

# INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: DECISION MAKERS AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATORS

Mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into decision making at national, state and local levels



03 April 2018 | The Grand Hotel, MG Road, Kochi

**INTERACT-Bio**  
Integrated action on biodiversity





## 1. Framing the context

A dialogue on mainstreaming biodiversity was held for national, state and local authorities from the National Biodiversity Authority, three states and 17 cities. The participants included decision makers or technical staff, having some bearing on biodiversity planning and administration within their jurisdiction. The dialogue was facilitated by ICLEI South Asia and ICLEI Africa Secretariat in the form of an exchange of information around the following aspects:

- The role cities and subnational governments can and should play in contributing to the development and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- Guidelines for an Integrated Approach towards the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans;
- Developing a draft template for Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans for city governments.

This dialogue was the first of a series aimed at promoting and strengthening biodiversity mainstreaming. These dialogues are intended to bring together national, subnational and local actors for a vertically and horizontally integrated dialogue on the importance and benefits of biodiversity conservation, as well as providing an opportunity for knowledge sharing and information exchange on the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In order to fulfil the commitments set out in the Strategic Plan (2011-2020) adopted at the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), India updated its National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2014, along with a set of 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs). Supporting action at the regional and local levels will contribute immensely to achieving national and global targets. Furthermore, there is increasing recognition globally of the key role that local governments can and should play in contributing to global biodiversity and sustainability targets.

With this in mind the 'Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans', were developed by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) and accepted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The document guides local governments in detailing a broad strategy, as well as specific actions to implement in order to protect and enhance local biodiversity.

The dialogue thus has direct links with the Strategic Plan (2011-2020) contributing directly to Aichi Target 2, which promotes the integration of biodiversity values into national and local development and planning processes.



## 2. Emerging themes & knowledge shared

### 2.1. Roadblocks to biodiversity conservation and its mainstreaming

Since participants represented various levels of government, from both administrative and elected officials, it was important to ensure that everyone was on the same page and therefore understanding what stands in the way of biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming was necessary. Participants discussed the importance of biodiversity conservation and its relevance to sustainable development, the impact of urbanisation and its role in exacerbating climate change and the role played by urban biodiversity and how its relevance has also been noted within the draft national forest policy, 2018 of India. Challenges to achieving biodiversity mainstreaming were felt in terms of resource constraints- manpower and finance, capacity as well as awareness around the issue.

### 2.2. Tools and areas for action to promote integration, coordination and cooperation

The dialogue commenced with an exchange of information and ideas built around the Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans developed by ICLEI CBC and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Discussions centred around what can be done at national, subnational and local levels to improve and strengthen collaboration and cooperation between institutions, institutional roles and responsibilities, coordination and cooperation mechanisms and alignment of strategies with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The issue of integrated planning and mainstreaming biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets was brought up and the options available to ensure a coordinated system of planning that integrates across all levels of government and sectors and aligns with NBSAP objectives and Aichi Biodiversity Targets were highlighted.

Other themes touched upon dealt with improving collaboration across all government levels and sectors in the implementation of programmes and projects; fostering cooperation across political borders on the implementation of the CBD and related multilateral agreements; and cooperation on science, information, monitoring and evaluation towards supporting more effective implementation of NBSAPs.

Since participants represent various levels of government, strategies to improve consultation with, and participation of, subnational and local authorities in the development and implementation of NBSAPs, and to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems service among key stakeholder groups and the general public was detailed. Finally, the last theme, support and capacity building for implementation focussed on what can be done at the relevant levels of government to provide financial and technical support for implementation, as well as how to build capacity and share knowledge and lessons learned.

### 2.3. National Biodiversity Targets are the Roadmaps for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

India's 12 NBTs were discussed along with their indicators, the monitoring framework developed for these targets and how the targets provide a road map for a local body to strengthen its commitment to sustainable urban development through the implementation of Nature based Solutions. The government representatives presented their views on how they prioritise NBTs for local implementation with the reasoning behind their decision. They also identified the resources needed for development of their LBSAPs and its implementation at local level.

### 2.4. How can ICLEI facilitate the various entire action points described above?

Participants felt that should the process of development of local biodiversity strategy and action plans be initiated for effective conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources, the technical handholding and expertise could be provided by ICLEI South Asia. They also suggested that in order to dovetail Nature-based Solutions and sustainable blue-green growth into urban development, further training and resources would be necessary. ICLEI South Asia would be most effective in facilitating and mediating these types of knowledge-exchange programmes.

### 3. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implications

Going forward, the dialogue and the points raised can be viewed through the Post-2020 lens, specifically in point 5 of ICLEI's 10 Point Framework, which promotes the creation of an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social and health benefits of nature at the local and subnational levels to improve the quality of life and resilience of communities, enhance social cohesion and lead to financial benefits and savings for both individuals and governments. In addition, Point 3 promotes the creation of an enabling environment for significantly increased private sector investment and development aid in nature-based solutions at local and subnational levels, as they are closer to the mainstreaming sectors and best positioned to build and sustain functional and resilient ecosystems and urban-rural linkages. In this regard, both points highlight the necessity for the issues raised in this dialogue to be addressed, as their resolution can prove to be hugely beneficial to India and the Post-2020 agenda.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



### INTERACT-Bio project at a glance

**Full title:** Integrated subnational action for biodiversity: Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across city-regions

**Funded by:** the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

**Project duration:** Four years - January 2017 to December 2020

**Project countries:** Brazil, India and Tanzania

