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Item 4.9 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CBD INITIATIVE ON CITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND BIODIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As “Global Biodiversity Outlook 3”,² the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) indicated, the biodiversity target agreed at the sixth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP6) in 2002, “to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth”, has not been met.

2. Since the world’s urban population exceeded its rural population for the first time in 2007, humans are becoming increasingly an urban species, and it is estimated that 70 per cent of the world’s population will live in cities by 2030. Two centuries ago, this number was only 3 per cent. Most of this evolution is occurring in developing countries, which host the largest part of the planet’s biodiversity.³ The accelerating urbanization has claimed more land, put more pressure on habitats around the cities and led to the loss of biodiversity in the area. In addition, production and consumption habits of urban dwellers have serious impact on biodiversity across the globe, even thousands of miles away from the cities. Thus, the impact of urbanization on biodiversity has become an increasing concern.

3. However, at the same time, solutions to biodiversity-related problems are found in cities. More and more, decision-makers in all sectors live and operate in cities, innovative technologies and processes that can facilitate sustainable consumption and production are mostly developed in urban offices, and the concentration of media, resources and people in cities allows for uniquely effective activities in

* UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1.

² CBD, 2010. For more information, please see: <http://gbo3.cbd.int>

³ United Nations Human Settlements Programme, “State of the World’s Cities 2006/7”, Earthscan, London, UK, 2006, 204 pages.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) on biodiversity. As Dr. Jaime Lerner, urban planner and former Mayor of Curitiba stated, “Cities are not the problem, they are the solution.”

4. Actually, cities and local authorities worldwide have been actively involved in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the local level. The City of Toyooka (Japan) has been working on the realization of coexistence of citizens with nature, through re-introduction of the Oriental White Storks and implementation of relevant programmes. At the same time, the city has also been trying to boost the local economy through their eco-friendly initiatives.⁴ The City of Montpellier (France) worked on improving biodiversity in the city’s wastelands and created a green network by connecting green patches, parks, gardens, natural areas and the recovered wastelands in the city.

5. Cities and local authorities have also been active in CEPA activities on biodiversity. Local CEPA activities are very effective since they allow for a close interaction with the citizens, on a daily basis. For example, in Japan, some 111,000 participants from 1,588 groups, in 43 prefectures (out of the total 47 prefectures) joined the CBD *Green Wave* campaign⁵ this year, resulting in nearly 254,000 trees planted. Japanese local authorities are actively involved in this initiative to educate children and youth about biodiversity, through various biodiversity-related activities including tree planting. Since 2010 was proclaimed International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) by the United Nations, celebrations of life on Earth and educational campaigns to increase understanding of the vital role played by biodiversity have been held at the local and community level around the planet. In January 2010, the City of Curitiba in Brazil hosted an international event to celebrate the start of the IYB, at the margins of the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity. That same month, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, an IYB event was hosted by the Aichi-Nagoya COP-10 CBD Promotion Committee, to celebrate the opening of this memorable year and add further momentum towards the upcoming fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP-5) and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10).

6. More and more national governments are supporting their local governments in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the local level. In Spain, through the collaboration between the federal Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, its public foundation, the Biodiversity Foundation, and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities (Federacion espanola de municipios y provincias (FEMP)), a large network of local governments, La Red de Gobiernos Locales+Biodiversidad 2010,⁶ has been established to promote local policies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the conservation of Spain’s natural patrimony. Created in 2007, the network integrates 219 Spanish local authorities, totaling almost 22 million inhabitants. The network offers technical support in promoting biodiversity conservation to its member. Members of the Red are invited to undertake a number of nature conservation activities. The network also carries out a variety of activities at the local level, including an annual competition of biodiversity-related project.

II. EVOLUTION OF THE CBD INITIATIVE ON CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY

7. In early 2006 at the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) General Assembly in Capetown, South Africa, more than 300 local governments’ member to ICLEI called for the establishment of a pilot project on Local Action for Biodiversity (ICLEI-LAB). As a result, 21 Cities representing 52 million started working together with ICLEI and the International Union for Conservation

⁴ See the following Toyooka’s case study and sustainable strategy for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/doc/Toyooka-2010-03-mayor-en.pdf>, <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/doc/Toyooka-2010-03-Strategy-en.pdf>

⁵ See *The Green Wave*’s website for more information: <http://greenwave.cbd.int/en/about-greenwave>

⁶ See the Network’s website for more information: <http://www.redbiodiversidad.es/en.html>

of Nature's (IUCN) Countdown 2010 initiative, to increase political support for biodiversity at the local level and integrate biodiversity considerations into all aspects of local governance through the development of a local government network for biodiversity action.

