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ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND MAJOR GROUPS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Effective implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan 2011-2020 depends on the participation and engagement of stakeholders and indigenous and local communities. This is recognized by the fact that most decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties invite the participation of relevant stakeholders and indigenous and local communities. Accordingly, progress in the engagement of stakeholders is described in the documents relevant to specific programme areas and cross-cutting issues. In addition, progress in engaging stakeholders in the context of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity is presented in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/16. Progress in the engagement of the business community and regarding the gender plan of action are also reported in separate documents (respectively, UNEP/CBD/COP/11/18/Add.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/11/32). Progress in the participation and engagement of indigenous and local communities is reported under agenda item 7 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/7).

2. This document, therefore, focuses on the follow up to decisions on promoting engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities. Consideration is also given to engagement of civil society in the processes of the Convention and its implementation; and activities of the Convention related to children and youth carried in the context of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA).

3. In addition to these matters, the Conference of the Parties is also invited to consider WGRI recommendation 4/8 on a Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/4), presented to the Working Group as document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/10.

II. SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

4. In decision IX/28, the Parties to the Convention recognized the critical contribution of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Increased partnerships and cooperation between national, subnational and local governments led to decision X/22, which endorsed a Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity and in paragraph 7 requested the Executive Secretary to report on its implementation at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Plan of Action supports the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The

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engagement of local and sub-national authorities, through guidelines provided by Parties, can leverage additional and complementary action and resources in all programmes of work and cross-cutting issues in the Convention, and has been the object of several initiatives of participants in the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-National Action for Biodiversity, a multi-stakeholder platform of Parties to the Convention, networks of sub-national and local authorities, United Nations agencies, NGOs and specialists. The Global Partnership, following guidance from the Plan of Action, has established two distinct advisory bodies (the Advisory Committee of Cities and the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments) to guide its activities – additionally, the academic community has organized URBIO, a network holding large conferences every two years, and a number of United Nations and international agencies are also represented in the Global Partnership.

5. Local and sub-national governments are recognized as “major groups” by the United Nations (Agenda 21) and by the CBD. The Rio + 20 outcomes include several paragraphs (134-137) on the issue, which contributes to the process outlined in this document. Governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services implies coherent policy tools and mandates across all levels of government and connects complementary mandates from national policy and planning to landscape-level strategies and on-the-ground legal frameworks, enforcement and action.

6. The strength of these links is clearly illustrated in the Convention’s programme of work, as illustrated in the following table.

Thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues	Bearing on Local and/or Sub-national Government
Agricultural biodiversity and food security	Urban and peri-urban landscapes are used in agriculture and animal husbandry in developing countries, as a critical alternative for livelihood and food security in case of disruption of transportation systems in extreme weather and environmental disasters.
Inland waters biodiversity	Land-use regulation mandates of local governments are critical to ensure quality of water in cities. Governance of catchment areas and watersheds, as well as arrangements for the payment of ecosystem services in water filtration and supply, are usually mandates for consortia of cities and States.
Biodiversity for development	A large part of the additional 3 billion people coming to life from 2010 to 2050 will be migrants into urban and peri-urban low-cost housing and slums in Africa and Asia. Urbanization can be an engine of social ascension: a global 6% decline in the proportion of populations in slums from 2001 to 2010 is widely considered to have been achieved through the actions of municipalities (UN/DESA report to General Assembly, 2011).
Climate change and biodiversity	Actions at local level (such as restoration of mangroves and riverine forests and enforcement of permanent legal reserves of land at foothills and estuaries) respond in an integrated way to challenges across all Rio and biodiversity liaison conventions.
Communication, education and public awareness	Municipalities are the level of government closest to the people and have a number of tools at their disposal to promote CEPA, as well as a number of potential partners - universities, schools and business. Campaigns by CBD COP host cities (Curitiba, Bonn, Nagoya, and Hyderabad) demonstrate the potential of large-scale and high-impact awareness-raising of the citizens of host cities.
Invasive alien species	Sea ports, land borders and airports are the primary entry points for invasive species. Management and enforcement of IAS control regulations are very often within the mandate of cities.
Protected areas	In the US, and presumably in most developed countries, the consolidated investment of all local authorities in protected area systems is up to three times

