

Cities and Local Authorities At the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

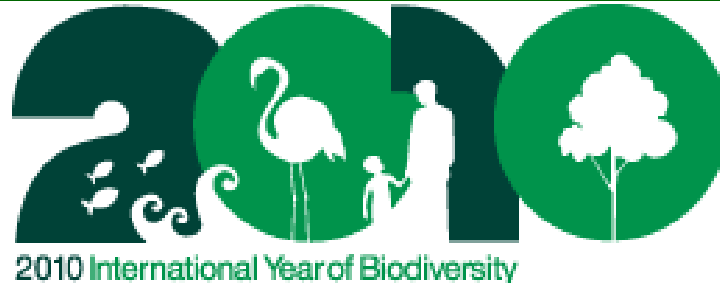
Tim Christophersen
Programme Officer for forest biodiversity

"Biodiversity and Climate Change:
making the connection"

9 December 2009, ICLEI Local Government Lounge



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



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COP 10 / MOP 5

Biodiversity and climate change are inextricably linked

- *Biodiversity and associated ecosystem services are impacted by climate change*
- *Biodiversity can help people adapt to climate change*
- *Biodiversity can help people mitigate climate change*

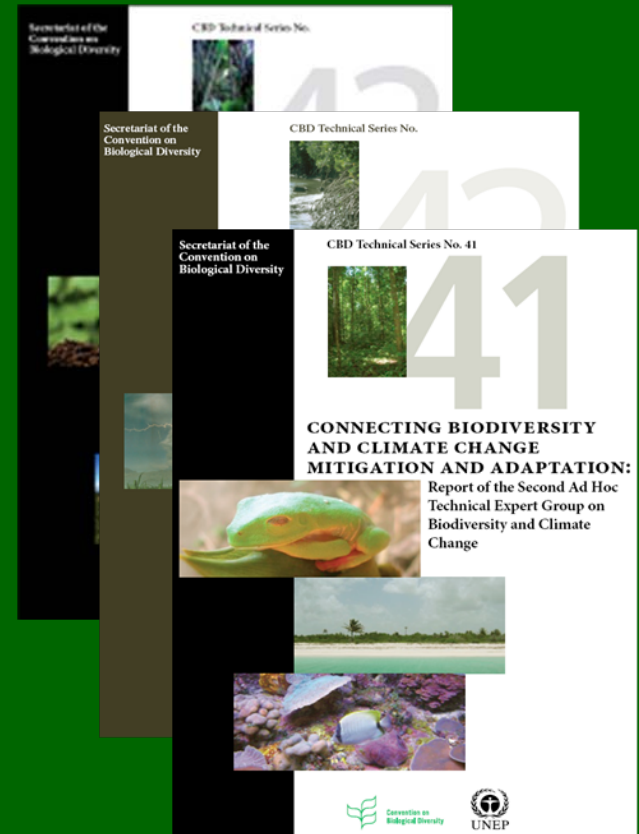




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1. Urban growth, climate change and biodiversity

50% of the population is urban-and growing

Loss of Biodiversity

Ecosystems become less resilient

.... People become more vulnerable to climate change and other global change processes



Reducing the impacts of climate change on urban biodiversity and ecosystems services

- Reducing non-climatic stresses, such as pollution, over-exploitation, habitat loss, fragmentation and invasive alien species
- Wider adaptation of conservation and sustainable use practices including through the strengthening of protected area networks
- Facilitating adaptive management through strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems





2. Role of Cities and Local Authorities



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Cities and Local Authorities and climate change adaptation / mitigation (1)

- (a) Restoration of mangroves and coastal defence
- (b) Sustainable management of wetlands and floodplains for maintenance of water flow and quality
- (c) Conservation and restoration of urban ecosystems



(2)

- d) Integration of biodiversity into infrastructure development
- e) Increasing the diversity of landscapes and interconnecting ecosystems in and around urban areas
- f) Land-use management activities including REDD can cost-effectively contribute to mitigating climate change and conserving biodiversity



Roles of Cities and Local Authorities

- (a) Decision-making centre
- (b) Urban experiences to strengthen national, regional, global policies and strategies;
- (c) Design and implementation of
 - land-use and zoning planning tools
 - urban development
 - investment promotion
 - consumer awareness campaigns;
- (d) Direct influence on biodiversity managers and users at the local level

