



GANGWON/PYEONGCHANG RESOLUTION ON CITIES AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR BIODIVERSITY

We, cities and subnational governments, and our valued partners, convening at the Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments 2014 held in parallel with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP 12) in Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, from 12–14 October 2014, are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

Reiterating that biodiversity is key to sustainable development and the wellbeing of humankind, and that urban areas – which are home to most of humankind – have a disproportionate impact on biodiversity, and that local governments therefore have an essential role and responsibility to ensure that biodiversity is conserved and sustainably and equitably used for the benefit of current and future generations;

Recognising that both biodiversity and ecosystem services, and cities, are critical components in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as acknowledged in the proposed SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, and 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”;

Recognising the progress made, and pioneering leadership shown, by an increasing number of Parties to the CBD, in collaborating with cities and subnational governments towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, as conveyed in the fifth National Reports to the CBD and in new generation National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

Acknowledging ground-breaking COP decisions¹, on cities and subnational governments in the global biodiversity agenda, especially the catalytic role of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020)²;

Acknowledging declarations from previous summits for cities and subnational governments, upon which this Resolutions builds, including Bonn Call for Action³, Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity⁴, and the Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments⁵;

Acknowledging the important scientific contribution provided by the publication Urbanisation, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities⁶, the 4th URBIO Conference in Incheon (Korea)⁷, and the urban research agenda proposed by URBIO, amongst others;

Commending the Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change⁸ for acknowledging that biodiversity, including urban biodiversity and ecosystem services, is critical for addressing global environmental change, including climate change;

Commending the Declaration of the French Associations of Local and Regional Authorities for Biodiversity⁹, adopted in Hyderabad at COP11, for engaging to act for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

Agree on the following priority thematic areas, which are the most pressing and currently unmet needs for cities and subnational governments, in order to contribute to achieving the goal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹⁰:

Increased communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) through schools, universities and other institutions, with a focus on promoting behavioural change and therefore reducing negative impact by communities and cities on biodiversity, in support of Aichi Target 1 in particular;

Strengthened biodiversity planning and management capacity building and training at the local level in support of Aichi Targets 17, 18, 19 and 20, in particular;

Emphasis on decoupling consumption patterns and natural resource use from quality of life and local economies, in particular through promotion of non-extractive economic activities, development of policies that internalise environmental and social costs, mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning and ensure coherence between sectoral policies and support of ecosystem rehabilitation within cities and in areas most impacted by cities’ disproportionately high ecological footprint, in support of Aichi Target 3 and 4 in particular;

Cooperative and integrated management of natural assets such as watersheds, marine and coastal resources, and soils, including their restoration, across levels of government, and with stakeholders, in support of Aichi Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in particular;

The development of local and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans (BSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and updating of existing plans, in alignment with National BSAPs (NBSAPs), in support of Aichi Target 17 in particular;

A strong scientific foundation to inform decision-making and strengthen the science-policy interface, and development of a continuing dialogue forum between researchers and practitioners (such as the “Global Research Agenda on Urban Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Design”), in support of Aichi Target 19 in particular;

The mobilisation of, and access to, financial resources for local and subnational implementation in support of Aichi Target 20 in particular;

The importance of collaboration, initiatives and partnerships for cities and subnational governments, on global and regional levels, such as the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity and its Advisory Committees of Cities and Subnational Governments, ICLEI’s support of the Secretariat of CBD, ICLEI’s Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) suite of projects, the Urban Biosphere Initiative (URBIS), Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA Africa), Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Project (URBES), Network of Regional Governments for Sustainability (nrg4Sd), MediverCities Network, European Learning Network for Sustainability and Biodiversity, Urban Biodiversity and Design Network (URBIO), UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Urban Group, and Maritime Innovative Territories International Network (Mitin), amongst others, in support of all of the Aichi Targets especially those under Goal E “Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building”;

Recognise the need for support on specific future actions, and urge the Parties to the CBD to continue, or step up efforts, to:

Support and encourage the formulation and implementation of local and subnational biodiversity strategy and action plans, with a clear articulation of their alignment with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

Integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into human well-being, cultural diversity, development, housing, public works, industrial activities, transportation, and other strategies, therefore viewing ecological infrastructure as an opportunity for social and economic development;

Support, and participate in, future local and subnational parallel events at the CBD COP, especially the summit for cities and subnational governments, and consider institutionalising the summit at future CBD COPs as a forum for engagement between local, subnational and national governments, to narrow the gap between decision-making and implementation;

Support and encourage future publications or iterations of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO), and support the implementation of Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity, guidelines for compiling local BSAPs, and other international tools for subnational implementation of the CBD;

Assist cities and subnational governments to identify, pilot and apply innovative financing schemes and applications for grants;

Track progress and impact of cities and subnational governments in contributing towards the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity;

Request the Executive Secretary of CBD, to encourage:

Cooperation by other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions with cities and subnational governments through forums such as Habitat III and meetings with their Executive Secretaries;

Uptake of approaches such as the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020) in future decisions to be taken under other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the UNFCCC”;

Inclusion of proposed SDG 11, as well as Target 11.7, to “provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces”, and proposed SDGs 14 and 15, and at the same time urge close linkages between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDG indicators;

Inclusion and consideration of cities and subnational governments in the workplan of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

Thank the hosts, Gangwon Provincial Government and the Republic of Korea, as well as Pyeongchang County, for their leadership and initiative in hosting this important event, within Gangwon Province, the Demilitarised Zone – which has been untouched for 60 years as a result of the Korean War; as well as Bakdudaegan Mountain range – which stretches across both South and North Korea; are invaluable ecological assets, and should be recognised and protected for the benefit of all humankind.

2014. 10. 14

1. Decision IX/28; Decision X/22; Decision XI/8
2. Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities
3. Bonn Call for Action
4. Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity
5. Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity
6. Elmavist et al. 2013
7. Incheon Declaration URBIO 2014
8. Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change
9. Declaration of the French Associations of Local and Regional Authorities for Biodiversity
10. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity