



The latest urban biodiversity news from around the globe.
This is the longer version of the iNews, for the shorter version, click [here](#).

About ICLEI CBC

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) is located in Cape Town, South Africa, embedded in the Africa Regional Office of ICLEI. We offer cities a broad portfolio of supportive services through our dedicated team of passionate, skilled and dynamic biodiversity and urban development experts.

Through our ICLEI CBC programmes and initiatives we seek local solutions and promote innovation to address the complex issues surrounding natural capital and the degradation of ecosystem services in a rapidly urbanizing world. The CBC recognizes the crucial role that cities and local governments play in the pursuit of a greener existence through efficiently integrating urban development and biodiversity management at the local level.

ICLEI CBC offers ICLEI members the following opportunities and services:

- Access to dedicated tools and capacity-building engagements, such as:
 - ◊ Workshops and training webinars
 - ◊ Urban biodiversity guidelines (Download the Local Action for Biodiversity Guidebook [here](#))
- Peer-to-peer learning and networking opportunities
- International profiling and engagement platforms, including:
 - ◊ The Urban-Nature series (a parallel event to ICLEI's tri-annual world congresses)
 - ◊ The cities and regions biodiversity summit in partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Participation in global regional and national cities-led programmes, such as:
 - ◊ LAB (Local Action for Biodiversity)
 - ◊ UNA Rivers for Life (Urban Natural Assets for Africa: Rivers for Life)

For more information on any of these, please contact biodiversity@iclei.org.

[Visit our website here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



5th GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT OF CITIES AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments

Co-hosted by: CONABIO, ANAAE, ICLEI, CBD, SEMARNAT

When: 4 -17 December 2016

Where: Cancun, Mexico

The official slogan, **“Mainstreaming Biodiversity where Nature Matters Most,”** highlights the importance of cities towards achievement of globally-set biodiversity targets. The overall goal of the Summit is to strengthen the global contribution of cities and other subnational governments in protecting biodiversity and to encourage the effective management of ecosystems which provide essential goods and services to our rapidly growing urban population.

“The road to sustainability runs through the world’s towns and cities”
Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

We invite all ICLEI members to join us at this important global platform to collectively advance our commitment, actions and partnerships in progressing nature-based solutions for urban sustainability.

To find out more about the programme, register for the summit, request a presentation or poster session for your city, please visit: <http://cbc.iclei.org/5th-global-biodiversity-summit-cities-subnational-governments/>

For more information, please contact the Project Manager: Mia.Otto@iclei.org.

The Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments is a parallel event to the Convention on Biological Diversity’s 13th Conference of the Parties (CBD COP13).

We invite all ICLEI members to join us at this global platform to advance our commitment to nature-based solutions for urban sustainability.

In addition to the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, cities and other sub-national governments are welcome to attend the CBC COP13 as part of ICLEI’s Sub-National Government Delegation from 4 - 17 December.

It is, however, imperative that those who want to attend, register through ICLEI by contacting us at iclei.cbdsupport@iclei.org as soon as possible to ensure enough time for processing the application and for ensuring valid travel documentation.

[Read more here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CBD COP13: Convention on Biological Diversity's 13th Conference of the Parties

When: 4 -17 December 2016

Where: Cancun, Mexico

The Convention on Biological Diversity's 13th Conference of the Parties (CBD COP13) brings together representatives of the countries and key players to promote the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Since the CBD came into force in December 1993, the COP has held 12 regular meetings and adopted 367 decisions.

ICLEI will once more work closely with the Secretariat of the CBD to ensure that the cities and subnational agenda is promoted and well profiled during the course of COP13, building on previous COP decisions which recognized the important role cities play. This will be achieved through side events, plenary engagements and other opportunities for our leading mayors and governors.



[Read more here](#)

IFLA AR-URBIO Conference 2016

From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health and Biodiversity

When: 25 – 27th October 2016

Where: Panama City, Panama

The URBIO (Urban Biodiversity and Design) network of scientists and practitioners and the IFLA AR (International Federation of Landscape Architects, Americas Region) will hold a joint convention 25-27 October 2016, in Panama City, Panama.



From Cities to Landscape:
Design for Health & Biodiversity

The meeting expects attendance from 500 delegates from around the world, uniting URBIO's scientists and practitioners with IFLA's landscape architects and designer for the first time.

