

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY

TELECONFERENCE CALL

9 September 2009, 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Montreal Time)
MINUTES

Participants: *Oliver Hillel ; Chikara Hombo; Chantal Robichaud; Elisa Calcaterra ; Toshitaka Takagi ; Kazuhiro Yokoi ; Ryo Kohsaka ; Kobie Brand ; Wendy Yap ; Susanne Nolden ; Marie Biermann ; Bonnie James ; Norbert Muller ; Tsuyoshi Ito; Michie Kishigami; Christine Alfsen; Andre Mader; Peter Werner; Karin Burhen.*

I. Opening –

II. The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (Wendy Yap)

- Letters signed by the CBD Executive Secretary have been sent on 28 August 2009 to the following Mayors:
 - a) Thanking them for their participation in the test-bedding phase: Montreal, Curitiba, Joondalup, Edmonton, Brussels, Nagoya
 - b) Inviting them to take part in the testing phase: Vancouver, Melbourne, Oslo, Adelaide, Gold Coast, King County-Seattle, Tainan City, Hannover, and to the International Centre for Sustainable Cities.

Ms Calcaterra suggests that a general letter of support be sent to European Capital of Biodiversity project partners. The Secretariat will prepare a draft letter and send to Elisa for review and approval before submitting to ES approval.

- The User's Manual / The testing phase
 - Ms Chan is to work with Mr Elmqvist, Mr Muller and Ms Calcaterra in order to finalize the manual by the end of September 2009.
 - Mr Muller mentioned the possibility of engaging other German cities in the test-bedding phase of the CBI.
 - Mr Werner has been in touch with Frankfurt, St Petersburg and Moscow, which has already shown a clear interest in testing the CBI.
 - Mr Hillel and Ms Yap have reiterated that cities which accept to assess the feasibility of the index and/or verify the availability of data are in fact taking part in the testing phase of the CBI; such reports and inputs can be used to make the index a better tool.
- Introduction of Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) training programme
 - The Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) is Singapore's training centre. Following progress made on the CBI, CUGE will provide a platform to train cities to use the index. For more information on CUGE, please visit: <http://www.cuge.com.sg>

-The second expert meeting on the CBI is planned to take place at the end of June (25-27 tentative) in Singapore, back to back with the World Cities Summit (28 June - 30 June 2010), which includes an urban ecology component.

-Mr Hillel suggested that participants of the Global Partnership (GP), and particularly the Steering Committee take advantage of their presence in Singapore to organize a meeting in Nagoya, Japan, in order to visit the facilities of the City Biodiversity Summit. Ms Yap noted the idea. Mr Ito accepts the proposal and will ask for comments from the Task Force on the preparation of the meeting if it is feasible.

III. The Global Partnership

- The CBD Plan of Action on Urban Biodiversity and the structure and TORs for the Global Partnership (OH)

Mr Hillel invites all participants to comment on the previously distributed structure of implementation of the post-2010 CBD plan of action on urban biodiversity as well as on the background note (annex 2 of the annotated agenda of the Curitiba meeting) and draft plan of action. Two issues are being brought to everyone's attention:

1. Title of the plan of action: should it include the concept of urban biodiversity or the concept of local action for biodiversity?
2. Definition of the roles of the Global Partnership, the Steering committee and ICLEI (the draft structure suggests that the Steering committee works closely with the CBD on the plan and that ICLEI works at implementing the plan).

-Mr Mader pointed out that the term "urban" could limit the scope of action as it represents only one aspect of local biodiversity

-Ms Alfsen reminded us that, due to the fact that the UN (except for UN-Habitat) works directly with national governments, the term "urban" or "urban ecosystems" is used at the UN.

-Ms Nolden supports the concept of "local action for biodiversity" as the term "urban" covers only one aspect of the issue.

-Ms Buhren specified that "urban" is not limited to municipal boundaries and that the concept of urbanization is wider than the municipal level

- Mr Mueller said that the decision will depend on the aims and location of our work. From the scientific point, it is necessary to have urban in the title to express clear what are the aims of this CBD Plan to other aims, programs, activities within the CBD.

Mr Hillel invited participants to submit their comments by email and said that the issue will be further discussed in Curitiba.

- Invitation to UCLG as a supportive institution to ICLEI on biodiversity and to the future plan of action (Elisa Calcaterra & OH)

-Ms Calcaterra will keep the GP partnership of the development in this regard.

IV. ICLEI

- Update of LAB (**Kobie Brand**)

LAB is a project on which ICLEI and IUCN work collaboratively. A major development has been the creation of an advisory committee to provide strategic advice to LAB, composed of 16 members: Local Government Representatives, International Organisation Representatives including CBD ES, Dr Ahmed Djoghla, UNEP, UNDP, GEF, and UN-Habitat, as well as ICLEI and IUCN as observers, and Mr Stephen Granger as Manager of Special Projects, LAB. The first meeting will be held on 18-19 October 2009. Ms Brand wishes to thank all participants for their collaboration.

UCLG and ICLEI are coordinating an event to take place at the UNFCCC on 9 December 2009. It will include an exhibit in the entrance hall and a High level session on Climate Change (inviting members of the LAB advisory committee). The session can provide a platform to discuss preparations of the International Year for Biodiversity. GP Participants are invited to provide Ms Brand with contacts/names of representatives who could take part in the session.

