

ICLEI CITIES BIODIVERSITY CENTER

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

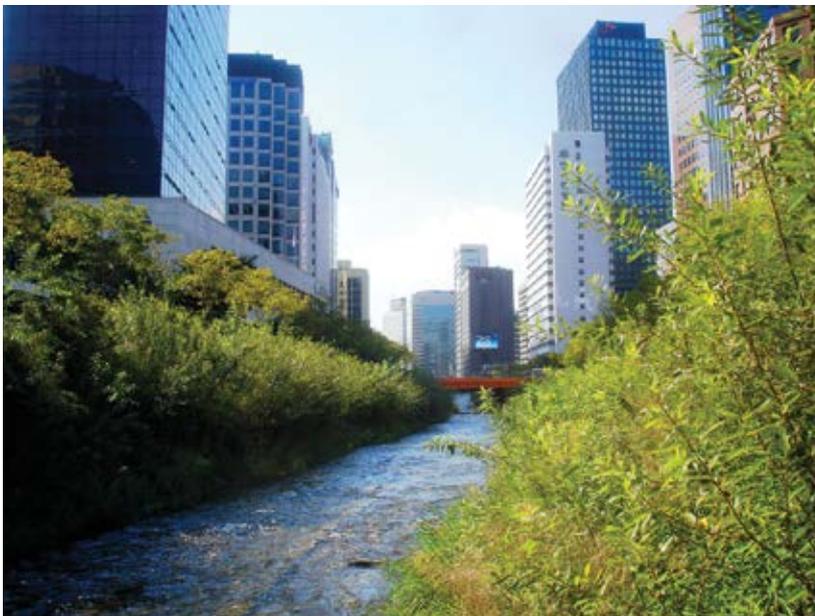
**DECEMBER 2012
EDITION**

**CBD COP11
CITIES FOR LIFE SUMMIT
LAB NEWS
LAUNCH OF CBO**



ICLEI ANNOUNCES FUTURE LEADERSHIP

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability elected its leadership for the term, 2012-2015, during its Global Executive Committee meeting held in Seoul, South Korea on 18 October 2012. The Global Executive Committee is ICLEI's policy-making body. It currently consists of eight representatives from the different world regions as well as five appointed members, each of whom holds a thematic portfolio. Incumbent ICLEI President David Cadman was unanimously re-elected for a third term. Also re-elected to the Global Executive Committee as First Vice President is Mexico City's Minister of Environment, Martha Delgado Peralta. Mayor James Nxumalo of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality (Durban), South Africa and Mary Jane Ortega, Secretary General of CityNet were elected as Vice Presidents. Mayor Nxumalo is globally recognized as a champion of local government efforts in climate adaptation. The three Vice Presidents will support President Cadman in representing ICLEI and its work globally. ICLEI also appointed a Management Committee consisting of the President, the three Vice Presidents, and Mayor Frank Cownie of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, USA.



The City of Seoul's newly restored Cheonggyecheon River (by J.H.L. Kurstjens).



NEW WEBSITES READY SOON!

Early in 2013, new sleek websites will be launched for ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center and the URBIS Initiative. Expect enhanced user-friendliness, accessibility, and style!

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SUMMARY OF CBD COP11, CITIES FOR LIFE & SIDE EVENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAKE HEADWAY AT CBD COP 11

While local and subnational authorities were showing their solidarity by participating in the Cities for Life Summit, in parallel with 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 11), the parties to the CBD were busy negotiating the text of the Convention. One of the proposals for adoption by the COP working groups was decision XI/8: "Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities". It consisted of four parts, the first and longest of which was "Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities". In short, the subnational component of the decision:

- welcomes actions in support of the comprehensive, and still very active, decision X/22 from COP 10 and its associated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities;
- welcomes the key messages of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook publication;
- takes note of the Cities for Life Summit and its organizers;
- invites the development of guidelines for developing local biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- invites parties and others to support initiatives by networks of



The entrance to the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, the venue for CBD COP11

- local governments;
- encourages the development and use of locally-relevant biodiversity indicators; and
 - requests that the Executive Secretary of the CBD support the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity.

ICLEI is named twice in the decision, which was adopted with hardly any changes made by any of the parties to its subnational component. Until the final versions are posted, the "advanced unedited copy" of Decision XI/8 and other COP 11 decisions can be viewed on the CBD website. This marks the third time in successive CBD COPs that a decision has been dedicated to local and subnational governments. Arguably all of the other COP 11 decisions are also relevant to local and subnational governments, although

Local and sub-national governments must be considered in as many future decisions as possible to ensure a more integrated approach.

only 11 of them actually mention the subnational or local level in any context. Only two mention strategy at the subnational level and only one mentions local government. There remains therefore, work to be done in capitalizing on the growing recognition of local governments' critical role in supporting the implementation of the CBD. Local and subnational governments must be considered in as many future decisions as possible to ensure a more integrated approach. This strategy, which was recently proposed to CBD senior management by ICLEI's seconded staff member at the CBD Secretariat, Andre Mader, is in line with the stated intention of the CBD Executive Secretary, Mr Braulio Dias, to cut down on repetition in decisions and reduce the amount of negotiation required at the CBD COPs, so that greater focus can be placed on how to implement these decisions.



ICLEI's seat in the main negotiating hall at COP11.

CITIES FOR LIFE: CITY AND SUBNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT

A resounding success, the Cities for Life Summit, held in parallel to CBD COP 11 on 15-16 October in Hyderabad, India, brought together more than 500 participants, including 150 city and sub-national representatives from 45 countries, as well as delegates from UN agencies, science, business, national, and international organizations.

The Summit was organized by ICLEI and the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and the Government of India. Participants took stock of progress since the City Biodiversity Summit at CBD COP 10 in Nagoya. They outlined the latest, most relevant tools, initiatives and networks available to support local actors in their efforts to bring nature back into cities, reduce ecological footprints and sensitize citizens.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, and the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. ESL Narasimhan inaugurated the first and second days of the Summit respectively. In her welcome speech at the opening plenary of the High Level Segment led by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Ms. Jayanti Natarajan, highlighted the crucial role that cities play in biodiversity management: "It is estimated that half of India's population will also be living in cities by 2045 and I am therefore happy that a parallel summit on 'Cities for Life' has been held on the margins of COP 11 bringing together subnational and local authorities. I am very confident that this will go a long way in bringing biodiversity back onto the urban agenda."



Indian entertainment on the first night of the Cities for Life Summit.

The Cities for Life Summit culminated in the Hyderabad Declaration, a pledge by the mayors and governors of local and sub-national authorities to develop and implement local strategies towards the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity; and to play their part in achieving the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The declaration was presented during the High Level Segment Closing Plenary by an ICLEI representative on behalf of local governments and subnational authorities.

Summit highlights (described further below) include the signing of a MoU between ICLEI and the CBD

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Ms. Jayanti Natarajan, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests

Secretariat; the launch of the 'Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO): Action and Policy'; the inauguration of Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) – India; and the presentation of Hyderabad's City Biodiversity Index results. The Summit was later formally recognized by Parties to the CBD by the adoption of decision XI/8 on "Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities" that, inter alia, "[T]akes note of the Cities for Life Summit..."



Gino von Begin, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI; Thomas Elmqvist, Professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre; Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, CBD Secretariat; Kobie Brand, Global Biodiversity Coordinator, ICLEI; and H.W. Mayor Mohammad Majid Hussain (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) at the Cities for Life Summit.



Executive Secretary of the CBD, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias and ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Coordinator, Kobie Brand, signing the MoU.

CBD-ICLEI PARTNERSHIP REINFORCED BY MOU

At the Cities for Life Summit, CBD Executive Secretary, Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias and ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Coordinator, Ms. Kobie Brand, signed a landmark MoU between their respective organizations, recognizing the significant global benefits of strengthening collaboration towards integrated and coordinated activities in support of biodiversity management at the local level. The MoU creates an enabling environment for up-scaling ICLEI's biodiversity initiatives. Together,

ICLEI and the CBD Secretariat will support local governments in developing Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs) and encourage their cooperation with each other and indeed with higher levels of government in pursuit of the Aichi Targets.

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERCITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On 14 October 2012, the 4th meeting of the International BiodiverCities Advisory Committee took place, strategically scheduled adjacent to the Cities for Life Summit and the High Level Segment of CBD COP 11. The



Meeting of the 4th International BiodiverCities Advisory Committee.



Norbert Müller is a Professor in Landscape Management and Restoration Ecology at the University of Applied Sciences in Erfurt, Germany with 30 years of research and application experience in the fields of urban biodiversity, conservation biology and sustainable design. In 2008 he founded URBIO - the International network for Urban Biodiversity and Design - with currently over 800 researchers and practitioners and is the advisor for the UNCBD "Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity". He has published a large number of papers - and recently (2010) the first book on "Urban Biodiversity and Design".

Committee's newly appointed Chair, Mayor Troy Pickard of Joondalup, Australia commenced the meeting by inviting participants to reflect on a multitude of achievements in 2012 - including those relating to Urban Nature, the ICLEI World Congress, Rio+20 and the World Conservation Congress. Consideration was then given to the potential for strengthening the BiodiverCities Advisory Committee itself. Mayor Pickard emphasized the need to ensure that the composition of the Committee is representative of cities worldwide and of other relevant institutions. Recognizing a lack of scientific representation, Mayor Pickard welcomed Prof. Norbert Muller, President of URBIO, and Prof. Thomas Elmqvist of The Stockholm Resilience Centre, in taking up committee seats. ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center is invigorated by this newfound synergy with the scientific community which will help to close the gap between science, policy and practice.



Thomas Elmqvist, PhD, is a professor in Natural Resource Management at Stockholm University. His

research focuses on ecosystem services, land use change, natural disturbances and components of resilience including the role of social institutions. He is coordinating major interdisciplinary research themes as part of The Stockholm Resilience Centre focusing on governance and management of ecosystem services in urban landscapes, involving 12 cities around the world. Amongst numerous other accolades, he is currently a co-chair of the Science Committee bioSustainability, as part of Diversitas and participates in The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity project, URBIS, URBES and is the lead author of the recently launched, Cities and Biodiversity Outlook.

LAUNCH OF CITIES & BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK

At the Cities for Life: City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit, the first edition of the groundbreaking Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO): Action and Policy was launched. Professor Thomas Elmqvist of the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Editor of the assessment, presented published copies to the CBD Executive Secretary, Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias and ICLEI's Global Biodiversity Coordinator, Ms. Kobie Brand.

The CBO assesses the links between urbanization, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and has been prepared in response to CBD decision X/22. It was produced by the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), in partnership with the CBD Secretariat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. “The Outlook provides an overview and response to knowledge gaps in how we understand processes behind urban social-ecological systems and how urbanization is shaping land use,” said Professor Thomas Elmqvist.

The assessment indicates that over 60 % of the land projected to be urban in 2030 has yet to be built. The CBO argues that this rapid urbanization presents major opportunities for global sustainability, biodiversity conservation and human wellbeing.

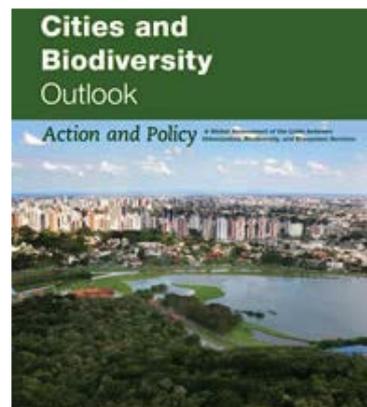
The study illustrates how cities can move from being highly extractive entities to becoming important generators of ecosystem services by examining a wide range of successful local initiatives. Key messages emerging from the CBO are as follows:

1. Urbanization is both a challenge and an opportunity to manage ecosystem services globally
2. Rich biodiversity can exist in cities
3. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are critical natural capital
4. Maintaining functioning urban ecosystems can significantly enhance human health and wellbeing
5. Urban ecosystem services and biodiversity can help contribute to climate-change mitigation and adaptation
6. Increasing the biodiversity of urban food systems can enhance food and nutrition security
7. Ecosystem services must be integrated in urban policy and planning
8. Successful management of biodiversity and ecosystem services must be based on multi-scale, multisectoral, and multi-stakeholder involvement
9. Cities offer unique opportunities for learning and education about a resilient and sustainable future
10. Cities have a large potential to generate innovations and governance tools and therefore can - and must - take the lead in sustainable development

“The Outlook provides an overview and response to knowledge gaps in how we understand processes behind urban social-ecological systems and how urbanization is shaping land use,”

- Professor Thomas Elmqvist.

The newly adopted CBD decision XI/8 on Engagement of other Stakeholders, Major Groups and Subnational Authorities welcomes these 10 key messages. ICLEI is extremely proud to be associated with the CBO and has high hopes that this fruitful collaboration will inspire decision-makers the world over to afford greater attention to the relationship between cities and biodiversity.



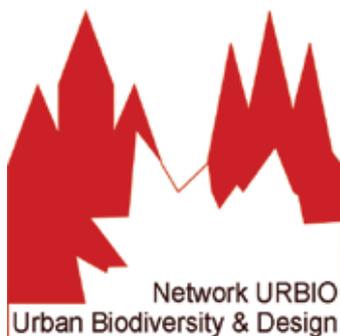
(L-R) Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, CBD Secretariat; Thomas Elmqvist, Professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Kobie Brand, Global Biodiversity Coordinator, ICLEI at the launch of the CBO.

LOCAL ACTION MOVES THE WORLD

ICLEI Cites Biodiversity Center organized the CBD COP 11 side event, Local Action Moves the World: Cities as Implementation Agents. In a highly interactive session, participants and panelists reflected on the collective impact of cities at the preceding Cities for Life Summit before examining various ecosystem-based solutions to urban development challenges. ICLEI's Russell Galt facilitated a panel comprising several eminent speakers. Dr. Lena Chan of Singapore National Biodiversity Center, spoke of the importance of monitoring in urban biodiversity management. Mr. Katsutoshi Oikawa, of Tokyo Metropolitan Government, presented Tokyo's Green Plan and outlined several innovative policies that are supporting multi-functional green space and expanding green roofs. South Africa's experience in mainstreaming biodiversity into urban planning and development was presented by Ms. Anthea Stevens of SANBI. Finally, to conclude a lively session, Mr. Andre Mader of the CBD Secretariat provided an overview of the policy framework for cities and biodiversity in light of the adoption by Parties to the Convention of decision XI/8.

URBIO CONVENES IN THE CITY OF DREAMS

The 3rd Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO) conference took place in Mumbai, India from 8-12 October 2012, as an official side-event of CBD COP 11. Hundreds of scientists and practitioners gathered to discuss cutting-edge research addressing the conference theme, Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. Participants explored opportunities for urban design to tackle climate change in sustainable and resilient ways. ICLEI's Russell Galt facilitated a session on ecological economics and organized a symposium on local government experiences in ecosystem-based adaptation.



