

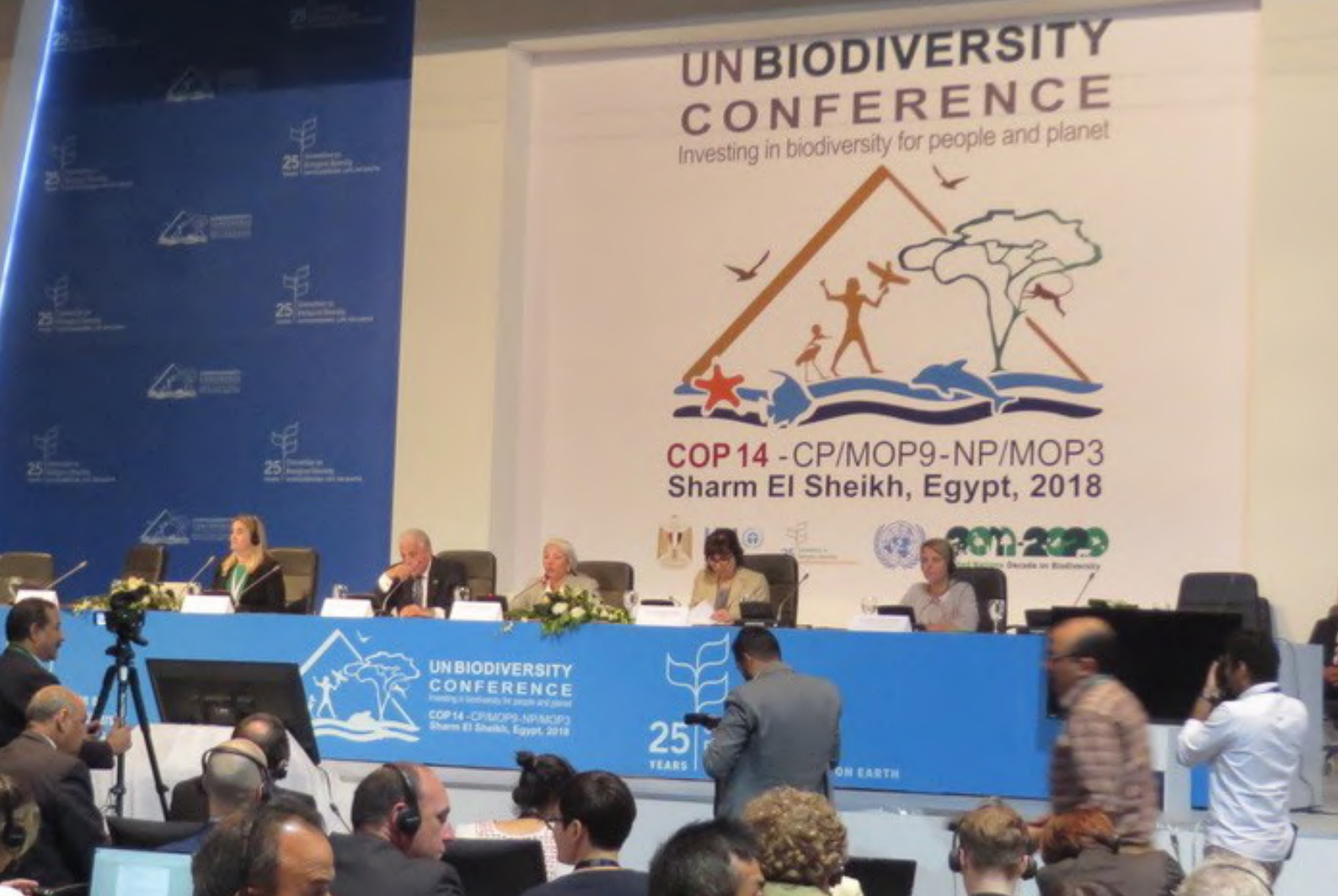
# 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments

## EVENT REPORT



**UN BIODIVERSITY  
CONFERENCE**  
Investing in biodiversity for people and planet  
**COP14 - CP/MOP9 - NP/MOP3**  
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018





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# Messages from the co-hosts



**Her Excellency Dr. Yasmine Fouad**  
Minister of Environment

## Message from the Minister of Environment, Egypt

*"The importance of this 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments arises from the need to bring nature and its many benefits back into our cities. The world is urbanizing, but everywhere we find that, while cities now support our people, nature still supports cities. This means it is critical that we protect our biodiversity, while seeking solutions in nature, to build prosperous, safe and sustainable societies for the future."*



**Ministry of Environment**



**His Excellency Khaled Fouda**  
Governor of South Sinai

## Message from the Governor of South Sinai, Egypt

*"On behalf of the Governorate of South Sinai, and together with our partners, CBD, ICLEI and nrg4SD, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all. I welcome you to the City of Peace, Sharm el-Sheikh, and to a Governorate of unique biodiversity, at the crossroad of continents. In our land, as in yours, biodiversity is a special concern - from the precious biodiversity of our coral reefs, to the rare birds, animals and medicinal plants of our mountains and oases. Here, at the cradle of civilization, the annual gift of the Nile has shown us for thousands of years how deeply cities and regions depend on nature."*





**Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer**  
Executive Secretary of the  
Secretariat of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity



**Dr. Cathy Oke**  
First Vice President, ICLEI  
Presidium and Councilor, City of  
Melbourne, Australia



**Her Excellency Joke Schauvliege**  
Minister for Environment, Nature  
and Agriculture, Government of  
Flanders, Belgium

## Message from the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the UN CBD

*"For the past ten years, Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity have recognized and encouraged the important contribution of local and subnational governments to the objectives of the Convention. Goals such as assuring ecological connectivity, providing positive incentives for sustainable land use, and promoting natural solutions for urban-rural linkages are ideally addressed at the subnational level. The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments will be instrumental to that end, steering actions towards integrating nature into our everyday life, at the levels where it matters the most: landscapes, ecosystems and cities. I welcome the work of the Summit and the launch of new commitments in support of the global biodiversity agenda up to 2020 and beyond."*



## Message from the First Vice President of ICLEI

*"ICLEI is proud to be convening the Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments for the sixth time, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD, and this year in partnership with nrg4SD and host country, Egypt. It is encouraging to see the growing global community of cities, regions, CBD Parties and a wide range of other actors strengthening their collaboration around actions to mainstream biodiversity and nature-based solutions, through this important biennial platform."*

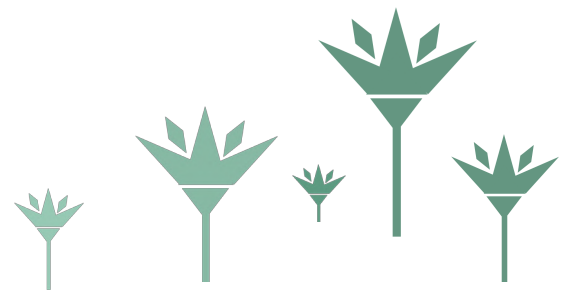


## Message from the nrg4SD President for the North

*"It is our great pleasure to co-host the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, in collaboration with the SCBD and ICLEI. The Summit reinforces the commitment of subnational governments to biodiversity global targets and serves as a catalyst for the urgent realization of a multi-level global alliance aimed at accelerating efforts to 2020 and beyond. The nrg4SD contributes to the event with the Subnational Coalition for Biodiversity Action - an inspiring proposal that establishes a specific framework of nature action between Parties and subnational authorities towards COP 15, China 2020."*



# Introduction



The **6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments** gathered governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from around the world to engage directly with national leaders and their key stakeholders during the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 14). **Engagements focused on city and state level actions to mainstream biodiversity solutions into the new global developmental framework.**

*"The world is very close to reaching multiple tipping points. One more mile in the wrong direction could turn our planet into a harsh, unsafe and even hostile place for all of us. The time to shape our future is now. Let us forge new alliances and craft new innovative partnerships. Let us work together to break any remaining silos and bring the private sector to the table. Together let us find new ways to build the cities we need in harmony with nature."*

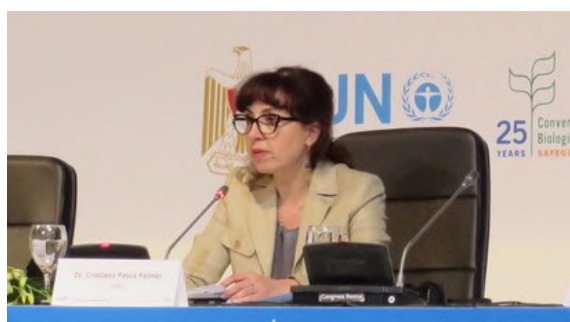
~ **His Excellency Mr. Ashok Sridharan**, Lord Mayor of Bonn and President of ICLEI



*Mr. Hesiquio Benítez, General Director of International Cooperation and Implementation, CONABIO, Mexico, hands over a gift to His Excellency Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai, Egypt, host of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit.*

# Welcome by Executive Secretary of the CBD

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed delegates by highlighting the importance of the Summit in light of the need for a 'whole of government approach' at all levels, especially with regard to local and regional governments, who are at the forefront of implementation. She further stressed the need for a 'whole world approach', with the involvement of all stakeholders.



*"Nature does not stop at man-made borders. Together we can curb biodiversity loss, so we can all live in harmony with nature."*

~ **Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer**,  
Executive Secretary of the  
Secretariat of the  
Convention on Biological  
Diversity



# Overview of the Summit

The Summit welcomed more than 55 local and subnational governments. It had over 350 registered delegates from 46 countries, and heard presentations from close to 100 speakers. Aside from having endorsed the ***Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People***, the Summit provided a significant, high profile opportunity to discuss the strategy for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and reflect on the attainment of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It was also an important platform for national governments to engage with their local and subnational peers on their pivotal and increasingly recognized contribution in achieving the objectives of the Convention and its 2011-2020 Strategic Plan

The **themes of the Summit** were specifically linked to the **mainstreaming** themes of CBD COP 14. The Summit **high level segment** comprised **three roundtables**, each structured around a specific mainstreaming theme.

**Round table 1:** *Mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable energy solutions in local and subnational governments*

**Round table 2:** *Mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructure at local and subnational level*

**Round table 3:** *Mainstreaming biodiversity into health and wellbeing for the world's growing urban populations*

The roundtables also addressed innovative financing to support cities and subnational governments in mainstreaming biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

**Nine focus sessions** formed the heart of the program and focused on:

- mainstreaming subnational action through networks and institutional mobilization

✦ Over 350 registered delegates

✦ 46 countries represented

✦ Over 55 local and subnational governments present

✦ Close to 100 speakers contributing to a diverse Summit program over two days

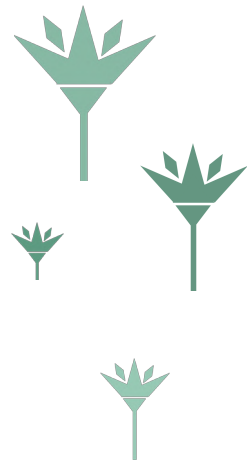
- emerging trends and innovations, including innovative financing to support mainstreaming of nature-based solutions at the city and subnational level
- engaging regional players on their contributions towards the post-2020 Framework
- regional government progress towards mainstreaming biodiversity
- moving from global decisions to local actions - profiling the main initiatives and projects that drive local and subnational action towards the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- financing for nature-based solutions at the local and subnational level
- developing a roadmap for collective subnational action in support of a new Action Agenda for Nature (hosted under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity).

## The key outcomes from the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit included:

*The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People*

*A Roadmap for collective subnational action in support of a new Action Agenda for Nature*

# Local and subnational contributions to global biodiversity commitments and actions



The Summit served as an important subnational platform to further **explore and strengthen the global contribution** of local and subnational governments in protecting biodiversity and effectively managing those ecosystems providing a wide range of essential goods and services to a rapidly growing urban population.

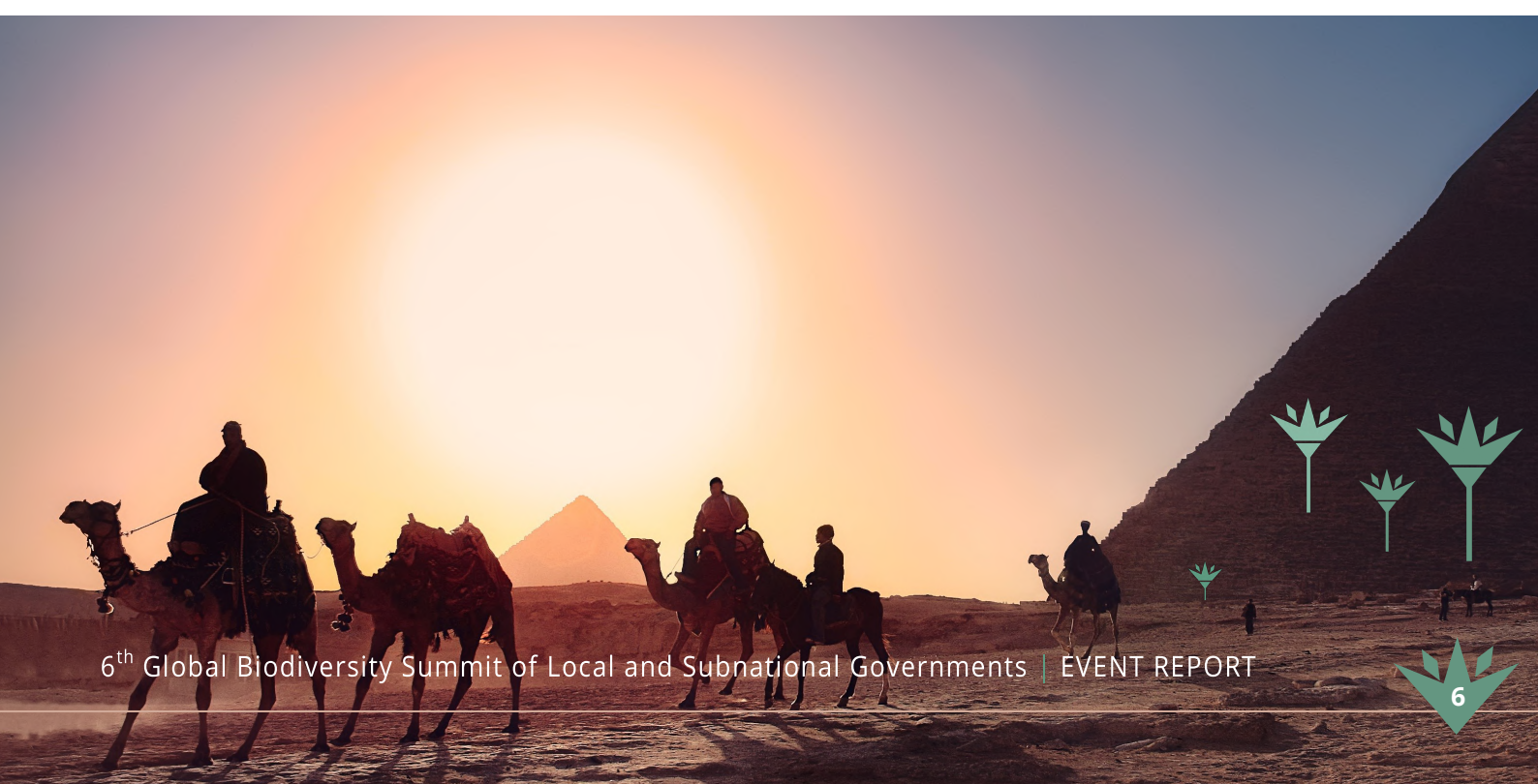
It gathered governors, mayors and local practitioners, together with their networks, partner research organizations and community-based organizations to engage directly with CBD Parties and leaders in the international biodiversity community on innovative solutions at local and subnational level.

The Summit also provided an opportunity for local and subnational governments and their partners to take stock, learn, shape, connect and innovate together as a growing constituency.

Local and subnational governments, through a

variety of interactive sessions, workshops, roundtables, panel discussions and plenary sessions showcased the **multiple examples of bold action** already being taken at the local and subnational level, **community-level driven innovation** and **localized solutions** to complex and systemic global sustainability challenges.

The Summit demonstrated that this **'Century of Cities'** – which already sees the majority of people living in urban areas – provides local and subnational leaders and their partners with unprecedented opportunities to shape and reshape our cities, ensuring that they are liveable and thriving, while also contributing significantly to the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be determined at the CBD COP15 in Kunming, China in November 2020.





## Nature in the Urban Century Assessment launch

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Future Earth, the Natural Capital Project, and Stockholm Resilience Center (SRC), as part of a project with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), Swedbio, ICLEI, and others, launched the [Nature in the Urban Century Assessment \(NUCA\)](#) at CBD COP 14.

TNC hosted a dinner in Sharm el-Sheik on 26 November 2018 to hear more from some of the authors and discuss how the findings of the NUCA align with the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda. This event also created an excellent opportunity for some of the contributors to connect and discuss the NUCA and its future in a social setting.

Rob McDonald, Lead Scientist: Global Cities at TNC, provided an overview of the NUCA, its origins and the various partners that have worked on the assessment, as well as the works and seminal documents that preceded it. With this brief introduction he explained that the discussions of the evening were to enable participants to share their thoughts on the NUCA and how to potentially use it as a basis to build on and work towards global biodiversity goals in urban settings.

The discussions covered challenges and solutions to local implementation from different parts of the world. Connecting Nature and GrowGreen were highlighted as examples of how to address the challenge of retroactively integrating biodiversity into city planning.