	that of States and national governments. Parks managed by local and sub-national governments also contribute to the wellbeing of citizens by offering access to nature to the majority of the world's citizens – many of whom would not otherwise be able to experience it.
Sustainable use of biodiversity	Cities are responsible for the vast majority of the world's resource utilization and waste production. City and regional governments typically represent significant purchasing power within their jurisdictions and green public procurement can therefore have a powerful influence on the way local economies interact with biodiversity.
Tourism and biodiversity	The governance of tourism destinations (including the health of their ecosystems) is most often the responsibility of destination management organizations where cities and states play a prominent role. Local authorities can also involve private tourism investors more effectively in pay-back systems and fees for protected areas and for environmental management.
Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices - Article 8(j)	The majority of indigenous and local communities now live in cities. Their growing influence on urban planning and management presents opportunities for the preservation of their heritage, including its relationship with biodiversity.

7. A number of Parties to the CBD (including Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea and the United Kingdom) have informed the Secretariat on their response to the Plan of Action and increasingly recognized the critical role of local and subnational governments in support of the implementation of the CBD. These local and subnational government-focused actions, which typically involve participants of the Global Partnership, include the development of tools; the provision of resources and support; capacity-building and awareness-raising; formation of partnerships; promulgation of enabling legislation; and the provision of networking opportunities, as per chapter D of the Plan of Action endorsed through decision X/22. Further details of these actions can be found in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/32, prepared as a response to paragraph 7 of decision X/22.

8. Acting on paragraph 6 of decision X/22, a second "Cities for Life" Summit will be held in parallel with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India, on October 15 and 16, 2012, this time complemented by a meeting of State governments, to support their nations' implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and demonstrate the commitment of sub-national and local governments worldwide. Among other publications and, as requested by decision X/22 (paragraph 6), the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook will be launched at the Summit. In this publication, combining science and policy, scientists from around the world will analyze how urbanization and urban growth impact biodiversity and ecosystems, delivering key messages on the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources to decision-makers.

9. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a network of over 1,200 cities worldwide, has pledged its strong support for the Plan of Action in an unprecedented agreement with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which an expert has been seconded for two years to strengthen the Secretariat's ability to support the Parties' strategies. As a result, the series of NBSAP review workshops organized by the Secretariat with the support of the Japan Fund have benefitted from increased input of local governments. One of these workshops – for the Mediterranean region held in Montpellier, France, in January 2012, took this idea further by integrating the participation of State/Provincial and local governments into regional biodiversity strategies, with the proposed establishment of a network of local authorities on Mediterranean biodiversity (MEDIVERCITIES), and this model provides a template for additional integrated meetings in the future. A similar approach, focused on marine and coastal

biodiversity, will be developed by the urban conglomerate of Brest Métropole Océane in the International Network of Marine Science Territories (MarITIN).

10. In a further effort to complement and respond to Parties' fulfilment of the Plan of Action, the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action on Biodiversity is planning a coordinated response through four complementary Implementation Plans, to be announced at the City Summit in Hyderabad. A local government response will be led by ICLEI; subnational governments will be led by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD); a response from academia will be led by URBIO - an open worldwide scientific network for education and research with the aim of promoting urban biodiversity; and a response from United Nations and international agencies will be led by UNEP.

