

Subnational Governments & Cities at CBD COP15

Taking action for biodiversity

The 7th Summit for Subnational
Governments & Cities is an official
parallel event to CBD COP15 held
in Montréal, Québec, Canada in
December 2022



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP 15 - CP/MOP10 - NP/MOP4
Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING - MONTREAL



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Québec



Montréal



ICLEI
Local Governments
for Sustainability



Regions4
Sustainable Development

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Welcome messages from the co-hosts ahead of the 7th Summit and associated Pavilion

"It is with great pride that we welcome you to Québec for the 15th Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity. We know that this is no longer a time for reflection, but for action. Subnational governments are key players in this mobilization. Through its role as coordinator of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity together with Regions4, Québec is committed to doing everything possible to promote the adoption of an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework which, we hope, will pave the way for a new era of collaboration. We invite you to participate in large numbers in the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities and to make your voice heard at this historic meeting."

~ **Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs**



"Cities are essential leaders in the fight against climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the adaptability of our territories. They already experience the impact of environmental issues, they understand the major challenges that lie ahead, as well as the solutions to be implemented. As the Mayor of Montréal and ICLEI Global Ambassador for Local Biodiversity, I am very happy to welcome the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities: Taking Action for Biodiversity. Together, we must take concrete and bold action right away in order to fight against biodiversity loss and the destruction of ecosystems."

~ **Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal & ICLEI Global Ambassador for Local Biodiversity**

"Within the framework of COP15, we will jointly organize the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities. We look forward to the approval of the renewed Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, which will strengthen the recognition of the contribution and the key role of local governments at all levels around the world, and lay a solid foundation for local and national governments to work closely together to advance the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework."

Jiachen Liu, Mayor of Kunming, China



"Our planet can no longer support the misuse and mismanagement of our natural resources. The loss of biodiversity across the globe is inextricably linked to the acceleration of the climate crisis and the degradation of ecosystems we rely on to help sustain our communities and way of life. Together, we welcome a strong framework coming out of the UN Biodiversity COP15 conference to give us the momentum and guidance to act."

~ **Frank Cownie, Mayor of the City of Des Moines, Iowa & President of ICLEI**



"This Summit underpins our ambition and commitment to biological diversity. A radical transformation is needed in environmental governance as well as a new multilateral consensus based on a philosophy that in the Basque language we refer as 'auzolana', which means 'collaboration for the common good'."

~ **Iñigo Urkullu Renteria, President, Regional Government, Basque Country and President of Regions4**

"I am excited to add my voice to the announcement of the 7th Summit on Biodiversity for Subnational Governments & Cities. This event, associated with the COP, will direct and leverage, to the outcomes of COP 15, the ten-year contribution made by local and subnational governments. I am encouraged by the decision-makers of such authorities who are transforming the ways in which our economies affect biodiversity and move us towards whole-of-government, whole-of-society, approaches to ensure a sustainable future."

~ **Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the then Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations CBD**



COP15: The stakes were high

The Biodiversity COP15, which took place in Montréal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, was a historic moment, following four years of intensive consultations and delays in the negotiation process due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- ➔ The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 7th [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), released in 2019, warned about unprecedented extinction rates and described increasing threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, from climate change, increasing urbanization, unchecked unsustainable production and consumption patterns, unsustainable agricultural practices to deforestation, which exacerbate biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation;
- ➔ The World Economic Forum (WEF) [2022 Global Risks Report](#), identified biodiversity loss as the 3rd highest most severe risk on the global scale over the next 10 years (up from 5th place in the 2021 Global Risks Report);
- ➔ The global scorecard on achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), adopted at COP10 in Nagoya in 2010, was dismal: the [5th Global Biodiversity Outlook \(GBO-5\)](#), released in September 2020, demonstrated that none of the ABTs had been met, and the world was not on track for the 2050 Biodiversity Vision of 'living in harmony with nature';



"In the urban context we have to take into account that our relationship to nature depends on our behaviors and our societal values as humans. And sometimes those behaviors and values are aligned with the respect of the environment, and other times they are not aligned. We have seen in IPBES reports that these values can cause or halt biodiversity loss."

~ **Ana Maria Hernandez, IPBES Chair**



➤ The Covid-19 pandemic brought the consequences of nature's decline into stark reality, and reminded us of the interconnectedness between nature and people. Urban communities, and particularly the vulnerable and marginalized communities within cities, were most impacted by the consequences of the disconnect between nature and people; and

➤ In his 2020 "The State of the Planet" address delivered at Columbia University, Antonio Guterres, United Nations (UN) Secretary General warned that "Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back – and it is already doing so with growing force and fury. Biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction. Ecosystems are disappearing before our eyes ... Human activities are at the root of our descent toward chaos. But that means human action can help to solve it." He added that 'making peace with nature' should be the defining task of the 21st Century.

"Over the past two decades, we have worked closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a range of partners to advocate for and elevate the voice of local and subnational governments, to provide an enabling environment for collective action, and to ensure that we create vibrant cities and regions, where people and nature can thrive."

~ **Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Secretary General**



The mobilization, and level of commitment and solidarity, among subnational and local leaders at COP15 represented a historic game changer. Their presence and active participation was vital, given the pivotal role of subnational and local governments in achieving the global biodiversity targets.

The **7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities** constituted an unprecedented global milestone to welcome significantly strengthened contributions from subnational governments and cities to the Kunming–Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Summit, an official parallel event to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15, was held on 11 and 12 December 2022 in the main negotiation room.

For the first time at a CBD COP, there was a dedicated **Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion** focusing entirely on local and subnational government actions and opportunities. The Pavilion program included multiple events, from 8 to 18 December, during COP15.

The Summit was co-hosted by ICLEI, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and Regions4, along with the host Government of Québec and the City of Montréal and with the support and engagement of the Province of Yunnan and the City of Kunming. Both the Summit and its associated Pavilion were financially supported by the Government of Québec as main sponsor.

Overview of the 7th Summit

The Summit welcomed over **1 500 registered and participating delegates** from more than **300 cities and regions** across **70 countries**.

The theme of the Summit was Taking Action for Biodiversity, and the program centered around three elements: Engage, Influence and Act.

The 7th Summit was particularly significant because it coincided with and marked the end of the Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As an official parallel event to CBD COP15, the 7th Summit marked a historic global milestone to welcome a stronger contribution by local and subnational governments to the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework; and a renewed and more ambitious decision and Plan of Action on engagement with local and subnational governments to enhance its implementation.



1500+ registered and participating delegates



200+ subnational and local government leaders



300+ cities and regions



70+ countries



450+ global, regional and local organizations & partners



80+ speakers contributing to a rich and diverse Summit program over two days

Summit highlights

The 7th Summit was dedicated to taking action and making commitments, with subnational governments and cities sharing and demonstrating inspirational biodiversity initiatives, solutions and achievements, and pivoting combined multi-level ambitions and engagement into measurable actions.

The Summit presented new projects and multilateral announcements, and profiled initiatives such as the global CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature partnership, which provide a platform for local and subnational governments to commit and share their ambitious actions and initiatives for and with nature, in measurable ways.

During the opening of the 7th Summit, a video was shared of the famous speech delivered by **Severn Cullis-Suzuki, daughter of environmentalist David Suzuki**, at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 when she was just 13 years old. 30 years later, in a moving speech, introduced by her father and given on her behalf, she shared this message:



“Today, at this 11th hour for biodiversity and climate, 30 years on from the Earth Summit In Rio, we have no choice. We have to do everything in our power to overcome these practices of destruction. It is completely within our power. It is at the local level that transformation can take place. The gap of national leadership has been filled by subnational governments. We still have a chance to show our children what love means. We still have a chance to reconnect the words we tell our children with our actions.”