An URBIO Advisory Board meeting was also held to agree on strategic priorities for the network. The successful conference culminated in delegates' adoption of the Mumbai Declaration URBIO 2012, which was presented the following week by Prof. HariPriya Gundimeda at the Cities for Life Summit.

UNLOCKING LOCAL TREASURE TROVES: NEW FRONTIERS IN BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS

Local governments are critical contributors to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and attainment of the Aichi Targets. They have access to a wealth of fine-scale biodiversity data, which if shared in a consistent format, can improve conservation management. Local government data publishing came to the forefront of CBD COP 11.

At the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) side event, "from the sidelines, to the mainstream: engaging newer communities in biodiversity data publishing", ICLEI's Russell Galt highlighted the constraints and opportunities experienced by local governments in biodiversity data management. In the Cities for Life Summit, GBIF's Tim Hirsch stated in his presentation that "there is a lot of data being generated by local governments in forms not readily useable by scientists and decision-makers".

Attempting to address this challenge ICLEI, in partnership with the GBIF Secretariat and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), held a training workshop at CBD COP 11 for local government practitioners. Participants were acquainted with various tools and practices for standardizing and publishing biodiversity data via the internet. This workshop is part of a GBIF-supported mentoring project involving SANBI and ICLEI. With guidance from SANBI, ICLEI is in the final stages of becoming a 'GBIF Node Manager' for local governments. This role entails capacitating and encouraging local government practitioners to publish data through the GBIF network. By doing so, local governments will enhance the quality, predictive value, verifiability and transparency of their planning processes.



Tim Hirsch speaking on GBIF as a panellist at the Cities for Life Summit.

LEGAL PREPAREDNESS FOR ACHIEVING THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

The International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) and the CBD Secretariat held a side event on “Legal Preparedness for Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets” as part of a broader program of the same name. The global program seeks to develop knowledge and tools to assist governments in understanding the legal options available to track and achieve biodiversity goals. Central to the initiative is the development of a Legal Toolkit, namely, AichiLex, which will highlight treaty obligations and propose options for legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms. In recognition of the significant legal competences held by local and sub-national authorities, ICLEI’s Russell L Galt participated to provide inputs on their behalf.

BIODIVERSITY AND URBAN ECO-EFFICIENCY

The World Resources Forum (WRF), in partnership with the CBD Secretariat held an official CBD COP 11 side-event, the Urban Eco-Efficiency Lab. This explored how cities can contribute to preserving biodiversity and protecting ecosystems by adopting more sustainable production and consumption patterns, and reducing their ecological footprints. A WRF background paper was presented by Mr. Rui Zhang who highlighted opportunities for urban actors to manage ecological resources more efficiently. ICLEI’s Sophia Picarelli joined a panel facilitated by WRF President, Mr. Xaver Edelmann, to outline the enabling policy conditions for urban eco-efficiency. A consensus emerged that local governments can play a crucial role in achieving the Aichi Targets, particularly Target 4 relating to changing consumption and production patterns. However, political commitment, support for local actions, access to funds and integrated long term planning were emphasized as important requisites.

The world’s economic model is constructed based on economic growth and the exploitation of natural resources.

NEP’s Farid Yaker



PROCURING SUSTAINABLY TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

The CBD Secretariat partnered with UNEP- Division of Technology, Industry and Economics and ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center to organize a CBD COP 11 side event on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP). UNEP’s Farid Yaker explained that “the world’s economic model is constructed based on economic growth and the exploitation of natural resources.” SPP – spending public money responsibly on products and services that foster sustainable development – can help to green supply chains and boost green markets. SPP entails thinking carefully about what to buy: buying only what is needed, purchasing products and services with high environmental performance, and considering the social and economic impacts of procurement. ICLEI’s Russell Galt joined the panel to present the experience of the Sao Paulo State Government in implementing a long-running SPP Program which has successfully curtailed illegal timber trade in the region.



ICLEI’s Sophia Picarelli with fellow delegates at CBD COP11.

BIODIVERSITY & EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Successful conservation of biodiversity requires the active participation and support of civil society. In order for society to recognize the relationship between biodiversity and human well-being and reflect on how this is demonstrated in everyday life, there is a need to recognize the requirement for biodiversity education as an essential component of education for sustainable development (ESD). In order to address these gaps, the International Conference on Biodiversity and Education for Sustainable Development was held as a side event. Speakers at the conference included ICLEI's Georgina Avlonitis who spoke on the LAB CEPA program as well as the CEPA Evaluation Toolkit, created in collaboration with the City of Cape Town. High level speakers included Professor Haripriya Gundimeda of URBIO, who focused on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and the potential of this tool to communicate the monetary and non-monetary values of biodiversity. The conference outcomes provided inputs to the CEPA Plan of Action (Point 10 - strengthening formal and informal education on biodiversity) of the CBD and resulted in a set of recommendations on integrating biodiversity into ESD.