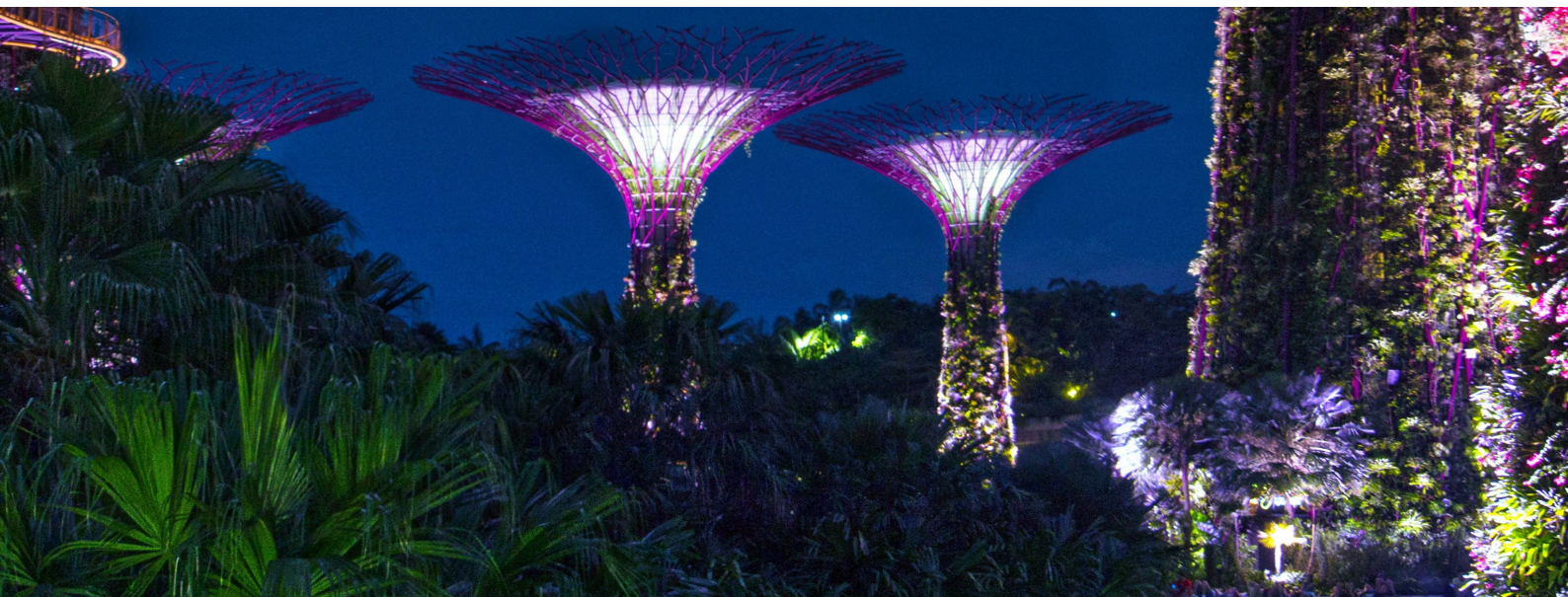
On the question of how partners address informality in cities when trying to achieve biodiversity goals, ICLEI's UNA Rivers project and the incorporation of urban tinkering, was used as a good example. Through this project, the local self-organized governance system in a food market next to the Lilongwe River was identified and connected with the City governance system such that both groups could recognize the other as legitimate. This approach led to a stakeholder-led landscape design for the area, including green and recreation belts along the river.

Since the Summit, the core group of scientists, partners and practitioners who worked together on the NUCA, have continued their collaboration with the support of the Secretariat of the CBD to produce further contributions to inform the post-2020 preparatory processes.

A unique and memorable contribution from Singapore, centred around “the 6 Cs” delivered by Dr. Lena Chan, Senior Director, International Biodiversity Conservation Division at the National Parks Board

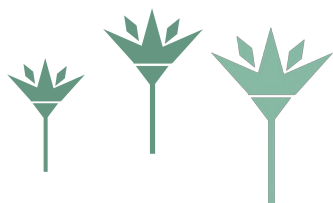
Dr. Chan centred her high level and unique contribution to this year’s Summit with a fresh message centered cleverly around the easily digestible, memorable and highly implementable message of the “6 Cs”. She explained that the following 6Cs, all implementable on the ground and through - and with - the governments closest to the people and the land, should be encapsulated in the CBD’s Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework for Nature and People:

- **CONSERVE** representatives of all ecosystems;
- **CONNECT** these conservation areas ecologically;
- **CREATE**, enhance, restore and rehabilitate degraded areas;
- **COLLECT** scientific data;
- **COLLABORATE** & cooperate with everyone and promote citizen science; and
- **CONTINUOUSLY** monitor biodiversity efforts using tools like the Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity.



*“When we arrive at another milestone in this century – 2020 – we must reach new heights in our biodiversity conservation efforts. For the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to succeed in biodiversity conservation, it is crucial that subnational governments and cities play a significant role.”*

~ Dr. Lena Chan, National Parks Board, Singapore



# Subnational Coalition for Biodiversity Action



One of the featured actions during the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit on Local and Subnational Government was the [Subnational Coalition for Biodiversity Action \(SCBA\)](#), an open call for collaboration and support of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to accelerate the implementation of the global biodiversity framework up to 2020 and beyond.

Launched in a press conference during the CBD COP 14 by eight regional governments and with the presence of Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the call for action is considered a milestone for vertical integration of multi-level governance to accelerate global ambitions in biodiversity, while it reaffirms the subnational commitment towards the realization of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The commitments of the SCBA state that subnational leaders are ready to:

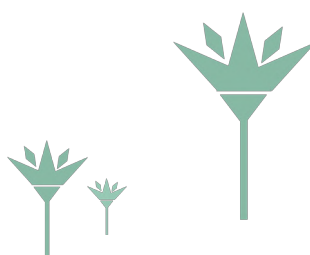
- Lead the development of Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs);
- Maximize subnational efforts to implement tools, guidelines and nature-based solutions to promote decentralized cooperation;
- Mainstream biodiversity conservation in policies and practices for all economic sectors, under the frame of the 2030 Agenda;
- Mobilize and involve the entire range of civil society through communication, education and public awareness strategies at a subnational level; and,
- Actively engage with planning, monitoring and evaluation systems at a National and subnational level.

The SCBA is led by the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (AC SNG) to the CBD, coordinated by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development – nrg4SD, now known as Regions4, in collaboration with the government of Quebec, and with the support of the Secretariat of the CBD and ICLEI.

The call for action also embraces other initiatives: the [Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform \(R4BLP\)](#), led by nrg4SD and officially supported by the CBD; and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS), coordinated by the Government of Aichi Prefecture. Both platforms provide technical capacity building and political support, respectively, to subnational governments seeking to make an impact.

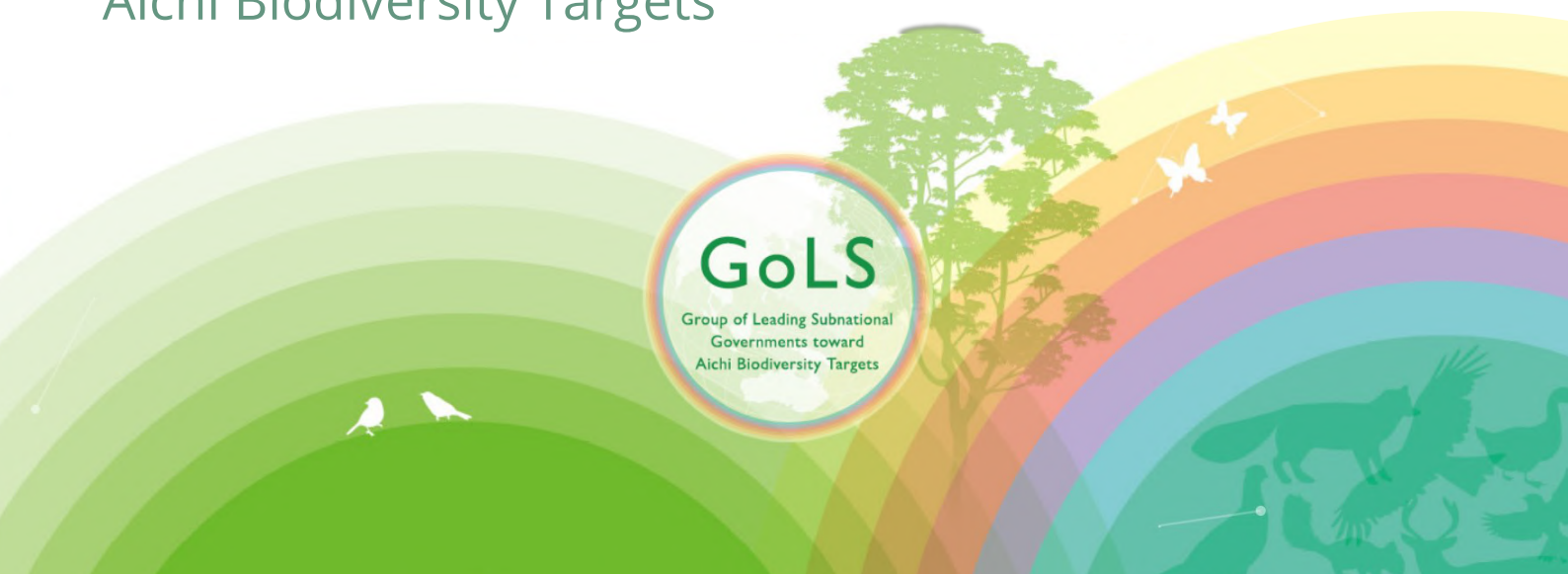
During the Summit, nrg4SD also highlighted the R4BLP report [Global challenges, regional solutions: the R4BLP, two years of lessons learned](#) and the importance of decentralized initiatives to contribute to global efforts to halt biodiversity loss. The document includes discussions, best practices and lessons learned on topics such as agriculture and biodiversity, food security, invasive alien species, ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, the sustainable use of pollinators, marine and terrestrial protected areas and the regional implementation of the SDGs.

