

TOWARDS AICHI/NAGOYA: SECOND CURITIBA DECLARATION ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND BIODIVERSITY

We, Mayors and other high-level officials¹, deeply concerned about the rapid loss of biodiversity worldwide², meeting in Curitiba, Brazil, on January 6 and 7, 2010, at the occasion of the Second CBD Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity

Recalling the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity³ adopted in March 2007 as the first declaration by local governments towards recognising the pivotal importance of biodiversity conservation at the level of local government;

Further recalling the Bonn Call for Action⁴ issued at the Mayors Conference “Local Action for Biodiversity” parallel event to the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn 2008, calling on all cities and local authorities to recognize their critical role in global biodiversity conservation;

Acknowledging the scientific community’s support and recognition of the role of cities and local authorities in biodiversity conservation through the Erfurt Declaration⁵ at the Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO) Conference in Erfurt, Germany in 2008;

Recalling the Durban Commitment⁶, signed by political heads of local governments indicating their commitment by participating in the intensive and action-oriented Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

Recognizing the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity’s contribution as a coordinating mechanism to support the implementation of the proposed CBD Strategic Plan of Action on Local Authorities and Biodiversity 2011-2020, particularly recognizing the Steering Committee of cities (Montréal, Curitiba, Bonn and Nagoya) and other core participants (ICLEI, the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Singapore);

Highlighting the significance of CBD COP9 Decision IX/28⁷, which promotes engagement with local authorities, by Parties to the Convention;

Further recognizing the critical role of biodiversity in supporting livelihoods and sustainability, including its role in climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation;

Hereby agree to:

1. Link biodiversity with other essential components of environmental sustainability including climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation, integrated water management and alleviation of poverty, when implementing projects and activities;
2. Implement, at the local level, activities reflecting the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸, using mechanisms such as Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs) in line with their corresponding National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
3. Engage with national governments to make them aware of the importance of LBSAPs, and thereby gain their support for LBSAP implementation;
4. Support the Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap process, coordinated by ICLEI and partners, as a vehicle to mobilize the local government voice towards the tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP10) in Nagoya, and beyond;
5. Continue to support global coordinating mechanisms for advancing local action on biodiversity, such as the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, and similar multi-stakeholder initiatives that bring together local authorities and other spheres of government, development agencies and donors, local and indigenous communities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other major groups;

6. Involve relevant partners in establishing innovative and more direct funding mechanisms to complement our current investments in biodiversity;
7. Recognize, support and participate in action-oriented organisations and their initiatives such as ICLEI and IUCN's partnership through the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Initiative, the activities of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Red de Autoridades para la Gestión Ambiental en Ciudades de América Latina y el Caribe (REDAALC), and UNESCO's URBIS Initiative;
8. Adopt relevant tools for local biodiversity management and monitoring such as the City Biodiversity Index (CBI);
9. Support communication, education and awareness raising efforts by cities and local authorities on biodiversity, and their global coordination through initiatives such as the International Year of Biodiversity and the Green Wave Campaign;
10. Promote closer linkages with business and industry, in recognition that this sector operates primarily in urban settings and is therefore well-placed to engage with local authorities on biodiversity action as demonstrated in this meeting by the LIFE (Lasting initiative For Earth) certification initiative;

Recognizing that success in achieving our goals is not possible without the full support and engagement of national governments, regional governments, funding partners and relevant organisations, and highlighting that decision IX/28 needs to be consolidated through a concrete Strategic Plan of Action on Local Authorities and Biodiversity to be proposed for adoption at COP 10 in Nagoya, call upon Parties to the CBD to:

11. Support local authorities' and relevant local government organisations' activities in assessing, planning, funding, implementing and monitoring biodiversity conservation to ensure the full potential of local authorities;
12. Support local authorities' effective use of tools for biodiversity management and monitoring such as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, and for capacity building such as the proposed twin Guidebook publications by ICLEI and the CBD Secretariat;
13. Propose that the CBI henceforth be known as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, acknowledging the important contribution of Singapore in leading its development;
14. And further propose that a meeting of local governments be held parallel to each Conference of the Parties to the CBD and that the results of this meeting be presented to a dedicated session during the Conference of the Parties, with the opportunity for discussion during the session by local government representatives;
15. Thank the cities of Montréal, Curitiba, Bonn and Nagoya for their leadership of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity and put forward that the Steering Committee continue and that the mayor of the next city to host the CBD COP be the chair of the Steering Committee;
16. And further thank the City of Curitiba and Mayor Richa for their enabling contribution in launching this Declaration at the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity, January 2010.

¹ Local authorities represented at the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity included from Brazil: Alta Floresta, Araucária, Campo Magro, Colombo, Curitiba, Rio Negro and São Paulo; from Canada: Montréal; from France: Montpellier; from Germany: Bonn; from Japan: Nagoya; from Mexico: Mexico City; Singapore; as well as many more through the attendance of ICLEI and REDAALC.

² While participants express their appreciation to the representatives of the Parties to the CBD that attended their meeting as actions of interaction and synergy, it is understood that these representatives can not formally endorse this document.

³ CURITIBA DECLARATION ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY (on line): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/mayors-01/mayors-01-declaration-en.pdf>

⁴ CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY BONN CALL FOR ACTION (on line): http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/LAB-bonn2008/user_upload/Press/BonnCall_FINAL_29May08.pdf

⁵ ERFURT DECLARATION, URBIO 2008 (on line): http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/ErfurtDeclaration_Eng.php

⁶ DURBAN COMMITMENT (on line):

http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/localactionbiodiversity/user_upload/LAB_Files/Durban_Commitment_14_Aug_2008.pdf

⁷ COP 9 DECISION IX/28: PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT OF CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES (on line): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-28-en.pdf>

⁸ CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) (online): <http://www.cbd.int/convention/about.shtml> entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives: 1) The conservation of biological diversity; 2) The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; 3) The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources