government. Instead, the lack of resources determined that the review was restricted to readily accessible and available data. Accordingly, this report was prepared through a combination of rapid and high-level desktop review and analysis of existing data sources. It draws primarily on case studies from the Regions4 Case Study Database, as well as the commitments, actions, and progress reported by subnational and local governments on the [RegionsWithNature](#) and [CitiesWithNature Action](#) Platforms. Together, these sources provide evidence of a representative example of subnational and local government innovation, challenges, and contributions to the implementation of the KMGBF. However, the lack of resources for comprehensive data gathering highlighted certain gaps. The foremost being that it provides only a subnational perspective and does not reflect action or progress across the broader multilevel governance landscape. The lack of funding for a comprehensive and systematic survey of progress meant that actions taken at national level in respect of the Plan of Action's seven action areas could not be sourced and incorporated into this report. Secondly, as the report is based on available documented case studies and commitments submitted voluntarily by cities and regions, it is limited in its representation of subnational and local governments from around the world.

2. Background Context

2.1. The Whole-of-Government approach in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

In practice the "whole-of-government" approach means that the Parties are responsible for developing and enacting public policy, legal and administrative measures necessary for implementation at national level, and that provinces, cities, and municipalities should contribute to reaching the KMGBF targets and vision of living in "Harmony with nature" by 2050. This approach recognizes that the success of the KMGBF requires political will and recognition at the highest level of government **and relies on action and cooperation by all levels of government**. This is reflected in the Framework itself, which includes— for the first time— a target specifically directed at local governments (Target 12), alongside multiple additional references to the role of subnational and local authorities in CBD decisions. The desktop review of actions taken at subnational and local level documented in case studies, and reported on the CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature Action Platforms, illustrate that these levels of government are contributing to a much wider range of targets than just Target 12.

Furthermore, the “whole-of-government” approach aids in creating stronger synergies across Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Even modest steps to align the implementation of NBSAPs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Land Degradation Neutrality targets can yield significant benefits. The Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions have an important role to play in facilitating this coordination. Here too, the desktop review identified several examples of subnational and local governments integrating biodiversity considerations into local climate plans and vice versa and synchronizing climate and biodiversity goals.

2.2. Plan of Action under decision 15/12

The Plan of Action is intended to be implemented in accordance with national legislation and includes a catalogue of activities, grouped into seven interrelated and complementary action areas. The objectives of the Plan of Action are to:

- (a) **Strengthen local engagement**, by increasing involvement of subnational governments and cities in implementing and reporting on biodiversity frameworks and strategies;
- (b) **Enhance coordination and knowledge-sharing**, by improving collaboration and exchange of lessons among governments, organizations, academia, and donors to support sustainable biodiversity management and integration into planning;
- (c) **Support tools and capacity-building**, by identifying and promoting policies, financing mechanisms, and programmes that empower local authorities to take effective biodiversity action in alignment with national efforts;
- (d) **Raise awareness**, by promoting biodiversity through communication, education, and public awareness initiatives.

Parties and other Governments are urged to implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, considering national priorities, capacities and needs, with the support of the Secretariat and other key partners such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions⁴, the GoLS and the European Union’s Committee of the Regions. Other key elements concerning the implementation of the Plan of Action include:

- **Assessment and data:** Promoting voluntary tools like the Singapore Index and improved data co-production for evidence-based planning;
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Encouraging use of commitment and reporting platforms such as RegionsWithNature and CitiesWithNature and integrating local contributions into national reporting;
- **Institutional support:** Mobilizing the Global Partnership and the CBD’s Advisory Committees to guide and coordinate implementation; and
- **Flexibility:** Ensuring the Plan remains adaptable to evolving national and local priorities.

In addition, the Plan of Action identifies seven interrelated and complementary action areas that serve as a framework on which Parties, their subnational and local governments, and stakeholders can develop their own actions to implement the Plan of Action. In essence, decision 15/12 strengthens the visibility, support, and integration of subnational and local government contributions within the CBD, recognizing that effective GBF implementation depends on coordinated action across all levels of government.

3. Progress against the seven Action Areas in the Plan of Action

As decision 15/12 envisages that implementing the Plan of Action would be supported by the Advisory Committees on Local Governments and Biodiversity and on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity and the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Governments for Biodiversity, this section begins with a brief overview of how these structures have supported implementation since 2022. Subnational and local governments’ progress against each of the seven action areas, is

outlined from subsection 3.3 below. As explained in section 1.3 above, it does not cover actions taken at national level in respect of the Plan of Action's seven action areas.

3.1. **CBD Advisory Committees on Subnational and Local Governments and Biodiversity**

The purpose of the Advisory Committees on Local Governments and Biodiversity and on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity, established under decision X/22 in 2010 and renewed under decision 15/12, is to provide input and support to the Plan of Action from the points of view of cities and local authorities and subnational governments, respectively.

The **Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity** (AC SNG) is coordinated by Regions4, in partnership with the Government of Québec. It is currently constituted by 26¹⁰ regional governments who, supported by partnering organizations¹¹, hold quarterly executive meetings to collectively advance their efforts. The main objective of the AC SNG is to represent and advocate for its members at CBD intersessional meetings and COPs, highlighting the critical role that regional leaders play in implementing the Convention's objectives. In parallel, it serves as a platform allowing members to exchange experiences as they advance biodiversity action in their regions. The Committee also seeks to strengthen collaboration among its members, the CBD Secretariat and Parties. This work is supported by its operational partners, the GoLS, led by Aichi Prefecture, and the Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP). The GoLS convenes political-level events and produces a biennial publication on progress, while the R4BLP facilitates knowledge exchange and peer learning opportunities for its members.

The **Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity** is coordinated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability's global Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC). It is currently constituted by Mayors representing 15 cities;¹² and is supported by a Technical Working Group, comprising senior technical staff and/or an expert from each of the member cities. The main objective of this Advisory Committee includes serving as a mechanism through which cities can actively engage with and provide input into CBD processes and intersessional meetings; and as a platform to formulate and agree on cities' ambitions and positions concerning contributions to the KMGBF and NBSAPs. Additionally, the Advisory Committee seeks to strengthen collaboration among its members, the CBD Secretariat and Parties by reflecting the perspectives of cities on the Plan of Action and KMGBF's implementation.

3.2. **Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity**

The Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity originated from the recognition that cities and subnational governments are critical actors in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In 2006, over 300 local authorities at the ICLEI General Assembly in Cape Town called for a pilot initiative on Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB), leading 21 cities representing 52 million people to collaborate with ICLEI and IUCN's Countdown 2010. In 2007, a meeting in Curitiba, Brazil, attended by 34 mayors or representatives, adopted the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity, committing cities to support CBD objectives and the 2010 biodiversity target. A task force was established involving the CBD Secretariat, ICLEI, UNEP, UN-Habitat, IUCN, UNESCO, and the mayors of Curitiba, Bonn, Nagoya, Montreal, and Singapore.

The proposal for a formal Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity was reinforced at the 2008 Bonn UN Biodiversity Summit through the Bonn Declaration and officially launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in 2008. This network prepared cities for the UN International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, culminating in the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local

¹⁰ As of April 2026, the members of the AC SNG are: Aichi, Andhra Pradesh, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Basque Country, California, Campeche, Catalonia, Córdoba, Fatick, Gangwon, Goiás, Gossas, Jalisco, Lombardy, North Rhine-Westphalia, Ontario, Palawan, Paraná, Québec, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santa Fe, Scotland, Sichuan, Wales, and Walga.

¹¹ AC SNG partners are: Here they are the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Consortium of Provincial Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE), CREA and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

¹² As of April 2026, the members of the AC on Cities are: Bonn, Cagayan de Oro, Cali, Campinas, Chefchaouen, Curitiba, Durban (eThekweni), Izmir, Los Angeles, Medellín, Mexico City, Montreal, Nagoya, São Paulo, and Tirana.

Authorities and Biodiversity and the adoption of the 2011–2020 CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity at COP 10 in Nagoya. The first implementation meeting was held in Montpellier, France, in 2011, leading to ongoing coordination at subsequent COPs.

3.3. Action area 1: Development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action

30x30 conservation of lands and coastal waters in the State of California, United States of America

California's 30x30 programme aims to conserve 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030 through coordinated action across state agencies, Tribes, and local partners. Progress is tracked through the CA Nature GIS platform and annual reporting systems. As of 2025, over 26% of land and 21.9% of coastal waters are already under conservation. More information is available [here](#).

Mainstreaming participation and tools for 30x30 conservation in Québec Province, Canada

Québec implements its 30x30 target through public calls for protected areas, structured stakeholder dialogues, and OECM recognition tools. The process integrates regional consultations, Indigenous participation, and decision-support tools to prioritise conservation areas. It has generated over 500 proposals and advanced the identification of new protected and conserved areas. More information is available [here](#).

Montréal local biodiversity strategy

The City of Montréal in Québec Province, Canada developed a local biodiversity strategy and action plan, Conserving [Biodiversity and Promoting Access to Nature 2030 Nature Plan, 2024–2028 Action Plan](#), which focuses on protecting ecosystems, integrating nature into urban planning, and engaging citizens through for example the Nature and Sports Plan. Key actions include protecting 10% of the city's land, planting 500,000 trees by 2030, managing ecological corridors, and developing major natural spaces like the Grand parc de l'Ouest. The city emphasizes protecting biodiversity hotspots, wetlands, and enhancing urban resilience against climate change.

3.4. Action area 2: Collaboration between levels of government, and mainstreaming

African cities mainstreaming nature in land use planning and urban infrastructure

The Natural Assets for Africa (UNA) Project, implemented by ICLEI Africa with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), supported 11 African cities across nine countries to mainstream nature-based solutions in urban development strategies and policies to improve urban governance, planning practices and access to finance. More information available [here](#) and [here](#).

Cities around the world taking action for wetlands

The [Wetland City Accreditation scheme](#) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands encourages and celebrates cities that champion the wise use and conservation of urban and peri-urban wetlands, and promote community engagement around wetlands while integrating these ecosystems into municipal planning and decision-making. In 2025, at Ramsar COP15, 31 newly accredited Wetland Cities from 16 countries around the world received their awards. More information is available [here](#).

Capacity-building programme for municipal protected areas in Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro's ProUC programme strengthens municipal capacity to establish and manage protected areas across all 92 municipalities. It provides technical assistance, training for public managers, and operational support for implementation, including management planning and enforcement tools. Since 2009, the programme has supported the creation of over 60 municipal protected areas and improved local biodiversity governance capacity. More information available [here](#).

Mangrove restoration project in Saint Louis, Senegal

Saint-Louis brought together five autonomous municipalities under an inter-municipal agreement to jointly manage the Senegal River delta's 2,800 hectares of mangrove, restoring over 50 hectares, achieving 7% annual ecosystem growth, and reaching 80,000 people through environmental education, while contributing to the establishment of a national mangrove management platform led by Senegal's Directorate of Marine Protected Areas. More information [here](#).

3.5. Action area 3: Resource mobilization**Subnational governments mobilising resources for biodiversity action**

The Government of Québec announced its contribution of 2 million Canadian dollars of new support to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) at CBD COP 16, making it the first subnational government to contribute to a global biodiversity fund. The Government of California has committed US\$1.2 billion to preserving ecosystem connectivity in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change.

Public-private biodiversity finance mechanism in Lombardy

BIOCLIMA programme mobilises blended public-private finance to support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration across the region. It funds forest management, habitat protection, and ecosystem service enhancement through competitive project selection and co-financing requirements. The programme has mobilised over €5.6 million and supported projects covering more than 3,000 hectares of certified forest management and restoration. More information available [here](#).

Biodiversity Credits: Incentive Mechanism for Conservation Finance in Paraná

Paraná's Biodiversity Credit system is the first subnational public policy of its kind, creating a financial mechanism that rewards private landowners for conservation and restoration actions. It is certifying 20 private nature reserves to issue tradable biodiversity credits, with the regional development bank BRDE investing R\$2 million to purchase and market those credits to companies seeking to offset their environmental impact. More information available [here](#).

Local authority leveraging private funding for ecosystem restoration

Overstrand Local Municipality, located along the Atlantic Coast in South Africa, has an integrated catchment-to-coast approach to address biodiversity loss, climate vulnerability, water security and coastal ecosystem degradation. It received a small-scale funding grant from UNEP under the Generation Restoration Cities project to restore the peatland in the Onrus River catchment corridor to safeguard water resources, prevent land degradation, and ensure long-term resilience against climate change. The restoration of the Onrus River's banks and peatland depends on the successful reintroduction of an endemic plant species, Palmiet *Pronium serratum*. The Municipality has attracted investment from local businesses and the White Desert Foundation to establish nurseries capable of cultivating these indigenous plants on a large scale.

3.6. Action area 4: Capacity development**Building cities capacity on ecosystem restoration**

The Generation Restoration Cities project, under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, built capacity on ecosystem restoration for 24 cities globally by providing technical support, a series of training webinars, and in-person city-to-city peer exchanges on ecosystems restoration while also addressing urban challenges. The project produced two reports on the State of Finance for Nature in Cities and also identified restoration opportunities in finance and job markets, and a pathway to closing the investment gap to meet global commitments on biodiversity and climate. The GIZ-funded project was led by UNEP, with technical supported by ICLEI CBC. More information available [here](#).

Supporting Indigenous leadership and initiatives in Québec, Canada

Québec finances Indigenous-led biodiversity projects through dedicated funding streams under its Nature Plan. It operationalises this through grant programmes, Indigenous-led conservation funds, and co-developed implementation structures with First Nations and Inuit partners. The initiative has allocated over CAD\$20 million and enabled multiple Indigenous-led conservation projects across the territory. More information available [here](#).

Guide for natural heritage management in Ecuadorian provinces

After finding that Ecuadorian provinces had the legal authority to manage natural heritage but lacked the tools to act on it, the Consortium of Autonomous Provincial Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE) developed a practical strategic management manual co-validated with provincial officials that has already prompted at least two provinces to declare new conservation areas and led to a \$100,000 WWF partnership to develop four further local management instruments. More information available [here](#).

3.7. Action area 5: Communication, education and public awareness

Cali Global Biodiversity Week, Colombia

The City of Cali hosted the Meeting of Cities and Regions for Biodiversity on 29-30 September 2025 in the framework of the Global Biodiversity Week in Cali. It represented a key opportunity to support decision-makers and environmental, planning, and risk management agencies in implementing effective strategies that promote more resilient, green, and inclusive cities. It inspired and encouraged participants (local leaders and authorities, including mayors, planning secretaries, environment secretaries, and other decision-makers) to integrate sustainability, climate action, and biodiversity approaches into territorial development plans, public policies, and local agendas, with a long-term vision and high impact.

Journeys for Life – cities and regions connecting for migratory species

This initiative led by ICLEI– Local Governments for Sustainability is aimed at raising awareness of the objectives of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) among cities and regions. By encouraging cities and regions located along migratory routes, flyways, and marine corridors to connect it highlights how local action contributes to ecological connectivity and the protection of migratory species across borders. It offers cities that join global visibility and opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration, peer-to-peer learning and access to technical guidance. Cities that have joined this initiative include Seattle, Barranquilla, Prefeitura de Florianópolis, Estado do Rio Grande do Sul, Sao Lorenzo do Sul, Prefeitura de Porto Alegre, Paraná, Campo Grande, Istanbul, Yeoncheon, Varzaneh, Abu Dhabi, and Cocody. More information available [here](#).

Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award), cosponsored by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Metropolis, the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), and the City of Guangzhou, recognizes outstanding practices of cities and local governments in promoting urban innovation and sustainable development. The award covers a wide range of areas, including public services and infrastructure, participatory planning, partnerships, technology, climate resilience, social inclusion and gender equality. They prove a unique source of inspiration for cities and regions worldwide. Award winners from the 6th Awards announced in 2024 include Bogota, Halandri and Kampala. In Halandri, Greece, the city revitalized its heritage by revitalizing Hadrian's aqueduct. This initiative showcases the aqueduct's historical, cultural and technical significance, and highlights its role as a contemporary landmark and water resource. The project promotes green urban policies and sustainable water management by creating quality green spaces in four neighborhoods, and repurposing the operational aqueduct for irrigation, reducing the need for potable water.

China's Biodiversity Charming Cities Award

Chinese local governments are taking proactive steps to implement the NBSAP and the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework. Several Chinese cities that have made extraordinary efforts in advancing local biodiversity initiatives were recognized for Biodiversity Charming Cities Best Practices. At CBD COP 16 the following nine cities received Biodiversity Charming City Awards: Anji City, Beijing City, Beilun District of Ningbo City, Lishui City, Ninghe District of Tianjin City, Ordos City, Shaoxing City, Shiyao City and Xiamen City. All nine cities have also joined the CitiesWithNature platform.

Promoting nature-positive management for businesses in Aichi Prefecture, Japan

Aichi Prefecture has run seminars for businesses to introduce nature-positive management approaches and international biodiversity frameworks. The seminar programme targets local enterprises to integrate biodiversity considerations into business decision-making and operations. It is currently assessing post-seminar behavioural changes among participating companies.

Ecological restoration and ecotourism initiative in West Cameroon

Through environmental education programmes, community consultations, and the development of ecotourism infrastructure around the biodiverse volcanic landscape of Mount Mbapit, the West Cameroon Regional Council is building public awareness of ecosystem conservation among farmers, herders, and traditional healers. More information available [here](#).

3.8. Action area 6: Assessment and improved information for decision-making

City Biodiversity Index (CBI)

The CBI, also known as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (SI), is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines. Based on the original [handbook](#), digital version of the CBI handbook tool is embedded in the CitiesWithNature Platform to promote and enable cities to undertake their monitoring and reporting on biodiversity and nature. The handbook has also been translated into Portuguese, Spanish, French and Korean and all four translated version are available on [CitiesWithNature Platform](#)

Urban Nature Indexes (UNI)

Comprising a set of 30 indicator topics nested across six themes, the [IUCN Urban Nature Indexes](#) (UNI) have been developed to help cities understand their impacts on nature, set science-based targets for improvement, and monitor progress accordingly. By shining a spotlight on the ecological performance of cities, the framework serves to enhance environmental transparency and accountability, facilitate goal setting and catalyze conservation action.

NATURA Global Roadmap for Urban Nature-based Solutions

The NATURA Global Roadmap is the most comprehensive effort to date to assess the state of knowledge and practice of nature-based solutions (NbS) in cities and urbanized regions around the world. Built from seven Regional Assessments spanning Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Europe, US-Canada, and Latin America, it brings together scientific research, expert insights, and real-world case studies, and offers clear, actionable guidance for decision-makers at every level. Selected from thousands of urban NbS cases studies from all global regions the roadmaps contain over 150 representative cases covering diverse NbS types responding to climate change, health, pollution, biodiversity, human health and other challenges, that span geographies, social-cultural contexts, that can serve as examples for scaling, replicating, and innovating NbS for local and regional impact. More information on this can be found [here](#).

3.9. Action area 7: Monitoring and reporting

The Berlin Urban Nature Pact

[The Berlin Urban Nature Pact](#), which is embedded in CitiesWithNature, is an initiative spearheaded by the City of Berlin that seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in cities and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet, in cities worldwide by 2030. The Pact encompasses 6 implementation principles that safeguard the effective implementation of the Pact's seven target areas each containing a set of sub-targets. To date 19 cities have signed the PACT and committed to meeting these targets.

Policy alignment across biodiversity–climate nexus in Scotland

Scotland integrates biodiversity and climate adaptation planning through coordinated strategy development across government departments. This includes aligning the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan with the National Adaptation Plan and sharing monitoring frameworks and indicators. The approach has embedded biodiversity indicators into climate resilience monitoring and improved cross-sector delivery coordination. More information available [here](#).

Measuring effects of climatic extreme events on Mediterranean biodiversity

Catalonia leads the MECEMB-MCAP project, a cross-regional scientific initiative bringing together Mediterranean-climate regions (including California, New South Wales, Western Cape, and Santiago de Chile) to assess how droughts, wildfires, and heatwaves are affecting biodiversity and to translate findings into shared policy recommendations. More information available [here](#).

Community Biodiversity Monitoring in Yucatan

Yucatan's Community Biodiversity Monitoring project trained 43 community members across four ejidos in the municipality of Tekax to deploy and manage camera trap stations, generating a 36-species faunal record over 118 days of sampling. More information available [here](#).

4. CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature - showcasing commitments by cities and regions toward the KMGBF

At present, 711 active commitments have been made by 76 participating cities and regions, on the [CitiesWithNature](#) and [RegionsWithNature](#) Action Platform, demonstrating a broad willingness among subnational and local governments to contribute to global nature goals. These platforms are recognized in decision 15/12 as a mechanism for subnational and local governments to report their contributions towards the KMGBF. These commitments are translating into real implementation on the ground, with 1,333 total actions taken across the platform. These commitments are divided into three action areas, which are outlined below.

4.1. Protect and restore nature

A total of **340 commitments** have been made in this category, supported by **766 documented actions**, demonstrating that cities are not only pledging to protect nature but also following through with on-the-ground implementation. These efforts contribute directly to **8 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **8 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets**, this includes target 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 and highlights the alignment between local action and global biodiversity ambitions.

4.2. Use nature sustainably

The *Use Nature Sustainably* action area highlights how cities are integrating biodiversity into daily urban life by ensuring that natural resources are used responsibly, equitably, and in ways that support community wellbeing. In this category, cities have made **142 commitments**, backed by **156 documented actions**, demonstrating real progress in embedding sustainable practices into urban systems. These actions align with **5 SDGs** and contribute to **4 targets of the Global Biodiversity**

Framework, this includes targets 9, 10, 11, and 12, reflecting strong coherence between local initiatives and global sustainability goals.

4.3. Develop tools and solutions

The *Develop tools and solutions* action area reflects the growing efforts of cities to strengthen the enabling conditions needed for effective biodiversity action. To date, **229 commitments** have been made by participating cities, supported by **340 documented actions**, demonstrating a clear focus on building the governance frameworks, knowledge systems and financial mechanisms required to deliver on global biodiversity goals. These efforts contribute to **12 SDGs** and align with **9 GBF targets**, this includes target 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and underscores the cross-cutting nature of this action area.

Commitments from CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature have been integrated into the CBD's Clearing House Mechanism in order to ensure the progress of cities and regions are reflected in the Global Review Process.

5. The road ahead towards 2030

While the growing mobilisation of cities and regions represents a major achievement, the current rate of implementation remains insufficient. **Ambition must be raised across all levels of government**, and the momentum seen to date must translate into deeper, faster and more coordinated action on the ground. Under CBD decision 15/12 of the Plan of Action, Parties committed to support and empower subnational governments, cities and local authorities as essential actors in GBF implementation. This report recalls that commitment and reinforces that the period ahead is one of accountability. The frameworks, decisions and guidance are already in place—what is required now is consistent, urgent and amplified action. The commitments and actions of subnational and local governments can strengthen the likelihood of achieving the 2030 Targets, but more needs to be done by Parties, subnational and local governments and key partners such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments and the European Union's Committee of the Regions, to make this happen the delivery.