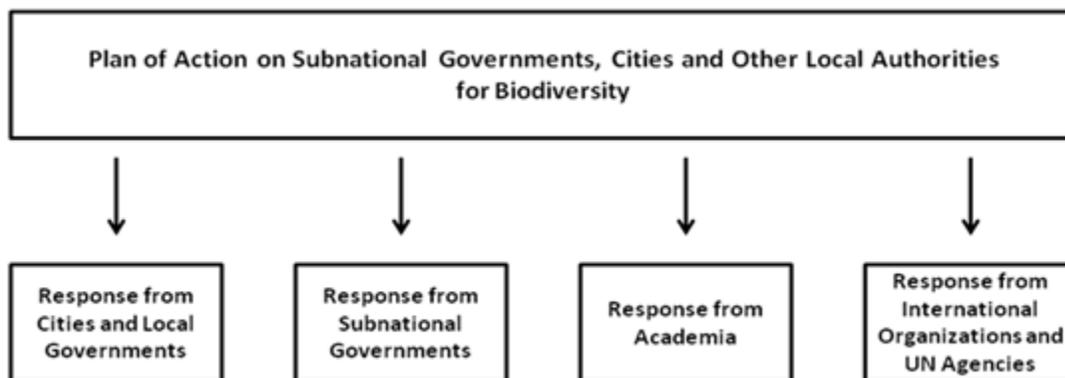


Figure: Illustration of the grouping of stakeholders producing response strategies to complement the CBD's implementation of the Plan of Action

II. ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

11. The Secretariat has continued to contribute to United Nations system-wide efforts related to youth development, through its membership of, and participation in, the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD). In 2011-2012, the IANYD has contributed to the Secretary-General's Five-year Action Agenda and preparation of a draft system-wide action plan on youth. The Secretariat participated, through teleconference, in the regular meetings of the Network and the 2011 annual general meeting of the IANYD.

12. To support the objectives of Parties to raise awareness and involve young people in actions to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, during the biennium the Secretariat has continued to undertake, and support, the development of educational resources for children and youth. Financial contribution from the Government of Canada has contributed to this and work has been undertaken through partnership with relevant organizations and networks including UNESCO and FAO.

13. In 2011 and 2012, children and youth contributed to the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity through participation in events linked to *The Green Wave* for biodiversity. Since it was launched in 2008, this initiative has involved more than 4,500 groups of participants in over 70 countries. Organizations in a number of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have promoted participation at national or subnational level. Regionally, the Japan-based non-governmental organization, OISCA International has supported participation of schools and groups in the numerous countries in Asia in which OISCA is active in rural development efforts. In 2012, with the financial support of Canada, work has been undertaken to renovate the website. Also with the financial support of Canada, the

Secretariat has commissioned a review on the current state of knowledge on the relation between children's health and their contact with nature.

14. The Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the development of non-formal learning materials for children and youth related to biodiversity, environment and sustainable development. A Biodiversity Challenge Badge has been completed and launched.¹ A Youth Guide to Biodiversity is in final stage of publication. The Challenge Badge has been promoted and made available through *The Green Wave* and is actively being used by national members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to educate and engage young people in actions related to the objectives of the Convention. A similar Challenge Badge on the theme of Forests and another on Water are close to completion. As part of this joint initiative, an Art Contest on the theme of Forest was held in 2011 to mark the International Year of Forest.

15. Among international initiatives held with the support of Parties to the Convention, the youth initiative Go4BioDiv, supported by the Government of Germany and IUCN, supported the involvement of youth in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, with the additional support of UNESCO and the Government of India, has prepared a similar initiative to coincide with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat has provided advice and support to a network of youth, many of whom were active during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the conceptualization and launch of an initiative for a Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN). Development of the Network has been prepared by an interim steering committee, comprising young people from thirteen countries.

16. A kick-off meeting was held to launch the Network in Berlin, Germany, from 21-27 August 2012, hosted by NAJU (the German Youth Association for the Protection of Nature). The emphasis of the conference was on the establishment of GYBN and the preparation of youth for participation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including policy briefings on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the main issues on the agenda of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Network's vision is to create a global platform that will enable young environmentalists from all parts of the world to connect in order to collaborate for the protection of biodiversity. GYBN aspires to become an international coordination platform for youth-participation in the CBD processes to articulate the opinions of youth on issues addressed by the Convention.

III. ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

17. During the biennium, the Secretariat took part in and supported consultative activities and initiatives undertaken by civil society and worked to ensure the active participation of civil society in the processes and meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

18. Non-governmental organizations participated as observers at the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ICNP 1 and ICNP 2); the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions; the fifteenth and sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; and at the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 4).

