

Subnational Governments & Cities

at COP 16

EVENT REPORT



The **8th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities**
is an official parallel event to CBD COP 16



COP16
CALI • COLOMBIA
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CBD COP 16: Making peace with nature

Almost 200 countries and at least six Heads of State convened from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, under the theme of 'Peace with Nature', which served as a powerful call to action. The 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) was also the first since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022.

Ahead of COP 16, Susana Muhamad Gonzalez, President of COP 16 Colombia stated: "The added value of holding COP 16 in Colombia lies in our vision of 'Peace with Nature' and in recognizing that the real struggle of the 21st century is for life. If we succeed in transforming our relationship with nature, as well as our production and consumption practices, and get collective actions to promote life instead of destroying it, we will be addressing the most important challenges of our time. Like the eternal flower of Inírida, Colombians have learned the keys to resilience in order to achieve lasting peace in the most excluded territories of the country and in those with the greatest natural wealth. COP 16 is not simply a summit, it is the path that allows us to mobilize globally towards this common purpose."

Inspired by the Inírida flower, the **COP 16 emblem** tells a story of **resilience** at a time when the world grapples with the triple planetary crisis of **climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**. The Inírida flower never dies, its petals never fall apart. While it is endemic to Colombia, its message of resilience reverberated beyond the Host Country's national borders, highlighting the importance of environmental multilateralism.

The petals represent the **23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and the **13 ecoregions of Colombia**, one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. The color palette symbolizes three pathways for action—reduce threats, meet people's needs, and develop tools and solutions—and the need for synergies.



COP 16 acknowledged the remarkable progress made since 2022 (119 countries, representing the majority of CBD's 196 Parties, submitted national biodiversity targets to help reach the 23 GBF targets, and 44 countries submitted their revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans). Nevertheless, the need to accelerate action, and a call to make peace with nature through synergistic implementation of the GBF and Paris Agreement, was highlighted.

Although COP 16 was suspended after almost 12 hours in Plenary session in the early hours of 2 November, due to the lack of quorum, important successes were achieved. These included the adoption of the Cali Fund and a new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; and the landmark decision on Biodiversity and Climate Change, to strengthen multilateral cooperation between the biodiversity and climate COPs. This decision invites stakeholders to submit their views on options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the three Rio conventions. Other important decisions adopted include that on biodiversity and health, and on mainstreaming biodiversity across and within sectors, which both recognize the role of subnational governments. COP 16 also agreed to a new process to identify ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

COP 16.2 was resumed on 25 February 2025 at the FAO headquarters in Rome with COP 16 President, Susana Muhamed from Colombia, urging delegates to work together and find common ground in reaching agreement on the outstanding crucial decisions. The deliberations focussed on resource mobilization, the finance mechanism, the monitoring framework and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, review and reporting (PMRR), which are all key to implementation.

COP 16.2 concluded in the early hours of 28 February, following the adoption of these four key decisions, and various other decisions. Delegates extended a standing ovation to the COP President for her leadership, and the CBD Executive Secretariat, Astrid Schomaker, noted that delegates had 'demonstrated that multilateralism will endure'.



The adoption of the decision on resource mobilization was ground-breaking given the polarized positions and urgency in finding ways to bridge the biodiversity funding gap. **It establishes a roadmap to guide the mobilization of new and additional resources from all sources, and urges Parties to, among other measures, raise at least US\$ 200 billion per year by 2030 to reach Target 19; apply a human rights-based approach in developing and scaling up biodiversity and finance instruments; and to develop, update and implement national biodiversity finance plans.** Also important was the adoption of the monitoring framework and PMRR mechanisms decisions, which include headline indicators; urges Parties to strengthen their monitoring systems, the global review of collective implementation progress; and adopts the core reporting elements for commitments by non-state actors (including local and subnational governments).

Summit overview

The 8th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities took place in the main negotiation hall in the Blue Zone, as an official parallel event to CBD COP 16 on 26 October 2024, in Cali, Colombia.

Aligning closely with the COP 16 logo, the 8th Summit logo included the beautiful Inírida flower. The logo also included urban elements, and used colors that aligned with the colors the CBD uses for Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's Target 12, which focuses on enhancing green spaces and urban planning for human well-being and biodiversity, and Target 14, focusing on integrating biodiversity in decision-making at every level of the GBF.



The Summit welcomed over

1500 participating
delegates
from
81 countries.

The theme of the Summit was

**TAKING
ACTION**
for **BIODIVERSITY**

and the program centered around
three elements: **Partnering,**
Progress and Peace.

The Summit was co-hosted by **ICLEI**, the **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** and **Regions4**, along with more partners and networks than ever before, as well as the host **Government of Colombia** and the **City of Cali**. The main sponsor of the 8th Summit was **CAF**, and co-sponsors were **DAI** and **Veolia**.



Summit overview

It was opened with a powerful statement by **Alejandro Eder**, Mayor of Cali, Colombia, urging reconciliation with nature.



“As Mayor of Cali, it’s an honor to be host of this historic moment, at a crucial point in time, in which nature is asking us to take important measures,” he said.

“It’s not a choice, but an imperative need, and not one that falls to a single country or government. Our planet is demanding we do more – and cities are at the center of this discussion. Cities are, and will be, the epicenter of change: We have the creativity, talent and will to protect our planet, starting right here in cities.”

Jacob Martin-Malus, Assistant Deputy Minister of Biodiversity, Wildlife and Parks, Québec, Canada and **Marie-Andrée Mauger**, Deputy Mayor, Montreal, Canada handed over a symbolic baton in the form of a gift as 7th Summit hosts to **Alejandro Eder**, Mayor of Cali, Colombia as the host city of the 8th Summit.



250+

subnational and local
government leaders

50+

speakers contributing to a
rich and diverse Summit program





Summit highlights

The 8th Summit was dedicated to taking action and making commitments, with subnational governments and cities sharing and demonstrating inspirational biodiversity initiatives, solutions and achievements.

Under the themes of Partnering, Progress and Peace, more than 250 governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from across the globe engaged directly on critical issues related to financing, implementation and reporting, with national leaders, their key stakeholders and partners.