*\*The eight regional governments that launched the SCBA are Aichi (Japan), Campeche (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Gossas (Senegal), Gangwon (South Korea), Palawan (Philippines), Québec (Canada) and São Paulo (Brazil), however it is expected that the coalition will grow and other regional governments continue to nourish the dialogues with Parties as we approach 2020.*



DOWNLOAD:  
**Subnational Coalition  
for Biodiversity Action**  
([English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#))

# Group of Leading Subnational Government toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets



The Group of Leading Subnational Government toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS) is an important partner in the local and subnational constituency. GoLS is made up of Aichi Prefecture, Japan; the State of Ontario and Quebec, Canada; the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Catalonia, Spain; Campeche, Mexico; Gangwon Province, South Korea and the National Association of State's Environment Authorities (ANAAE), Mexico. ICLEI and nrg4SD are supporting partners of GoLS and the three organizations enjoy a close relationship.

GoLS, in partnership with ICLEI and nrg4SD, compiled a report and statement on *the Roles of Subnational Governments with respect to Biodiversity toward 2020 and beyond*, which was presented to Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity at COP 14. Several GoLS Partner Subnational Governments attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments and participated actively in the high level roundtables and focus sessions, including His Excellency Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture, His

*Excellency Eduardo Trani, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, State Government of Sao Paulo, Mr Jean Lemire, Special Envoy for Climate Change and Northern and Arctic Issues, Government of Quebec.*

His Excellency Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture, participated in focus session 8 on a *Roadmap for collective subnational action in support of a new Action Agenda for Nature and People* and made a plea to Parties and all levels of subnational governments to stop talking and start taking action to stem the loss of biodiversity and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In his address to the Closing Plenary, His Excellency Ohmura emphasized that "subnational governments are indispensable for the next two years in the effort to achieve the Aichi Targets, as well as in the discussion over the post 2020 framework" and committed GoLS, as part of the collective of local and subnational governments, to participating actively in subnational activities - "From now on towards 2020 and beyond, we must move on in order to realize "Living with nature" in our own positions, and in cooperation with each other".



# European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR), with its 350 members representing local and regional authorities from all 28 EU Member States, is an important actor within the local and subnational constituency. The European CoR prepared an opinion on the contribution of European Union (EU) cities and regions to the CBD COP 14 and the post-2020 EU Strategy on Biodiversity. This opinion called on the CBD Parties to recognize the indispensable role of local and regional authorities in achieving a successful implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the post-2020 global and European biodiversity framework. This opinion was shared with the global local and subnational constituency during focus session 4 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments. The session also showcased some of the projects, tools, best practices and smart approaches currently being implemented at the local and regional level in the European Union. The session was chaired by her Excellency Joke Schauvliege, Minister for Environment, Nature and Agriculture, Government of Flanders, Belgium and moderated by Dr. Cathy Oke, First Vice-President, ICLEI Presidium and Councillor, City of Melbourne.

The session speakers were Mr Robert Biber, First Vice-Chair, Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy, European CoR and Member of the Bettembourg Municipal Council, Luxembourg; Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Directorate: D-Natural Capital, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission; Ms Tirza Melengraaf, Senior Policy Advisor, Provincie Zuid-Holland, Netherlands; Mr Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI Europe; and Dr Laura Tozer, NATURVATION Project, Durham University, UK.

**Key messages** from this session included the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors and forging links between biodiversity and climate change; cities and regions are important as the closest level of governance to citizens to ensure that citizens live in harmony with nature; the need for innovative finance and blended finance mechanisms to support nature-based solutions; and the importance of research and innovation led by cities for cities.



# Finance session

Arguably one of the most important sessions of the Summit was a straight-talk engagement among high level panellists that focused on the increasingly important question about financing options for mainstreaming and enabling biodiversity action at the levels of subnational and local governments.

Worldwide, the mobilization and prioritization of financial resources - both within countries at all levels of government and by private sector partners, as well as at global level, through available DFi and other mechanisms - is not at the level required to address the rapid and unprecedented degradation of ecosystems and species loss the world is currently facing.

Panellists in this session included high level speakers from the GEF, GIZ, the Secretariat of the CBD and ICLEI.

Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Head of Division: Scientific and Policy Support at the SCBD, articulated many of

the sentiments shared by the panellists that not enough is being done to “make the case” for investing in nature-based solutions and biodiversity. More investment cases are needed in and around cities and at landscape level, to demonstrate the longer term and multiple, interlinked benefits of investing in nature, particularly through green and blue infrastructure options.

Emphasis was placed on the need to not only focus on market-driven, short term financial gains when investors review projects. The social and ecological gains should also be factored in to determine the “bankability” and investment potential of such projects that restore ecosystems and shape our cities in harmony with nature. Some of the social benefits, many of which are being quantified at accelerated pace, particularly when it comes to health, wellbeing, food and nutrition, and safer communities, were highlighted during the session.





The panel also focused on new finance instruments - such as the many new manifestations of blended finance options, green bonds, impact investments, insurance options such as catastrophe bonds and more - that are emerging as instruments to enable infrastructure projects which will enhance sustainable use and mainstream nature in our cities and regions.

Kobie Brand, Global Director of ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center, emphasized the importance of local and subnational governments looking internally at how they prioritize their own budget allocations to mainstreaming nature-based solutions into all their mandates and work areas, instead of treating biodiversity actions as "nice to have" options lower down the priority list. Mr. Mark Zimsky, Senior Biodiversity Specialist at the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), demonstrated the effectiveness and future potential of the GEF as powerful change instrument. He highlighted the ways in which biodiversity actions could be incorporated into its new Global Sustainable Cities Impact Programme initiated during GEF6, and planned for significant expansion during GEF7, to include a dedicated focus on local biodiversity.

The panel gave concrete examples of pioneering projects implemented by GIZ, ICLEI and many other actors in South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. They also emphasized the need for further discourse with the investment community, development banks, the private sector and donors to enable more decentralized finance options for cities and regions. They stressed the need to invite cities and regions and their networks to the table when designing large funding programmes and schemes, so that local needs are addressed and dialogue improved between these actors and city and subnational administrations, to better understand the opportunities and needs on both sides.

The SCBD and ICLEI, as co-convenors of the Global BioSummits, committed to allow more space in future Summits for the finance agenda and to facilitate more direct engagement platforms during and between Summits, with the private sector, emerging and existing financial instrument, development banks and other actors.

# Global Biodiversity Youth Network

The youth are our future and, as David Suzuki, scientist, author, and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation so eloquently put it: *The future of nature is the future of everything.*<sup>1</sup>

The focus of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments was on the 'future of nature' - specifically on city and state level actions necessary to mainstream biodiversity solutions into the new global developmental framework and on formulating the local and subnational government constituency's ambition for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. To ensure the voice of the youth was heard and captured, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) was invited to participate in the Summit and present the position of the youth in several sessions.

The GBYN is an international network of youth organizations and individuals from across the world whose common goal is to prevent the loss of biodiversity and raise awareness among young people of the values of biodiversity. GYBN is the official major group for global youth in the negotiations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Recognized and supported by the CBD Secretariat, GYBN seeks to inspire global youth and future leaders to work for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for a healthy environment and society.

GBNY members attended the Summit and participated in sessions. Christian Schwarzer, GBNY Global Co-ordinator; Kevin Lunzalo, GBNY Co-ordinator for Kenya; Caia Bexiga, Co-ordinator of the National Biodiversity Working Group of Engajamundo and GBNY Brazil; and Wang Xinyi,

GBNY representative from Beijing, China, presented the youth contributions to, and positions on, emerging trends and innovations in mainstreaming nature and nature-based solutions at the local and subnational levels in focus sessions 1, 2 and 3 at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit. The youth leaders emphasized the importance of urban biodiversity, and urban planning and public awareness to avoid biodiversity loss. The process leading up to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be a significant time for young people and the youth will continue to put pressure on Parties to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and set new targets for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

<sup>1</sup> <https://thewalrus.ca/the-future-of-nature/>



# A Special Talanoa Dialogue Roundtable focused on highlighting the strong linkages between the global climate and biodiversity agendas

The 2018 [Talanoa Dialogues](#) were an innovative tool used to enhance multilevel action and saw different climate stakeholders coming together to engage around their countries' National Development Contributions (NDCs). This process was structured in a way that stakeholders attending the dialogues answered three specific questions.

In the same way, participants attending the roundtable, **Mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable energy on day one of the Summit**, adopted the format of a Talanoa Dialogue through answering the same three questions.