~ **Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Executive Director of David Suzuki Foundation**





His Excellency Staff Major Khaled Fouda Siddiq Mohammed, Governor of South Sinai, Egypt, hands over a gift to Kobie Brand, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General, who accepts it on behalf of Mayor Valérie Plante of the City of Montréal and Mme Martine Biron, Minister of International Relations and la Francophonie, Government of Québec, co-hosts of the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities.

Celebrating new Partners, Cities and Regions joining the global CitiesWithNature & RegionsWithNature partner initiatives

Thirty-six new cities and five new global partners were welcomed to the [CitiesWithNature](#) global partnership initiative, which is recognized by the UN SCBD as the platform where subnational governments, cities and other local authorities report on their actions and voluntary commitments to the global biodiversity framework.



During the 7th Summit, an awards ceremony was held to welcome the new cities, regions and partners to CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature. Above, leaders from Jalisco, Yucatán and Guanajuato in Mexico receive their certificates.

The [RegionsWithNature](#) global partnership initiative, a sister platform to the successful CitiesWithNature initiative, focused on the regional level at a landscape scale and across urban-rural linkages, was officially launched on Day 2 of the 7th Summit, and 8 new regions, as well as new global partners were welcomed onboard.



Cities, regions and partners were invited on stage to receive their certificates, welcoming them to the partnership initiatives during the Summit. Above, leaders from new members San Francisco, Boston and Boulder in the United States proudly display their certificates.

They joined the existing 236 cities and regions from 68 countries on CitiesWithNature and RegionWithNature, including London, which was the 100th city to join and New York which was number 200. These new cities and regions were welcomed on the same stage where CitiesWithNature was first introduced at the ICLEI World Congress in Montréal by Mayor Valérie Plante in 2018.

"I would like to thank ICLEI for inviting me and Yucatán to be the first ones to join the RegionsWithNature platform, which is officially launching today. RegionsWithNature is a space where subnational governments can make themselves heard, share experience and actions, as well as recount the commitments and global objectives that we have as regions."

~ **Mauricio Vila Dosal, Governor of Yucatán**



New cities joining CitiesWithNature



City of Oakland, USA



City of Santa Monica, USA



Lake County, USA



City of Carbondale, USA



San Francisco, USA



City of Boulder, USA



City of Boston, USA



Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue,
Canada



City of Laval, Canada



Cartagena das Indias,
Colombia



Autonomous Decentralised
Municipal Government of
Pastaza Cantón, Colombia



Alcaldía de Barranquilla,
Colombia



Metropolitan Area of Aburrá Valley, Colombia



City of Roseau, Dominica



City of Portsmouth, Dominica



City of Utrecht, Netherlands



City of Paris, France



City of Marseille, France



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Iringa Municipal Council, Tanzania



© Engdamian

Kisii County, Kenya



© Andrew Hall

Tswelopele, South Africa



Waterberg, South Africa



Kampala, Uganda



© Mwanje

Mukono Municipal Council, Uganda



The District Council of
Black River, Mauritius



Hargeisa Municipality, Somalia



Chengdu, China



Huzhou, China



Jiaxing, China



Kunming, China



Nanyang, China



Shenzhen, China



City of Nagoya, Japan



Chiang Mai, Thailand



Cagayan de Oro, Philippines



Mashhad Municipality, Iran

New regions joining RegionsWithNature



Basque Country, Spain



La Rioja, Spain



Åland Islands, Finland



California, USA



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Paraná, Brazil



Guanajuato, Mexico



Jalisco, Mexico

New partners

CitiesWithNature & RegionsWithNature



UN Convention on Migratory Species



R20: Regions of Climate Action

CitiesWithNature



UN Economic Commission for Europe



World Health Organization



Capital Cities of the Americas

The ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence for CitiesWithNature, jointly initiated by ICLEI and Kunming City, was formally established at a signing ceremony on Day 2 of the 7th Summit. The center is committed to be an important platform for demonstration, peer learning and creating partnerships between Chinese and international cities on nature conservation and biodiversity. It will also help enhance local governments' technical capacity and encourage local commitments and actions for the implementation of the new Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework. The activities of the center will run in close collaboration with ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center based in Cape Town, South Africa.



