

* Contributions of SNG toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Aichi, JAPAN

ANAAE, MEXICO

Catalonia, SPAIN

Ontario, CANADA

Québec, CANADA

São Paulo, BRAZIL



What is Biodiversity?

A great variety of life on earth, which is estimated to be approximately 30 million species, has evolved through adapting to diverse environments over four billion years since the birth of the earliest form of life.

Individual species live in a web of interconnection and interaction of living things as part of the global ecosystem. The foundation for all forms of life including human beings is created through the various activities of diverse ecosystems.

In addition to providing the source of diverse cultures, diverse and flourishing organisms have a useful value for humans at the present time and in the future.

Therefore, it can be said that these diverse organisms are essential indigenous assets for each local area. In addition, diverse and healthy ecosystems support safe and secure life through contributing to securing safe drinking water and food.

In light of the above-mentioned importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, it is necessary to create a truly enriching society grounded on a natural ecosystem through spreading balanced and healthy relationships between nature and humans. By bringing the order of nature into every corner of society, humans can obtain blessings of nature into the future.



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The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The tenth meeting of the conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) was held in Nagoya City, Aichi in October 2010 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which stipulates the course of action that the international community should take over that next 10 years, was adopted. This plan also stipulated that its overall vision of achieving a world of “Living in Harmony with Nature” shall be achieved by 2050.

In addition, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (20 individual targets with the target year set at 2015 or 2020) were set as targets for specific actions for achieving the mission.

The Aichi Targets were set under five strategic goals. They provide the actions to be taken by considering the issue of biodiversity as a social issue that needs to be understood from a socio-economic standpoint including the utilization of benefits of nature and factors which harm ecosystems, rather than purely from the natural science point of view.

Also, the Aichi Targets are linked to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which consist of 17 individual goals. The Aichi Targets are connected not only to Goal 15, which includes halting the biodiversity loss, but also all of the Goals since conservation of biodiversity is essential to sustainable development.

※Individual targets are listed on p.21 and p.22.

Roles of Subnational Governments

“Subnational governments” (SNG) are governments at a level between country and cities, including States, Provinces, Regions and Prefectures.

They have rich ecosystems within their territories, such as forests, watersheds, inland waters, coastal islands and seas, as well as urban areas. In other words, SNG are the stewards of global ecosystems in microcosm, and have the potential to develop comprehensive efforts for the conservation of biodiversity as well as its sustainable use.

They can also work with national governments, and are able to influence and coordinate the contribution of municipalities.

