



THE ICLEI CITIES BIODIVERSITY CENTER

The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center is hosted by the ICLEI Africa Secretariat and located in Cape Town, South Africa. The Center has ICLEI's mandate to engage globally with local governments on biodiversity-related matters. Its team of passionate, skilled and dynamic individuals provides cities with a broad portfolio of supportive services, including: capacity development, technical advice, advocacy support, networking forums, profiling of achievements and conference organization. ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center involves a global alliance of various partners who together aspire to reconcile urban development with the conservation of ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Center's activities are based on promoting the concept of natural capital and addressing the degradation of ecosystem goods and services that underpin human wellbeing. Cities are critical actors in the pursuit of a more environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and economically productive future. The Center is committed to helping cities realize their potential through the collaborative design and implementation of integrated urban development and biodiversity management solutions.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

At least 40% of the world economy depends on biological resources. Out of the 24 ecosystem services that make direct contributions to human well-being, 15 are in decline. The current rate of biodiversity loss is faster than ever before, and if the trend continues one half of all species on earth will be extinct in 100 years.

The world is rapidly urbanizing with more than 90% of the population forecasted to live in urban areas by 2100. At the same time, urban economic growth in many developing areas is being mirrored by increasing levels of urban poverty, inequality, inefficiency and adverse impacts on critical natural resources and ecosystems. After all, cities are not discrete, self-contained entities; rather they are dynamic nodes of activity, draining vast quantities of natural resources, producing immense amounts of waste, interacting profoundly with their surrounding bioregions and thereby considerably altering both near and distant ecosystems. Within this context it is recognized that biodiversity and ecosystems generate, mediate and underpin numerous resource flows into cities such as fresh water, energy and food. In order to maintain critical biodiversity and ecosystem services for the benefit of humans, cities need to increasingly mainstream these concerns into everyday urban planning and design. A shift toward planning for 'urban green growth' is imperative, not only to secure resource flows, but also to create green jobs, ensure resilience in the face of climate change, and secure ecosystem services and affordable public services.

Short history of global urbanization:

PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL POPULATION THAT IS URBANISED:

1800 – 3%
1900 – 14%
2007 – 50%
Forecasted: 2050 – 80%

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS & GOVERNANCE

Biodiversity and ecosystems are seen by ICLEI as a strategically important thematic area of work. As such the ICLEI high level Global Executive Committee (GEXCOM) contains a portfolio on BiodiverCities and ecosystems. The GEXCOM presides over the ICLEI Council and provides strategic input into ICLEI work globally. In addition, the Cities Biodiversity Center is led by the BiodiverCities Advisory Committee which contains a wide range of high level political leaders from around the globe.

Biodivercities Advisory Committee.

Through the high-level BiodiverCities Advisory Committee, ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center provides local and international leaders with an internationally recognized platform to strategically review, guide and promote our BiodiverCities initiatives and partnerships. Representatives include the:

- Secretary General, ICLEI
- Executive Secretary, CBD
- Executive Director, UN Habitat
- Director General, IUCN
- Mayor - City of Bonn (Deputy Chair of the World mayors Council on Climate Change)
- Commissioner - Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation
- Mayor - City of Durban
- Mayor - City of Sao Paulo
- Mayor - City of Curitiba
- Mayor - City of Nagoya
- Mayor - City of Joondalup
- Mayor - City of Montréal
- Mayor - Mexico City

Biodivercities Technical Committee

This expert platform convenes global science and innovation partners to provide the BiodiverCities initiatives with technical advice and guidance, and to share cutting-edge research and practice with participating cities and other partners. It brings

together a wide range of academic and private sector experts and their associations and networks to enhance, mainstream and mobilize local biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches toward urban sustainability.

OUR ADVOCACY WORK:

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center has been instrumental in advocating globally for the sustainable management of biodiversity resources at the local level and for increased collaboration between different levels of government on this topic. Through its various projects and initiatives, the Center provides a platform for local governments to voice their concerns and aspirations to the international community. The Center's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Pioneer program has demonstrated since 2006 that cities and local governments can make tangible contributions that enable huge strides for nature conservation and biodiversity management on the ground. The program contributed immensely to the recognition by national governments that local governments are essential for the successful implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The action-oriented achievements of the LAB Pioneers provided the practical basis for generating the political momentum that culminated in the adoption of Decision X/22 by Parties to the CBD, at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan, October 2010. Decision X/22 endorses the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020), which provides the Parties with guidelines on how to support local governments towards collaborative implementation of the Convention.