Panelists at the opening session of the Conference gave an insightful overview of the importance of including biodiversity in education for sustainable development.



Georgina Avlonitis (left) from ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center in the audience of the plenary session.

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ADDITIONAL EVENTS

GREEN BUILDINGS FOR GREEN CITIES



Participants listen to a keynote speech at the GBCSA conference

From 23-25 October 2012, in Cape Town, South Africa, the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) Convention and Exhibition took place providing a lively platform for over 80 businesses to showcase their green services, products and innovations. ICLEI's Russell Galt, gave a lecture on the opportunities to integrate biodiversity into urban design so as to enhance building performance and municipal service delivery. For further information please visit: <http://gbsa-convention.org.za/>

THE POWER OF ESD – EXPLORING EVIDENCE & PROMISE

In October, Dr. Jenny Clover of ICLEI Africa Secretariat attended a conference hosted by the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD) at Gotland University, Visby, entitled 'The Power of ESD - Exploring Evidence & Promise'. This conference brought together international practitioners, researchers and policy makers working in the ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) domain. They shared promising and evidence-based practical, theoretical and policy insights and lessons from around the world. Their conclusions will serve as inputs for the final two years of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014) and the period thereafter. Sweden is one of the countries that

are championing the UNESD – the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). SWEDESD is designing, developing and implementing a number of thematic education and training programmes and capacity development projects. For more information visit their website: <http://swedesd.se/about-us>



Soo Hyang Choi, Director, Division of Education, UNESCO, setting the stage on the importance of evidence for shaping ESD practice, policy and governance.

FOOD FUTURES SCENARIO ENGAGEMENT

On 30 August 2012, at the Keine Zalze Wine Estate near Stellenbosch, South Africa, representatives of NGOs, local governments, research institutions and business gathered to examine urban food and nutrition security in South Africa. Participants broke into groups and projected South Africa's 'food futures scenarios', taking into account pertinent social, economic, political and environmental variables. A wide spectrum of scenarios emerged, indicating high uncertainty and susceptibility in South Africa's food system. A consensus emerged that proactive measures must be taken to promote equality, sustainability and resilience in the food system. The event was jointly organized by Consumer Fair and Incite in partnership with Reos Partners (facilitators of the South African Food Lab) and award-winning journalist, Leonie Joubert. ICLEI was represented by Russell Galt.



A 'hands-on' approach was used to engage participants on the topic of food security and food future scenarios

MARITIME TERRITORIES & BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

On 14 and 15 November 2012, the City of Brest hosted, in partnership with the Regional Council of Brittany and the CBD Secretariat, the International Meeting on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. The meeting provided a multi-disciplinary platform bringing together scientists, representatives of international organizations, and technical and political municipal officials from around the world to discuss interactions between the development of marine territories and biodiversity management. The meeting was held as a contribution to the UN Decade on Biodiversity. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) presented the tools, conventions and projects available for managing and protecting marine and coastal biodiversity, including the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). Participants were also briefed by the World Ocean Assessment (WOA), a UN process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects.

LAB NEWS



Local children and panelists at the Kaoshiung LAB Biodiversity Expo along the banks of the newly restored river.

URBAN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE IN KAOHSIUNG

The City of Kaohsiung, an ICLEI member, is the first in its country to join the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) program and URBIS Initiative. In November they hosted an 'International Conference on Local Action for Biodiversity in Kaohsiung'. This was a two day event followed by a two day field trip to local wetlands and forests. The conference provided a unique mixture of policy and research from the city, as well as input from invited LAB cities and ICLEI staff members.

To the delight of many, particularly foreign visitors, local researchers shared on topics from Macaques to black bears, birdwing butterflies, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins and grass owls during the conference. It would seem there is still a wealth of biodiversity and ecosystems to be maintained and conserved throughout the island. The City of Kaohsiung is committed to conserving this biodiversity and even goes so far as to implement slower motor vehicle speed limits in an effort to reduce impacts on endangered migratory butterflies and birds. A major priority is enhancing and maintaining the

many wetlands found in the city which provide important habitat for the thousands of wintering migratory birds and are critical for flood retention and climate change adaptation.

Three other LAB cities were invited to present at the conference, namely the City of Cape Town, Joondalup and Nagoya. Yugi Isobe of Nagoya highlighted the benefits of having held the CBD COP 10 two years ago which include vastly increased public awareness and volunteerism for biodiversity throughout the city. Rebecca Macca-rio of Joondalup highlighted how

integrated planning is helping her city adapt to climate change. Joondalup's planning has received various accolades including the Australian Business Excellence Award for Strategy and Action Plans. Julia Wood of the City of Cape Town, shared their experiences in the LAB program, highlighting, in particular that without council approval of their LBSAP, planning and motivating for budgets would be much more challenging than it currently is. She also shared numerous strategic actions they are undertaking as well as tools such as the Natural Open Space Expansion Toolkit, in development with ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center. Presentations were also provided by Sarah Birch and Georgina Avlonitis of the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, and Bedoshruti Sadhukhan from ICLEI South Asia. Together numerous lessons and case studies were shared between the LAB cities, providing a unique learning experience for all.