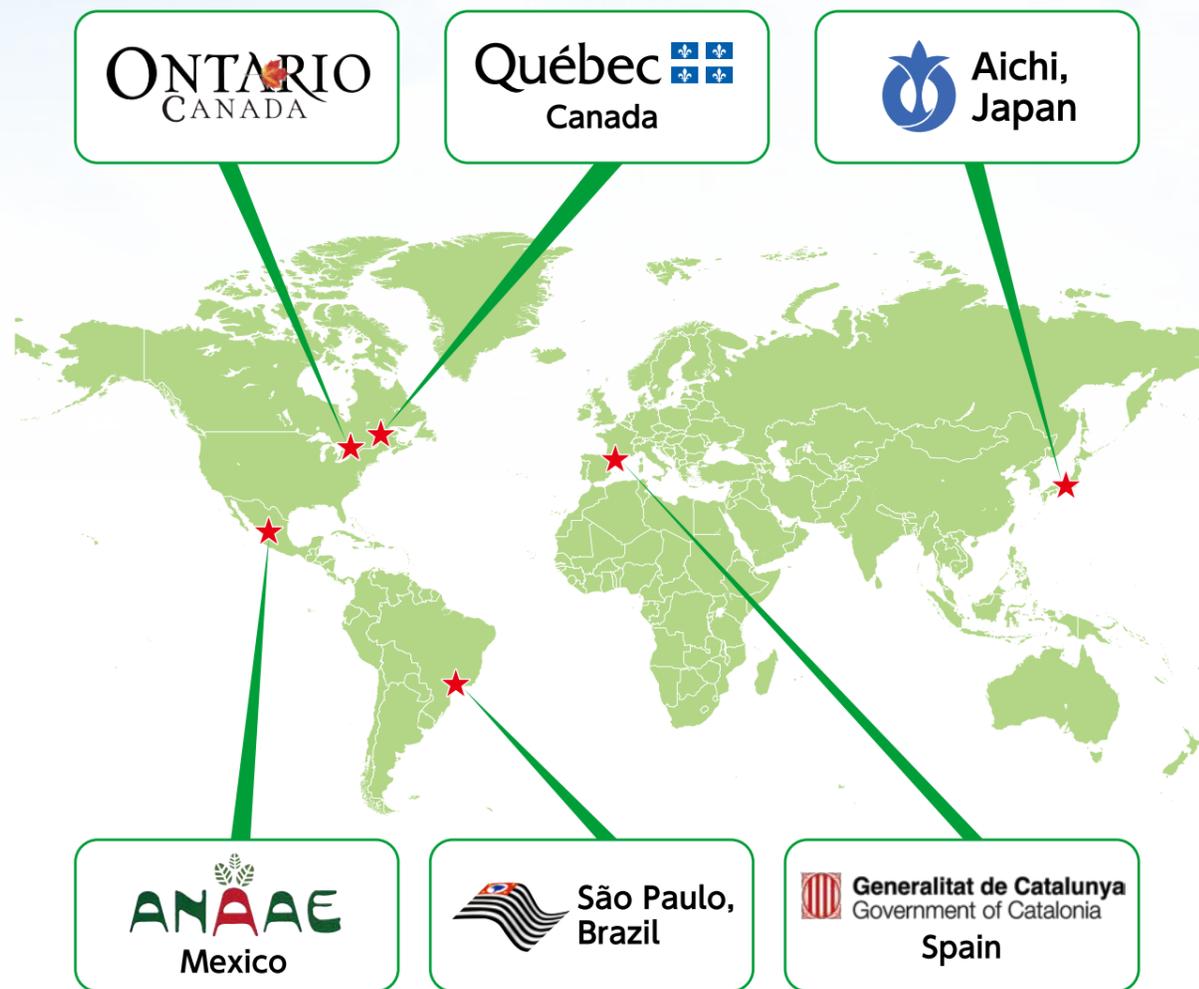
Because they have a close relationship with citizens, municipalities, private companies, NGOs and educational institutions, by joining them in taking actions, SNG can utilize unique methods corresponding to the characteristics of local ecosystems.

Therefore, active contributions of SNG play an important role toward achieving the Aichi Targets.

Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Aichi, ANAAE, Catalonia, Ontario, Québec and São Paulo have launched a new initiative called “Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets” to contribute to reaching the Aichi Targets.

We will enhance our own activities through sharing opinions on our measures and we will also promote actions of subnational governments for biodiversity by inviting them to our discussions and sharing lessons learned.



The Statement by the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Summary)

Subnational governments, including States, Provinces, Regions and Prefectures, have the potential to develop comprehensive efforts for the conservation of biodiversity as well as its sustainable use. They are also able to work with their respective national governments, citizens, municipalities, private companies, NGOs and educational institutions and to utilize unique methods corresponding to the characteristics of local ecosystems. Therefore, their active contributions are essential to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

1. Our initiative and actions

We have implemented advanced measures within our respective territories to conserve biodiversity on our own volition. We will discuss those actions and lessons learned to enhance our measures toward conservation of biodiversity.

Furthermore, we will be a driver in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To this aim, we call on subnational governments in the world to take part in our discussion and, building on the past activities of the AC SNG, apply the lessons learned into the implementation of each government’s actions to conserve biodiversity. We also encourage them to participate in international learning platforms for subnational governments including the Learning Platform Regions for Biodiversity led by nrg4SD and Global Community for Local & Regional Action for Nature coordinated by ICLEI.

2. Call to the Parties

We call on the Parties to take measures to enhance the capacities of subnational governments and to better support subnational governments in implementing the CBD and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

We call on the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue their assistance in implementing the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

We are willing to support the efforts of the Parties, the Secretariat of the CBD and other critical players such as donors and financing mechanisms to the fullest extent possible in achieving these goals.

10 December, 2016

Supporting Partners

nrg4SD (The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development)
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Aichi, Japan

Achieving co-existence between People and Nature in Aichi



Hideaki Ohmura
Governor of Aichi Prefecture

Aichi has taken various measures toward realizing “Coexistence between people and nature” through collaboration of various stakeholders. With this group, we wish to contribute to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by promoting actions of subnational governments.