Paragraph six of Decision X/22 calls for an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity. Accordingly, in partnership with the CBD Secretariat and Stockholm Resilience Center, ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center is a co-author of the assessment, the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO). Implementation of the Plan of Action is supported

by the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity, an informal cooperative platform chaired by the Secretariat of the CBD and composed of cities and sub-national governments; United Nations agencies and programs such as UN-HABITAT, UNEP, UNESCO; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); networks of local authorities; and of course ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center which, through its programs and services, is the Partnership's official implementing agent. The Partnership aims "to support cities in the sustainable management of their biodiversity resources, to assist cities to implement practices that support national, regional and international strategies, plans, and agendas on biodiversity, and to learn from existing initiatives" (CBD 2007).

Since the CBD COP9 in Bonn in 2008, ICLEI has partnered with the Secretariat of the CBD and hosts to organize major local government events in parallel to COPs. At COP10 the "City Biodiversity Summit" was the largest event in parallel to the COP and a strong message was expressed by the Mayor of Nagoya and Governor of Aichi from the summit to the High-Level Segment of the COP, making the presence of local and sub-national governments well heard by all 193 Parties (192 national governments and the European Union) at the highest level. ICLEI has also taken part in and coordinated various smaller side events at CBD COPs, leading the cities' agenda in the context of the CBD.

ICLEI CITIES BIODIVERSITY CENTER SECONDS STAFF MEMBER TO CBD







In an unprecedented move, in June 2011 ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center seconded a senior staff member to assist the Secretariat of the CBD in Montreal for two years with local and sub-national work and to ensure that this becomes a priority issue for the Convention. The Executive Secretary of the Convention has expressed his appreciation for this progressive and proactive contribution and the commitment it demonstrates, and has demonstrated his trust by appointing the staff member to represent him in meetings

NETWORKING PLATFORMS

The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center provides the following in terms of networking platforms and opportunities:

- ▶ Triennial Urban Nature forum associated with the ICLEI World Congress. This platform brings cities, science, practitioners, experts and other local government stakeholders and leaders together to connect, and to share innovation and tools.
- ▶ Biennial global BiodiverCities technical workshops for LAB Pioneers in partnership with Host Cities.
- ▶ A number of needs-based localized, national and international thematic workshops and technical events for urban biodiversity and ecosystem management.
- ▶ City summits in the occasion of the biennial CBD COPs. Organized with partners.
- ▶ Participating city leaders are invited to ongoing opportunities to connect through high level partner events, meetings and committees.

Key Partners

	<p>The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and ICLEI maintain a partnership under a Memorandum of Understanding. IUCN is a founding partner of the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Pioneer project.</p>
	<p>The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and ICLEI cooperate closely in mainstreaming the urban biodiversity agenda. ICLEI plays a key role in the CBD convened Global Partnership on Cities, Local and Sub-National Governments towards the attainment of relevant Aichi Targets of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020).</p>
	<p>UN-HABITAT and ICLEI maintain a partnership under a Memorandum of Understanding and seek opportunities of joint mobilization of resources for local action for biodiversity.</p>
	<p>Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and ICLEI cooperate to encourage and capacitate local governments to mobilize, standardize and publish their biodiversity data through the GBIF network. The partnership is maintained under a Memorandum of Understanding.</p>
	<p>ICLEI maintains a partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). SANBI has supported several of ICLEI's biodiversity initiatives including the LAB Pioneer program.</p>
	<p>Stockholm Resilience Center (SRC) and ICLEI cooperate on various projects and initiatives. As a world renowned academic institution, SRC provides ICLEI with direct access to cutting edge research in the field of urban ecology. SRC is the Scientific Coordinator of the URBIS network, of which ICLEI hosts the Secretariat.</p>

PARTICIPATING CITIES

Map indicating past and present member cities involved in various biodiversity-related ICLEI initiatives.