PARTNERING

Session 1

Bridging the biodiversity finance gap: Partnering for nature

This session focused on addressing the critical financial shortfall for biodiversity initiatives by fostering collaboration between subnational governments, cities, private sector actors, and Multilateral Development Banks. Discussions revolved around innovative financial mechanisms and partnerships that can mobilize resources and increased investment to support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts at various levels.



Please keep bringing many more subnational governments to take action and make peace with nature. The challenge is to **connect** and **collaborate** and go further.

We need to **go further** and we need to **go fast**!

Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity



Local and subnational governments want to take responsibility for the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity. However, we often lack the necessary financial resources. At this COP, we want to **highlight the need for resource access at the subnational and local levels, as it is us—cities and regions—who hold and care for biodiversity.**

Dilian Francisca Toro Torres, Governor of
Valle del Cauca, Colombia



I urge you to take the climate warnings not as a footnote of doom, but as a call to do more. We have to put our hands to work—and we need extraordinary work to face the disruptive challenges we are going to face.

Prof Debra Roberts,
Honorary Professor: UKZN, Professor and Chair
of Open Science: University of Twente,
IPCC Co-Chair WGII AR6



In order to achieve progress in the implementation of the Biodiversity Accord, we need to promote a new paradigm in multilateral negotiations. Non-state actors and subnational governments are part of the solution and should receive direct funding.

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and
Chairperson of the Global Environment
Facility

PROGRESS

Session 2

Whole-of-government solutions: Showcasing implementation progress made in urban and territorial action for biodiversity

Participants reflected on the strides made toward implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2023–2030) under Decision 15/12. The session highlighted urban and territorial actions taken to advance biodiversity conservation and shared updates on how various biodiversity-related conventions and agendas are being carried out across different regions.

In a provocative opening statement on the Summit session on Progress, Dr Debra Roberts, former Co-chair, IPCC Working Group II, and Professor Willem Schermerhorn, Chair in Open Science from a Majority World Perspective at the University of Twente, painted a vivid picture of the stark reality of climate change, but also shared a message of hope.

PEACE

Session 3

Living in harmony & making peace with nature: Sharing innovative practices

This session showcased innovative practices and successful examples from local and subnational governments, emphasizing how different stakeholders are fostering sustainable development and peaceful coexistence with nature. Presentations demonstrated how these approaches are contributing to biodiversity conservation while promoting harmony between communities and ecosystems.



The future of our planet is dependent on local actors. We must recognize the value of nature. We must make peace with nature.

Alfredo Coro, Mayor of Del Carmen, Philippines and Political Lead of ICLEI's Biodiversity, Water and One Health Portfolio



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A range of new initiatives and exciting announcements from a wide range of leading subnational governments, cities, their networks and partners, were shared at the 8th Summit.



Our call today is to open our minds and hearts to ask the difficult questions.

There is no more challenging time than now for governance, but the power of the local level is critical.

Susana Muhamad, COP 16 President and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

Chinese cities excel in taking action for nature

Several Chinese cities that have made extraordinary efforts in advancing local biodiversity initiatives were recognized for Biodiversity Charming Cities Best Practices. These cities are **Anji City, Beijing City, Beilun District of Ningbo City, Lishui City, Ninghe District of Tianjin City, Ordos City, Shaoxing City, Shiyan City** and **Xiamen City**, joining an initial group of six major Chinese cities awarded this accolade at COP15. All of these cities have also joined CitiesWithNature.



ABEMA demonstrates commitment to regional biodiversity action

ABEMA, the Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities, was a key presence at the 8th Summit, reinforcing its support for RegionsWithNature. As the leading voice for state-level environmental policies in Brazil, ABEMA's strong delegation at the conference highlighted the critical role of subnational governments in advancing the KMGBF. RegionsWithNature was recognized as the key mechanism for regions to report progress on biodiversity targets, with ABEMA underscoring its importance in driving measurable action.

Coalition of cities launched to protect biodiversity

The growing impact of illegal economies—such as illegal mining and wildlife trafficking—cause significant environmental damage in regions across Africa, South America and Asia. This coalition provides a platform for subnational governments, especially mayors, to collaborate, share knowledge and advocate for stronger action against environmental crimes. It also seeks to elevate local voices in international forums and foster strategic partnerships for impactful local, regional and global action.

Québec makes strong commitments on all fronts for urban nature

The Government of Québec demonstrated its strong commitment to contributing to the implementation of the GBF at subnational levels by:

- announcing its intention to make the world's first contribution by a subnational government to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- announcing financial support to RegionsWithNature to propel the platform to its full potential; and
- unveiling its 2030 strategic Nature Plan at COP 16.

Our 2030 strategic Nature Plan will be accompanied by a record budget of 922 million Canadian dollars to protect Québec's nature and biodiversity.

Jacob Martin Malus, Assistant Deputy Minister for Biodiversity, Wildlife and Parks, Québec



California commits \$1.2 billion to ecosystem conservation goals

The Government of California announced its commitment to preserving ecosystem connectivity, in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change.

We represent the fifth largest economy in the world. We are also a biodiversity hotspot, but we suffer from wildfire, droughts and sea level rise. We have, however, passed a legally enforceable state law that demands the preservation of 30% of California lands and waters, bringing 30x30 home. We have also passed laws to integrate wildlife connectivity into new transportation infrastructure. We are now also making a public commitment to spend \$1.2 billion in achieving 30x30.

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of Natural Resources, California, United States



On 28 October at an event hosted at the GEF Pavilion at COP 16, the Government of Québec specifically announced 2 million Canadian dollars of new support to the GBFF.

The GBF is only a piece of paper if we don't turn it into action!

Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs for the Government of Québec



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8th SUMMIT
for Subnational Governments & Cities



Pivotal agreement for sustainable development in the Amazon region

A strategic action by Vanessa Grazziotin, Executive Director of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and Rodrigo Perpetuo, Regional Secretary of ICLEI South America, saw a letter of intent being signed at COP 16 between ICLEI and ACTO to unite and build upon the efforts already made by both organizations to promote even more robust actions for sustainable development in the Amazon region.

The objectives of this newly strengthened partnership include the joint formulation of a work plan that mobilizes actions aligned with relevant regional and international themes, seeking strategic partnerships to promote institutional cooperation in the region, and outlining strategies for securing funding for projects.