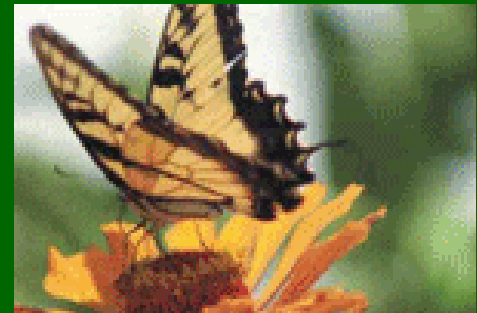


Global recognition of CLA's roles



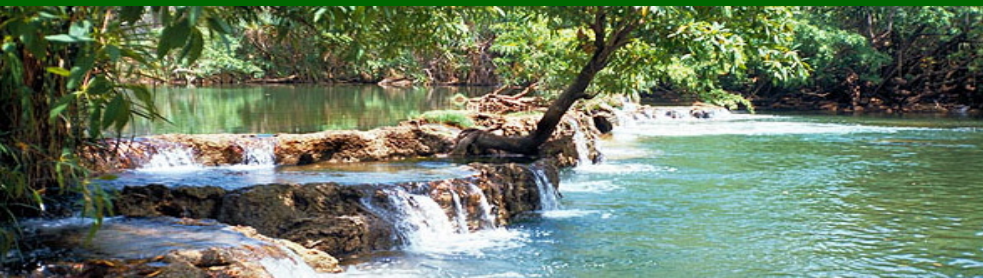
One of the significant achievements of COP9 is the recognition that the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires the **full engagement of cities and local authorities**

Decision IX/28 on Cities and Local Authorities encourages CBD Parties to recognize the role of cities in national strategies and plans, and invites Parties to support and assist cities in implementing the Convention at local level



3. Cities and Local Authorities at the CBD - background

- Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity (March 2007)
- Bonn Call for Action (May 2008)
- Decision IX/28 (May 2008)
- Official launch of the Global Partnership for Cities and Biodiversity at the WWC IUCN World Conservation Congress (October 08)
- Expert meeting on the Singapore City Biodiversity Index (February 2009)



Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity

- Steering committee: city of Montreal, city of Curitiba, City of Bonn, City of Nagoya, Singapore
- Other cities and local authorities
- UN agencies (UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO)
- International organizations (including ICLEI, ICLEI/LAB, IUCN Countdown 2010) and scientific institutions

Facilitator: SCBD



Objective: To improve the contribution of local governments on the strengthening of national policies, regional strategies, and global agendas and raise awareness on biodiversity (including on global biodiversity target)

Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity

Initiated by Minister Mah, Singapore, at COP9

- To support policy makers, measure progress and strengthen national biodiversity monitoring and reporting
- Self-assessment tool
- Indicators integrate the 2010-2020 target
- Can facilitate development of adaptative management strategies



Draft Plan of Action on Urban Biodiversity 2010-20

- Biodiversity incorporated into and measured for urban planning;
- Global platform for CLA partnerships is developed and funded;
- Broader engagement of CLAs in implementing the CBD and better understanding of biodiversity issues by CLA
- CLAs encouraged to prepare Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in line with NBSAPs



4. The plan of action on the road to COP10

- Curitiba 6-7 January : discuss and adopt the “draft plan of action for urban biodiversity 2010-2020”
- Nagoya, Japan, October : Biodiversity City Summit (tentative name)
- Nagoya, Japan, October : Submission of the plan to COP10 for final approval



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2010-2020



Implementation



Events on the road to COP-10

- 22-26 March : World Urban Forum 5, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1 May-31 October : EXPO 2010 Shanghai China
- 14-18 May : URBIS conference in Shanghai
- May : ICLEI/LAB workshop in Shanghai
- 18-23 May : URBIO 2010 in Nagoya, Japan
- July : 2nd Expert Workshop on the City Biodiversity Index
- 30 June - 1 July : World City Summit & Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) Conference, Singapore

Biodiversity is life.
Biodiversity is our life.



