

**QUINTANA ROO COMMUNIQUÉ**

**ON**

**MAINSTREAMING LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL  
BIODIVERSITY ACTION**

2016

# Quintana Roo Communiqué

on

## Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

2016

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We, local and subnational governments, our networks and our partners, convening at the *5<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments* held in parallel with the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016 from 10 to 11 December 2016,

hereby agree that,

in order to further unlock the potential of local and subnational governments and our growing urban population to ***significantly, rapidly and collectively implement actions for contributing directly and measurably*** to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

- the understanding that people are inextricably linked to, and part of nature, and that this connection is essential to the health, resilience and well-being of our rapidly growing urban communities and their local and regional economies ***needs to be deepened, better communicated, planned for, and mainstreamed***, at all levels of society, specifically in support of Aichi targets 1, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and
  - while local and subnational governments are increasingly recognised as significant and essential contributors to reach globally set sustainable development targets, notably among the Parties to the CBD, ***more accurate and specific and science-based information, decision-making tools and articulation of the need, value and scope of such contributions are required***, also within the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and that
  - ***horizontal mainstreaming, vertical alignment, cooperative and integrated management linked to measurable reporting mechanisms by and for all levels of subnational government***, aligned with those of their national governments where appropriate, within globally set frameworks such as the NBSAP and other complementary commitment processes ***are required*** to formalise the recognition of these contributions, specifically in support of Aichi targets 5,6,7,8, 9, 10,11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17, and that
  - demonstration and mainstreaming of the ***decoupling of consumption patterns and natural resource use from quality of life and local and regional economies***, particularly through the promotion of non-extractive economic activities, development of policies that internalise environmental and social costs, mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning and ensuring
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coherence between sectoral policies and support of ecosystem rehabilitation within cities, regions and areas of their impact **are required**, particularly in terms of Aichi targets 3 and 4, and

- **the mobilisation of, and access to, new and significantly enhanced financing mechanisms, instruments and funds** through redefined existing, and newly established partnerships, **is essential** for local and subnational governments to enable their essential contribution to sustainable development in realisation of the SDGs and Aichi targets, and
- **partnerships, collaboration, and more scalable initiatives** for, and designed by, cities and other subnational governments, their networks such as ICLEI and nrg4SD, and their partners on global and regional level **are effective drivers for local and subnational implementation** of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its associated Aichi targets, such as
  - ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) suite of locally adaptable engagement options, the new Global Community for Local & Regional Action for Nature, the Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA Africa), and the "Local and Subnational Summit" platform as formally recognised parallel event to the CBD COP at all future COPs,
  - The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity ,
  - URBIO (Urban Biodiversity and Design Network),
  - nrg4SD's emerging Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform, and
  - Mexico's State Biodiversity Strategies initiative that could be replicated in other parts of the world,

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Within this context, we therefore call on CBD Parties and partners to

- **accelerate their focus, increase and unlock collaboration, and enable frameworks** by building on, and supporting partnerships and initiatives where appropriate, for and by local and subnational governments, and their networks that address these priority themes, and
- **accelerate their efforts at building capacity and facilitating scientific knowledge transfer** by providing technical and financial support to local and subnational governments, as well as strengthening communication and information exchange and engagement between the scientific community, local and subnational governments and citizens, while ensuring that the contribution of science and research is based on, and tailored to, subnational and local needs and priorities, and
- **enable and promote the implementation of the consecutive COP decisions** related to local and subnational governments including Decision IX/28, X/22, XI/8, XII/9 and the currently considered recognition of local and subnational governments in Agenda Item 10 on "mainstreaming", and
- **invite other global sustainable development governance processes to benefit** from the valuable, rich and comprehensive good practice of the national and global biodiversity community on mechanisms for engaging with local and subnational governments, built through more than a decade of practice under the leadership of the CBD Parties through relevant COP decisions and programmes.

We further

- applaud the new global ambition and associated trajectory for sustainable development committed to since the CBD COP12 through, *inter alia*, the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015), the Paris Climate Agreement (2015) and its rapid ratification (2016), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda providing a global framework for financing sustainable development (2015), **and particularly welcome the priority set for biodiversity and ecosystems in the New Urban Agenda as main Habitat III outcome (2016) with its focus on integrated sustainable urban and territorial development**, and
  
  - **encourage further recognition of, and calls on, local and subnational actors**, in partnership with their national governments where appropriate, and other partners, to **support and contribute to the implementation of these global commitments, through measured, reported, horizontally mainstreamed and vertically aligned strategies and actions**, and
  
  - **recall preceding commitments, statements and calls to action delivered to the CBD COP9, COP10, COP11, COP12 and COP13** respectively through the *Bonn Call for Action, Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity, the Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments and the Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution on Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity* as collective results of the consecutive global summits as accredited parallel platforms for local and subnational governments to the CBD COP processes, and on which this communiqué builds, and
  
  - **commend the consecutive and ground-breaking CBD COP decisions on local and subnational governments in the global biodiversity agenda**, especially the catalytic role of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020), and further
  
  - **welcome the recognition of local and subnational governments in mainstreaming under Agenda Item 10**, in recognition of the need for more effective engagement with local and subnational governments, to enhance their contribution the CBD Strategic Plan, increase awareness among these levels of government and their communities on their ability and imperative to contribute to implementation through local and regional strategies and actions aligned to, and appropriately recognised in, NBSAPs, and to further include these levels of government in relevant international processes, and
  
  - **commend the The Panama City Declaration** adopted by URBIO and IFLA at their joint conference of the Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects of the Americas Region (IFLA-AR) following a joint conference 'From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health & Biodiversity' held in Panama City, Panama, from 25 to 27 October 2016, and which emphasises the essential focus for urban landscape design on urban health and biodiversity for resilient and sustainable cities, and further
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- **commend the complementary Statement by the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets** presented at this Summit which emphasise the role of states, provinces, regions and prefectures as global actors committed to contributing to the attainment of the Aichi targets,
  - **call upon the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016, to take into account this Communiqué in its work** and request the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to include this Communiqué as part of the report of the Conference, and to collaborate with Parties, relevant international organizations and stakeholders for the advancement of mainstreaming biodiversity, and
  - **applaud Mexico for reiterating its commitment to continue collaboration with local and subnational governments** in order to mainstream biodiversity for well-being, in particular, but not exclusively, in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.
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