New publication outlining subnational biodiversity progress

ICLEI CBC launched the publication From Agreement to Action: Implementation progress by subnational and local governments towards the Global Biodiversity Framework, which provides a unique and valuable snapshot of initiatives, actions, programs and projects being implemented by local and subnational governments around the world to contribute to the 2030 GBF targets. This publication serves as an impetus for the review of their role in the implementation of the objectives of the CBD and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which will be reported on and considered ahead of and at COP 17.

FROM AGREEMENT TO ACTION
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS
BY SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS THE
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK



Publication prepared by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

DOWNLOAD HERE

Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition call to action

Presented at the 8th Summit with a call to action to join, the Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition is recognized by 36 countries and international organizations under the Paris Call for Glaciers and Poles. It brings together coastal cities, regions, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – communities that are home to much of the world's population most directly affected by rising sea levels projected by 2100.

The coalition aims to enhance knowledge sharing, foster cooperation among stakeholders, and mobilize resources to collectively address the challenges of sea-level rise and adapt to its impacts. With a vision of continued growth, the coalition seeks to be fully structured and operational by the UN Ocean Conference, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica in Nice in June 2025.



Action-oriented pact to catalyse bold biodiversity action

The [Berlin Urban Nature Pact](#), an initiative for cities ready to lead the transition towards implementation of bold biodiversity action, was launched at the 8th Summit. The Pact seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet in cities worldwide by 2030.

Berlin Urban Nature Pact





CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature celebrate milestones

CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature are recognized in CBD Decision 15/12 as the platform for local and subnational governments to report on, and track progress against, their commitments to contributing to the implementation of the GBF and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). It was announced at the 8th Summit that more than 75 cities and regions joined CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature since COP15, bringing the total to around 376 with Beijing, capital city of the Peoples' Republic of China, being the 350th.

Cities are hubs of innovation and solutions, they are drivers of change, they are where implementation happens at ground level. That is why we are so encouraged to see so many new cities and regions joining our CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature global partnership initiatives since COP15.

Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI



Jordan Harris, Executive Director of Regions4, highlighted the vital role that regions play in contributing to global biodiversity goals, when he launched the **RegionsWithNature Action Platform**, together with ICLEI, as a sister platform to CitiesWithNature, but specifically tailored to the unique needs of regions.



Welcoming new CitiesWithNature partner

Started in 2016 as a competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the City Nature Challenge (CNC) has grown into an international event, motivating people around the world to find and document wildlife in their own cities. Run by the Community Science teams at the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM), the CNC is an annual four-day global bioblitz at the end of April, where cities are in a collaboration-meets-friendly-competition to see what can be accomplished when we all work toward a common goal. In 9 years, 7.13 million observations have been collected! The CitiesWithNature initiative was thrilled to welcome the City Nature Challenge onboard as a new partner at the 8th Summit.



As Regions4 President, Scotland will focus on building momentum—to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, across our international network. It is only by realizing the full potential of devolved governments, states and regions, that we will be successful in achieving the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

John Swinney MSP, First Minister of Scotland



Cities and regions that joined CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature since COP15

Argentina:

Rio Grande, Tolhuin

Australia:

Central Coast, Launceston

Bahamas:

Grand Bahama

Brazil:

Canela, Belém

Canada:

Kingston, Rouyn-Noranda

Chile:

Vitacura

China:

Anji, Baotou, Beijing, Beilun, Chishui, Eerduosi, Genhe, Guilin, Guiyang, Guyuan, Lhasa, Liangping, Lishui, Mentougou, Nanjing, Ninghe, Shaoxing, Shiyan, Tongliao, Xiamen

Colombia:

Bogota, Bucaramanga, Cali

Cuba:

Manzanillo

Dominica:

Roseau

Finland:

Turku

France:

Paris

Germany:

Berlin

Ghana:

Cape Coast

Gambia:

Mansakonko

Hungary:

Tata

Iran:

Bandar Khamir, Varzaneh

Italy:

Palermo, Rome

Japan:

Kobe, Yokohama

Kenya:

Mandera, Migori

Kiribati:

Teinanano

Korea:

Yeoncheon

Malaysia:

Penang

Mauritania:

Wompou

Mauritius:

Savanne, Quatre Bornes

Mexico:

Mexico City

Morocco:

Tangier

Namibia:

Walvis Bay

New Zealand:

Wellington

Philippines:

Catbalogan, Lgu Balaoan

Sierra Leone:

Freetown

South Africa:

Nkangala, Waterberg

Tanzania:

Zanzibar

Uganda:

Nansana, Rubuguri

USA:

Groveland, Little Rock, Santa Cruz, Seattle, Sun Prairie, Winter Park

United Kingdom:

Norwich

Zambia:

Lusaka

Zimbabwe:

Harare

New report on the state of finance for nature in cities

The UNEP State of Finance for Nature in Cities 2024 report: From Grey to Green: Better data to finance nature in cities highlights the need for better data and tools to help cities integrate Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into their financial and planning frameworks. The report showcases how investments in urban nature can support cities in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation, with global NbS financing needing to rise from USD 200 billion to USD 542 billion by 2030.



First cohort of cities collaborating for migratory species announced

Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, announced the first cohort of cities to join Journeys for Life – an ICLEI initiative to support the objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species by providing a platform for cities that are located along migratory routes of specific migratory species, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, resources and best practices.



Accreditation of new Wetland Cities coming soon

Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention of Wetlands, shared that newly accredited Wetland Cities will be announced at a special high-level event during the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands which will take place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in July 2025. Since its inception, a total of 43 cities have been granted Wetland City Accreditation.



Next round of Green City Awards open for registering interest

Following the resounding success of the 2022 and 2024 editions, the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) announced the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026 edition, and extended an invitation to all cities to showcase and celebrate their innovative action in urban greening through AIPH global networks.



WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS 2026





The Summit also received powerful endorsement and support from the following esteemed leaders, who delivered strong messages stressing the urgency to act, the need for collaboration and a whole-of government approach, the critical importance of connecting to other Conventions, as well as the need for more direct access to finance at subnational level:

United Cities and Local Governments: **Ana Lucia Reis**, Co-President of UCLG

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy: **Gregor Robertson**, Special Envoy for Cities in CHAMP and Global Ambassador, Global Covenant of Mayors

European Committee of the Regions: **Roby Biwer**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and Councillor of Bettembourg, Luxembourg

Associação Brasileira de Entidades Estaduais de Meio Ambiente: **Mauren Lazzaretti**, ABEMA: President and Secretary for the Environment, Mato Grosso State, Brazil

United Arab Emirates: **H.E. Dr. Amna Al Dahak**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE, on behalf of **His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi

Colombia: **Luis Gilberto Murillo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia

High-level roundtable

On the evening before the event, the Summit conveners brought together an intimate group of government leaders, including mayors, governors and other political representatives from around the world, to a closed-door meeting under the Chatham House rule. The main purpose of this meeting was to provide these political leaders with the opportunity to voice and communicate their ambitions and commitments in addressing the priorities set by the COP 16 Presidency.

The high-level roundtable was chaired and moderated by Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs, Québec, Canada. The opening statements were delivered by Alejandro Eder, Mayor of Cali, Colombia, and Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the CBD. The roundtable concluded with a brief outline of the 8th Summit by Ingrid Coetzee: Director of Biodiversity, Nature, and Health, ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, and closing remarks by the Chair.



Around and about at COP 16


Subnational and local governments influencing COP 16 activities and platforms

Cities and Regions Hub at Plaza Québec

In addition to the 8th Summit, ICLEI CBC and Regions4 coordinated a program of 29 events covering a wide range of topics that were held for the duration of the COP period in the local and subnational government major group hub in Plaza Québec, sponsored by the Government of Québec.

Subnational & Local Authorities stand events

Plaza Québec | CBD COP 16

 DATE	 TITLE	 HOST ORGANISATIONS
22 October 2024	Vertical, horizontal and timing integration on climate and biodiversity agendas: The management approach	ABEMA (Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities)
22 October 2024	Vertical, horizontal and timing integration on climate and biodiversity agendas: The knowledge approach	ABEMA (Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities)
23 October 2024	Urban biodiversity credits delivering important climate adaptation infrastructure in Amazon cities	Nature & People Foundation
23 October 2024	Transformations leading to the ideal city state for a green future	International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)
24 October 2024	Financiamiento Verde en gobiernos subnacionales: ¿Cómo ampliar las oportunidades para las soluciones urbanas basadas en la naturaleza?	CDP
24 October 2024	Biodiversidade e Clima: Ação subnacional para a proteção das espécies na América Latina	Goa State, Brazil



DATE



TITLE

HOST
ORGANISATIONS

24 October 2024	Public-private initiatives to promote sustainable tourism in protected areas	Catalonia, Autonomous Community, Spain
24 October 2024	Gobernanza local y conservación: Estrategias provinciales para proteger ecosistemas frágiles en Ecuador	Consortio De Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales Del Ecuador (CONGOPE)
25 October 2024	Mise en œuvre du cadre mondial de la biodiversité Kunming-Montréal au Québec: le Plan nature 2030	Québec Province Government
25 October 2024	Bloc Éducation & Communication	Québec Province Government
25 October 2024	Bloc Économie & Finance	Québec Province Government
25 October 2024	Bloc Gouvernance & Leadership	Québec Province Government
25 October 2024	Bloc Société Civile	Québec Province Government
25 October 2024	Faits saillants de la journée Québec/réaction fin de l'événement et remerciements	Québec Province Government
27 October 2024	From global goals to local action: Setting science-based targets for nature positive cities	SBTN
27 October 2024	Cali 2 Cali: Californians Implementing the KMGBF at every level	California Global Biodiversity Working Group
27 October 2024	How city-to-city diplomacy is advancing nature-based projects: Lessons from Cities Forward	ICLEI USA
27 October 2024	Biodiversity conservation initiatives in Kobe, Japan	Kobe City
27 October 2024	City Nature Challenge: Connecting community science urban biodiversity data with local governments	City Nature Challenge
28 October 2024	ActBio Project session	ICLEI Argentina
28 October 2024	Integrating risk assessment and insurance coverage with nature-based solutions for cities and regions	ICLEI Europe

Cities and Regions Hub at Plaza Québec



DATE



TITLE



HOST
ORGANISATIONS

28 October 2024	Berlin Urban Nature Pact dialogues	City of Berlin
28 October 2024	Transforming cities to live in peace with nature	UBHub, KSA, and the Government of Quintana Roo
29 October 2024	Incorporating biodiversity into climate change adaptation through nature based solutions	State of Rio de Janeiro
29 October 2024	From Rio to Cali leading to Belém: LAC leadership in nature and climate agendas	UN Climate Change High Level Champions
29 October 2024	Launch of the Floresta do Amanhã program	State of São Paulo and Government of Québec
29 October 2024	Incentive mechanisms for biodiversity: Contributions to global goals	State of Parana
30 October 2024	Subnational leadership in biodiversity conservation: Strategies for 30x30 and other GBF targets in resource extraction dependent economies	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Northern Alberta Chapter
30 October 2024	Loss and damage: Building a bridge between the climate agenda and the biodiversity agenda	UCLG

Summit Press Conference

Following the successful completion of the 8th Summit, a press conference was held on the key outcomes. It took place on Sunday 27 October 2024 in the COP 16 Press Room.

[READ MORE HERE](#) >

High-level meetings

In addition to these events, the CBD Advisory Committees on Local Governments and Biodiversity, and on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity, established under Decision 15/12, met in-person and jointly on 27 October. On the same day, the World Bank convened the inaugural meeting of the [Mayor's Leadership Forum of the Urban Nature Program](#), which is co-led by the World Bank, UNEP and ICLEI, with the support of the GEF.

Side Events and Pavilion sessions

Enhancing Subnational Contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework: Needs for metrics, methodologies and practical frameworks to achieve whole-of-government implementation of the GBF



SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK
GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE



Regions4
Sustainable Development



Local Governments
for Sustainability



WCMC



This side event focused on the vital role of local and subnational governments in biodiversity conservation under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). It highlighted the need for political will and effective local action, with a focus on challenges in biodiversity metrics, standardized reporting, and science-based methodologies. Key tools like the IUCN Urban Toolbox, SBTN Cities' Science-Based Targets, and the City Biodiversity Index were discussed to help cities and regions measure their contributions to the GBF. The session included input from local governments such as Quebec, eThekwin, São Paulo, and international organizations, aiming to address challenges and promote practical frameworks for action.