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity -- TEEB D2 (**Oliver Hillel, Andre Mader**)

Mr Hillel said that the TEEB D2 report will include a chapter on local level and local authorities, which provides high visibility in the financial and political sectors. It represents an excellent occasion for ICLEI to contribute and make sure local authorities' views are represented, and include LAB case studies and best practices. Ms Calcaterra participated in a TEEB D2 meeting last week. A conference call with IUCN, Mr Hillel, Mr Augustine (from TEEB) and ICLEI/LAB will be planned in the upcoming days.

V. Updates

1. Curitiba meeting: dates, agenda, outcomes (**Oliver Hillel, on behalf of Curitiba**)

Mr Hillel invited participants to provide comments on the annotated agenda for the Curitiba meeting (which has still to be commented and approved by Curitiba). The 6 -7 January meeting will discuss among other items, preparations for International Year for Biodiversity (IYB), and the draft plan of action. It will be followed on 8 January by a celebration of IYB organized by the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, with the presence of several Ministers.

2. City Biodiversity Summit (tentative name) (**Kazuhiro Yokoi**)

Mr Yokoi said the Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee decided to hold the City Biodiversity Summit at a hotel within Nagoya City. This hotel close to the Nagoya Congress Center, the venue for COP10, and located at the center of Nagoya so its traffic is very convenient. Its capacity for a congress is sufficient to hold 500 participants.

The committee is now preparing the Japanese Pre-City Summit (13 November 2009) and the number of participating municipalities is more than 100. Various levels of local governments from all over Japan such as prefectures, cities, towns, and villages will take part in the Pre-City Summit. Mr Yokoi said they'd like to make this Pre-City Summit a good opportunity to spur more efforts of domestic municipalities in Japan.

Mr Yokoi announced a variety of events will be held next month in commemoration of the occasion of one year before COP 10. The Aichi-Nagoya COP 10 CBD Promotion Committee will hold a commemorative symposium to which they'll welcome Executive Secretary Dr. Djoghla. In conjunction with a commemorative symposium, several sectors such as businesses, academics, and NGOs, will hold a pre-forum toward COP10. Additionally, the committee will hold a CEPA event for citizens including Naturathlon that was also conducted in Bonn, Germany during COP9. They will hold a Naturathlon again during COP 10 next year.

3. URBIO2010 (**Norbert Muller**)

Prof. Kamada and the preparation board has been working on the preparation of the URBIO 2010 conference. Deadline for proposals for parallel sessions is 30 September, and final deadline for presentation application is 31 December 2009. For further information please visit the web Site

<http://www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010/doku.php>

Mr Hillel encourages the publication of the proceedings of URBIO 2008 in view of making it available for COP10. Mr Mueller gives the information that the book will be published by Blackwell and is already in press and that he will inform over the URBIO letter as soon as the book is available.

4. URBIS & towards Shanghai World EXPO (**Christine Alfsen-Norodom**)

Ms Alfsen-Norodom stated that during the URBIS symposium, there will be a High Level conference preceded by a "bridging" workshop aimed at discussing scientific-educational-political issues. Ms Alfsen-Norodom and Ms Brand are looking at ways to engage the GP (to be discussed with Mr Hillel and the Steering Committee). Already, IUCN and UN-Habitat are involved in the activities of the road map to Shanghai. An update will be provided to all after the URBIS Conference International Steering Committee meeting (13-18 October 2009).

For more information on "The Urbis Initiative Symposium-Reconnecting People and Nature in the Urban Landscape, May 2010, Shanghai, People's Republic of China" and on "the Road map to Shanghai 2010", you are invited to consult the documents previously circulated to the GP by Ms Alfsen-Norodom (email 8 September 2009).

Ms Alfsen-Norodom also offered to work with students on a publication on urban issues.

Ms Alfsen-Norodom suggested a the representation of the GP at the IYB/UNESCO official launching event to take place in Paris in January 2010. Mr Hillel mentioned that the outcomes of the discussions on IYB that will take place in Curitiba will be reported at the UNESCO event.

VI. 5th World Urban Forum (**Karin Buhren & Oliver Hillel**)

The participants are encouraged to coordinate their participation at the World Urban Forum 22-26 March in Rio where 10 000 participants are expected to gather including practitioners, mayors, international organization representatives and experts). Ms Buhren stressed that the forum is a good occasion for the GP to reach out to a larger audience. ICLEI/LAB will be present, as well as

IUCN, UNESCO and UN-Habitat. Ms Alfsen-Norodom would like to further discuss with UN-Habitat on how to collaborate.

Ms Nolden mentioned that due to the fact that a new mayor was just elected in Bonn, it is not possible to plan for any travels at this point (the Secretariat will send letters to thank Lady Mayor Dieckmann and welcome Lord Mayor Nimptsch)

VII. Varia

Ms James reminded that the launch of the IYB logo will take place in Montreal on 2 October and encouraged participants to use the logo and promote IYB. The Secretariat will share the logo with everyone on 2 October.

Mr Kohsaka also reminded the participants that the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 is currently open for comments (until 1 October). To enter the review process, visit:

<http://www.cbd.int/gbo3review/>

VIII. Closing of the teleconference