

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 **6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments** held in parallel with the 14th 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 CO₂ 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-Sheik 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 5th 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 201 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 recognise 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, proGIneg, 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



- ***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 *6th 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.

