



The Nagoya Declaration - **URBIO** 2010

This declaration was submitted during the 2nd International Conference of the Network **UR**ban **BIO**diversity and Design URBIO 2010 “Urban Biodiversity in the Ecological Network” 18 – 22 May 2010, Nagoya, Japan



1 Preamble

It is especially fitting that in the International Year of Biodiversity, the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is held in Japan, one of the most urbanized countries in the world where people have a long tradition of living in harmony with nature as illustrated by the *Satoyama*¹ experience.

Over the last four years, several biodiversity initiatives have greatly contributed to ensuring that “Cities and Local Authorities” become part of the solution in response to the biodiversity challenges that the world is facing. Performing a coordinating role for these efforts to avoid duplication and strengthen links is the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, chaired by the Secretariat of the CBD. Furthermore commitments such as the Curitiba Declarations (2007² and 2010³), the Bonn Call for Action⁴, the first CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) Decision on Cities and Local Authorities, (Decision IX/28: Promoting engagement of cities and local authorities)⁵, the Erfurt Declaration URBIO 2008⁶ and the Durban Commitment⁷ have demonstrated that “Cities and Local Authorities” and the Parties to the CBD alike, are engaged towards cooperation and action. They have expressed the need to work together, and with various relevant partners, in order to reduce the rate of loss of the biodiversity of our planet. The development of an index to measure biodiversity in cities was proposed at COP 9, and the establishment of a CBD-led City Biodiversity Index (CBI) was initiated by Singapore in collaboration with the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity.

Fulfilling the commitment of the scientists at the URBIO 2008 meeting just prior to COP 9, the URBIO 2010 meeting was held in Nagoya, Japan, in May 2010. The main theme of the conference was “Urban Biodiversity in the Ecological Network” with two subthemes “Ecosystem Network and Quality of Habitats in and around the Urban Area” and “Networking the Activities of Urban People”. Three hundred and forty presentations on theoretical and practical results focusing on ways to conserve and enhance urban biodiversity were discussed by 460 participants from 30 countries. The outcomes gave scientific insights into the design of urban landscape to increase biodiversity, and into ways to encourage practical activities to promote ecosystem services.

2 Outcomes from URBIO 2010

Urban ecosystems and biodiversity generate numerous benefits for urban residents related to water regulation, air quality, recreation and health. Conservation and enhancement of urban biodiversity should be more closely linked with essential components of environmental sustainability including mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, integrated water management, ecosystem resilience and other public services for urban dwellers.

- The urban ecological network has to be maintained, restored and developed with respect to patches, corridors and the urban matrix. Ecological networks should be well designed to adapt to climate change and to conserve local biodiversity in fragmented urban ecosystems. Remnant patches, such as shrine forests and cemeteries exist in many cities and are important biodiversity resources.
- Management practices, restoration and ecological design must drive conservation and counter threats to native biodiversity. For example *Satoyama* provides an insight into a way of living in harmony with nature and into the management of biodiversity in cities.

¹ PARIS DECLARATION ON THE “SATOYAMA INITIATIVE” : <http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/wp-content/uploads/390/Paris-Declaration-EN-26042010.pdf>

² CURITIBA DECLARATION ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/mayors-01/mayors-01-declaration-en.pdf>

³ SECOND CURITIBA DECLARATION ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND BIODIVERSITY: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MAYORS-02>

⁴ CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY BONN CALL FOR ACTION:

http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/LAB-bonn2008/user_upload/Press/BonnCall_FINAL_29May08.pdf

⁵ COP 9 DECISION IX/28: PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT OF CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-28-en.pdf>

⁶ ERFURT DECLARATION, URBIO 2008: http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/ErfurtDeclaration_Eng.php

⁷ DURBAN COMMITMENT:

http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/localactionbiodiversity/user_upload/LAB_Files/Durban_Commitment_14_Aug2008.pdf

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- Establishment of quantitative evaluation systems for biodiversity is crucial for decision making for conservation and design.
- The success of biodiversity projects depends on close collaboration between the public and business sectors.
- Environmental education and participation of local communities are strong tools for raising awareness of biodiversity.

3 Challenges for the future

Based on the above outcomes, the following challenges for the future of urban biodiversity must be addressed:

- To maintain and improve the performance of ecological networks we need a better understanding of the relationships and the interactions between patches, corridors and the urban matrix. Theoretical and practical methods for planning and designing resilient ecological corridors should be developed.
- Strategic and holistic research into urban biodiversity with respect to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change is crucial.
- Further comparative studies of urban biodiversity are necessary for the monitoring, management, restoration and design of biodiversity.
- Functional aspects of urban biodiversity should be connected with the valuation of ecosystem services including cultural and spiritual benefits.
- Developments in ecological design should alleviate biodiversity loss and climate change.
- Scientific associations, networks and working groups should support international and local networks, and encourage the formation of governance to coordinate ecologists, civil engineers, landscape architects, planners, policy makers and citizens in the application of research outcomes to urban design.
- Greater efforts should be made to highlight the inter-linkages between business and biodiversity.
- Professionals should be more active in providing relevant information to policy makers.
- The success in achieving our goals depends on the engagement of national governments, regional governments, funding partners and relevant organizations.

4 Integrative conclusions

The adoption of the “Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity (2011 – 2020)” by COP 10 and its implementation would be a crucial step to halt the global loss of biodiversity and ensure that all our cities are green, pleasant and prosperous places.

As a community of urban biodiversity professionals we will support further CBD initiatives on “Cities and Biodiversity” through:

- sharing our knowledge and commitment through this conference and in the future,
- promoting urban biodiversity through continuing dialogue with the CBD especially, linking future URban BIODiversity and Design Network meetings with future COP meetings.

On behalf of the

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21 May, 2010, Nagoya, Japan

The Nagoya Declaration URBIO2010 is available on the web: www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010, www.fh-erfurt.de/URBIO, www.cbd.int