- **WHERE ARE WE?** There are a number of experiences (good and bad) on energy efficiency and renewable energy through climate action as well as urban and territorial planning that the CBD community can build upon.

- **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?** A more ambitious vision to citizens and governments that connects biodiversity to opportunities and challenges in a world that is striving for 1.5°C global warming.
- **HOW DO WE GET THERE?** Innovations in communication, incentives, regulations and through effective redirection of existing finances. There was a strong call for active advocacy over the next 2 years, including the 2019 UN Climate Summit and post 2020 Biodiversity framework.

In conclusion, the biodiversity community was **strongly encouraged to replicate such models** as the Talanoa Dialogue process for mainstreaming biodiversity and to guide the post-2020 discussion.



## TALANOA DIALOGUE FOR CLIMATE AMBITION





## South American voices at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit

*“Sometimes we speak different languages, but the beauty of participating in events such as the Global Biodiversity Summit is to comprehend how our challenges are very much alike and how solutions and good practices can be shared among cities to generate collective gains.”*

~ **Katia Fenyves**, Project Officer, ICLEI South America



In a session where the voices of South America were heard loud and proud, the examples provided by the cities of Belo Horizonte, Vitoria, Aburra Valley and Cuenca brought to the table many innovations and opportunities to build a strong regional co-operational front and a strategic community of practice towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The following **key messages** emerged:

- Nature is critical to the development of cities and ICLEI is uniting many leading cities towards a more sustainable future. ICLEI's methodologies and tools support cities to engage in an active journey where they can learn from each other and share solutions to challenges among themselves. The [CitiesWithNature](#) platform presents a new opportunity to committed cities to accomplish their role in sustainability.
- As in the watershed conservation program from Aburra Valley, strategic and strong partnerships are critical to implement nature-sensitive development plans; a critical instrument in order to build climate resilience at the local level.
- An enabling feature of Cuenca's experiences is the institutional openness to international cooperation. Biodiversity must be mainstreamed in global processes, such as the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.
- Landscape connectivity is a strategy that ensures nature is brought back into cities. Landscape connectivity supports implementation of nature-based solutions, as well as leads to a healthier urban environment, fostering ecosystem services provision and biodiversity conservation. Vitoria's mosaic of protected areas is a successful case of landscape connectivity and its implementation.
- The promotion of agroecology is a strategy that supports cities in not only addressing their environmental challenges, but also their social vulnerabilities, contributing to improved health food production and biodiversity conservation.
- Innovative and creative solutions, within the specific context of regional challenges and needs, must be shared and recognized. Local and regional knowledge should be promoted and boosted.

# INTERACT-Bio Project Advisory Board and City Engagement Meeting

The [INTERACT-Bio Project](#) held its Project Advisory Board and City Engagement Meeting on 25 November 2018 in Sharm el-Sheikh. The purpose of the day-long meeting was to provide an opportunity for members of the Project Advisory Board to interact directly with representatives from project cities, and for peer-to-peer learning and exchange between the cities.

The day began with a presentation of the Biodiversity Registry, which forms part of the global CitiesWithNature initiative. CitiesWithNature provides a platform for cities and their partners to engage and connect, working with shared commitment towards a more sustainable urban future.

This was followed by a brief address by Prof. Davis Mwamfupe, Lord Mayor of Dodoma City, whose city was welcomed on board as a fourth project city in Tanzania.

Country-wise presentations provided an opportunity to share and discuss plans, challenges, opportunities and suggestions, while a presentation by Augustin Berghöfer from UFZ provided valuable information on integrating ecosystem services into urban planning.

Breakout brainstorming sessions focused on how the project should proceed in order to fulfil the objectives outlined below:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity in infrastructure development at the local and subnational level: how should we proceed?
- Realizing vertical integration and joint management of biodiversity and ecosystems: how should we proceed?
- Building an investment case for nature-based solutions and identifying innovative financing mechanisms: how should we proceed?

The meeting wrapped up with an opportunity to identify priority activities and next steps.



**INTERACT-Bio**  
Integrated action on biodiversity

*INTERACT-Bio is a four-year project that focuses on biodiversity mainstreaming at city-region level, and is designed to improve the utilization and management of nature within fast-growing cities and the regions surrounding them. It aims to provide expanding urban communities in the Global South with nature-based solutions and associated long-term benefits. It is being implemented in Brazil, India and Tanzania. The project is supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative.*



# Cities With Nature

LOCAL & SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

is a **unique global initiative** that recognizes  
and enhances the **value of nature** in and  
around **cities**



ALL CITIES, LARGE  
& SMALL, ARE INVITED TO  
**JOIN & BENEFIT NOW**

CONNECT • SHARE • LEARN • INSPIRE

# CitiesWithNature at CBD COP 14

## WWF's First Global Biodiversity Communications Forum at the CEPA Fair

The CitiesWithNature launch campaign was presented at WWF's First Global Biodiversity Communications Forum at CBD COP 14 on 18 November 2018 at the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Fair, as an example of the role of communication campaigns in increasing awareness on biodiversity and nature. CitiesWithNature was presented alongside campaigns from other esteemed organizations, such as Conservation International, WWF, CBD, IUCN, CropTrust and more. The session included a riveting discussion between Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer and Marco Lambertini (WWF International) and closed with a panel discussion on best communications practice when encouraging behavioral change amongst various stakeholder groups.

## Side event: Towards a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: An Action Agenda for Local and Subnational Governments

The session highlighted the unique opportunity we are faced with now, when delays are no longer possible and action is required. CitiesWithNature was identified as the leading platform for local and subnational governments to tackle this mammoth task by working together and learning from each other. It was recognized as the platform cities will use to act together to achieve the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. (Please [see page 32](#) for more information on this side event)

Now, more than  
ever, there is a need to unite  
and embrace nature,  
reconnect communities with  
nature, become

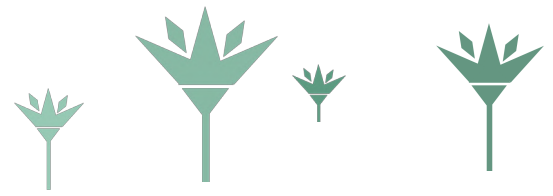
**CitiesWithNature**



@CitiesWNature



[www.citieswithnature.org](http://www.citieswithnature.org)



ICLEI participated in the *4<sup>th</sup> Science Forum: Towards living in harmony with nature by 2050 - A Science-Policy Dialogue, held on the margins of CBD COP 14. The Forum provided an interactive platform for scientists, policy experts and civil society representatives to share knowledge and lessons learned, and to think innovatively and discuss how science can foster implementation of biodiversity policy and inform the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.*

Following exchanges between ICLEI and the European Commission on coordinating opportunities to foster cross fertilization between the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments and the 4<sup>th</sup> Science Forum, ICLEI was offered a speaking opportunity in the Opening Session of Day 2, *Increasing solutions for restoration (scaling-up nature-based solutions) - Which transitions for transformational change? Likewise, scientists participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Science Forum were invited to present on some of their projects that focused on cities at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit.*

In conveying the key messages from the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit to the Forum, Ingrid Coetzee, Senior Program Manager: ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, pointed out that cities and city-regions are where the proverbial ‘rubber hits the road’ when it comes to facing the impacts of biodiversity loss, climate change and rapid urbanization. For that reason, they will play a vital role in contributing to ‘bending the curve’ in reducing biodiversity loss.

Cities are hubs of innovation and are increasingly turning to nature-based solutions, which provide unique and synergistic value, compared to other types of infrastructure. Nature-based solutions need to become the ‘new normal’ for infrastructure development. Innovative urban approaches and nature-based solutions can lead to the creation of transformative pathways towards urban sustainability, which can contribute towards transformative biodiversity governance. Cities and city-regions recognize that research and evidence-based science can help them address challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and rapid urbanization. Specific research needs and scientific knowledge gaps include better understanding of the complexity of social and natural systems; evidence to build the case for ‘nature-based solutions as an investment’; cross-scale and transdisciplinary insights between sectors and disciplines; and data, modelling and scenarios to support an evidence base for nature-based solutions.

The Forum recognized the need to develop greener cities and implement urban nature-based solutions as one of the actions it recommended to achieve the 2050 vision.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Science Forum was organized by the International Union of Biological Sciences, the European Commission, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*The message of the 4th Science-Policy forum is a message of hope. It is true that there is a lot to be done and it is true that we are in a very critical point regarding the relationship of humankind and nature. Nevertheless, there is scientific and political progress and we have started engaging in the difficult discussions. It is now our obligation to bring these discussions closer to society, determine the everyday role of biodiversity in everybody's life, connecting the bigger picture of biodiversity protection and conservation to the societal challenges of the 21st century and invite society to begin and participate in transformations that will alter our collective priorities and allow us to achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.*

# Gender and biodiversity mainstreaming at local and subnational levels

Gender equality and gender responsive implementation of the CBD was one of the critical cross-cutting issues considered by Parties attending CBD COP 14.