The Mayor of Kunming, Jiachen Liu and the Regional Director and China Representative of ICLEI East Asia, Shu Zhu, sign the official launch document of the ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence for CitiesWithNature during the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities at COP15.



The Berlin Pact lays out a series of commitments with concrete and measurable targets that are based on the Edinburgh Declaration's Plan of Action and on the Montréal Pledge. A soft launch took place to encourage cities worldwide to join the ongoing international consultation process for developing a Berlin Pact (BP) and its set of highly ambitious and SMART targets that aims at inspiring cities around the globe to engage in ambitious biodiversity action.

The Montréal Pledge was introduced, calling on cities to continue and accelerate their actions towards protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. Through this pledge, cities are invited to commit to 15 concrete actions, aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the CitiesWithNature Action Platform and Berlin Pact.

A call for Financing Nature for Sustainable Cities and Regions came from the Mayors of Athens, Austin, Barranquilla, Dhaka-South, Freetown, Kampala, Kigali, Quezon City, Melbourne, Miami-Dade, Monterrey, Montreal, Paris, São Paulo and the Secretary of the Environment of the Government of Mexico City. It was backed by the UN Environment Programme, ICLEI, C40, World Economic Forum, Global Environment Facility, Climate Policy Initiative's CCFLA, the University of Pennsylvania, Cities4Forests and UrbanShift. The mayors called on the finance community and national governments for reform of financial infrastructure and greater direct collaboration with the private sector. This would equip cities to fund nature-based solutions, such as forests, green belts, water streams, and parks in and around urban areas.



An active and highly motivated subnational and local government community showcased a multitude of new and strengthened commitments and actions, which included:

- The Edinburgh Declaration has reached over 273 signatories and 35 endorsers, amounting to a total of 308 participants, covering all UN regional groupings
- The Scottish Government announced the creation of a new £60 million restoration fund which includes an Edinburgh Process strand, providing multi-year funding directly to local governments
- Shanghai is building a city that is in harmony with nature, increasing its parks to over 500 and greatly increasing green space in the city
- Chengdu will be a demonstration zone for the new growth concept of China that considers ecosystems in its development
- Shenzhen announced that the recent 14th Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands decided to set up an international mangrove center in Shenzhen
- The UN Convention on Migratory Species has been working closely with ICLEI CBC on a City Guide on light pollution to protect migratory birds, to be hosted on CitiesWithNature
- Aburrá Valley is building a wildlife center that will be the largest in South America

- 
- Maui County has passed a mineral sunscreen bill to protect coastal ecosystems from harmful toxins
 - Nagoya is designing an Action Plan for its 2030 Nagoya Biodiversity Strategy, incorporating the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework
 - The EU Committee of the Regions (COR) announced their development of the “EU Green Deal going local” campaign
 - The SURGe initiative that was launched at UNFCCC COP27, was announced at the 7th Summit
 - Montréal announced their plan to plant 500 000 trees to create a forest in the city
 - The digitized version of the City Biodiversity Index, based on the updated CBD-endorsed CBI handbook, was launched, and is available on the [CitiesWithNature platform](#)
 - ICLEI announced the launch of the process for developing the UN CBD Cities and Biodiversity Outlook II project



High level roundtable

On the evening before the event, the Summit convenors brought together an intimate group of government leaders, including mayors, governors and other political representatives from around the world, to a VIP orientation and closed, informal discussion to engage with each other on the priorities for taking action for biodiversity ahead of the Summit.

The high level roundtable was hosted and co-chaired by **Martine Biron**, Québec Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie and **Valérie Plante**, Mayor of Montréal. **Kobie Brand**, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General and **Oliver Hillel**, Programme Officer, CBD Secretariat moderated the first part of the roundtable. The opening statements were delivered by the co-chairs, **Minister Biron** and **Mayor Plante**, followed by a message of goodwill by the **Honourable Steven Guilbeault**, Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, who attended as special guest, and statements from **Jiachen Liu**, Mayor of Kunming, **Gino Van Begin**, ICLEI Secretary General, and **Jordan Harris**, Regions4 Executive Director.