Cities & regions: Collaborating & capturing contributions towards a nature positive future



This panel discussion between subnational and local governments, and other stakeholders addressed the value, gaps, and opportunities of cities and regions in making contributions to the GBF and nature positive goals. It presented platforms such as CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature, which are aligned to the GBF 2030 Targets, in supporting cities and regions that achieve the nature-positive goal. Additionally, it explored tools such as the CBI and UNI, which allow cities to set baselines and targets. The event offered an opportunity to emphasize the need for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and increase urban nature.

Ecosystem Restoration in Action: Local Perspectives to Meet Global Goals



This side event presented ecosystem restoration from a local perspective to support global sustainability goals. It provided a platform for cities to exchange experiences, challenges, and solutions related to urban ecosystem restoration. Through peer-to-peer learning, participants explored successful cases under the Generation Restoration Project, emphasizing the role of local governments in meeting biodiversity and sustainability targets. The discussion underscored the interconnectedness of ecosystem restoration with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Cities as pioneers for local biodiversity action: Lessons from three biodiverse regions



This session showcased the significant role cities and subnational governments in Africa, Amazonia and China have played in pioneering local biodiversity action towards the realization of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It did this through three dedicated sessions:

Advancing biodiversity mainstreaming across multiple scales: Insights from African cities

From the Amazon to Patagonia: example and inspiration from South America urban nature initiatives

China's Local Actions and Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

These sessions featured several initiatives, such as the LBSAP Guide, Financial Guide, CBI and the Cities Biodiversity Alliance Platform.

Looking Back: Lessons from Project Implementation across INTERACT-Bio cities



This session supported global efforts under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by showcasing how urban biodiversity can be effectively mainstreamed into local planning and decision-making. Drawing on experiences from the Integrated Action on Biodiversity (INTERACT-Bio) project, local and subnational governments shared lessons learned, demonstrated the application of biodiversity mainstreaming tools and highlighted outcomes across diverse urban contexts. The session emphasized the vital role urban nature plays in achieving global biodiversity targets and broader sustainability agendas. It also provided a platform for peer learning, underscoring the importance of equipping cities with practical tools, resources and knowledge to better integrate biodiversity into decision-making processes.

ICLEI also participated in Country Pavilions & the GBF Pavilion advocating for the Local and Subnational Governments Major Group

BRAZILIAN PAVILION

Biodiversity emergencies: Multilevel approach in the GBF

CHINESE PAVILION

Effective policies to promote biodiversity conservation and enhance community well-being

EU PAVILION

From inspiring ideas to transformative actions: Bringing about transformative change to support the implementation of the KMGBF

GBF PAVILION

Experiences on coherent implementation of multilateral environmental agreements





Mobilization and advocacy journey of Local and Subnational Governments Major Group towards COP 16

Building on seven consecutive summits convened as official CBD COP parallel events, the 8th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities, took place in the margins of COP 16, which was the first time Parties and stakeholders met since the adoption of the GBF. COP 16 was significant as it provided cities and regions the opportunity to showcase progress on actions taken since COP15, and commit to higher ambition towards enhancing global biodiversity policy and reversing the disturbing trend of biodiversity loss.

The successive Summits have, since 2008, been instrumental in ensuring that the voice and contribution of subnational and local governments is recognized in COP decisions, and accepted as representing an important major observer group in CBD negotiation processes. Parties adopted the comprehensive and participatory post-2020 global biodiversity framework process at COP14 under Decision 14/34, which invited subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, among other groups, to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing the new framework in order to foster strong ownership support for its immediate implementation. The Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments was established in response to this decision. It was led by the Scottish Government in partnership with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4, the European Committee of the Regions, Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS), Government of Québec, Welsh Government; and with the support of UK Government, UN Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre, (UNEP-WCMC), NatureScot, and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Process was recognized by Parties as the subnational and local government tract of the post-2020 process; and the Subnational and Local Authorities Major Group has had a seat in CBD negotiation processes since the first Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

CBD COP 15 held in 2022 in Montreal, was a historic milestone COP, which saw the adoption of a stronger and more ambitious decision on engaging subnational and local governments in enhancing the implementation of the GBF (Decision 15/12) and references to subnational and local governments in ten other COP decisions, including the first ever 'cities target' in a Rio Convention - Target 12 of the GBF.

Target 12

Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.



Past CBD COP decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments

Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COPs

2022

Montreal, Canada

CBD COP15

Adoption by the Parties of the following eleven decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and region:

COP/15/4 - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

COP/15/5 - Monitoring framework of the GBF

COP/15/6 - Mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing

COP/15/7 - Resource mobilization

COP/15/8 - Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

COP/15/12 - Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its Plan of Action (2023-2030)

CDB/COP/15/17 - Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors

CBD/COP/DEC/15/29 - Biodiversity and Health

CBD/COP/DEC/15/27 - Invasive alien species

CBD/COP/DEC/15/24 - Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

CBD/COP/15/28 - Biodiversity and Agriculture

Edinburgh Declaration

Recommendation for a renewed decision on the Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 Global biodiversity framework and its revised Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities (2022-2030) (CBD/SBI/3/L.16)

2018

Sharm el- Sheik, Egypt

CBD COP 14

Adoption by the Parties of the following seven decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and regions:

COP/14/3 - Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors;

COP/14/4 - Health and biodiversity;

COP/14/6 - The conservation and sustainable use of pollinators;

COP/14/7 - Sustainable wildlife management;

COP/14/8 - Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

COP/14/11 - Invasive alien species; and

CBD/COP/14/34 - Proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments

Sharm el Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People

Past CBD COP decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments

Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COPs

2016

Cancún, Mexico

CBD COP 13

Adoption by the Parties of **Decision XIII/3**, on Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Parties agreed to enhance their efforts to engage subnational and local governments in order to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan.

5th Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments

Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

2014

Gangwon, Korea

CBD COP 12

Decision XII/9, on Engagement with Subnational and Local Governments, requested the CBD Executive Secretary to support the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action on Biodiversity and its activities as an effective platform for scientific and technical cooperation, capacity development and the dissemination of best practices for local and subnational implementation of the Convention.