About Aichi

- Population: about 7.5 million
- Area: 5,163 km²
- GDP: about 350 billion dollars
- Main industries: Motor vehicles, aeroplanes
- Nature preservation zone: about 17.2% of the prefecture
- Fauna and flora: 16,180 species



Aichi Prefecture is located in central Japan, with its southern coasts facing the Pacific Ocean. Its capital (and Japan’s third-largest city) Nagoya is located in the western part of the prefecture. While Aichi is an industrial prefecture with the largest industrial shipment in Japan, the prefecture is aiming for a sustainable society with harmony between the economy and the environment.

Nature in Aichi

In Aichi, you can see a variety of landscapes including mountains, forests, satoyama*, farmlands, urban areas, wetlands, marshes, rivers and coasts.

*Area between mountain foothills and arable flat land that has been developed through centuries of human activities including agricultural and forestry use.



Rice Terrace in Yotsuya



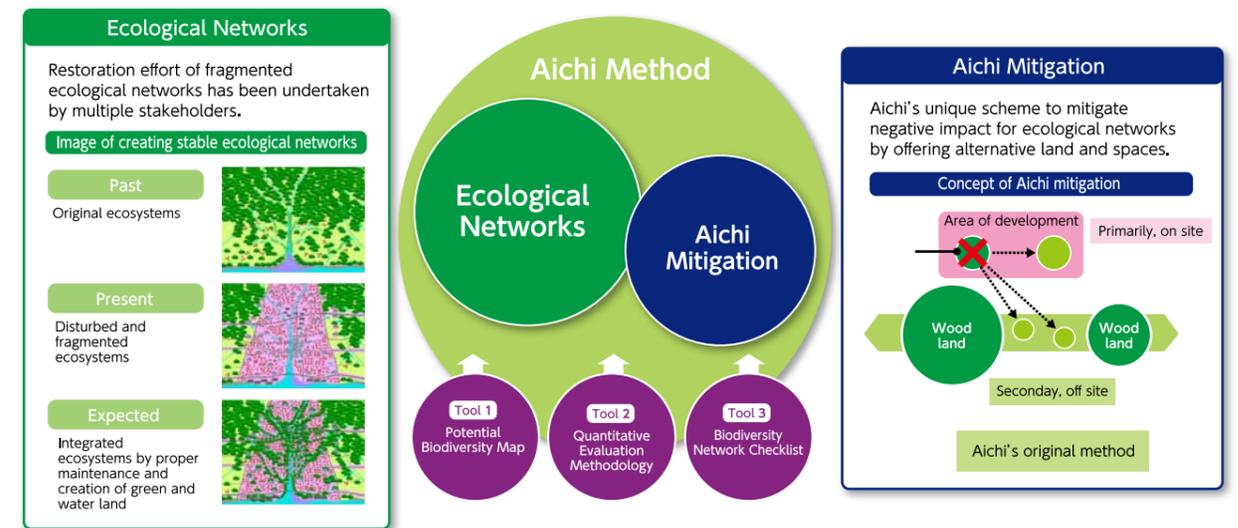
Yahagi River



Star Magnolia

The Biodiversity Strategy 2020 of Aichi

~Toward achieving coexistence between human and nature~



In March 2013, Aichi Prefecture adopted the Biodiversity Strategy 2020 of Aichi as its Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) that takes into account Aichi’s local targets within the framework of the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In consideration of the high concentration of industrial activities in the prefecture, the Biodiversity Strategy 2020 of Aichi is based on the Aichi Method, which aims to reconcile the economy with the environment.

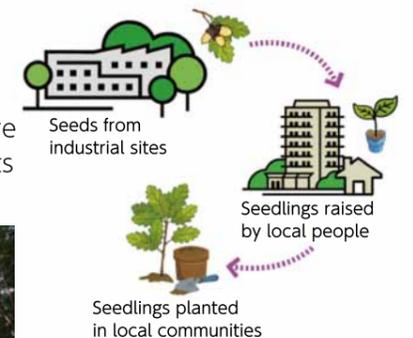
Under the Aichi Method, various stakeholders in society, including citizens, business operators, NPOs and local governments jointly work toward common objectives, creating ecological networks while strengthening interpersonal relationships. Aichi Prefecture will take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020 in its nine regions.



<Example of the efforts of the Ecological Network Councils>

Collaborative cultivation of seedlings to restore native forests

Seeds collected in the woods remaining on industrial sites are distributed to local residents and elementary schools. The seeds are then planted to grow into seedlings, which are re-planted on streets and in parks in local area.





The National Association of State's Environment Authorities, Non-Profit



Roberto Alcalá Ferraez
Secretary of Environment
Chairman of ANAAE, A. C.



"The commitment is with the environment and with the life"



Integrated by:
28, State Secretaries
1, Environment's Commission
16, Environment's Attorney
1, Ecology's Coordinations
2, Ecology's Institutes



ANAAE is a coordination and work board between environment's state authorities with the purpose of sharing experiences, programs and actions for environmental development.



The National Association of State's Environment Authorities work towards creating strategic alliances, cooperation and exchange of experiences between Government and Civil Society, that promotes the exercise of environment governance, as the seminal point from which we can create public policies that contribute to halt the degradation and loss of biodiversity, to ensure and protect ecosystems, the responsible use of our natural wealth and the fair distribution of environmental services, complying with the Aichi goals.

The environmental authorities in the country recognize the importance the biodiversity provides to the national development; so we fight for fair reorientation of resources to this area. In addition to strengthening the institutional capacities and mainstreaming the value of biodiversity in the government agenda, as a top priority.

Northwest



Mexico is one of the main mega-diverse countries in the world. With about 200 thousand different species, it's home of 10 to 12% of the world's biodiversity. At the same time it's in 4th place in world's flora, with 26,000 different species...



Northeast

... It's the 2nd country in the world in ecosystems and 4th place by the total species. (Because 2,500 species are protected by the Mexican laws)¹

As a result of the vast natural wealth of Mexico, the ANAAE divided their task and efforts in 5 regions.



Southeast



West



Center



¹Dirección General de Comunicación Social SRE. (Mayo de 2013). NOTISEM. Obtenido de MÉXICO: PAÍS MEGADIVERSO: <http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/dinamarca/images/pdf/meganota.pdf>





The challenge of conservation: a very rich natural heritage in a small dynamic country



Josep Rull
Minister for Territory and Sustainability

Catalonia bears the primary responsibility for stewardship, to deliver to future generations a highly diverse and rich natural heritage, the healthy and resilient ecosystems that are the very foundation of our social and economic wealth. Being a small nation under significant human pressure, our Biodiversity Strategy addresses the need to find a proper balance between land use and economic activity while conserving the landscape, natural resources and environmental services.

ABOUT CATALONIA

- Population: 7.508.106 (NE of Spain)
- Area: 32.108 km²
- Main ecosystems: forests and meadows (63%), crop lands (29%). Hilly lands with several mountain ranges; 580 km of coast with marine grounds.
- Fauna and flora: over 30.000 species, 3.600 vascular plants, 441 birds, 41 continental fishes. Catalonia is a Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot.
- Main pressures: 7 millions in 30% of the territory; intense industrial and agricultural activity; 20 milion tourists/year; dense and extense road infrastructure; 110 alien species.



NATURE IN CATALONIA

Catalonia contains examples of different types of European landscape, on a small scale. In an area of little more than 30,000 km² there is a wide variety of substrates, soils, climates, orientations, altitudes and distances from the sea. Combined, these elements provide Catalonia with great ecological diversity and a remarkable wealth of landscapes, habitats and species. There are over 600 types of natural and semi-natural habitats. 65% of the territory conserves a high degree of natural features and protected areas cover the 32% of the land.

We host vulnerable terrestrial and marine habitats, in greatest need of conservation, such as calcicolous grasslands, mixed deciduous forests on rocky, shady slopes and pedunculate oak forests. The marine habitats include rocky, infralittoral calcified trottoirs (pavements) of Lithophyllum byssoides and extense Posidonia oceanica submarine meadows. There are over 180 endangered or vulnerable species of flora, for which the distribution is known.

Long term monitoring programmes on biodiversity and the natural heritage make it possible to detect trends and also assist in decision making.



The response to the pressures has given rise to actions in the spheres of knowledge, conservation and the sustainable use of natural heritage.