The discussion among subnational and local government leaders was moderated by **Jean Lemire**, from the Government of Québec and **Charles Brunelle**, from the City of Montréal, who invited the political leaders to participate in the discussion and make short interventions. The roundtable concluded with brief closing remarks by the co-chairs.



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The Mayor of Montréal, Valerie Plante, making her contributions during the high-level roundtable for subnational and local governments ahead of the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities.



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Representatives of different levels of subnational and local governments gathered ahead of the 7th Summit to make their short interventions during a closed, informal high-level roundtable discussion.



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The Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Honourable Steven Guilbeault, participating as a special guest in the high-level roundtable for subnational governments and cities during COP15.



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The high-level roundtable at COP15 was well attended by government leaders representing all levels of government from around the world.

Summit receptions

The various Summit receptions were well attended by Mayors and Governors, representing all regions of the world.



On 12 December, the City of Montréal and Government of Québec, in collaboration with Tourisme Montréal and the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership, hosted the closing reception of the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities at the esplanade Tranquille Pavilion.



Leaders of subnational and local governments, and their partners, were provided the opportunity to connect informally during the receptions held as part of the 7th Summit.



On 13 December, the Mayor of Montréal, Ms. Valerie Plante held a reception with the honored guest, the then Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema at the Grand Quay Pavilion of the Port of Montréal.



The in-person connections supported by the receptions facilitated stronger collaboration between subnational and local government leaders.

On 13 December, Regions4 held a cocktail reception, with all Regions4 Partners celebrating the achievements and continuing working to fulfill the potential of RegionsWithNature.

Pavilion overview

For the first time at a CBD COP, there was a dedicated Pavilion, focusing on subnational government and city actions and opportunities. This clearly demonstrated an elevated recognition by the biodiversity community of the significant contributions of local and subnational governments towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Pavilion showcased an exciting, packed daily program and offered subnational governments and cities, their partners and CBD Parties more opportunities than ever before to showcase their work, learn from others, and make the links between biodiversity, climate, water security, food security, pollution and waste, the circular economy and job creation, focusing on systems-based approaches.

The Pavilion provided a wide variety of engagement opportunities, announcements, celebrations, bilateral meetings and in-depth deliberations **between** CBD Parties, subnational governments and cities, their stakeholders, international organizations, UN bodies, finance and investment institutions, the business sector, and science and research sector **about** actions and solutions, financing opportunities, partnerships, and investments in biodiversity and nature-based solutions **to** bring about the transformative change that is urgently needed.



COP15 was historic for subnational governments and cities in many ways, and particularly stood out for having the first-ever Pavilion for this constituency. The striking and engaging Pavilion was located in Place Québec.

36+ sessions covering a wide range of topics including health and well-being, biodiversity mainstreaming solutions, ecosystem restoration, finance for GBF implementation, nature-based solutions, bio-economy, green and blue spaces, protection of wetlands and migratory species, urban-rural linkages, spatial planning, youth, behavior change, and highlighting initiatives such as CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature, and the Berlin Pact. In addition, dedicated days focused on biodiversity actions taken in China, Montréal and Québec.



The first-ever Pavilion for subnational governments and cities at the biodiversity COP15 provided a "home" for this group, where 36+ sessions and 120+ bilateral meetings across all levels of stakeholders took place.

"In GEF's programs we have built in a lot of learning, knowledge management, exchange of technologies, which helps build capacity of the cities that participate, as well as other networks of cities such as ICLEI, to really bring these stakeholders together and understand what works under which conditions, what's creating the most impact."