1. Helsingborg Municipality, Sweden
2. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
3. Bergrivier Municipality, South Africa
4. Brussels Capital Region, Belgium
5. Calgary, Canada
6. Cape Winelands District Municipality, South Africa
7. Grand-Synthe, France
8. Jerusalem, Israel
9. Kaohsiung City, Taiwan
10. Lilongwe, Malawi
11. Mexico City, Mexico
12. Montreal, Canada
13. Ville de Montpellier, France
14. Amsterdam, Netherlands
15. Barcelona, Spain
16. Bonn, Germany
17. Ekurhuleni, South Africa
18. Ile de France, France
19. Johannesburg, South Africa
20. King County, United States of America
21. Leicester, United Kingdom
22. Liverpool, Australia
23. Nagoya, Japan
24. Tilburg, Netherlands
25. Walvis Bay, Namibia
26. Zagreb, Croatia
27. Cape Town, South Africa
28. Curitiba, Brazil
29. Edmonton, Canada
30. Ethekewini, South Africa
31. Joondalup, Australia
32. São Paulo, Brazil
33. Seoul, Republic of Korea
34. Waitakere, New Zealand



OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW CITIES TO ENGAGE

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center offers a variety of opportunities and multiple entry points to engage on local action for biodiversity - whether a city is located in a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot; wants to save money through improved planning with nature to optimize nature's free ecosystem services for green infrastructure; is committed to building resilient communities who are connected with their natural environment for direct health benefits and improved quality of urban life; or to promote tourism, recreation and local economic development opportunities through parks, protected areas and green belts.

PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES

LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY (LAB) PROGRAM

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is ICLEI's flagship biodiversity program coordinated in partnership with IUCN. LAB's approach is action-oriented and customized for local and regional authorities and their partners around the world, with the goal of improving biodiversity management at the local level. LAB is a key component of, and contributor to, the CBD's Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity. LAB began in 2006 with a select group of 21 local and regional authorities from around the world, representing 54 million citizens. The initiative has since expanded to include many more cities and has branched into thematic streams, including LAB Pioneers, Climate Change and Biodiversity and Biodiversity and CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness), highlighted below.



LAB PIONEERS

Over a period of three years, cities participating in the LAB Pioneer program undertake 5 steps to become globally-recognized leaders in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem management. These steps are as follows:

- 1) *Compilation of a Biodiversity Report. This assessment synthesizes available information on local species and habitats, and outlines current management practices.*
- 2) *Signing of the "LAB Durban Commitment," political recognition of the importance of biodiversity and a pledge to protect it.*
- 3) *Preparation of a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP), aligned with the national equivalent.*
- 4) *Endorsement of LBSAP by the City Council.*
- 5) *Implementation of at least three biodiversity projects that set the LBSAP into operation.*

Throughout the process, the LAB Pioneers receive support from ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, in the form of technical assistance, networking opportunities, participation in specialist training workshops, showcasing of achievements at important international events, and advocacy.

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Biodiversity & Climate Change (CC) Program focuses on strengthening the links between biodiversity management and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and strategies at the local level. While the initial concern about climate change has tended to focus on the well-being of humankind, climate change is also likely to become the dominant driver of biodiversity loss by the end of the 21st century. In addition, biodiversity, natural infrastructure and ecosystem services can make a critical contribution to the resilience of communities to climate change. The Biodiversity & CC Program aims to promote the links between these two pertinent issues.

BIODIVERSITY AND CEPA

The Biodiversity and CEPA Program focuses on implementing and strengthening communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies and tools into biodiversity management efforts at the local level. CEPA plays an important role in facilitating the mindset change necessary at the individual and organizational levels to act to reduce biodiversity loss. It is not enough to tell people about biodiversity and the threats it faces in order to bring about positive change. Rather, communication, education and public awareness campaigns are necessary, using planned systematic approaches that are sympathetic to the interests of stakeholders and beneficiaries. The LAB Biodiversity and CEPA Program is designed to integrate and mainstream CEPA strategies into existing biodiversity strategies.