▶ Knowledge

- ▶ We organise the information on natural heritage
- ▶ We assess the components of natural heritage
- ▶ We identify trends through monitoring programmes

▶ Conservation

- ▶ We recover endangered species
- ▶ We protect 32% of the territory
- ▶ We restore degraded natural environments
- ▶ We manage protected areas affected by human activity
- ▶ We promote land stewardship

▶ Sustainable use

- ▶ We guarantee a sustainable land-use model
- ▶ We change sector-based policies
- ▶ Along with conservation, we promote new opportunities
- ▶ We reinforce global climate change policies

Catalonia is very proactive in achieving the Aichi Targets, and has already different actions implemented in response to the CBD Strategy, such as:

- Rising public awareness of the value of biodiversity: there is a growing social awareness on the issue and conservation of nature is a key issue for > 66% people
- Integrated land-use planning: habitat conservation constitutes a key parameter for land-use planning, there is a Barcelona's metropolitan land-use plan and a Coastal System Land-use Master Plan (2005)
- Stregthening the Catalan natural protected areas system: protecting 32% of Catalonia and including European Natura 2000 sites
- Promoting habitat restoration: there is a Green Infrastructure plan that includes degraded natural environments; especially in wetlands and coastal landscapes are being restored
- Increasing knowledge on biodiversity: there is a Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring Program (2009), a Catalan Bd Database (25 000 sp) and long-term monitoring programmes
- Envisaging a Fund for Biodiversity Conservation in the new Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

Catalonia's BSAP final draft will be presented at the COP13 (Dec'2016)

Protecting What Sustains Us



Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

“Healthy ecosystems support healthy people, and we all have a responsibility to protect our rich and abundant biodiversity. That’s why Ontario remains committed to protecting our biodiversity and using our natural resources sustainably. Working together with our partners – governments, Indigenous communities, stakeholders and the public – we continue to lead and implement important conservation actions.”

About Ontario

- 13.5 million people
- 1.076 million km²
- 250,000 lakes (1/5 of world’s fresh water)
- 6% of world’s wetlands
- 11.2% parks and protected areas
- 30,000 known species
- More than 50% forested



Ontario is located in central Canada. Much of its southern boundary is along four of the Great Lakes bordering the United States, and its northern border is along the coasts of James Bay and Hudson Bay. Toronto, Canada’s largest city and Ontario’s capital, is in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, where the majority of Ontario’s population and industry are located.

Ontario’s Biodiversity

Ontario supports a wide range of ecosystems and associated species, from the Great Lakes and Carolinian forests in the south, to the Canadian Shield through much of the central portion of the province, to the tundra of the Hudson Bay Lowlands in the Far North. Ontario also supports globally rare ecosystem types (e.g., alvars) and several species whose global populations largely reside within the province (e.g., Muskellunge, Lakeside daisy). We proudly bear a global responsibility for their management and conservation.



Hudson Bay Coast



Southern Ontario



Killarney Provincial Park



Prickly Pear Cactus

Ontario’s Biodiversity Conservation Framework

Figure 1. Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy, 2011 –vision, goals, strategic directions and objectives.

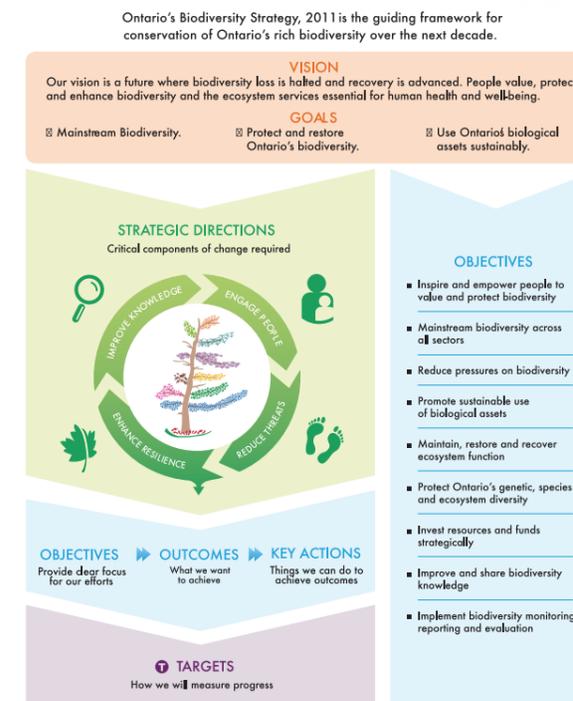


Figure 2. Actions in the Ontario Government Implementation Plan for Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy, 2011 .