19. To support the participation of non-governmental organizations in the processes of the Convention, the Secretariat provided liaison with the CBD Alliance which serves as a network of representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs), social movements and Indigenous Peoples' organizations (IPOs) advocating for improved and informed participation in processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Secretariat's support includes

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/groups/youth/greenwave/biodiversity-challenge-badge-en.pdf>

provision of meeting space at the margins of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, briefings and regular communication with the coordinator of the Alliance.

20. In collaboration with the CBD Alliance, three issues of a newsletter for civil society, “Square Brackets”, were published and distributed during the biennium. The newsletter intends to facilitate timely dialogue among civil society stakeholders on current biodiversity issues, from both policy (advocacy and decision-making) and practical (implementation) perspectives. The fifth issue of the newsletter was distributed in the margins of the ICNP 1 in June 2011, the sixth issue was published in May 2012 to coincide with the WGRI 4 and the seventh issue will be released at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. To strengthen the contribution of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, during the biennium the Executive Secretary has established new agreements of cooperation with a number of civil society organizations and networks. These include the AEON Environmental Foundation, Birdlife International, the Japan Committee for IUCN (IUCN-J), Organization for Industrial, Spiritual, Cultural Advancement International (OISCA International), RARE Conservation, the Sedna Foundation, the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) and the World Future Council, in addition to numerous new agreements established with scientific, academic and United Nations partners.

22. Among these, the Secretariat has partnered with the AEON Environmental Foundation to co-organize the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity as a way of promoting public engagement in positive action for biodiversity. The MIDORI Prize was established by the AEON Environmental Foundation in 2010 as a biennial prize to honour outstanding individuals who have contributed towards the objectives of the Convention. With a monetary prize of \$100,000 awarded to each of three winners each biennium, the MIDORI Prize aspires to become a premier environmental award, dedicated to biodiversity and the objectives of the Convention.

23. The Secretariat has also supported a global initiative pioneered and being coordinated by the Danish Board of Technology (DBT) through financial support provided them by the Government of Denmark and the Villum Foundation – World Wide Views (WWV) on Biodiversity. Through the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, the Secretariat has enabled the participation of institutions in fifteen developing countries, primarily non-governmental organizations, which will join with WWV partners in other countries in conducting public consultations on the knowledge and views of ordinary people about biodiversity and choices in policy and actions. The project will contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 and to building experience and capacity of participating institutions for similar and follow-up work. Further information is provided on the project website.²

IV. DRAFT DECISION ELEMENTS RELATED TO ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND MAJOR GROUPS

24. At its fourth meeting, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention prepared recommendation 4/8 on a Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/4) including a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

² <http://biodiversity.wwviews.org/>

25. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider the following additional elements of a decision, arising out of the progress reported on above and in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/32 related to sub-national and local implementation:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity;

2. *Takes note of* the recommendations of the first edition of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook, as an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity requested in paragraph 6 of decision X/22;

3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to provide their local and sub-national governments with guidelines and capacity-building initiatives to develop, enhance or adapt local and sub-national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or to mainstream biodiversity into sustainable development, land-use and/or climate change adaptation and mitigation plans as appropriate, in line with their NBSAPs, to ensure harmonious and coherent implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi targets at all levels of governance;

4. *Further invites* Parties, development organizations and other donors to support initiatives by networks of local and sub-national governments that complement the Plan of Action and contribute directly to the Parties' achievement of the Aichi Targets, such as ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity Initiative and Cities in Biodiversity Hotspots Initiative; and TEEB valuation exercises at the local and sub-national level;

5. *Encourages* Parties to establish indicator systems linked to the CBD Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, based for instance on the City Biodiversity Index and including data research, collection and dissemination at sub-national and local levels, to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the Plan of Action, the ecological footprints of urban settlements and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in general, in particular for the fifth National Reports;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action on Biodiversity and its activities, as an effective platform for scientific and technical cooperation, for capacity development and for the dissemination of best practices for the local and sub-national implementation of the Convention, and to continue to involve local and sub-national authorities in the series of workshops to review and update NBSAPs, including regional activities, such as the MEDIVERCITIES network proposed by the "Mediterranean Regional Workshop for Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Coordinating Local and National Action in the Mediterranean Basin" held in Montpellier, in January 2012.