8. In March 2007, at the initiative of Mayor Richa of Curitiba and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a meeting on "Cities and Biodiversity: Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target",⁷ was held in Curitiba, Brazil. Over 34 mayors or their representatives attended the meeting to discuss biodiversity-related issues in urban area. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity, which reaffirmed the mayors' commitment to contribute actively to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.

9. After the meeting, core members of the meeting task force and the four Steering Committee member cities (Curitiba, Montreal, Bonn and Nagoya) mandated by the Curitiba declaration, formed a global partnership on cities and biodiversity and started working together to generate synergy among the participating organizations to better contribute to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Participants in the partnership hold regular teleconferences, special face-to-face meetings at the margins of relevant biodiversity-related events and regularly welcome new participants from a variety of organizations. Finally, the formal launch of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity⁸ took place at the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 7 October 2008, in Barcelona.

10. Currently, the Global Partnership is composed of the four Steering Committee member cities (Curitiba, Montreal, Bonn and Nagoya), United Nations organizations (SCBD, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNU, etc.), environmental NGOs (ICLEI, IUCN, etc.), scientific network (URBIO), individual cities including Montpellier and Waitakere, a city-State, Singapore, and other partners. Singapore has been playing a leading role in developing the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) in cooperation with the CBD Secretariat and other Global Partnership participants. UNESCO has been leading the Urban Biosphere Network (URBIS) which is a global network of scientists, planners, governments, educators, and policy-makers. The partnership is now developing as an international platform for cross-sectoral discussions and generation of public resources, providing tools for urban planning at a variety of scales. UN-HABITAT and the CBD Secretariat are now compiling a guidebook to present decision-makers at the national level with practical information and advice on how to support and encourage biodiversity action at the local level. This volume will be complemented by a guidebook by ICLEI-LAB for local government biodiversity planning and management. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is now compiling a policy report focusing on the conceptual underpinnings of the relation of city and biodiversity to create the basis for policies at the global, national and local level. ICLEI's LAB project is now entering its second phase with new projects that will reach out to other local governments and support their efforts at biodiversity management. IUCN's Countdown 2010 initiative is supporting the European Capitals of Biodiversity competition project, which is being held in Germany, Hungary, France, Slovakia and Spain, to support and motivate local authorities to increase their efforts at nature protection and conservation of biodiversity.

III. THE ADOPTION OF DECISION IX/28 AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

11. At the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Bonn, in May 2008, the Parties discussed the role of local authorities in the implementation of the Convention and for the first time ever

⁷ See the following CBD's webpage for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MAYORS-01>

⁸ See the following CBD's webpage for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/Gettinginvolved/GlobalPartnership.shtml>

adopted a decision on cities and local authorities, decision IX/28.⁹ This decision encourages the 191 Parties to the Convention to recognize the role of cities and local authorities in national strategies and plans, and invites Parties to support and assist them in implementing the Convention at local level. Indeed, one of the greatest achievements of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties 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.

12. At the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a variety of side events on cities and biodiversity were held. In Erfurt, Germany, the first conference on Urban Biodiversity & Design (URBIO) was held, and 400 scientists, planners and other practitioners from around 50 countries gathered for the first time to discuss the current scientific and practical approaches of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in urban areas. URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research with the aim to promote urban biodiversity through a continuing dialogue with the CBD's Cities and Biodiversity initiative. The second URBIO conference (URBIO2010)¹⁰ was held in May 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, preceding the upcoming tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in October 2010.