Source: Biodiversity: It’s In Our Nature 2012-2020

Ontario, Working Together To Advance Biodiversity Targets

Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy is the strategic framework to advance the province’s biodiversity vision and goals. The strategy is based on working together – within and across communities, organizations and sectors – to attain mutually beneficial goals and outcomes for biodiversity. It identifies actions according to four strategic directions: Engage People, Reduce Threats, Enhance Resilience and Improve Knowledge.

To track progress, the strategy identifies 15 biodiversity targets, modelled on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The State of Ontario’s Biodiversity 2015 report was released by the Ontario Biodiversity Council and provides an indication of Ontario’s progress toward its targets, as well as an assessment of the status and trends for 45 indicators.

The Ontario Biodiversity Council was created in 2005 to guide implementation of Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy and report to the public on progress. The Council has 34 members from conservation and environmental groups, industry associations, Indigenous organizations, academia and governments. This broad membership embodies the spirit of mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors. All sectors, including government, are encouraged to develop implementation plans that identify specific actions they will take to advance Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy. The Province of Ontario’s response to this call to action is Biodiversity: It’s In Our Nature, Ontario Government Plan to Conserve Biodiversity 2012-2020 setting out actions provincial ministries will take alone or in collaboration with others.



Québec



David Heurtel
Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

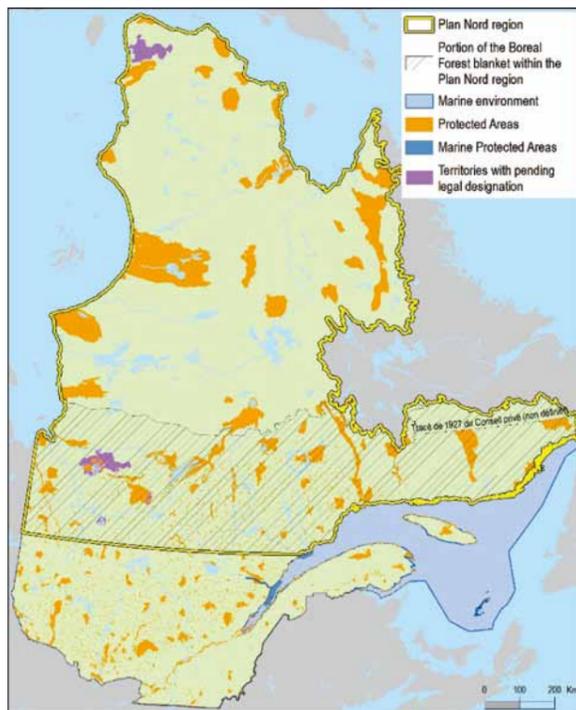
Québec, which hosts the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, is among the subnational states and regions that have developed tools for conserving their biodiversity and meeting the Aichi Targets. Work aimed at protecting the rivière Kovik, one of our most recent actions in the field of endeavour, was carried out in a sustainable development perspective and in close conjunction with local aboriginal communities.

- Population: 8,2 millions
- Area : 1.7 million km²
- Fauna and flora: more than 41 367 species



Québec is the largest province of Canada in size and the second-largest in terms of population. Its capital is Québec City. Québec is characterized by the immensity of its land mass, its forests that extend over more than half of its area, its countless lakes and rivers and major mineral resources, as well as the St. Lawrence River.

The Québec network of protected areas



Québec's ecological reference framework: an effective conservation tool

Among its other uses, this mapping and territorial ecological classification tool identifies territories that need priority protection and allows a validation of the efficiency of the network of protected areas to confirm that it is representative of Québec's ecosystems.

Ambitious conservation targets for Northern regions

Under the vast program of the Plan Nord, for the sustainable development and progress of Northern Québec, Québec has set ambitious conservation targets that will enable it to achieve Aichi Target 11 for protected areas.

Description	Target (%)	Current Protected Area (%)
Plan Nord region	20%	11.79%
Portion of the Boreal Forest blanket within the Plan Nord region	≥ 12%	10.58%
Québec land and fresh water	17%	9.73%
Marine environment (marine protected areas)	10%	1.35%

These statistics include areas for which legal designation is pending. The protected marine area target stems from Québec's Maritime Strategy for 2030.

A regional planning measure based on consultation

Since 2010 in all of Québec's regions, protected area planning has been conducted in close collaboration with local and regional stakeholders. This process allows Québec to make sure that its planning is efficient, representative and socially acceptable in planning the network of protected areas.