~ **Claude Gascon, Director and Manager of Programs, the Global Environment Facility**



Pavilion highlights

The Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion was considered the home of local and subnational governments and their partners, and was a hive of activity throughout COP15. It provided a comfortable, open space for formal and informal interactions, with a stage and ample seating for a range of sessions, meeting rooms for valuable bilateral meetings, a media room for press briefings, casual seating for informal discussions, and independent video screens for showcasing the exciting work of our constituency.

Through ongoing and active participation at the Pavilion over the two weeks of COP15, existing relationships were strengthened, new partnerships were formed, and new activities and initiatives were shared and launched. **The Pavilion was made possible through financial support by the Government of Québec.**

The following sessions took place over a period of 9 days (8-17 December) at the Pavilion:

Health and well-being in cities

Acting for access to green and blue spaces:

GBF Target 12

Led by ICLEI Africa and ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

To achieve the 2050 Vision and the proposed goals of the draft Global Biodiversity Framework there is a need to increase the area and connectivity of, and access to such green and blue spaces in and around cities and regions as reflected in GBF Action Target 12.

CitiesWithNature partners and cities shared their experiences, commitments and ambitions in enhancing green and blue spaces and on ways of measuring the positive impacts on communities, with a focus on human health and wellbeing in and around cities.

Shaping the Berlin Pact: A Pact by cities for cities to lead by ambitious biodiversity action - City of Berlin, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, City of Austin, City of Paris, Sao Paulo State Government
Led by ICLEI Europe

The 'Berlin Pact' is an initiative by a number of cities building on and partnering with the Edinburgh Process and the Montréal Pledge for cities around the world ready to lead the transition towards implementation of bold biodiversity action by committing to and implementing a small set of highly ambitious, SMART targets within the CitiesWithNature Action Platform. This panel discussion highlighted the opportunities that the Pact entails to support the GBF.

Biodiversity mainstreaming solutions and innovations at the city and landscape level

Led by ICLEI Africa, with support from ICLEI South Asia and ICLEI SAMS

This session shared key lessons on why and how city and subnational government practitioners have managed to mainstream biodiversity into policy and planning at the city and landscape scale, by showcasing best practices from the IKI-funded Integrated Action for Biodiversity (INTERACT-Bio) project and the SwedBio-funded Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA Africa) programme.

BiodiverCities

Led by Mayor's Office of the City of Barranquilla, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Alexander von Humboldt Research Institute and World Economic Forum (WEF)

This session focused on the World Economic Forum and Alexander von Humboldt Institute's global "BiodiverCities by 2030" initiative, which builds on the 2019 BiodiverCiudades vision of the Colombian government, aimed at making biodiversity a central element of urban planning and development, increasing resilience and improving the lives and well-being of residents. In particular, the session showcased the commitments of its range of stakeholders, including the cities of Campinas and Barranquilla, and the Latin American Development Bank (CAF).

RegionsWithNature catalyzing biodiversity action and resources for implementation

Led by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center and Regions4

The founders and partners of RegionsWithNature - including GoLS, ICLEI and Regions4 - demonstrated how the Platform is accelerating actions in the implementation of the GBF and facilitating subnational governments' reporting on biodiversity through the Action Platform, and showcased the Case Study Database as a tool to foster knowledge exchange and capacity building at the regional level of government.



Our food systems threatened by biodiversity loss and climate change: What can cities and subnational governments do

Led by ICLEI Africa

This session demonstrated clear linkages between biodiversity, food security and climate actions, particularly drawing broader linkages between biodiversity protection, climate adaptation and food systems. It further reflected on the existing and proposed mandates that local and subnational governments hold in relation to food systems, exploring how food systems can be integrated into existing local policies and plans to combat, mitigate and prevent ecological degradation and climate change, while nourishing the world's growing population.



The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Cities Challenge

Led by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

This session provided an introduction to the goals and activities of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), and presented the plan for the Cities Challenge that a consortium of ICLEI, FAO and UNEP will lead to encourage restoration in urban areas. To provide inspiration for the Challenge, the session showcased initiatives, reports and tools, and case studies from the consortium that are contributing towards ecosystem restoration in cities. It also featured a panel of practitioners and city officials who shared their local urban restoration examples and invited open involvement and participation in the Challenge.