In the words of the Deputy Mayor, Shyh-Fang Liu: "Kaohsiung is progressing, but there is still space for improvement; we really want to make sure we are more progressive than other cities; we don't just want artificial structures-we want open lands, grasslands and pastures too".



Speakers and panelists at the dinner generously hosted by the City of Kaohsiung.



Mayor Damien Carême of Grande-Synthe speaking at the Second National Biodiversity Conference, Ville de Grande-Synthe.

VILLE DE GRANDE SYNTHÉ BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

"We speak each day about the financial debt but what kind of ecological debt will we leave to the future generations?" This quote by Mayor Damien Carême of Grande-Synthe, set the scene for the Second National Biodiversity Conference which was hosted by The French Capital of Biodiversity, Ville de Grande-Synthe from the 26-28 September 2012. The conference hosted a prestigious commitment ceremony in which Ville de Grande-Synthe achieved yet another milestone by signing the Durban Commitment, joining over 45 cities from around the world dedicated to local biodiversity management through the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Program.

EDMONTON HONORED

The City of Edmonton, a Pioneer LAB city, was honored by the Government of Alberta, with the 2012 Minister's Award for Municipal Excellence. The City received the Municipal Excellence Award for its outstanding, "The Way We Green" environmental strategic plan at the Urban Municipalities Association conference held in Edmonton on the 27 September 2012. This is the second local environmental excellence award that has been won by the City of Edmonton in recent months, with the City winning the 2012 Environment Award from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators earlier this year.

DESIGNATION OF GROLLEGRUND MARINE RESERVE

The City of Helsingborg has officially designated a marine reserve within its Sound ecosystem. The Grollegrund Marine Reserve was officially inaugurated on the 19 of September 2012 in the City of Helsingborg. This marine reserve is the second to be designated within the City's marine ecosystems.

MEXICO CITY NEWS

Mexico City has just published its first Biodiversity Report and Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) document as part of the LAB Program. The City's Biodiversity Report, which was developed by Dr José Bernal Stoopan and an expert team of Mexico City's environmental officials, provides in-depth details on the state of the City's ecosystems and good practice case studies on Mexico City's urban biodiversity programs. This report and LBSAP provides a solid background for the development of plans and strategies for biodiversity management and will be a great resource which will contribute to biodiversity management in Mexico City.

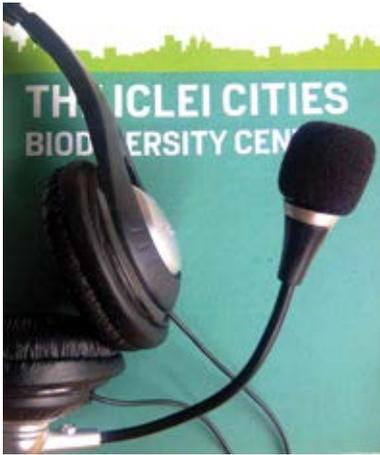
"Through the LAB program, Mexico City has had the opportunity to join an international network of worldwide leader cities in the conservation of biodiversity. Through this program, Mexico City will for the first time, have a Biodiversity Report, a Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation of its biodiversity for the next ten years"

José Bernal Stoopan, México City

The Cities for Life side event, which was organised by the CBD in partnership with ICLEI, provided a platform for the inauguration of the Biodiversity Exhibition Project, a project spearheaded by Mexico City in collaboration with the CBD and ICLEI. The exhibition highlighted the role that cities play in ensuring urban biodiversity conservation. The Biodiversity Exhibition Project provided specific case studies on innovative local biodiversity programs, highlighting the need to harness support for local and sub-national government efforts towards local biodiversity conservation.



Local Indian school children learning about the importance of urban biodiversity at the Biodiversity Exhibition Project at COP11.



LAB WEBINARS

Over the course of the year ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center has facilitated a series of informative LAB webinars which have provided stimulating platforms for discussions on local biodiversity and ecosystem management issues. Many thanks to all those who have participated and provided invaluable insights and sharing of lessons to facilitate this network of learning between local governments! The LAB webinars are proving to be a valuable knowledge sharing facility for cities and will thus continue in 2013.



THE NATURE OF CITIES

David Maddox
 Cities are ecological spaces. But only recently has this vision of ecologically sophisticated cities gained momentum. Today, in increasing numbers, scientists, designers, and practitioners create useful knowledge about urban nature through research and practice that inspires public debate and decision makers. And more citizens are becoming more engaged in the conversation too – a conversation that directly relates to today’s critical debates about the livability and resilience of human settlements. But let’s be candid: there is a long way to go. Thought-leading dialogue in urban

FEATURED BLOG



Dr. David Maddox, founder and editor of TheNatureofCities.com and Chief Scientist at Sound Science LLC, NYC.

nature needs to be broadened and democratized. While there are some examples of cities innovating in urban nature, there are about one million sub-national governments in the world. Only a fraction of these have the interest, not to mention the resources, to integrate nature into their urban planning.