An information document tabled at COP 14 (CBD/COP/14/INF/21) discussed the gender dimensions of biodiversity conservation and the global norms on gender equality and natural resource management; outlined the key mandates for the integration of a gender perspective in biodiversity conservation; and identified the main entry points for strengthening gender considerations in decisions of the Parties to the Convention and in the implementation of the Convention, as well as in the future work of Parties and other stakeholders. It further elaborated on gender-responsive practices contributing to biodiversity conservation at the local and country level and concluded with recommendations for action directed at specific stakeholders.

Tanya McGregor, Gender Programme Officer at the CBD, interviewed Jess Kavonic, ICLEI Project Manager for the [UNA Programme](#). UNA adopts a highly participatory community engagement angle when mainstreaming nature and nature-based solutions into land use planning processes. Through strengthening the dialogue between city officials and communities, the UNA team has learnt a number of important lessons when it comes to nature and gender equality. To learn more about these lessons as well as innovative community participation approaches being tested by the programme, watch the interview [here](#).

One key lesson is that including women in nature-based solution projects may not, in fact, improve gender equality and could lead to a number of cultural challenges. More importantly, projects and programmes should focus on rather creating an enabling environment for women and vulnerable groups.



# Journey towards the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit

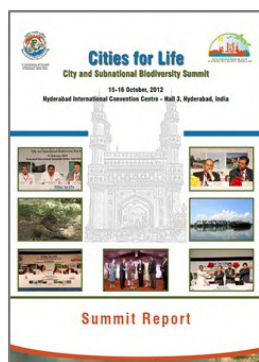
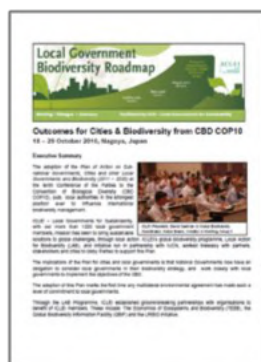
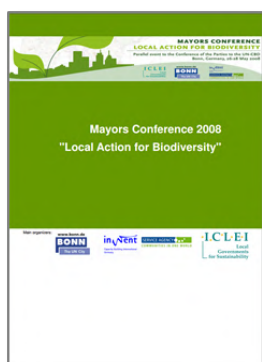
Building on five consecutive summits convened as official CBD COP parallel engagement platforms dedicated to the contributions of local and subnational governments, the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments

marked a decade of close cooperation between CBD Parties and the local and subnational constituencies.

**The journey towards Sharm el-Sheikh is summarized below:**

	CBD COP Decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments	Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COPs
2016 Cancún, Mexico	<b>CBD COP 13</b> <i>Adoption by the Parties of <b>Decision XIII/3</b>, on Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Parties agreed to enhance their efforts to engage subnational and local governments in order to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan.</i>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments</b> <i>Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action</i>
2014 Gangwon, Korea	<b>CBD COP 12</b> <i><b>Decision XII/9</b>, on Engagement with Subnational and Local Governments, requested the CBD Executive Secretary to support the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action on Biodiversity and its activities as an effective platform for scientific and technical cooperation, capacity development and the dissemination of best practices for local and subnational implementation of the Convention.</i>	<b>Biodiversity Summit For Cities and Subnational Governments</b> <i>Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution for Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity</i>
2012 Hyderabad, India	<b>CBD COP 11</b> <i>Adoption by the Parties of <b>Decision XI/8</b>: It highlighted the tangible role of local governments, specifying the need for national support in implementing the Plan of Action 2011-2020.</i>	<b>Cities for Life: City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit</b> <i>Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity</i>
2010 Nagoya, Japan	<b>CBD COP 10</b> <i>Adoption by the Parties of the ground-breaking <b>Decision X/22</b> and thereby endorsement of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and encouraged Parties to support cities and local authorities.</i>	<b>City Biodiversity Summit</b> <i>Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity</i> <i>Support of Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 - 2020)</i>
2008 Bonn, Germany	<b>CBD COP 9</b> <i>Development of an intervention on behalf of local governments, presented at the COP. Adoption by the Parties of <b>Decision IX/28</b>, which for the first time recognizes the importance of local and subnational governments in supporting the implementation of the Convention and in implementing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.</i>	<b>Mayors Conference - Local Action for Biodiversity</b> <i>Bonn Call for Action on Cities and Biodiversity</i>

See the previous Summit reports here:



[www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2008](http://www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2008)

[www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2010](http://www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2010)

[www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2012](http://www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2012)

[www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2014](http://www.bit.ly/CBCSummit2014)

<http://bit.ly/CBCSummit2016>

6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments | EVENT REPORT

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# CBD COP 14 Decisions focused on local and subnational

The successive Global Biodiversity Summits, held as official parallel events to the CBD COPs since COP 9 in 2008, have resulted in increasing numbers of COP decisions on local and subnational governments. CBD COP 14 surpassed this proud tradition, being characterized by very active and fruitful engagement between cities and regions, CBD Parties, their partners and the SCBD. The result of this intensive engagement was an unprecedented number of decisions - seven in total - that relate to local and subnational governments. This is testimony to the recognition by the SCBD and CBD Parties of the vital role that cities and regions play in contributing to the CBD objectives and attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The CBD COP 14 decisions which relate to the mandates and issues of local and subnational governments, are outlined in the table below.

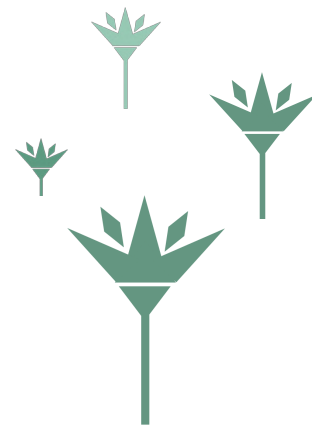
CBD COP 14 also saw the adoption of the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People*, which Dr. Cathy Oke, ICLEI First Vice President, delivered to the COP14 Plenary. The Communiqué calls on CBD Parties to strengthen their commitment to multi-level integration and collaboration with local and subnational actors, to stem biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem health for the sake of people and nature.

In support of the global Roadmap Process of the CBD Parties, cities and regions also committed to developing a Roadmap for Local and Subnational Action towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CBD COP Decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments	Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COP 14
<p><b>CBD COP 14</b></p> <p><i>Adoption by the Parties of the following <b>seven</b> decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and regions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/3</b> - Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors;</li> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/4</b> - Health and biodiversity;</li> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/6</b> - The conservation and sustainable use of pollinators;</li> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/7</b> - Sustainable wildlife management;</li> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/8</b> - Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;</li> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/11</b> - Invasive alien species; and</li> <li>• <b>CBD/COP/14/34</b> - Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</li> </ul>	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments</b></p> <p><i>Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People 2018</i></p>

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt  
2018

# High level roundtable for subnational and local government leaders



On the evening before the event, the Summit convenors brought together an intimate group of government leaders, including mayors, governors and other political representatives from around the world, to a VIP orientation and briefing meeting. This also allowed for the engagement of VIPs with the CBD Secretariat and the Summit convenors, and for a meet-and-greet with each other. Principally however, its purpose was to serve as a roundtable discussion, in order to cement the official Summit outcome document, the ***Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People***.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Khaled Fouda, the Governor of South Sinai, Egypt, and moderated by the First ICLEI Vice President and Councillor of the City of Melbourne, Australia, Dr. Cathy Oke. Additional key partners – seated on the panel – included Mr. Yunus Arikan, the ICLEI Head of

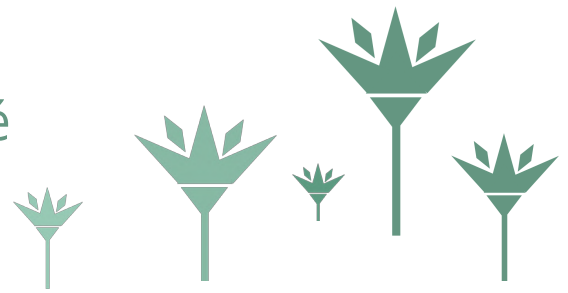
Global Advocacy and Policy, Dr. Khaled Metwally from the Office of the Governor of South Sinai, Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Head of Division: Implementation Support, SCBD, Her Excellency Joke Schauvliege, the Minister for Environment, Nature and Agriculture for the Government of Flanders, Belgium, and the Secretary General of nrg4SD Ms. Natalia Vera, among others.

The deliberation around the Summit outcome was followed by an endorsement of the document, which called for a mitigation of the ongoing loss to ecosystems and biodiversity upon which humanity depends. It was agreed that this requires a greater commitment to collaboration and integration across multiple tiers of government and sectors. The convenors and other delegates voiced their desire to continue this tradition and to convene in China in 2020 with the rest of those present.