The congress theme, "**From Cities to Landscape: Design for Health and Biodiversity**," reflects the global need to reconceive how we build communities that benefit both people and the environment. As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, we cannot repeat the mistakes of past. Rather, we require a new paradigm that integrates social and environmental needs, that uses existing and fresh knowledge, mixing sectors and disciplines, to design human settlements in concert with nature.

ICLEI CBC will be represented by Miss Jessica Kavonic sharing our Urban Natural Assets for Africa: Rivers for Life project (see below), which works in Malawi, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

[Read more here](#)

NEWS

Latest CBD SBSTTA & SBI Outcomes Specific to Cities and other Subnational Governments

The CBD SBSTTA is the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and was established to provide the Conference of the Parties with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the various decisions made through the CBD COPs.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Since ICLEI and the Secretariat of the CBD jointly started advocating for the recognition of the important role that cities and other subnational governments could and should fulfil towards global targets, we have seen several COP Decisions consistently recognizing and embracing this.

This year saw the first meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) on 2-6 May 2016 in Montreal, Canada. The SBI has four core areas of work: (a) review of progress in implementation; (b) strategic actions to enhance implementation; (c) strengthening means of implementation; and (d) operations of the convention and the Protocols.

Most noteworthy in their first meeting was the SBI's calling on Parties to realize the role of local and subnational governments in mainstreaming biodiversity, as part of proposed actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan.

For an overview of the implications of these outcomes, focusing on cities, please see the document below.

[Download the document here](#)

Ultra-Urban Green Infrastructure for Denver

The City and County of Denver, a valued ICLEI member, is making green infrastructure a fundamental part of the city's long-term storm water management strategy by looking at ways to incorporate large-scale and smaller-scale (site-scale) green infrastructure.



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver's is increasingly experiencing violent thunderstorms, which puts a strain on the city's storm water management system. This is the primary driver of Denver's Ultra-Urban Green Infrastructure guidelines published this year. The guidelines address large-and-site scale infrastructure, from parks to green gutters. Moreover, the city recognizes the co-benefits of this biodiverse element - improved water and air quality, reducing flooding risks and urban heat island effects, improving climate change resiliency, and improving the livability of the community.

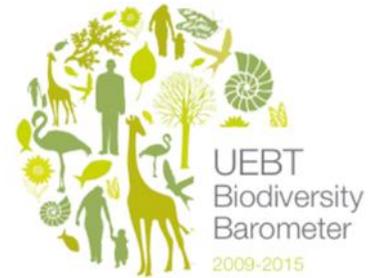
[Read more here](#)

NEWS

UEBT Biodiversity Barometer

People understand importance of biodiversity conservation

Over the past 8 years, the Union for Ethical BioTrade has surveyed over 54 000 people to provide valuable insights that could guide companies and governments in their approaches towards people and biodiversity. They've been assessing biodiversity awareness and interest in ethical sourcing since 2009 in 16 different countries.



This report states that the understanding of biodiversity has increased significantly, along with a willingness of individuals to contribute to biodiversity conservation.

[Read more here](#)

ICLEI Korea co-organizes 'Urban Forest and Cities Biodiversity Management session at 2016 Asian ESP Conference

On the 3rd of June 2016, ICLEI Korea Office held a session called 'Urban Forest and Cities Biodiversity Management' at the 2016 Asian Ecosystem Service Partnership (ESP) Conference in Ansan.

2016 Asian ESP Conference :
Ecosystem Services for Nature Based Solutions

• Ansan-si, Republic of Korea
• 30 May~3 June 2016



This session explored roles and responsibilities of local governments in cities biodiversity management. It was followed by a panel discussion on effective biodiversity management, cities cooperation and efforts of local authorities. The session featured presentations and participation by Jong-gil Jae, Mayor of Ansan city, and Prof. Rudolf de Groot, chair of ESP.

[Download the summary here](#)

RAMSAR Convention



Miss Kirsty Robinson, from our ICLEI CBC team, attended the 52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC52) of the RAMSAR Convention, which took place at the RAMSAR Secretariat Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, during the week of 13th – 17th June 2017.

The SC52 represented an important milestone for the RAMSAR Convention as discussions included the implementation of **Resolution XII.10: Wetland City Accreditation**. The RAMSAR Wetland City Accreditation aims to create a network of world wetland cities around the globe, to encourage a positive relationship between the cities and their wetlands by recognizing communication, awareness raising and education activities, as well as the consideration of wetlands in planning and decision making processes. The Wetland City Accreditation also offers an opportunity for recognition of local governments demonstrating leadership in wetland management.