CitiesWithNature: The partnership platform for ambitious nature actions

Led by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

The session brought together CitiesWithNature partners and local governments sharing examples on their commitments to nature, resorting to and drawing from CitiesWithNature as the platform providing tools and resources and a collective space to share knowledge and get inspiration for action.

Launch of Trees in Cities Challenge - UN Economic Commission for Europe

Led by UNECE

Highlighting their collaboration with CitiesWithNature to promote nature-based solutions, UNECE introduced the Trees in Cities Challenge. This challenge, launched in 2019, invites mayors worldwide to join a movement of change-makers sharing best practices and experience on sustainable urban forestry with peers. Mayors from across the globe have joined the initiative to mitigate the effects of climate change, cool outdoor temperatures, improve public health, contribute to clean air and food security, foster biodiversity, build resilience, improve citizen wellbeing, and create economic opportunities in their cities.

Unlocking finance for scaled action for GBF implementation


Led by ICLEI Africa and ICLEI USA

This session focused on innovative approaches to resource mobilization, and finance instruments and mechanisms and how these can be applied at the local government level to up-scale the implementation of nature-based solutions and improve the protection and management of urban biodiversity.

Bio-economy and green and blue economy - Sao Paulo State Government

Led by Secretariat for Infrastructure and Environment (SIMA) and the Forestry Foundation

This session explored the role of the economy, particularly the green economy, in conserving biodiversity, focusing on actions and initiatives within Latin America, highlighting Brazil. It also addressed the importance of collective action to implement the CBD GBF and how to connect different actors, needs and contributions, and highlighted platforms and other tools for promoting the green economy. The session partners included the Secretariat of the CBD, the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), and ICLEI-SAMS. It showcased CAF's biodiversity tool called BIOCAF, and introduced the CEBDS Platform for Action, a pioneering movement by the Brazilian private sector. The CitiesWithNature Action Platform was also showcased, with the City of Campinas highlighting their actions on the platform.



Scaling nature-based solutions (NbS) for post-2020 GBF implementation

Led by ICLEI Europe and the European Commission

Illustrated by examples from across the world, the session explored essential ingredients to mainstream nature-based solutions across municipal departments and across sectors to contribute to the goals of the post-2020 GBF. In addition, the session showcased practical planning tools, which can be aligned with policy goals, as well as inspiring on-the-ground NbS projects.



"We love working with cities and subnational governments because this is the level at which things GET DONE."

~ Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species

Beyond boundaries: The role of cities and subnational governments in taking action for global wetlands and migratory species

Led by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, Ramsar and the Convention on Migratory Species

The Convention on Wetlands and Convention on Migratory Species shared important biodiversity and ecosystem concerns - synergized with the Convention on Biological Diversity. This session opened the discussion on how these concerns can be integrated locally and at the landscape level to support shared ambitions for biodiversity, wetlands and migratory species.

Inside Out: Activating Cities for Biodiversity at Multiple Scales

Led by UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat presented two papers with a new perspective on cities and nature. The first white paper highlighted the important role of urban land expansion as a driver of habitat loss and the potential for responding with a preserve- conserve-restore-create approach. The second paper addressed the importance of urban-rural linkages in biodiversity conservation. Discussants provided perspectives on concrete examples embodying these principles, and their experiences in relation to the topics of planning and governance for biodiversity.



Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO) II Project: Building a pathway to integrating biodiversity into policy and practice in cities

Led by ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

This session served as an official launch of the CBO II process, and focused on the background, purpose, and vision for the CBO II. The session shared perspectives from previous authors and coordinators involved with the CBO I, and laid the foundation for the CBO II project. While the CBO I focused on the state of nature in cities, the CBO II will focus on directions for action and policy: namely, how practitioners can mainstream and implement biodiversity concerns into urban areas. The session served as a call for interest and participation in the CBO II process.