URBIS – URBAN BIOSPHERE INITIATIVE

URBIS is a global network connecting acclaimed scientific researchers, foresighted policy-makers,

visionary planners and environmental practitioners from across the world with local governments to share, develop and implement ideas for creating more resilient and equitable urban regions. ICLEI hosts the URBIS Secretariat, while the Stockholm Resilience Center at Stockholm University is the Scientific Coordinator. Other partners include Cornell University, IUCN, United Nations University, The New School in New York and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. Connecting such a broad spectrum of partners with local governments helps to transcend the science-policy interface; accelerate the exchange of knowledge; galvanize collaborative action; and ultimately forges harmony between cities and the ecosystems of which they are part. The URBIS initiative comprises several components:

- i) *Learning community. An online resource hub, dedicated newsletters, case studies, and periodic meetings, workshops and webinars.*
- ii) *Recognition process. Local governments are formally and internationally recognized for adopting participatory, inclusive and comprehensive approaches to planning for urban sustainability.*
- iii) *Aperture to excellence. URBIS provides a gateway to numerous other programs, projects and initiatives to which ambitious local governments can additionally subscribe.*

Local governments can join the initiative for free by sharing at least one good practice case study and signing the Durban Commitment, a political recognition of the value of biodiversity and a pledge to protect it. For more information: <http://www.urbis.org/>

URBES– URBAN BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Coordinated by Stockholm Resilience Center and funded by BiodiverERsA, URBES is a major European project seeking to address scientific knowledge gaps on the contribution of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being. It aims to support European cities to adapt to climate change and reduce their ecological footprints.

The study entails reviewing and expanding upon research on functional diversity, urban ecosystem services, institutions, economics and resilience sci-

ence with a view to developing interdisciplinary and holistic principles, policies, tools and designs for application in cities. In the spirit of TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), URBES is advancing techniques for valuing ecosystem services in the urban context, exploring governance implications and developing guidelines for local governments. Furthermore, URBES is developing a toolkit to better equip local governments in the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Empirical studies are being conducted in four European cities, namely, Berlin, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Salzburg. ICLEI and IUCN are closely collaborating to communicate and disseminate the research results and train local governments accordingly. ICLEI and IUCN are also seeking to ensure linkages and coherence between URBES and important policy mechanisms and partnerships (CBD, IPBES, TEEB), as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy. For more information: www.urbesproject.org

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

The Cities in Biodiversity Hotspots Program is a pioneering new initiative that will focus on a select group of rapidly growing cities in global biodiversity priority areas, with the outlook to grow an elite and influential network of local governments that will reduce biodiversity loss and subsequently increase resilience to global change. The purpose of the project is to ensure that city-region economies in global biodiversity hotspots are strengthened and quality of life improved through conserving biodiversity and securing ecosystem services. Conservation action through the Program's network of cities will be focused on ecosystem-based adaptation that sustains ecosystem services for cities in hotspots. This cumulative local action will ultimately result in local, regional and global benefits by contributing to the attainment of the vision expressed in the CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020) and associated Aichi Targets. The Cities in Biodiversity Hotspots Program will supply a research platform, which will address the challenge of providing evidence for the economic, social and ecological results of the Program. This research platform will be run in partnership with

key research partners to support the network's advocacy initiative: which will focus on mobilizing local governments, leveraging global support for local action and establishing funding mechanisms. All of the above will be carried out with the primary purpose of decentralized co-operation: where local communities in donor countries and local communities in countries that need support are linked; in order to consolidate long-term cultural, technical and economic partnerships.

FOOD SMART CITIES

Analyses of urban food systems in scenarios of global environmental change consistently reveal gaping inefficiencies, risks and vulnerabilities - imperfections that occasionally result in civil unrest. Hunger and malnourishment have been urbanized: the poorest urban dwellers spend the majority of their income on food; and even the most affluent cities comprise 'food deserts' where affordable, nutritious produce is altogether absent. Feeding the world's burgeoning urban population in the context of resource depletion, climate change, water scarcity, land degradation and rapid biodiversity loss, is a defining challenge of the 21st century, and one which requires urgent and integrated solutions.