Biodiversity Summit For Cities and Subnational Governments

Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution for Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity

2012

Hyderabad, India

CBD COP 11

Adoption by the Parties of **Decision XI/28**: It highlighted the tangible role of local governments, specifying the need for national support in implementing the Plan of Action 2011-2020.

Cities for Life: City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit

Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity

2010

Nagoya, Japan

CBD COP 10

Adoption by the Parties of the ground-breaking **Decision X/22** and thereby endorsement of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and encouraged Parties to support cities and local authorities.

City Biodiversity Summit Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity

Support of Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 - 2020)

Past CBD COP decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments

Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COPs

2008

Cancún, Mexico

CBD COP 9

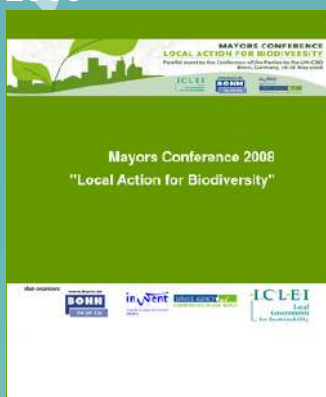
Development of an intervention on behalf of local governments, presented at the COP. Adoption by the Parties of **Decision IX/28**, which for the first time recognizes the importance of local and subnational governments in supporting the implementation of the Convention and in implementing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

Mayors Conference - Local Action for Biodiversity

Bonn Call for Action on Cities and Biodiversity

PREVIOUS SUMMIT EVENT REPORTS

2008



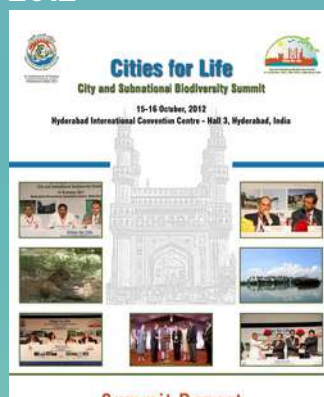
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2012



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2014



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2016



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2018



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2022



DOWNLOAD

Following COP15, the attention turned to synergies in biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and implementation. ICLEI, Regions4 and the Government of Québec participate in the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the GBF, and in the Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-4) of the CBD. They participated in their capacities as Secretariats of the CBD Advisory Committees on Local Governments for Biodiversity and on Subnational Governments for Biodiversity of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, to represent the voice of the Subnational and Local Authorities Major Group.

The Bern III Conference, held from 23-25 January 2024 in Bern, Switzerland, was hosted by the Government of Switzerland, and organized by UNEP and SCBD. The Bern Process is recognized in CBD Decision 15/13 as a cooperation process among Parties to strengthen synergies and collaboration towards the effective and efficient implementation of the GBF and foster an inclusive collaborative approach with, and among, MEAs and United Nations organizations. This was the first time that subnational and local government representation was included in the Bern Process, which is significant as it serves as further recognition of their vital role in, and contributions to, MEAs.

The SBI-4 meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22-26 May, gathered the 196 CBD Parties, UN and intergovernmental organizations, and all CBD major groups. The Subnational and Local Authorities Major Group Several was invited to make an intervention in the Opening Plenary, and it made suggested text amendments on several agenda items that were relevant to its constituency.

Furthermore, to keep the momentum while focusing on implementation, ICLEI hosted and led a series of six webinars after COP 15 and leading up to COP 16, with the purpose of opening a space for knowledge building and sharing on biodiversity issues towards ultimately reaching the 2030 targets and 2050 goals. This webinar series was convened with support from partners: the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Environment Programme, Regions4, Committee of the Regions, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The list of webinars and recordings can be found below.

Countdown to Cali COP16: the participation of regions and cities

WATCH HERE >

Harnessing local solutions for biodiversity: insights from recent global dialogues on nature, water and plastic

WATCH HERE >

Connecting for change: Amplifying the role of cities and regions in achieving global biodiversity and climate goals

WATCH HERE >

Raising Ambition: the importance of subnational and local governments to reach the 30×30 targets for restoration and conservation

WATCH HERE >

Target 12: connecting the dots between nature, urbanization, and health

WATCH HERE >

Scaling up finance for biodiversity: the key role of cities and regions

WATCH HERE >

CBD COP 16 decisions focused on local and subnational governments

As the first biodiversity COP since the adoption of the GBF in 2022, COP 16 represented a crucial moment to accelerate global action for both nature and humanity. Numerous critical issues were under negotiation, aiming to translate the ambitious global agreement into national actions and secure the necessary financing. On the final day, after 24 hours of continuous negotiations, quorum was lost, leading to the suspension of COP 16 with several key decisions left unresolved. COP 16 reconvened to finalize the proceedings in Rome, Italy from 25-27 February 2025.

COP 16 successfully complied with its objective of being “the COP of the people”, its discussions focused on justice and equity due to calls to engage all sectors of society in achieving the goals of the Convention. The most important negotiation outcomes of COP 16 were in relation to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Following the successes of, several decisions were adopted at CBD COP 16 that are relevant to our constituency and recognize their role and contribution to global biodiversity goals and targets. This included the following landmark decisions on:

- **Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs)**, which establishes a subsidiary body on matters related to IPLCs and a fund that aims to reward the stewards of biodiversity, mostly IPLCs, to ensure that those who profit from biodiversity give back to nature, countries and communities; and
- **biodiversity and climate change**, which focuses on optimizing synergies between biodiversity and climate action at all levels, calls upon the COP 16, 29 and 30 Presidencies to strengthen multilateral coordination, and requests the CBD Executive Secretary to invite Parties, observers and other stakeholders to submit their views on options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the three Rio conventions.

Other decisions adopted at COP 16 of interest to subnational and local governments include those on:

- **biodiversity and health** and a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, which recognizes the role of subnational governments in minimizing and regulating pollution as well as the importance of green and blue spaces in urban areas for human health amongst the actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the GBF;
- **biodiversity and mainstreaming**, which calls for strengthened collaboration with relevant convention secretariats and organizations in order to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming **at all levels**. This decision includes several references recognizing the contributions of subnational and local governments and is important for this constituency as biodiversity mainstreaming is recognized as one of the seven action areas in the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2023–2030) under Decision 15/12 adopted at CBD COP15,

The Subnational and Local Authorities Major Group was invited to make an intervention in the Opening Plenary of the COP on 21 October, and to report on the Summit Outcomes during the Closing Plenary of the High-Level Segment on 30 October.

