



6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments

26 NOVEMBER 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

ALL LEVELS OF SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD UNITED IN CALL TO ACTION FOR 'NATURE AND PEOPLE'

The 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, an official parallel event to the CBD COP 14, culminated on 24 November with the adoption of *the Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People*, an urgent call to action for strengthened commitment to multi-level integration, collaboration and action to stem biodiversity loss and restore biodiversity health for the sake of people and nature.

The *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People*, which builds on consecutive previous Summit outcomes and declarations, was presented to the CBD COP 14 Plenary by Dr. Cathy Oke, First Vice President of ICLEI, as the outcome of the Summit.

"The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué calls on all levels of government and their partners to take action in light of the most recent global assessment reports, which so clearly point to the need for significant, rapid and collective action," says Ms. Kobie Brand, Global Director of the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center. "Never before have there been so many diverse and simultaneous opportunities for us to build and exchange knowledge, pioneer new, systemic solutions and develop a shared vision for an urban future that incorporates nature and all it offers."

The Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué calls for significantly stepping up efforts by all CBD Parties and their subnational actors to work together to realize, enable and unlock to the fullest potential the rich, diverse and collective contributions of all levels of subnational governments and that of our growing urban populations to contribute directly and measurably to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

"This Summit and its outcomes demonstrate the spirit of multilevel cooperation and vertical integration between all levels of government to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors and promote nature-based solutions," says Natalia Vera, Secretary General: Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD). "We welcome many more actors, networks and initiatives to join this growing

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community of leading subnational actors under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, co-chaired by the SCBD, ICLEI and nrg4SD.”

The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué further calls on CBD Parties and partners to increase and unlock mechanisms for collaboration and enable frameworks; accelerate efforts for awareness-raising, capacity building and facilitating scientific knowledge transfer; and enable and promote the implementation of current and past COP Decisions related to subnational governments.

In addition, it calls on Parties and partners to continue to increase efforts to collaborate with the other global sustainable development governance processes and Conventions to ensure that systemic and inter-related solutions are developed and adopted under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

“When we arrive at another milestone in this century – 2020 – we must reach new heights in our biodiversity conservation efforts. For the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to succeed in biodiversity conservation, it is crucial that subnational governments and cities play a significant role,” says Dr. Lena Chan, Senior Director, International Biodiversity Conservation Division at National Parks Board, Singapore. “We must together commit to the 6Cs (1) CONSERVE representatives of all ecosystems in core conservation areas; (2) CONNECT these conservation areas ecologically; (3) CREATE or enhance or restore or rehabilitate existing ecosystems; (4) COLLECT scientific data; (5) COLLABORATE and cooperate with everyone and promote citizen science; and (6) CONTINUOUSLY monitor our biodiversity efforts, using tools like the Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity.”

The Summit also announced a Subnational Roadmap and Action Agenda of activities towards CBD COP 15 and beyond, particularly on collective contributions to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Subnational Roadmap and Action Agenda will capture all levels of subnational governments’ future plans to significantly scale up their own and shared actions; strengthen their partnerships; and scale up ambitions to ensure on-the-ground success of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as called for by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, supported and adopted by CBD Parties in 2011 at COP10 in Nagoya, Japan.

“As the future is urban, our constituency of all levels of subnational governments is ready to accelerate our Action Roadmap towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in support of the global Roadmap Process of the Parties,” says Dr. Cathy Oke, First Vice President, ICLEI Presidium, and Councilor, City of Melbourne, Australia. “We want Sharm el-Sheikh to be remembered as a key meeting on the pathway towards bending the curve, and we want Beijing to give momentum to biodiversity at the same level Paris gave to climate.”

CitiesWithNature (www.CitiesWithNature.org) a game changing new global initiative was also announced at the Summit by founding partners ICLEI, TNC and IUCN. CitiesWithNature provides a shared platform for all cities, regions and other subnational authorities to connect and engage in mainstreaming nature into cities

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and regions in ways that benefit both people and nature. It serves as the 'one stop shop' for all levels of subnational governments to share and report on their actions in contributing to making progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets and shaping the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

To view the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People*, please click [here](http://bit.ly/SummitCommunique). (<http://bit.ly/SummitCommunique>)

Ends

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

About the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments

The 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, held from 23 to 24 November 2018 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, gathered governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from around the world to engage directly with national leaders and their key stakeholders at CBD COP 14. Engagements focused on city and state level actions to mainstream biodiversity solutions into the new global developmental framework.

The Summit was an official parallel event to the CBD COP 14, and was organized by the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC), in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD). It was co-convened with the South Sinai Governorate, Egypt.

Summit statistics:

Over 350 delegates registered

From 46 countries

55 cities and local governments and 15 regions present

78 speakers contributing to a diverse Summit program over two days

For more information: <https://cbc.iclei.org/event/6thbiodiversitysummit/>

About ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments, supported by a team of global experts, driving sustainable urban development worldwide. Active in 100+ countries, ICLEI impacts over 25 percent of the global urban population.

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) is a dedicated global center of excellence and expertise located in Cape Town, South Africa, embedded in the Africa Regional Office of ICLEI. ICLEI CBC recognizes the crucial role that cities and other subnational governments play in the pursuit of a sustainable future, through efficiently mainstreaming biodiversity and nature-based solutions into urban development and planning at the local level. Through its initiatives and programs, ICLEI CBC seeks local solutions to the complex issues surrounding natural capital and the degradation of ecosystem services in a rapidly urbanizing world. ICLEI CBC offers cities across the globe a broad portfolio of supportive services through a dedicated team of passionate, skilled and dynamic biodiversity and urban development experts.

For more information: www.cbc.iclei.org | @ICLEICBC | biodiversity@iclei.org

About the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)

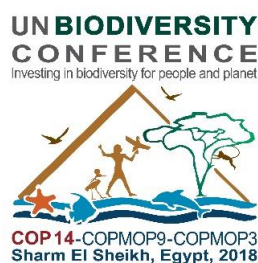
The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development - nrg4SD - is a global association that solely represents regional governments in the international agendas on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. It was established in 2002, at the World Summit in Johannesburg, and today has over 50 members from almost 30 countries in 4 continents. The nrg4SD serves as the voice of regional governments at UN

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negotiations, European Union initiatives and global discussions, advocating for recognition and supporting engagement of regional governments. It facilitates cooperation projects and partnerships between members, and with international experts and promotes expertise exchange, capacity building and knowledge transfer. nrg4SD is the coordinator of AC SNG and the Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform, launched in 2016 during COP 13, with the official support of the CBD.

For more information: www.nrg4sd.org | @nrg4SD | #Regions4Biodiv | nrg4SD@nrg4sd.org

About the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was established to support the goals of the Convention and its associated Protocols, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. Administered by UN Environment, the Secretariat is led by the Executive Secretary, appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the COP through its Bureau.

Its principal functions are to prepare for and service meetings of the COP, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other Convention bodies, as well as to coordinate with relevant UN and international agencies and organizations, and reach out to major groups and stakeholders.

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