13. As the biodiversity meeting for local leaders, "Mayors Conference – Local Action for Biodiversity"¹¹ took place from 26 to 28 May, in Bonn. More than 150 participants (including 50 mayors from 30 countries), representing over 100 million urban dwellers met there to underline the importance of urban biodiversity and exchange their experiences and initiatives on urban biodiversity. The four mayors of the Steering Committee (Curitiba, Montreal, Bonn and Nagoya) and other Global Partnership participants vigorously participated in this conference. The conference resulted in the adoption of the Bonn Call for Action, in which the mayors announce that they offer their experience and influence to strengthen and promote implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity within a global and multilevel partnership.

14. At the High-Level meeting at the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as representatives of the mayors' conference, the four mayors of the Steering Committee delivered the outcomes of the conference to the ministers and high-ranking officials from Parties to the Convention. Additionally, Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister of National Development of Singapore, proposed the CBD-led development of the city biodiversity index. To follow-up on this, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the National Parks Board of Singapore (NParks) jointly organized two Expert Workshops on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI)¹² in Singapore in 2009 and 2010. With active involvement in the development of the index by cities and biodiversity specialists, the index is due to be finalized before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and proposed to be incorporated into the draft CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the draft CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.

15. Coinciding with the adoption of decision IX/28 at COP-9, the role of local government's in protecting the environment as well as the impact of urbanization on the environment have been recognized in relevant environmental conventions. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 2008 (Ramsar-COP10), Resolution X.27 on Wetlands and Urbanization¹³ was adopted. Also, at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC-COP15) in 2009, with

⁹ See the following CBD's webpage for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-28-en.pdf>

¹⁰ See URBIO2010's website for more information: <http://www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010/doku.php>

¹¹ See the Mayors Conference website for more information: <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=6803>

¹² See the information document: UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/4 "Development of the City Biodiversity index – An Evaluation Tools for Cities"

¹³ See the following Ramsar Convention's webpage for more information: http://ramsar.rgis.ch/pdf/res/key_res_x_27_e.pdf

facilitation by ICLEI, local governments participated in UNFCCC plenaries and contributed to the negotiations of the official text of the Conference.

IV. IN 2010: CURRENT STATUS AND WAY FORWARD

16. At the initiative of Mayor Richa of Curitiba and the Secretariat of the CBD, the Second Curitiba meeting on Cities and Biodiversity¹⁴ took place from 6 to 8 January 2010, in Curitiba, Brazil. The meeting was attended by 86 participants, including representatives of 13 cities, from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. Representatives of UN-HABITAT and UNESCO also attended. With presentations by the participants, the following four items were discussed: (1) Preparation of the draft Plan of Action on Cities and Biodiversity; (2) Experience gained in piloting the City Biodiversity Index (CBI); (3) Preparation of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010; and (4) Celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity. At the margins of the meeting, a ceremony to celebrate the start of the IYB was also held. The meeting resulted in the adoption of “Towards Aichi-Nagoya: Second Curitiba Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity”, which highlights the need for a concrete Strategic Plan of Action on Local Authorities and Biodiversity to complement decision IX/28, to be submitted for adoption at COP-10 in October 2010.

17. More recently, the importance of the contribution of cities and local authorities to the Convention on Biological Diversity was recognized at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) and third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3). The draft CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020, as proposed by WGRI-3 under item VI, mentions that initiatives such as promoting engagement of cities and local authorities will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Also, one of the targets for the Strategic Plan set by SBSTTA-14 is that by 2020, the values of biodiversity should be integrated by all countries in their national and local strategies and planning processes, applying the ecosystem approach. SBSTTA-14 also recommended, under the topic of examination of outcome-oriented goals for the Strategic Plan, that the Conference of the Parties recognize the need to contribute to the development and refinement of indicators suitable for monitoring biodiversity at local level.

18. With this increasing recognition of local government’s role in CBD, the draft CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity 2011-2020¹⁵ has been developed, under the leadership of Brazil. This Plan is intended to support Parties, their partners and local authorities in implementing paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of decision IX/28, as well as the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention, the 2020 target and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, according to each Party’s specific governance arrangements and legislation. A wide-ranging consultation process with Parties, cities and local authorities has been held by the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity at various events throughout 2010, which will culminate with the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 on October 24-26, 2010, to be held as an associated event to COP-10 in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan.

V. CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT COP-10

19. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties represents an opportunity for the adoption of a second decision on cities and local authorities which introduces the CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a tool of implementation. The draft decision and plan of action will be discussed under agenda item 4.9 on Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives, engagement of stakeholders, including business and biodiversity, cities and biodiversity, and South/South cooperation.