# The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué

Page 1 of 5



Building on consecutive previous Summit outcomes and declarations, the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People 2018*, adopted during the Summit and presented to the CBD COP 14 Plenary as outcome of the Summit, **calls local, subnational and national governments and their partners to take action in this critical period of rapid urbanization.**

*“The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué calls on all levels of government and their partners to take action in light of the most recent global assessment reports, which so clearly point to the need for significant, rapid and collective action. Never before have there been so many diverse and simultaneous opportunities for us to build and exchange knowledge, pioneer new, systemic solutions and develop a shared vision for an urban future that incorporates nature and all it offers.”*

~ **Ms. Kobie Brand**, Global Director, ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

The Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué calls for significantly stepping up efforts by all CBD Parties and their subnational actors to work together to realize, enable and unlock to the fullest potential the rich, diverse and collective contributions of all levels of subnational governments and that of our growing urban populations to contribute directly and measurably to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

*“This Summit and its outcomes demonstrate the spirit of multilevel cooperation and vertical integration between all levels of government to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors and promote nature-based solutions. We welcome many more actors, networks and initiatives to join this growing community of leading subnational actors under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, co-chaired by the SCBD, ICLEI and nrg4SD.”*

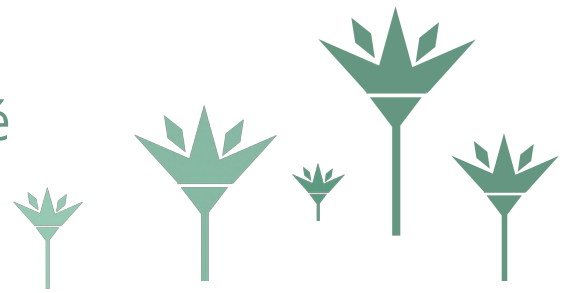
~ **Ms. Natalia Vera**, Secretary General: Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD).

## Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People 2018

We, local and subnational governments, our networks and our partners, convening at **6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments** held in parallel with the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17 to 29 November 2018,

hereby agree that,

in light of most recent global assessment reports such as the **IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C**, **WWF's Living Planet Report 2018: Aiming Higher** and **Nature in the Urban Century Assessment (NUCA)**, urgent action is needed to save people and our planet as we hit the 1.5°C climate wall and may soon reach tipping points that may cause irreversible destruction to nature and ultimately to humankind. By 2050, the estimated global population will be 68% urban, with an additional 2,5 billion people living in cities the next 32 years. This rate of urban growth:



- is roughly the equivalent of building a city with the population of Beijing every 100 days
- will, between now and 2030, destroy natural habitat that stores an estimated metric tons of CO<sup>2</sup> 4.35 billion
- will set to decline worldwide vertebrate populations by 60 % from their 1970 levels by 2020
- will, by 2030, lead to 40% of protected areas within 50 km of urban areas, whereas, before 2000, 29% of protected areas were less than 50 km from urban areas

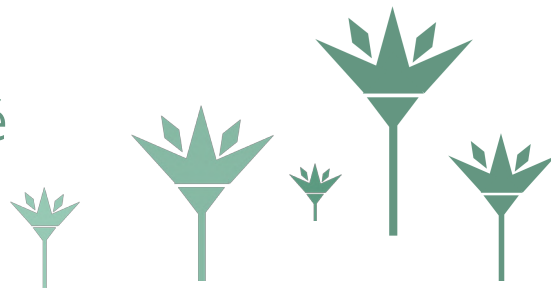
Now more than ever all Parties, governments at all levels and their stakeholders need to step up their efforts significantly and to work together to realize, enable and unlock to fullest potential, the rich, diverse and collective contributions, and that of our growing urban populations, to **significantly, rapidly and collectively implement actions for contributing directly and measurably** to the attainment of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, in ways that:

- advance the implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Climate Agreement
- build stronger multilevel governance mechanisms for strengthened and more integrated actions
- aim our interactions with, and impacts on, nature at a systemic level to result in multiple and sustainable benefits for nature and people
- fully enable and integrate the contributions and voices of all levels of government into the design and implementation of a **post-2020 global biodiversity framework** as announced by the CBD Parties during the High Level Segment of the CBD COP14 upon the release of the **Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet**
- collectively support the **Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People** announced by the Republic of Egypt, the People's Republic of China and the Secretariat of the CBD

Successive Global Biodiversity Summits of Cities and Subnational Governments since CBD COP9 in 2008, have underlined the role and contribution of all levels of subnational governments and resulted in COP decisions focused on their full engagement. We reiterate our statements presented through the **2016 Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action** adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Summit.

**We hereby undertake to:**

- *further strengthen collaboration amongst ourselves as actors and with our partners, including the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity,*
- develop an action plan of concrete actions to be taken at all levels of subnational government, and
- to strengthen our existing networks, platforms, programmes and projects while collectively working on



new solutions and pioneering and sharing innovations and new approaches within our towns, cities, regions and other levels of subnational governments under the auspices of the **Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity**, supported and adopted by CBD Parties in 2011 at COP10 in Nagoya, Japan

We welcome the Talanoa Dialogues of the climate community and commend the efforts of cities and regions to bridge urban-climate action and engage all levels of governments as an opportunity to mainstream biodiversity into climate goals and actions as well.

### We recognize that:

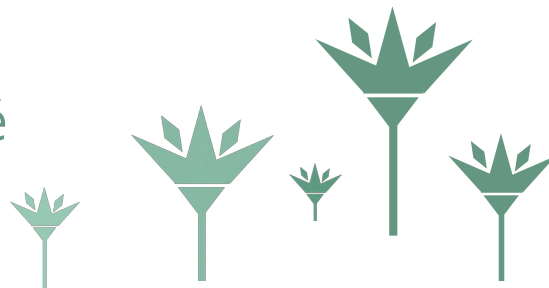
- towns and cities attract highly skilled individuals and serve as engines for innovation, and are likely to be the source of new ideas and approaches to enhance biodiversity both within urban areas and in their hinterlands, and
- regional governments can and do play a key role in enabling the integration of different sectoral policies and programs at the subnational level. This cross territorial and sectoral approach is critical for multilevel joint action.

We realize that our contributions at all levels of local and subnational governments and those of our partners are already very significant and effective drivers for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and that these contributions should significantly increase in the remaining two years and scale up even further in the post 2020-era.

We treasure and invest in our strong collaboration between leading city and regional networks such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS) and the European Union Committee of the Regions (CoR) who are working together and aligning efforts for maximum impact to mainstream nature-based solutions, promote biodiversity actions and enhance and restore ecosystems in our territories. We also welcome many more actors, networks and initiatives to join this growing community of leading subnational actors under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, co-chaired by the SCBD, ICLEI and nrg4SD.

We proudly announce **CitiesWithNature**, a game changing new global initiative by founding partners ICLEI, TNC and IUCN. CitiesWithNature is a shared **platform for all cities, regions and other subnational authorities** to connect and engage in mainstreaming nature into cities and regions in ways that benefit both people and nature. It serves as the ‘one stop shop’ for all levels of subnational governments to share and report on their actions in contributing to making progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets and shaping the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

We commend the release of the **Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**, developed by ICLEI and SCBD, supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund,



We commend the individual statements from nrg4SD, GoLS and the [EU CoR](#) and hereby append these to this Communiqué.

**We further commit** to expand, strengthen and raise the ambition through our existing projects and initiatives, and welcome Parties and other actors to join in supporting and partnering on these with us:

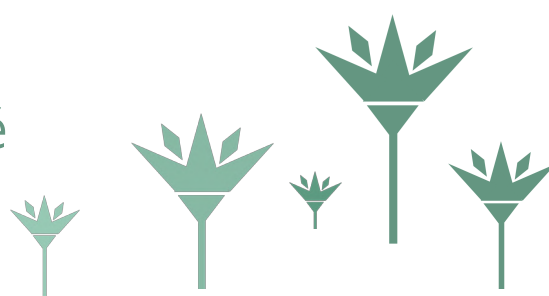
- ICLEI's **INTERACT-Bio** and **Urban Natural Assets (UNA)** Projects
- The nrg4SD's **Learning Platform for Regions for Biodiversity**
- The **Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity**
- The **Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO)**
- The **Nature in the Urban Century Assessment (NUCA)** as led by the Stockholm Research Centre and The Nature Conservancy and contributed to by many research institutions and our networks
- The Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments for biodiversity (AC SNG) Subnational Coalition for Biodiversity Action and its Plan of Action 2018-2020
- The nrg4SD initiative **Localizing the SDGs at the Subnational Level**
- ICLEI's initiative on **Localising SDGs at the Local Level**
- The European Union funded nature-based solutions projects **Clever Cities**, **proGReg**, **Naturvation**, **Connecting Nature** as well as the BiodivErsA project **ENABLE** involving multiple partners from cities, science, business and city networks
- The Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action

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

- ***recognize and strengthen the catalytic role of all local and subnational governments in this urban century to contributing solutions that brings the change needed to achieve the CBD's Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050***
- ***accelerate the full participation of all levels of local and subnational governments in preparing national reports and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, with respect to the diversity of our circumstances, mandates and competencies***
- ***accelerate their actions to unlock available resources for international cooperation to support nature-based solutions and biodiversity mainstreaming at all levels of subnational government***
- ***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***

# The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué

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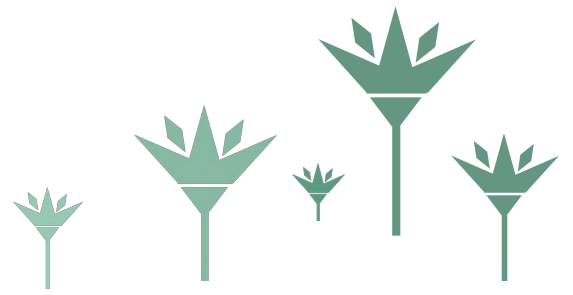
- **enable and promote the implementation of the consecutive COP decisions** related to local and subnational governments including Decision IX/28, X/22, XI/8, XII/9 and XIII/3 and, COP14 decisions that mention local and subnational governments, and to **ensure that the flow of decisions continues in future COPs**
- **continue and increase efforts to collaborate** with the other global sustainable development governance processes and Conventions such as the Rio Conventions and Biodiversity Liaison Group, UNFCCC and the New Urban Agenda and the efforts of the UN Secretary General to convene 2019 UN Climate Summit, in particular on the work streams on nature-based solutions to ensure that biodiversity is mainstreamed in systemic and inter-related solutions are developed and adopted under the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework**.