CBD COP decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments

2025

Cali, Colombia

CBD COP 16

Adoption by the Parties of the following decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and regions:

Decision 16/4



Programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities to 2030

Decision 16/5



Institutional arrangements for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Decision 16/13



Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

Decision 16/15



Sustainable wildlife management

Decision 16/17



Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity

Decision 16/18



Invasive alien species

Decision 16/19



Biodiversity and health

Decision 16/22



Biodiversity and climate change

Explore all COP 16 decisions





Thanks

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) wishes to thank the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Regions4, the host Government of Colombia and the City of Cali, as well as the main sponsor of the 8th Summit, CAF, and co-sponsors, DAI and Veolia.

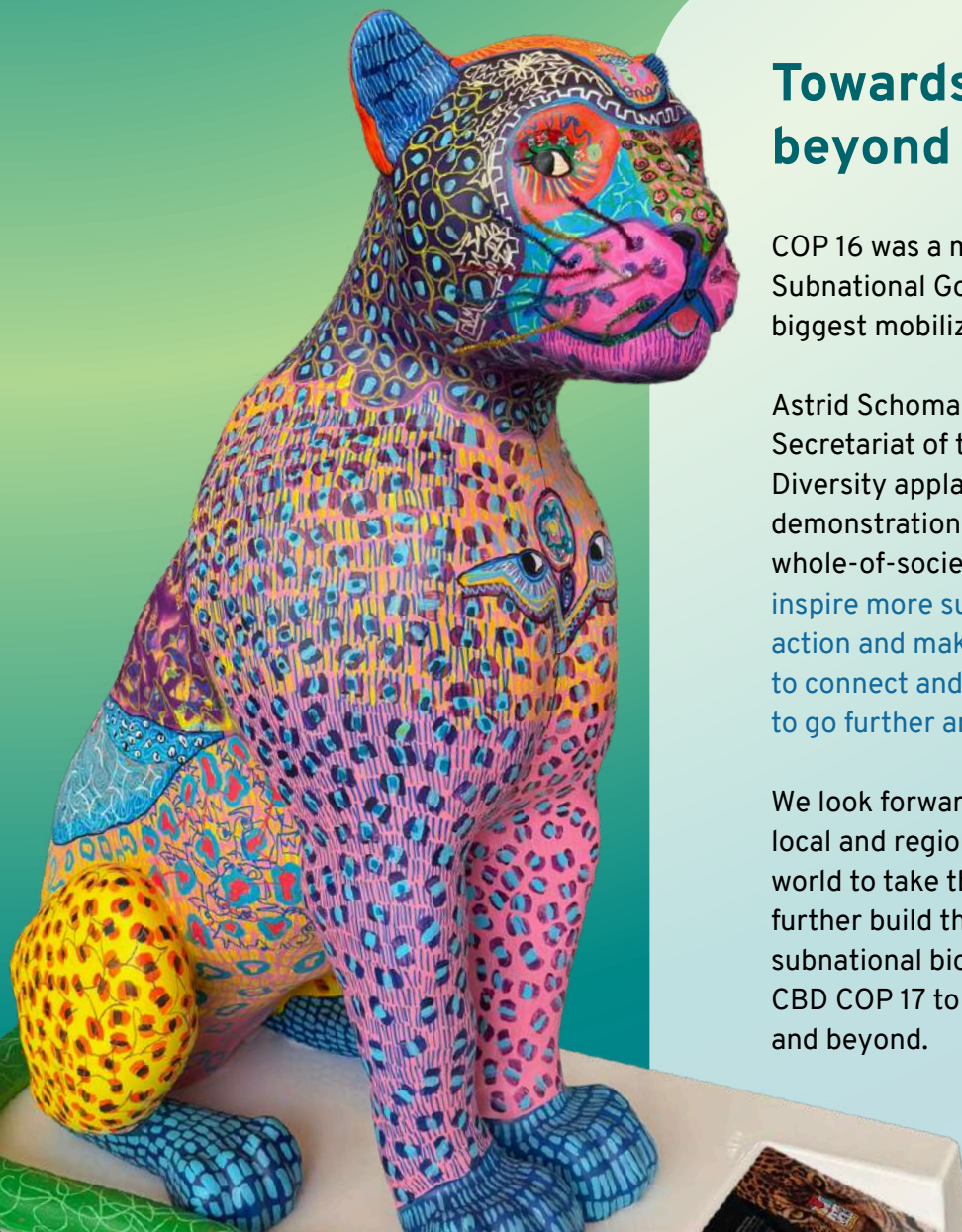
We would also like to thank additional partners, UNEP, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities, UCLG, CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature, as well as all speakers, presenters and participants for making the 8th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities a major success.

Towards COP 17 and beyond

COP 16 was a major success for the Local and Subnational Government constituency, with the biggest mobilization so far at any CBD COP.

Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity applauded the Summit as a true demonstration of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. *"We hope that you will inspire more subnational governments to take action and make peace with nature. The challenge is to connect and collaborate and go further. We need to go further and we need to go fast!"* she said.

We look forward to working with our partners and local and regional governments from around the world to take this proud tradition forward, and to further build this strategic global platform for subnational biodiversity action in parallel with the CBD COP 17 to be held in Yerevan, Armenia in 2026, and beyond.



