

# LOCAL & SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

## MOBILIZING GLOBALLY AT CBD COP 14



Briefing report compiled by the  
**ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (ICLEI CBC)**  
and the **Network of Regional Governments for  
Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)**  
on behalf of all **members, partners, local  
governments and their associated networks**

November 2018



### Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 14)

CBD COP 14 is currently taking place until 29 November 2018 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. At this bi-annual Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting, the Parties formally meet to **advance the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through official decisions.**

As at previous CBD COP meetings, there will be a number of important stakeholders present besides the Parties. **One of the six Major Groups recognized by the COP is local and subnational governments.** In preparing for a consolidated local and subnational government effort at this important event, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and its numerous partners have been playing a central role in the lead-up to CBD COP 14.

As the strategy for the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** is discussed, and the attainment of the global **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** is under reflection, CBD COP 14 and the various side events taking place in the margins of the COP, will be the most significant and high-profile opportunity so far for local and subnational governments to demonstrate their importance, role, contribution and commitment to mainstreaming biodiversity into all relevant sectors and appropriate policy frameworks and plans. As we move towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the local and subnational constituency has a vital and significant contribution to make and role to play in the discussions and negotiations around the development and implementation of the **Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People.**

**Advocacy for local and subnational governments at CBD COP 14 will be supported by a number of key interventions and events, including:**

DATE	EVENT
14-15 November	Representation and participation in the CBD COP 14 High Level Segment
17-29 November	Exhibition stand at Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS) exhibition
18 November	Presenting at WWF First Global Biodiversity Communications Forum, as part of the CEPA Fair
18 November	Attending IUCN celebration of 70 years of vision & impact, and showcasing solutions for a healthy planet
21 November	Attending side event #2745 - Tackling Common Challenges in NBSAP Implementation - Examples From JBF Pilot Projects
21 November	Presenting at French Biodiversity Agency side events during the Governance Day organized by IDDRI
22 November	ICLEI, TNC and IUCN meeting on the next steps of activation of our new global CitiesWithNature initiative
22 November	nrg4SD Press Conference - Launch of the Subnational Coalition for Biodiversity Action
22 November	IUCN-led side event #2890: Better connecting people with nature to inspire enhanced action on biodiversity conservation – Launch of #NatureForAll Evidence Synthesis Report
22 November	High-Level Briefing for local and subnational leaders attending the 6 <sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit
<b>23-24 November</b>	 <b>6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments</b> 
23 November	GoLS Bilateral Meeting with the Executive Secretary of the SCBD to report on the recent initiatives by subnational governments
24 November	ICLEI bilateral meeting with the Executive Secretary of the SCBD
24 November	Participating in the 4th Science Forum
25 November	ICLEI-led side event #2917: Local biodiversity actions towards implementing the subnational Plan of Action (2011 - 2020)
25 November	nrg4SD-led side event #2558: Regional governments: a cross-sectional approach to accelerate global ambitions in Climate Change, Biodiversity and SDGs
26 November	6 <sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit Press Conference
26 November	Nature in the Urban Century Assessment (NUCA) Press Conference
26 November	ICLEI-led side event #2918: Towards a New Deal for Nature and People: An Action Plan for Cities and Subnational Governments.
26 November	Nature in the Urban Century Assessment (NUCA) launch event
26 November	nrg4SD-led side event: Empowering Subnational Governments to Implement the CBD and the ABT through Innovation, Cooperation and Collaboration – CEPA Fair

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

ICLEI, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the national and subnational hosts of the CBD COP, have been convening Global Biodiversity Summits as official parallel events to the CBD COPs since 2008.

**The Summits provide 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.**

Outcomes of past summits have included concrete commitments and declarations, such as the **Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action**, welcomed by Parties at the closing plenary of CBD COP 13 in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016.

From **23 to 24 November**, governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from around the world will gather in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, for the **6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments**, where they will engage directly with national leaders and their key stakeholders. Engagements will focus on **city and state level actions to mainstream biodiversity solutions into the new global developmental framework.**

Planning for urban green growth is critical to achieving the targets set by global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Incorporating nature-based solutions into the urban environment allows cities to address multiple climate risks, protect biodiversity, build resilience and improve the overall health and well-being of communities.


**ICLEI, through its Global Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC)**, is once again organizing the Summit, in partnership with the **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)** and **the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)** and the **Government of Egypt**. The Summit is co-convened with the South Sinai Governorate in Egypt and H.E. the Governor of South Sinai will preside over the Summit and is its official Chairperson.



### What to expect from the Summit

The program of this year's Summit has been informed by ongoing engagement and consultation with the SCBD and key ICLEI partners in the local and subnational constituency, including nrg4SD, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS) and the European Committee of Regions.

Local and subnational governments, through a variety of interactive sessions, workshops, roundtables, panel discussions and plenary sessions will showcase 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 will demonstrate 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 the **Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People**.

The **themes of the Summit** are specifically linked to the **mainstreaming** themes of CBD COP 14. The Summit **high level segment** comprises **three roundtables**, each structured around a specific mainstreaming theme as described below:

- **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 will also address innovative financing to support cities and subnational governments in mainstreaming biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

**Nine focus sessions** will form the heart of the program and will focus on:

- mainstreaming subnational action through networks and institutional mobilization
- 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 final closing plenary will pull together local and subnational governments' inputs. **The key outcomes from the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit will include:**

*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*



## Conclusion

The CBD COPs are the most high-level international meetings at which biodiversity is discussed and at which international decisions regarding biodiversity are made. CBD COP 14 and the various events surrounding it – most notably the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit for Local and Subnational Governments – provide perhaps the best ever opportunity for local and subnational governments to profile their efforts and bring attention to the importance of their role and need for support.

The summit outcome statement will record and exemplify local and subnational government ambitions, while the roadmap will facilitate a clear way forward for local and subnational governments to protect and restore urban nature and drive local action to support national and global biodiversity achievements. The acceptance of the summit outcome statement and roadmap by the Parties is expected to further facilitate the critical support needed for local and subnational governments to support their nations in the implementation of the CBD, advancing the critical Decision X/22 made at the CBD COP 10.



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