For this reason we launched our blog – The Nature of Cities – devoted to essays about cities as ecological spaces. Any conversation about urban ecosystems is fundamentally multidisciplinary, involving ecologists, sociologists, geographers, landscape designers, architects,

“Urban’s role as a LAB pioneer has provided the opportunity to use the global stage to strengthen local political support for urban biodiversity and underscored the importance of biodiversity in improving the adaptive capacity of cities in an increasingly uncertain world.” Debra Roberts, Durban

“Urban planning and urban nature are not two different things. They must operate together for the good of the people who live in human settlements. So we started a collective blog called The Nature of Cities.”

David Maddox, Founder and Editor of The Nature of Cities

community organizers, land stewards, organizational leaders, artists, and more. So, TNOC is a collective of ca. 40 writers from around the world that represents all these areas. We believe that diversity of perspective focused on urban nature is a laboratory for ideas that cut across the current and inspire innovation.



The Nature of Cities blog can be accessed at www.thenatureofcities.com



OTHER NEWS



Russell Galt (far left) with speakers and participants at the World Local Government Summit, Jeju, South Korea.

LOCAL LEADERS GEAR UP FOR GREEN GROWTH

From 4-6 September 2012, just prior to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, over 500 local government officials gathered on South Korea's southern island of Jeju to participate in the World Local Government Summit. South Korean President, Lee Myung-bak, has made green growth a national priority and this commitment was equally evident in presentations made by South Korean local government representatives who shared their experiences in transitioning towards a green economy. In a session on biodiversity policy, ICLEI's Russell Galt outlined the 10 key messages emanating from the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO) and their policy implications. The Province of Jeju has shown special commitment to biodiversity conservation and is the only place on Earth to receive all three UNESCO designations in natural sciences having been designated Biosphere Reserve in 2002, World Natural Heritage in 2007 and Global Geopark in 2010.

CITIES HIGH ON AGENDA AT MAJOR CONSERVATION GATHERING

From 6-15 September, over 10,000 delegates from 153 countries participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The quadrennial Congress constitutes the premier gathering of organizations and experts affiliated to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest environmental organization. ICLEI has a proud longstanding partnership with IUCN, not least through the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Program. Throughout the congress there were hundreds of events, with the overarching slogan,

'Nature+'. Participants explored and promoted nature-based solutions to the world's most pressing economic and social challenges, affording special attention to themes of governance, development, food, and climate. ICLEI partnered in several workshops, examining the characteristics of urban protected areas and the unconventional conservation strategies they necessitate, as well as the opportunities for sub-national authorities to proactively engage in nature conservation.



Opening ceremony of the World Local Government Summit

The Members' Assembly

In the IUCN Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament, NGOs and governments debated and voted on over 180 motions addressing issues from Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks to elephant and rhino poaching. Two important

motions relating to local governments were adopted as resolutions:

- Motion 006 on Cooperation with local and regional government authorities in the implementation of the IUCN Programme 2013–2016; and
- Motion 049 on Redesigning future cities and related urban zones with protected areas: cities, return to nature.

ICLEI supported these motions as important steps towards unlocking the potential of sub-national governments to take action for biodiversity.

Elections

IUCN Members elected Mr. Zhang Xinsheng of China as their new President. Mr. Zhang is concurrently Co-founder and Executive Chairman of Eco-Forum Global, with which ICLEI holds a MoU. ICLEI, a voting Member of IUCN, would like extend its heartiest congratulations to Mr Zhang. With a glittering track record and an expansive network, the experienced statesman, Mr Zhang, is extremely well-placed to guide IUCN and indeed the wider conservation movement forward. For further information on the WCC, please visit: www.iucn.org/congress



ANNOUNCEMENT

JOONDALUP CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

The City of Joondalup in collaboration with the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center is excited to announce an upcoming conference, which will be held from 9-11 September 2013 at the Joondalup Resort, Perth, Western Australia.

Topics covered will include *inter alia*: i) managing impacts of climate change; ii) assessing and managing coastal vulnerability; iii) partnerships to enhance biodiversity; iv) community education and public participation; v) biodiversity for carbon sequestration; and vii) integration of biodiversity into the urban landscape.

The full program and registration details will be released in due course. If you wish to express your interest and be kept informed of conference details as they are confirmed, please visit <http://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/Live/Environment/Biodiversity/BiodiversityConference2013>.

