



COMMUNIQUÉ

The Preparation of the Global City and Biodiversity Outlook launched

Montreal, 15 September 2011 – In the context of the Second Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity, held in Bonn, Germany, from 4 to 6 September 2011, Stockholm University (SU), through the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the preparation of the first edition of the Global City and Biodiversity Outlook to be submitted to the second Summit on Cities and Biodiversity to be held in Hyderabad, India on 15-16 October 2012 just prior to the High Level Segment of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The City and Biodiversity Outlook will present the status of biodiversity in urban area highlighting best practices and lessons learned on urbanisation and biodiversity.

The MoC was signed in Bonn on 6 September 2011 by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Ahmed Djoghlaif, by the Vice-Chancellor of Stockholm University, Kåre Bremer, SRC Director, Johan Rockström and SRC professor, Dr. Thomas Elmqvist. The ceremony took place with the participation of the Mayor of Bonn, Jogen Nimptsch.

Dr. Elmqvist said: “Due to our inter-disciplinary approach towards governance of social-ecological systems, the Stockholm Resilience Centre has been fully involved with the CBD initiative on cities and biodiversity since 2008. SRC is proud to be at the forefront of this process to manage biodiversity and ecosystem services sustainably in the urban context. We’re confident that, with the support of the Global Partnership, we will produce essential knowledge needed to steer urban development onto a sustainable path. By linking a more extensive scientific version of the City Biodiversity Outlook to its policy-making synthesis, we’re emphasizing one of the most valuable characteristics of the Convention: groundbreaking science supporting strategic decision-making.”

Ahmed Djoghlaif said: “The City and Biodiversity Outlook will be a major tool to monitor the implementation of the Singapore Urban Biodiversity Index, now implemented in more than 50 cities. In a more and more urbanized planet, this major publication will bring the message to the people of the world that the battle for life on Earth will be won or lost in the cities and confirm the wisdom of the former Mayor of Curitiba, Jaime Lerner, who said that cities are not the problem but part of the solution.”

The First Summit on Cities and Biodiversity held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 with the participation of more than 650 municipality representatives, including 200 mayors, finalized a plan of action on cities and biodiversity which was subsequently endorsed by the 18,500 participants in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In endorsing this plan of action the 193 Parties and their partners requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity based on the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, to be held in 2012.

With this MoC, the SU-SRC and the Convention Secretariat will work together to produce the first edition of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO-1), a global initiative that will combine science and policy, where scientists from around the world will analyse how urbanization and urban growth impacts biodiversity and ecosystems, delivering key messages on the conservation and the sustainable use of

natural resources to decision makers. Cities, local authorities and sub-national governments will have the opportunity to showcase their practices on sustainability and biodiversity and learn from existing experiences how to incorporate those topics in their agendas and policies.

Activities under the MoC include both organizations collaborating on the production of two publications: the CBO-1 (Synthesis); and CBO-1 (Scientific Foundation). The Synthesis aims at providing knowledge and guidance to policy makers on urbanization and biodiversity and at reinforcing the role of sub-national governments and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention. It will be an edited collaborative publication under the overall coordination of the Convention Secretariat, with Ahmed Djoghlaif as main editor. The Scientific Foundation will underpin CBO-1 (Synthesis) and synthesize relevant studies on links between urbanization and biodiversity, and the impacts of urbanization on ecosystem services, and will be edited by Dr. Thomas Elmqvist and Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, United States of America.

To support content development, accuracy and global scope, CBO-1 relies on a network of scientists, scientific institutions, more than 10 United Nations agencies and international organizations, specialists and decision-makers that represent more than 1,300 cities and sub-national governments worldwide. To ensure synergy among the experts and the organizations within the network, the CBO-1 will be assisted by an Inter-Agency Task-force and an Advisory Committee, as well as the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-National Action for Biodiversity.

The CBO-1 (Synthesis) will be presented at Rio+20 and submitted to the World Cities' Summit in Singapore, in June 2012, and officially launched at the second City Biodiversity Summit parallel to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2012. The CBO-1 (Scientific Foundation) will include in-depth analyses and undergo a careful peer-review process. Preliminary versions will be distributed at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the final edition printed and published in 2013.

For more information:

www.cbd.int/authorities

The Stockholm Resilience Centre: www.stockholmresilience.org

The Global Partnership on Local and Sub-National Action for Biodiversity: www.cbd.int/authorities