Local governments are uniquely-positioned to address flaws in the food system. They can implement targeted policies and planning measures to: incentivize sustainable local production; shorten market chains; establish stakeholder forums; enhance distribution and storage infrastructure; promote resource-efficient technologies and practices; promote biodiversity friendly practices; build technical capacity; and combat poverty. The benefits of such action are as diverse as they are profound, but will ultimately bring about food systems with greater resilience. In that pursuit, guidelines, tools, knowledge-sharing forums, and good-practice case-studies have considerable utility, hence the compelling impetus for a Food Smart Cities program of work. In collaboration with a group of specialist international institutions including RUAF Foundation, International Part-

ners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center is establishing such an alliance and invites all interested local governments to come forth and help forge it.

TOOLS AND SERVICES

LAB GUIDEBOOK

ICLEI's LAB Guidebook, produced in close association with IUCN and the CBD Secretariat, provides practitioners with comprehensive guidelines on the multiple aspects of biodiversity management in the challenging local government context. This groundbreaking and comprehensive publication collates biodiversity good practice from around the world in a series of easily accessible modules. Each module contains practical advice, examples, and references for further information. It draws on a variety of sources with a focus on the rich experience of leading cities and regions from around the world.

For more information: www.iclei.org/biodiversity

CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX (CBI)

The CBI is a valuable self-assessment tool for monitoring and evaluating biodiversity in cities and is the only biodiversity index for cities specifically. The CBI was developed by experts from around the world, including academic research institutions, experienced local government officials, as well as established organizations specializing in biodiversity and ecosystem services in a city context. Since it originated ICLEI has played a central role as a member of the task team for its development and by bringing on many of the first cities to test the index. This index provides local governments with an internationally recognized system for evaluating: the efficacy of their conservation management practices; and temporal changes in the characteristics of local biodiversity. For more information: <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml>

THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY (TEEB)

ICLEI has made substantial contributions to the globally-acclaimed study, TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity), through the TEEB Report for Local and Regional Policymakers (2010). TEEB draws attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, highlights the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and suggests practical actions moving forward. More recently, ICLEI and partners produced the TEEB Manual for Cities: Ecosystem Services and Urban Management (2011). The manual gathers experiences and case studies from around the world and describes an approach to help urban and regional policy-makers and planners assess the value of natural systems and consider opportunities and tradeoffs in their policy and planning decisions. The manual provides an easily understandable introduction to the subject of ecosystem services; how to determine their value; and how to incorporate a consideration of ecosystem services into municipal functioning as a long-term investment to enhance existing municipal management.

For more information: <http://www.teebweb.org/>

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (LBSAP) GUIDELINES

The LBSAP is the local-level version of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the principle instrument used by national governments for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) Guidelines is a document that guides local governments in detailing a broad strategy, as well as specific actions to implement in order to protect and enhance local biodiversity. ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, the United Nations University – Institute for Advance Studies and the CBD Secretariat have co-authored the Guidelines.

GBIF-ICLEI BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR BIODIVERSITY DATA PUBLISHING BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

encourages free and open access to biodiversity data, via the Internet. GBIF promotes and facilitates the mobilization, access, discovery and use of information about the occurrence of organisms over time and across the planet. ICLEI is a 'GBIF Node Manager' for local governments, a role which entails capacitating and encouraging practitioners to use the facility. By doing so, local governments can enhance their environmental management and service provision, and streamline their planning procedures. ICLEI recently contributed to the preparation of the GBIF-ICLEI Best Practice Guide for Biodiversity Data Publishing by Local Governments which guides local government practitioners in publishing and using standardized biodiversity data through the GBIF facility.

For more information: <http://www.gbif.org>

URBAN PROTECTED AREAS TOOLKIT FOR CITIES

To safeguard against further loss of urban biodiversity and to enhance local government's efficiency on multiple levels, ICLEI and the City of Cape Town have developed a practical, universal toolkit for local governments, which will provide guidance in adding crucial parcels of land into the COCT's? Natural Open Space System, or improving the management of existing protected areas. The toolkit is complemented by an array of international case study examples.

BIODIVERSITY CEPA EVALUATION TOOLKIT FOR CITIES

The City of Cape Town and ICLEI have developed a Toolkit to guide and assist cities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) environmental activities. The primary deliverables are: a set of practical monitoring and evaluation guidelines; a set of universal indicators; a set of guidelines for developing indicators; and four case studies from local governments around the world. The goal is to evaluate the impacts, and provide guidance for designing and implementing innovative and influential campaigns, projects, and programs.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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