We further

- applaud the announcements made at COP14 on the commitment to include all levels of government into the design and implementation of a **post-2020 global biodiversity framework** as announced by the CBD Parties during the High Level Segment of the CBD COP14 upon the release of the **Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet**,
- applaud the announcement of the **Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People** as announced by the Republic of Egypt, the People's Republic of China and the Secretariat of the CBD at COP14,
- **recall preceding commitments, statements and calls to action delivered to the CBD 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 and the **Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action** 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
- **call upon the CBD COP14, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 2018, 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
- thank our gracious Hosts, the Government of Egypt, the Governorate of South Sinai and the City of Sharm El-Sheikh and the SCBD who, together have, through their gracious hospitality and generous support enabled our local and subnational constituency and partners to continue our tradition of convening at each CBD COP since COP10 in the **Global Biodiversity Summits of Local and Subnational Governments**, and
- Commit to present all the findings and recommendations of the **6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments** to all participants of the Summit and to the Executive Secretary of the CBD with a request to distribute it to all CBD Parties and partners, as well as convey these messages to UN Katowice Climate Conference

Finally, we are looking forward to continuing this tradition and to convening in Beijing in 2020 where we hope to see you all again.

# Mapping the way forward



The Summit announced a **Local and Subnational Roadmap and Action Agenda** of activities towards CBD COP 15 and beyond, particularly on collective contributions to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Roadmap and Action Agenda will capture all levels of local and subnational governments' future plans to significantly scale up their own and shared actions; strengthen their partnerships; and raise ambitions to ensure on-the-ground success of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as called for by the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

"As the future is urban, our constituency of all levels of local and subnational governments is ready to accelerate our Action Roadmap towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in support of the global Roadmap Process of the Parties. We want Sharm el-Sheikh to be remembered as a key meeting on the pathway towards bending the curve, and we want Beijing to give momentum to biodiversity at the same level Paris gave to climate."

~ **Dr. Cathy Oke**, First Vice President, ICLEI Presidium, and Councilor, City of Melbourne, Australia



# Side events

## Lessons and perspectives from subnational and local projects and actions to mainstream nature-based solutions in cities and city-regions

As the world moves towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it is appropriate to reflect on and review progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 over the past decade. This side event showcased how the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (COP 10 Decision X/22)* has landed at the local level by highlighting a few cutting edge and transformative programs and projects implemented in cities and city regions across the world.

It also presented an opportunity for former CBD COP host cities and local governments to evaluate the progress of their efforts in line with the commitments that have been made over the last ten years namely the Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action (2016); the Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution on Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity declaration (2014); and the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity (2010).

The CBD Secretariat provided closing remarks and guidance to those landing biodiversity at a local level. This advice included engaging and interrogating the language and wording used in the CBD COP decisions to ensure alignment and to support the CBD decisions so that they make their way to the ground.

**Key messages:** It was clear there are a number of credible experiences on biodiversity and nature-based solutions that the CBD community can build upon.

*Social-ecological activities that are small, local and not yet part of the mainstream, need to be collectively identified and integrated into an interlocking network that informs a new way of doing things.*

# Towards a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: An Action Agenda for Local and Subnational Governments

*(This side event was hosted under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity)*

The year 2020 will be a landmark for humanity's efforts to conserve biodiversity and to ensure future benefits from nature. Indeed it will be a milestone for the world to take stock of the human relationship with nature. This will determine humanity's survival and quality of life beyond 2020. Cities and other levels of subnational governments are recognized as key role players in the protection and restoration of urban nature and driving local action to support national and global biodiversity achievements.

Globally, many diverse networks, agencies and initiatives are working towards supporting and mobilizing local and subnational governments in their efforts to protect nature's benefits, through supporting research, advocacy, implementation, governance and access to financing. But are our efforts sufficiently collective? A post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implies a shift towards aligning our individual contributions towards greater leverage and impact. How can we align our efforts to ensure enhanced benefits from nature in and around our cities?

The purpose of this side event was to introduce and further cement the collective ambition of a broad and inclusive group of global, regional and national, and other actors, working within the subnational and city contexts in turning policy into practice, searching for and applying new approaches and scaling up actions.

6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments | EVENT REPORT



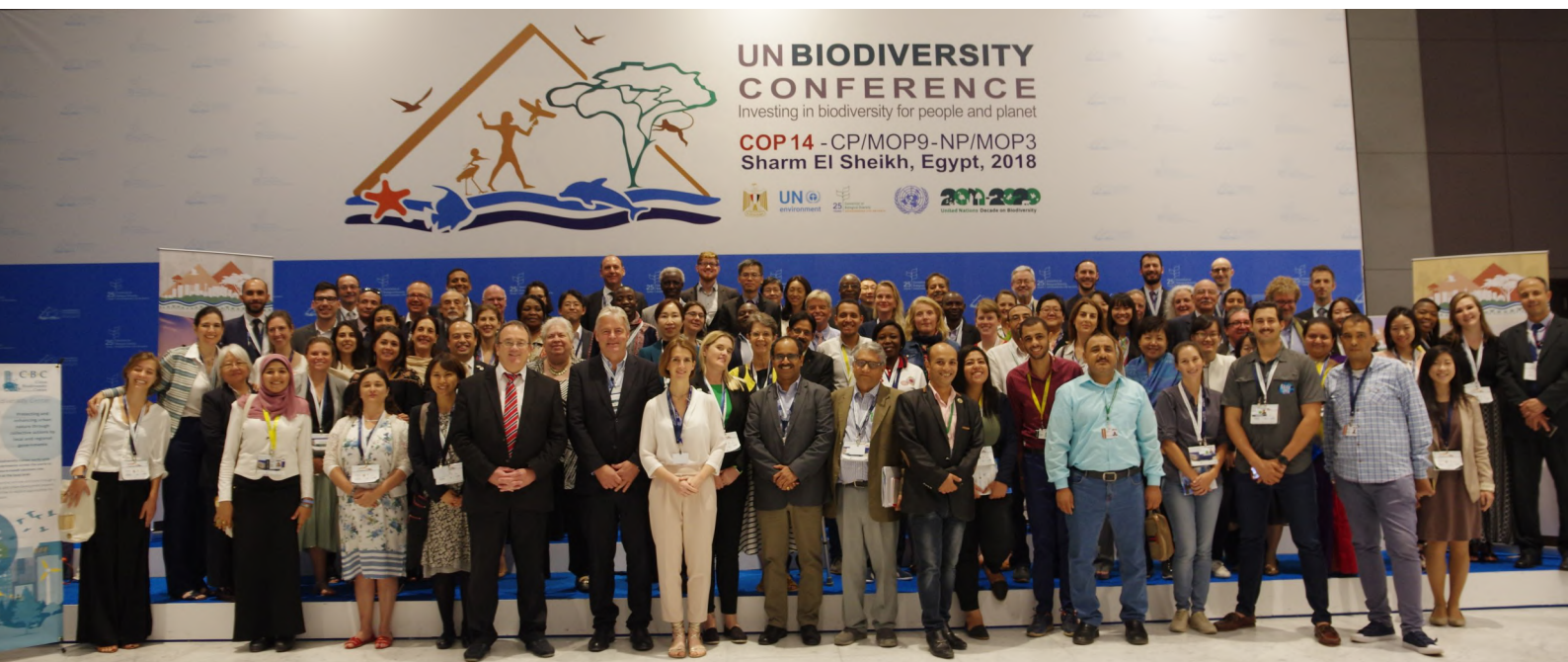
**Key messages:** Recognizing a lack of capacity in cities as a major challenge and the need to empower cities to plan for a positive nature planning, it is important to continue to emphasize ecosystem management across boundaries and to emphasize ecosystem support to livelihoods. The post-2020 framework requires strong technical dialogue and must ensure that local and subnational governments are part of the global decision-making.



# Thanks

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) wishes to thank the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and all levels within the Egyptian Government, as well as all speakers, presenters and participants for making the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments a major success.

**We look forward to working with our partners and local and regional governments from around the world to take this proud tradition forward, and to further build this strategic global platform for subnational biodiversity action in parallel with the CBD COP 15 and beyond.**





## Contact us

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