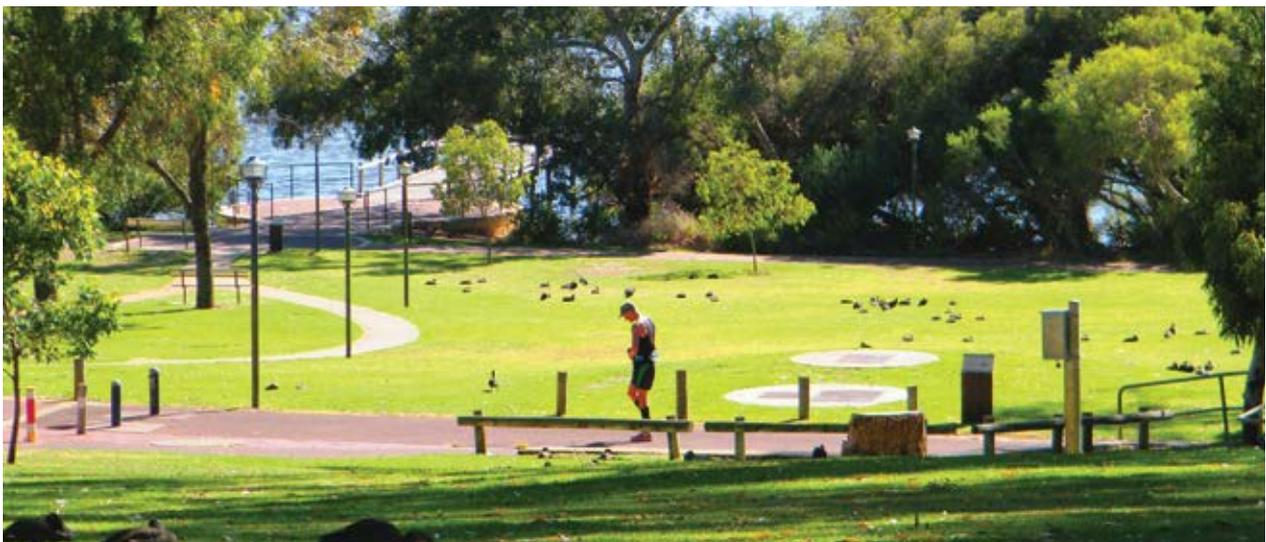
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BIODIVERSITY & URBAN PLANNING IN EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AREAS

The recent publication, Biodiversity & Urban Planning, prepared by Natureparif in partnership with the CBD Secretariat and the City of Paris, outlines a wealth of biodiversity initiatives implemented in French, Swiss, Belgian and German metropolitan areas. The publication (found here <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=12981>) is an output of the conference, Politiques Urbaines et Biodiversité, which took place in Paris, France, on 24 January 2012, and in which ICLEI's Russell Galt participated.

We know that local governments can play a pivotal role in implementing global sustainable development commitments, and we know we cannot do it alone."

-Mayor Troy Pickard, Joondalup, Australia



Neil Hawkins Park, Joondalup, Australia (by T. Painter)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The world economic forum annual meeting 2013. 23-27 January 2013. Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- SANBI Biodiversity Information Architecture workshop. 4-8 February 2013, Cape Town, South Africa.
- National Ecological Networks Conference. 6-7 February 2013. Edinburgh, UK.
- Sub-regional Workshop on Valuation and Incentive Measures for Sub-Saharan West Africa. 19-22 February 2013. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- North Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). 25 February-1 March 2013. Moscow, Russia.
- 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). 3-15 March 2013. TBD, Thailand.
- Regional Workshop on Reflecting the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. 4-8 March 2013. Singapore, Singapore.
- World Forests Summit: Achieving sustainable forest management on a global scale. 5-6 March 2013. Stockholm, Sweden.
- World Forests Summit: Achieving sustainable forest management on a global scale. 4-5 April 2013. Puducherry, India.
- South-Eastern Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). 8-12 April 2013. TBD Namibia.
- ICLEI Global Town Hall at the Metropolitan Solutions Fair. 8-13 April 2013, Hannover, Germany.
- GBIF Africa Regional Meeting. 14-19 April 2013. Pretoria, South Africa.
- 7th European conference on sustainable cities & towns. 17-19 April 2013, Switzerland, Geneva.
- The First International Jerusalem Symposium on Green & Accessible Pilgrimage. 21-26 April 2013. Jerusalem, Israel.
- Second Sustainable Ocean Summit. 22-24 April 2013. Washington DC, USA.
- Meeting of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity: Building resilient and dynamic cities with biodiversity. 21-23 May 2013. Montréal, Canada.
- International Day for Biological Diversity. 22 May 2013.
- Resilient Cities 2013, the 4th global forum on urban resilience and adaptation: 31 May - 2 June 2013. Bonn, Germany.
- World Cities Summit Mayors Forum. 13-14 June 2013, Bilbao, Spain.
- BirdLife International World Congress. 18-22 June 2013. Ottawa, Canada.
- 1st Congress of the Society of Urban Ecology (SURE). 25-27 July 2013. Berlin, Germany.
- The 6th Ecosystem Services Partnership Conference. 26-30 August 2013, Bali, Indonesia.
- Biodiversity Conservation in a Changing Climate. 9-11 September 2013. Joondalup, Australia.
- Ecocity World Summit. 25-27 September. Nantes, France.
- Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LOCS for Africa). 30 October – 1 November 2013. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

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