EL DERECHO de COLOMBIA de ALCANZAR LA PAZ es MAS IMPORTANTE que CUALQUIER NECESIDAD de VENGANZA

80% de la Población de AMÉRICA LATINA vive en CIUDADES

TALA ILEGAL de la zona de conservación de la zona

NARCOTRÁFICO de drogas y PRECURSORES QUÍMICOS

MINERÍA ILEGAL

ABORDAR de MANERA CONJUNTA y CONTINENTE las AMENAZAS de las ECONOMÍAS ILEGALES

CULTIVOS ILCITOS

VIOLENCIA y SERVICIO de la ESTABILIDAD SOCIAL

RECUPERACIÓN del RÍO

INICIATIVA de SINGAPORE

DESARROLLO SOCIAL SOSTENIBLE en ARMONÍA con el MEDIO AMBIENTE

CAPITAL de la PROTECCIÓN de la BIODIVERSIDAD

PROTECCIÓN de la

VIDA LLAMADA a la ACCIÓN

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FUTURO SOSTENIBLE y RESILIENTE

ACCESO a RECURSOS PARA COMPARAR TERRITORIOS para áreas de CONSERVACIÓN y USO SOSTENIBLE

TE PEPINOS CAMBIOS PROFUNDOS y de LARGO PLAZO

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TRABAJEMOS JUNTOS EN LA IMPLEMENTACIÓN del Global Biodiversity Framework

Compromiso COMPARTIDO PARA la PROTECCIÓN de la BIODIVERSIDAD

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30% TERRITORIO PROTEGIDO

TRANSPORTE MULTIMODAL

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La AMAZONIA es la MITAD del TERRITORIO ECUATORIANO

PARTE FUNDAMENTAL de la GOBERNANZA y TOMA de DECISIONES

REFESTACIÓN INICIANDO a los JOVENES

INTEGRACIÓN de ACTIVIDADES con las CIUDADES

NANSANA

UGANDA

COOPERACIÓN a DIFERENTES NIVELES

AL MIGRAR del CAMPO a la CIUDAD NECESITAMOS un LUGAR PARA VIVIR y una FORMA de SUBSISTIR

INTERCAMBIO de DATOS e INFORMACIÓN de las OBRAS TERRITORIALES

KENYA

PÉRDIDA de BIODIVERSIDAD

CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO

SOLUCIONES INTERRELACIONADAS a PROBLEMAS INTERRELACIONADOS

DECISIONES BASADAS en DATOS CIENTÍFICOS

No Podemos SEGUIR SIENDO ACTORES PASIVOS PORQUE ES en el TERRITORIO que SE IMPLEMENTAN las ACUERDOS

ENFOQUE PAN SOCIAL y PANGUBERNAMENTAL

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LOS CABOS

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MONITOREO AMBIENTAL

PLAN de TRANSICIÓN ENERGÉTICA

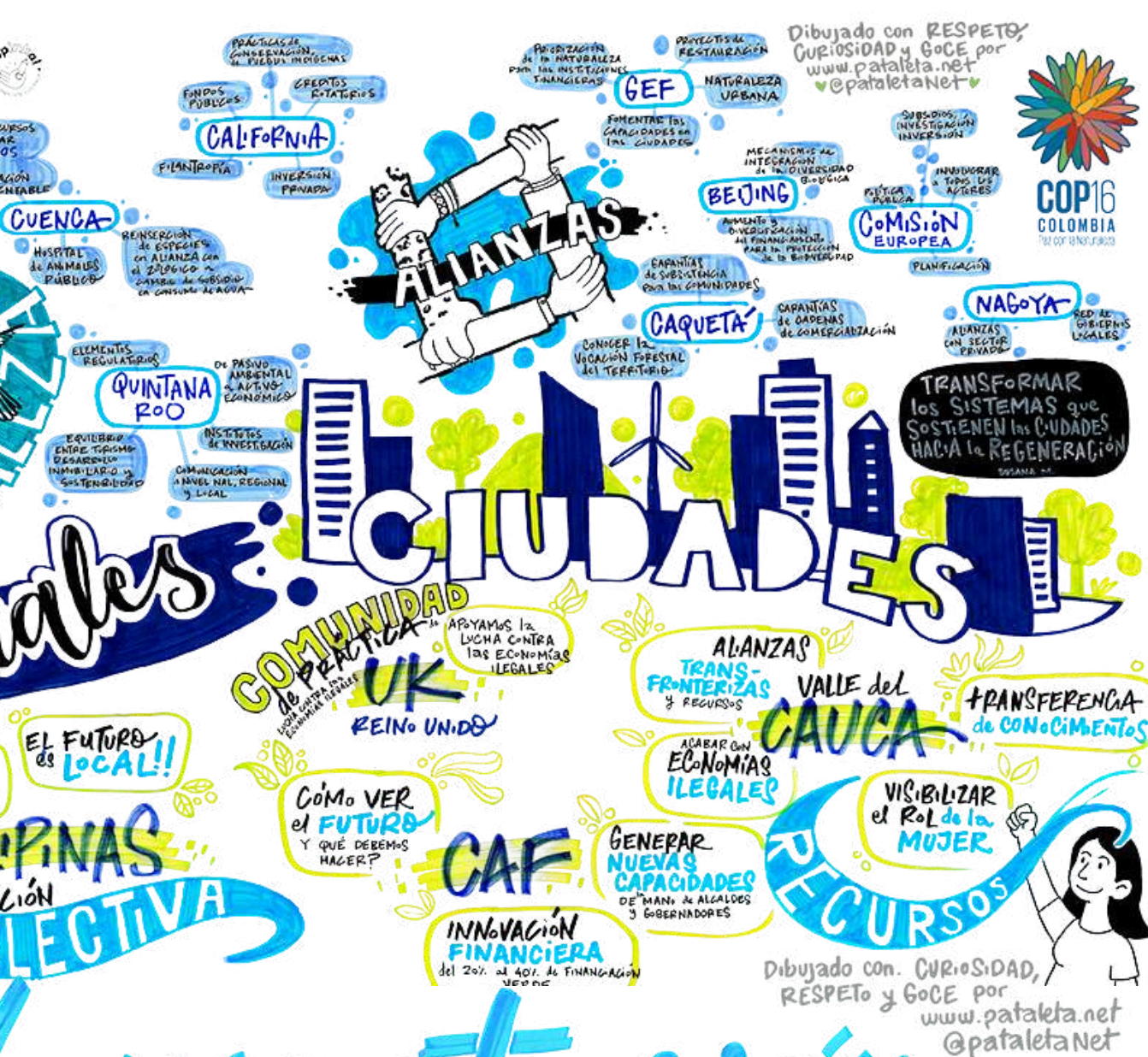
ECO TURISMO

INTEGRACIÓN entre CRECIMIENTO ECONÓMICO y CONSERVACIÓN AMBIENTAL

GOBERNANZA MULTINIVEL



COP16 COLOMBIA Paz con la Naturaleza



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