Protection of the rivière Kovik in Nunavik



Photo:Catherine Pinard - ARK

A river that is central to the conservation priorities of Northern communities

In 2011 and 2012, protected areas were the subject of a massive consultation held with Nunavik communities. The report of the consultation clearly states that the rivière Kovik and its watershed need priority protection because the region's aboriginal population carries out traditional activities there and depends on it for the Arctic Char resource, which is a fundamental part of its diet.

In the spring of 2015, Québec announced the creation of the 4,651 square-kilometre, proposed Rivière-Kovik aquatic reserve, within which all industrial activity was immediately prohibited.



Photo:Catherine Pinard - ARK



Photo:Mélanie Veilleux-Nolin - MDDELCC

A sustainable development model

Thanks to a full year of co-operation among the area's stakeholders, the final design for the proposed Rivière-Kovik aquatic reserve incorporated a wide variety of environmental, social and economic interests, making the project an example of sustainable development.

Varied conservation interests

In addition to protecting an Arctic Char population that is essential to traditional aboriginal fishing practices, the reserve shows remarkable traces of past use by the Inuit and the peoples that preceded them. The reserve is also located in the calving area of the rivière aux Feuilles caribou herd and contains rare plant species.



Photo: Mélanie Veilleux-Nolin - MDDELCC



Photo: Mélanie Veilleux-Nolin - MDDELCC



Photo: Mélanie Veilleux-Nolin - MDDELCC



Photo: Catherine Pinard - ARK



State of São Paulo, Brazil

Partnerships towards biodiversity protection



Ricardo Salles
Secretary for
the Environment

To concretely advance in environmental issues, interests of diverse partners must be harmonized, without forgetting the economic and social aspects of sustainable development. To mainstream biodiversity, innovative solutions and renewed commitment have to be fostered by the government, counting the with private sector and civil society as important allies. São Paulo is joining efforts to, in this way, advance in the implementation of its BSAP.

About the State of São Paulo

- Population: 42 million
- Area: 250,000 km²
- Economic activity: 35% of industrial production and 34% of services offered by the Brazilian market;
- Territory under environmental protection: 18%.

The State of São Paulo is recognized as the largest economic and industrial hub in South America. Today the state is the 19th largest economy in the world and the 2nd largest in South America. When compared with other regions in the world, it is the 7th wealthiest, generating about a third of Brazil's GDP.



Nature in São Paulo

The State of São Paulo is home to two important biomes: the Atlantic Forest, which comprises around 15,000 species of plants and more than 5% of the world's vertebrate species, and the Cerrado, known as the richest Savannah of the world in terms of biodiversity.

In addition, São Paulo also has important biodiversity hotspots, such as the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve, with an area of 78 million hectares recognized by UNESCO for its unique biological richness. Up to now, São Paulo is one of the only states of Brazil which has been able to reverse the deforestation process, through regulation and inspection, solid restoration projects and bold initiatives both with civil society and the private sector.

Today, 18% of our territory is under environmental protection, be it through large and small conservation units, areas of permanent protection or legal reserves.

Currently, our main challenge is focused on enhancing management of these protected areas, through sound public administration and counting with the aid of external partnerships.

For more information about the work carried out in São Paulo please access:

www.ambiente.sp.gov.br/en



Zé-Bedeu Waterfall at the Itariru core of the Serra do Mar State Park. Photo: Lucas Cuervo



Saira- military (male) - Photo: Miguel Nema

São Paulo Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020

The State of São Paulo has had a strong presence in the biodiversity discussions since 1986, when the State Secretariat for the Environment (acronym SMA in Portuguese) was created. In 2011, the São Paulo Biodiversity Commission was established, approving the "São Paulo Action Plan 2011-2020" towards the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, specifically, its Aichi Targets.

Initially designed with seven front actions, the São Paulo Action Plan was recently updated in line with the CBD Biodiversity Targets. These changes reflect the knowledge gained after the first years of implementation efforts, mainly adapting itself to new action opportunities.

Through the São Paulo Action Plan we aim to promote synergies between the activities carried out by São Paulo and the many biodiversity initiatives at various levels (such as international, national and municipal), as well as by private institutions. Our goal is to encounter effective results regarding the achievement of the CBD's objectives.

Nascentes Program

Conceived in 2014, at the peak of the water shortage in the southeast of Brazil, this is the largest initiative ever launched by the Government of the State of São Paulo to maintain and restore riparian forests. "Nascentes" means "springs" in Portuguese, and this program has the objective of restoring 20 thousand hectares of riparian forests. Integrating 12 State Secretariats, the program also includes several stakeholders, such as restoration specialists, entrepreneurs, the academic sector, civil society and landowners in need of restoring vegetation on their property.

Less than two years after its inception, the Program has a solid operational structure. 1,084 hectares were already restored (the equivalent to 1,512 soccer fields) and 1.8 million seedlings were planted within the state.



Water increase is already perceptible
Photo: Diário Oficial de São Paulo



Seedlings to be planted in Piracaia / São Paulo

● Who we are

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of over 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future. ICLEI Africa hosts the global ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC), which offers cities a broad portfolio of supportive services through our dedicated team of passionate, skilled and dynamic biodiversity and urban development experts.

● What we do

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

Our projects

URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA: RIVERS FOR LIFE (UNA Rivers)

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

LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY (LAB)

LAB is ICLEI's flagship biodiversity program, originally developed in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Customized for local and regional authorities around the world, the programme seeks to improve biodiversity planning and management at the local level.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL ACTION FOR NATURE

An engagement platform for practitioners of cities and regions and their networks and partners to collaborate, share information and learn from each other.

INTERACT-BIO

Integrated sub-national action for Biodiversity: Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across City-Regions

The project is focused on the vertical and horizontal mainstreaming of biodiversity management and promoting to the vital role ecosystems play in the global carbon cycle and in adaptation to climate change, as well as the provision of a wide range of ecosystem services that are essential to human well-being.

For more information, visit our website at www.cbc.iclei.org, or contact us at biodiversity@iclei.org.

The nrg4SD was created in 2002 with the aim of promoting North-South and South-South cooperation at sub-national level, as well as to advocate at international level for the role of SNG in sustainable development matters. Today, it counts with more than 50 members (SNG and associations of SNG) from 4 continents and 26 countries, and works in the fields of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.



The Learning Platform Regions for Biodiversity is being launched in the occasion of the CBD COP13, in Cancun, Mexico, December 2016. The initiative establishes a long-term platform addressed to subnational governments from across the world willing to work together in the technical exchange and learning for the design and improvement of Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAP), as well as other similar mechanisms, all aiming at raising preservation ambition and ensuring conservation in all territories. The Learning Platform has the final goal at contributing from the subnational level to the achievement of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Targets. The initiative will also keep in mind the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15 on Life below Water and Life on Land, respectively.

By joining this first Learning Platform targeted exclusively to SNGs, the participant states, regions and provinces will have the opportunity to exchange and collaborate with other SNGs from across the world, benefiting from existing expertise, innovative approaches and collaborative opportunities. Additionally, participant members will also contribute to:

- Support Parties and the CBD in the implementation of the Convention and the achieving of the Aichi Targets at subnational and local levels;
- Establish long-term partnerships and cooperation between SNGs from across the world in biodiversity preservation, and especially in BSAPS design and implementation on the ground;
- Create a coalition of leading SNG in biodiversity action;
- Improve the of BSAPs and specific thematic actions, for example on topics such as management or the enlargement of protected areas, ecological footprint and more.
- Creation of a compilation of best-practices and case studies on successful BSAPs.

The launch of the Learning Platform is the result of a successful pilot project developed by nrg4SD with some of its members: Catalonia (Spain), Gossas (Senegal), Goias, São Paulo (Brazil) and Québec (Canada). The pilot ran from May to November 2016, and allowed participants to collect information on BSAPs planning, peer-review and learn innovative actions facing challenges in other governments of the same level. Based on the identification of specific capacities and difficulties of each project partner, members made an analysis of their own state-of-the-art and learnt alternatives, as well as opportunities to improve their own actions.



More information on the Learning Platform and how to join can be found at <http://www.nrg4sd.org/>.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- (1) By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- (2) By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- (3) By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
- (4) By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- (5) By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- (6) By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, Recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- (7) By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- (8) By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- (9) By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- (10) By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- (11) By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- (12) By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- (13) By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- (14) By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- (15) By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- (16) By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- (17) By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- (18) By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- (19) By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- (20) By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.