¹⁴ See the following CBD’s webpage for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MAYORS-02>

¹⁵ See the following CBD’s webpage for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/strategicplan.shtml>

20. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, cities and local authorities around the world and the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity will actively participate in the COP-10 side-events and other relevant events. On 22 October, a side-event “Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity: Improving cooperation for local implementation of CBD” will provide an occasion for ICLEI, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and representatives of the Global Partnership to update the CBD Parties on the development of the draft Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity 2011-2020, and highlight examples of successful cooperation between national, subnational and local governments in biodiversity management.

21. As an associated event to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Aichi Prefecture, City of Nagoya and the Aichi-Nagoya COP-10 CBD Promotion Committee will host the City Biodiversity Summit 2010¹⁶ in close cooperation with ICLEI and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The city summit will convene local governments around the world to exchange information and experiences on local biodiversity management. Additionally, representatives of Parties to the Convention will attend the conference to discuss the draft CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the local leaders.

22. The Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity is planning numerous activities at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The launch of the twin biodiversity guidebook by ICLEI and UN-HABITAT/SCBD will take place in Nagoya. Also, the global partnership will take part in the following events and activities: Rio conventions’ Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion; Fair on Experiences and Best Practices in CEPA; and booth exhibitions at the Interactive Fair for Biodiversity to name a few.

VI. TOOLBOX AND RESOURCES

23. Parties are invited to consult the following resources:

(a) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans considering cities and local authorities: For example, the Third National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/jp/jp-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>) mentions that the Government will provide guidelines for developing the strategies on a prefectural level to encourage effective strategy development and activity implementation on the local level.

(b) The new publication by UN-HABITAT/SCBD: A guidebook “Supporting Local Action for Biodiversity: The Role of National Governments” presents biodiversity decision-makers at the national level with practical information and advice on how to support and encourage biodiversity action at the local level. This guidebook will be launched at COP-10 and will be made available on the CBD webpage on Cities and Local Authorities.

(c) The CBD webpage on Local Authorities (<http://www.cbd.int/authorities>): This webpage contains a variety of information on local authorities and biodiversity, ranging from the Global Partnership on Cities and Local Authorities, the draft CBD Plan of Action, the City Biodiversity Index, case-studies, information resources, etc.

(d) The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity report for local policy (TEEB-D2): TEEB study is a major international initiative to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, and its D2 report is for local and regional policymakers, administrators and managers. The report will explore and give practical guidance on how to deal with the challenge of biodiversity loss at a local and regional level and examine what local governments can do with respect to natural resource use and management, maintaining and supporting biodiversity, local and regional urban and spatial design, as

¹⁶ See City Biodiversity Summit 2010’s website for more information: <http://www.cop10.jp/citysummit/english/index.html>

well as market-based approaches, such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). The report will be made available at <http://www.teebweb.org>.

24. Cities and local authorities are invited to consult the following resources:

(a) The new publication by ICLEI-LAB (Local Action for Biodiversity) Program: A guidebook “The Local Action for Biodiversity Guidebook: Biodiversity Management for Local Governments” presents practical information and advice for local governments in planning for and managing their local biodiversity, drawing on the experiences of the 21 LAB pioneer local governments and others. The Guidebook also draws on the biodiversity reports produced by the LAB Pioneers and the lessons learned through their experiences, as well as a variety of publications in the available literature.

(b) ICLEI-LAB Programme Website (<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=lab>): Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is a global biodiversity programme coordinated by ICLEI in partnership with IUCN. LAB’s approach is action-oriented and customised for local and regional authorities and their partners around the world, with the goal of improved and effective biodiversity management at the local level. This website contains full of useful information for local governments such as updates on the LAB Programme, case-studies, biodiversity reports, event information, etc.

(c) The City Biodiversity Index (CBI): CBI is a self-assessment tool for cities worldwide to benchmark conservation efforts in the urban context at the city level, and help evaluate progress in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in urban ecosystems. Following two expert workshops on the development of the Index and the testing of the provisional Index by more than 15 cities worldwide, the revised User’s Manual for the CBI will be made available at: <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml>
