



**Message from Ms. Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General,  
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability  
on the occasion of Biodiversity Day 2022**

Nature supports people in countless ways, yet too often we continue to destroy nature instead of cherishing and protecting it. Together all of humanity must act boldly and urgently to restore our relationship with nature and build a shared future for all life on Earth. [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#) works with cities and territories around the world to promote and implement nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and green & blue infrastructure. We actively encourage, enable and support cities to bring nature back into all aspects of urban life for human health and wellbeing. In the [CitiesWithNature](#) initiative, we collaborate with 20 global partner organisations and over 200 cities to this end. We call on cities - large and small - to join CitiesWithNature and to share their actions and nature journeys on the CitiesWithNature Action Platform, a platform recognised by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as the place for cities to monitor and report on their voluntary commitments to national and global biodiversity targets. The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is also linked to the new global Action Agenda of the CBD, namely the Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. Reconnecting with and protecting nature in and around our cities is essential to address the biggest challenges we face including climate change, food & water security, equitable access and poverty. Indeed, it is essential for our very survival in the decades ahead. Together, as urban communities, cities, regions and at all levels of government and society, we still have a small window of time to act for nature! Our urban community is ready - let's join hands and scale up our actions today, for a thriving and peaceful future for all!

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