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Item 5.4 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SINGAPORE INDEX ON CITIES' BIODIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

BACKGROUND

1. In its decision X/22, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020). The Plan of Action encourages Parties to actively engage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Plan of Action also advocates the use of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI), also known as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (Singapore Index) as a monitoring tool to assist local authorities to evaluate their progress in urban biodiversity conservation.

2. The present document reports on progress in the development of the Singapore Index since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The document has been prepared by the Government of Singapore and is being submitted in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

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Annex

I. THE SINGAPORE INDEX ON CITIES' BIODIVERSITY – AN EVALUATION TOOL FOR CITIES

1. The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate their biodiversity conservation efforts. It comprises 23 indicators under three core components: (a) native biodiversity in the city; (b) ecosystem services provided by biodiversity in the city; and (c) governance and management of biodiversity in the city. The development of the index was led by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in partnership with Singapore and the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity.

2. Following the endorsement of the Plan of Action at COP 10, the index was shared with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011- 2020, held from 20 to 24 June 2011 in High Wycombe, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The index was proposed as a tool to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 at the subnational, local and city levels.

II. AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

3. In decision X/7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene a meeting, at the earliest opportunity, of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and provided the terms of reference for the Group. The AHTEG meeting took place from 20 to 24 June 2011 in High Wycombe, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. The need for technical expertise in all areas covered by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and the desire to enable engagement of the large number of interested stakeholders led to the proposal, endorsed by the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, of organizing an International Expert Workshop in support of the AHTEG on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which was held concurrently with the AHTEG meeting.

5. The AHTEG had before it documents on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-SP-Ind/1/2) and Possible indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-SP-Ind/1/2/Add.1). It also had before it a number of information documents, including the paper "Monitoring Biodiversity Conservation in Cities with the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity" (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-SP-Ind/1/INF/4).

6. In considering these items, the AHTEG, together with the International Expert Meeting, worked in groups and in plenary and considered the framework for indicators, operational indicators and their prioritization as well as their suitability for communication purposes. The Group developed a set of 12 headline indicators around these questions, noting that each headline indicator covers several sub-topics for which distinct metrics are required. The Group listed a number of operational indicators and categorized them as: A - global priority and ready for use (22 indicators); B - priority for development at global level (36 indicators); C –for consideration at sub-global level (39 indicators). The list of indicators that is not considered to be a priority globally could be expanded, taking into account ongoing processes of partner organizations and the experience of Parties at regional, national and sub-national levels.

III. THIRD EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX, 11-13 OCTOBER 2011, SINGAPORE

7. The Third Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index was held in Singapore from 11 to 13 October 2011. The workshop was organized in close consultation with the members of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, an open platform of cities, city networks, United Nations agencies and NGOs. A brief summary of the report is presented below. The report of the workshop (UNEP/CBD/EW-DCBI/3/2) is available at http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-03.

8. The objectives of the workshop were primarily to finalize the scoring of the indicators of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity; and define ways to further expand the use of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity for cities (such as in planning and baseline setting) and for other levels of subnational government, and to provide for the governance of its standards and means of application.

9. NParks presented the proposed methodology and scoring ranges for the following seven indicators that required statistical normalization based on data received from cities as well as publicly sourced data:

(a) Indicator 2: Connectivity measures or ecological networks to counter fragmentation;

(b) Indicator 3: Native biodiversity in built-up areas (bird species);

(c) Indicator 9: Proportion of protected natural areas;

(d) Indicator 11: Regulation of quantity of water;

(e) Indicator 12: Climate regulation: carbon storage and cooling effect of vegetation;

(f) Indicator 15: Budget allocated to biodiversity;

(g) Indicator 16: Number of biodiversity projects implemented by the city annually.

10. Participants noted that only 13 cities returned the data on the above seven indicators. For a more robust statistical normalisation exercise, the participants proposed that data from at least 50 cities was required.

11. Participants also reviewed all 23 indicators of the Index and where necessary, suggested improvements to provide greater clarity in the data that were required. Amendments were made on Indicators 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 23. The revised version of the City Biodiversity Index (Singapore Index) dated 7 December 2011 is available on the CBD webpage (http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-03).

12. Cities were requested to share their application of the Singapore Index with their respective national governments, so that it can be incorporated in the national reporting to the CBD. The participants also suggested the establishment of regional nodes/ hubs to provide cities' with support on the application of the Singapore Index.

IV. APPLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE INDEX ON CITIES' BIODIVERSITY

13. As of August 2012, more than 70 cities are in various stages of test-bedding:

Cities which have provided their results for the Singapore Index	Cities which have agreed to apply the Singapore Index
1. Belgium: Brussels Capital Region 2. Brazil: Curitiba 3. Canada: Calgary 4. Canada: Edmonton 5. Canada: Montreal 6. Estonia: Tallinn 7. France: Montpellier 8. Germany: Frankfurt 9. Germany: Heidelberg 10. India: Mira Bhayandar 11. Indonesia: Bandung 12. Japan: Chiba 13. Japan: Fukuoka 14. Japan: Hiroshima 15. Japan: Kawasaki 16. Japan: Kitakyusyu 17. Japan: Kobe 18. Japan: Kyoto 19. Japan: Nagoya 20. Japan: Osaka 21. Japan: Sapporo 22. Japan: Sendai 23. Japan: Tokyo 24. Japan: Yokohoma 25. New Zealand: Auckland 26. New Zealand: Hamilton 27. New Zealand: Waitakere City 28. Portugal: Lisbon 29. Singapore 30. South Africa: Durban 31. Thailand: Bangkok 32. Thailand: Chiang Mai 33. Thailand: Krabi 34. Thailand: Phuket 35. United Kingdom: Edinburgh 36. United Kingdom: London	1. Australia: Joondalup 2. Cambodia: Phnom Penh 3. Cambodia: Siem Reap 4. Canada: Calgary 5. Canada: Ottawa 6. Canada: Vancouver 7. China: HePing 8. China: Hong Kong 9. European cities participating in the European Capitals of Biodiversity Competition (from five countries – France, Germany, Hungary, Spain and Slovakia) 10. Finland: Helsinki 11. France: French Regions 12. France: Paris 13. Guatemala: Guatemala City 14. India: Hyderabad 15. India: Thane Municipal Corporation 16. India: Visakhapatnam 17. Indonesia: Padang 18. Indonesia: Pekanbaru 19. Israel: Jerusalem 20. Lao PDR: Luang Prabang 21. Lao PDR: Vientiane 22. Lao PDR: Xayaboury 23. Malaysia: Kuantan 24. Malaysia: Sibu 25. Mexico: Mexico City 26. Netherlands: Amsterdam 27. New Zealand: Plymouth 28. New Zealand: Wellington 29. Philippines: Iloilo City 30. Philippines: Puerto Princesa City 31. Philippines: Quezon City 32. Portugal: Porto 33. South Africa: Johannesburg 34. Spain: Barcelona 35. Spain: Ourense 36. Sweden: Stockholm 37. Sweden: Malmo 38. USA: New York 39. Viet Nam: Danang 40. Viet Nam: Hanoi

14. To facilitate application by cities from different regions and cultures, the Singapore Index is being translated into several languages. Through Montreal, Canada, and Natureparif from Paris, the User's Manual has been translated to French. The Federal Ministry for Environment (Germany) with assistance from Mr. Peter Werner (Institute for Housing and Environment, Darmstadt, Germany) has translated it to German. University of Lisbon is working on translating the User's Manual to Portuguese, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan is developing a Japanese version of the Singapore Index which caters to specific needs and context of Japanese cities. IUCN France is also currently exploring the application of the Singapore Index at the French regional level.

15. Although the Singapore Index was originally designed as a monitoring tool at the city level, other applications of CBI have emerged:

(a) The indicators can act as guidelines on how to conserve and enhance biodiversity in cities. In Lisbon, the application of the Singapore Index led to the development of a Biodiversity Strategy and a Local Action Plan for Lisbon.

(b) The index is not restricted to cities and can be applied at different scales. Singapore has used the index at the sub-city level, in the master planning of new districts. Perak, Malaysia has expressed interest to apply the Singapore Index at the state level. IUCN France is also exploring the application of the Singapore Index at the French regional level.

(c) The index can be incorporated as a biodiversity component of broader environmental indices. In Singapore, the index has been incorporated into the Building and Construction Authority's Green Mark for Districts, which is a certification to promote environment-friendly and sustainable development at the district level. The index has also been used as part of the scoring criteria for the European Capitals of Biodiversity Competition.

16. The next stage is to ensure that cities conduct assessments based on the Singapore Index at regular intervals to monitor their progress in conserving urban biodiversity. The User's Manual recommends cities to score the index every three years.

17. Cities' experiences in applying the Singapore Index, the challenges they face, lessons learnt and success stories will be documented and the information made available through the CBD website. A two page summary write-up of each city will be generated as more cities submit results of their application. Cities' data will also contribute to the global assessment of urban biodiversity trends in future editions of the City Biodiversity Outlook. National governments will also benefit from cities' results - where cities' contribution to biodiversity conservation can be included in the national reports to the CBD.