The mission of the RAMSAR Convention is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.

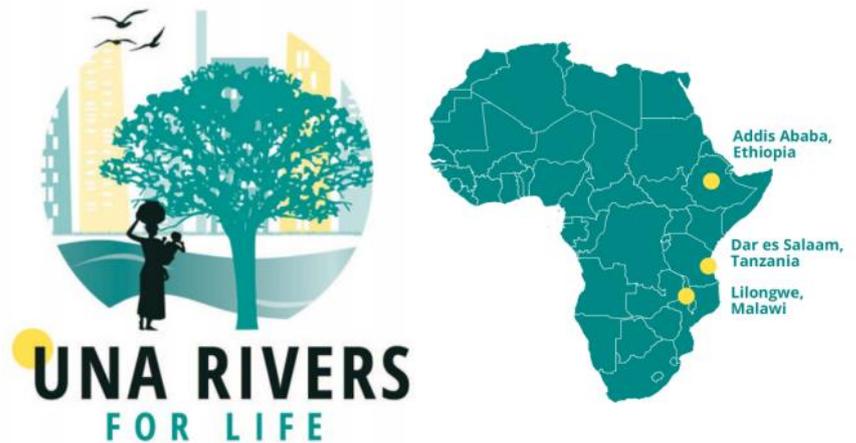
[Visit our website here](#)

OUR PROJECTS

Urban Natural Assets for Africa: Rivers for Life (UNA Rivers)

ICLEI Africa has been hard at work in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and Lilongwe (Malawi) to determine their exact needs and how the UNA Rivers project can be aligned to best assist the municipalities in protecting their urban natural assets.

The UNA Rivers project aims to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into land use planning and local government decision-making processes around urban river systems, through better coordination and community-based activation, contributing to strengthening sustainability and resilience at the local level.



This project is funded by SIDA, through Swedbio, located in the Stockholm Resilience Centre in Sweden.

SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



[Read more here](#)

Local Action for Biodiversity: Wetlands South Africa (LAB Wetlands SA)

The LAB Wetlands SA is a continuation of ICLEI's Local Actions for Biodiversity project. Currently, LAB Wetlands SA is involved with 9 district and 2 metropolitan municipalities across South Africa to build capacity, create awareness and develop local policies for mainstreaming biodiversity, with a specific focus on wetlands.

The project is being implemented by ICLEI Africa with support from key partners such as the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Working for Wetlands and the Department of Environment Affairs.



To date, ICLEI has facilitated a number of wetland awareness raising workshops in the project municipalities.

Communication of and advocacy for wetland management at the local level will take center stage at the upcoming South African National Wetlands Indaba, which will see ICLEI facilitate a session dedicated to local governments at the annual event in October.

This project is funded by USAID.



[Read more here](#)

OUR PROJECTS

Global Guidelines to strengthen cooperation for subnational implementation of NBSAPs

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action plans (NBSAPs) are formal reporting mechanisms through which Parties (countries) to the CBD report on national progress in relation to COP Decisions. ICLEI CBC and the Secretariat of the CBD is collaborating on a new initiative, supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, to strengthen the role of subnational governments in CBD implementation.

Through this project, a set of guidelines to strengthen cooperation for subnational implementation of NBSAPs is being developed and will be disseminated to all CBD Parties during 2017. As part of the project, intensive engagement with national, subnational and local governments is currently being conducted and through a set of capacity-building webinars, training engagements and sharing of lessons learned, wide participation and input into the design of these guidelines is achieved.

To participate in this initiative or to attend one of our webinars or learning opportunities, contact the Project Manager: Ulrike.Irlich@iclei.org.



NBSAP implementation at Subnational level in Mexico

The National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), in collaboration with subnational governments and local representatives of several sectors in Mexico, have joined forces to advance the national requirements set out in the CBD.

This ambitious initiative seeks to improve sub-national planning capabilities of the management of biological resources. They plan to do this by institutionalizing public policies on biodiversity, generating knowledge and developing tools for decision making and participatory planning, through State Commissions of Biodiversity.

For more on this initiative, please see:

[State Biodiversity Studies](#)

[Biodiversity Strategies](#)

GET IN TOUCH

The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center invites all ICLEI members to share their urban biodiversity news, events and innovations through their regional offices or directly with our team at: biodiversity@iclei.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Email: Biodiversity@iclei.org

Website: <http://cbc.iclei.org/>

Twitter: [@ICLEICBC](https://twitter.com/ICLEICBC)