Developing a Pan-Canadian approach to urban biodiversity and ecosystem service monitoring: Learning from common opportunities and challenges across cities

Led by David Suzuki Foundation

This panel session brought together actors from three different sectors - non-governmental, private and public - to discuss the importance of biodiversity conservation and biodiversity data management in the Canadian urban and climate change context. The approach was designed to inform and equip Canadian municipalities with the tools to design and implement ambitious and strategic biodiversity management plans adapted to their geographical context.

Youth Communication Campaigns: How to convince family and friends to reduce their food loss and waste

Led by WWF Germany

WWF Germany and WWF Mexico conducted a quasi-experimental behavioral change study in the field of Food Waste and Loss from January to December 2022. WWF presented the research design, the implemented communications campaign and training design, and the results of the first round of the quasi-experimental case study. Based on behavioral science methods, communication, training, and also political instruments can promote and support the increase of the willingness for sustainable behavior and consumption.

Biodiversity Awareness Study: Results of an assessment in 9 megadiverse countries- Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and Vietnam

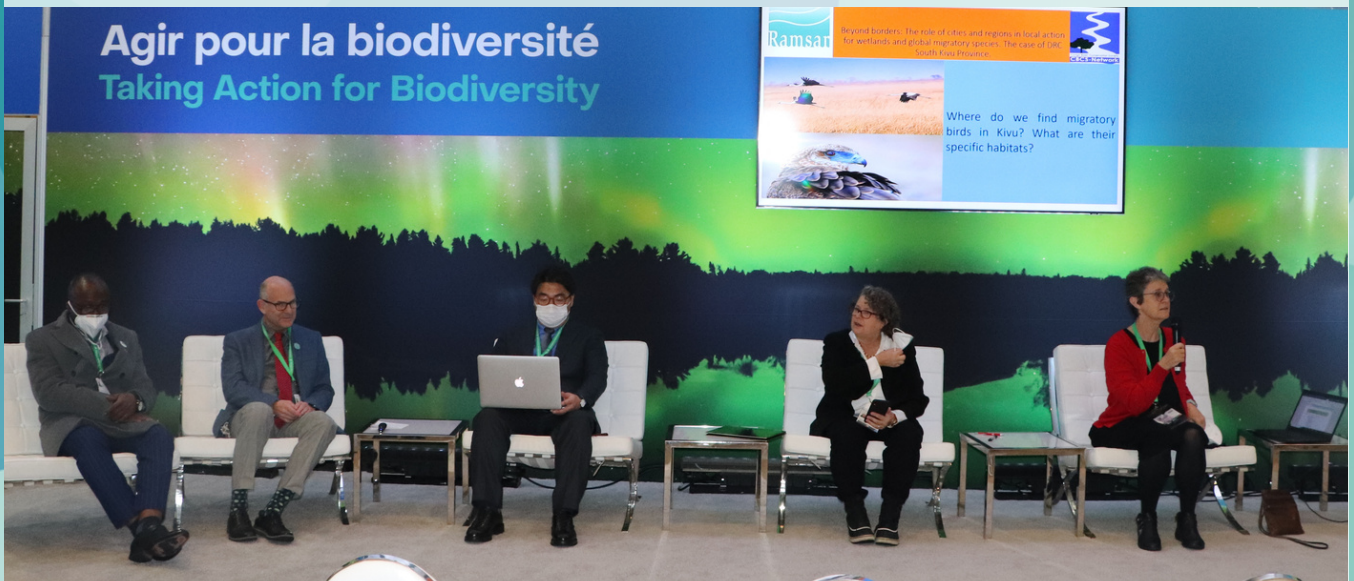
Led by WWF Germany

WWF completed a study looking at biodiversity awareness in 9 megadiverse countries in October 2022. The results, which were presented for the first time at COP15, showed that, compared to a baseline study conducted in 2018, there is growing awareness of people's need to preserve biodiversity amid a lack of comparable commitment on the part of governments and businesses to act in the same way.

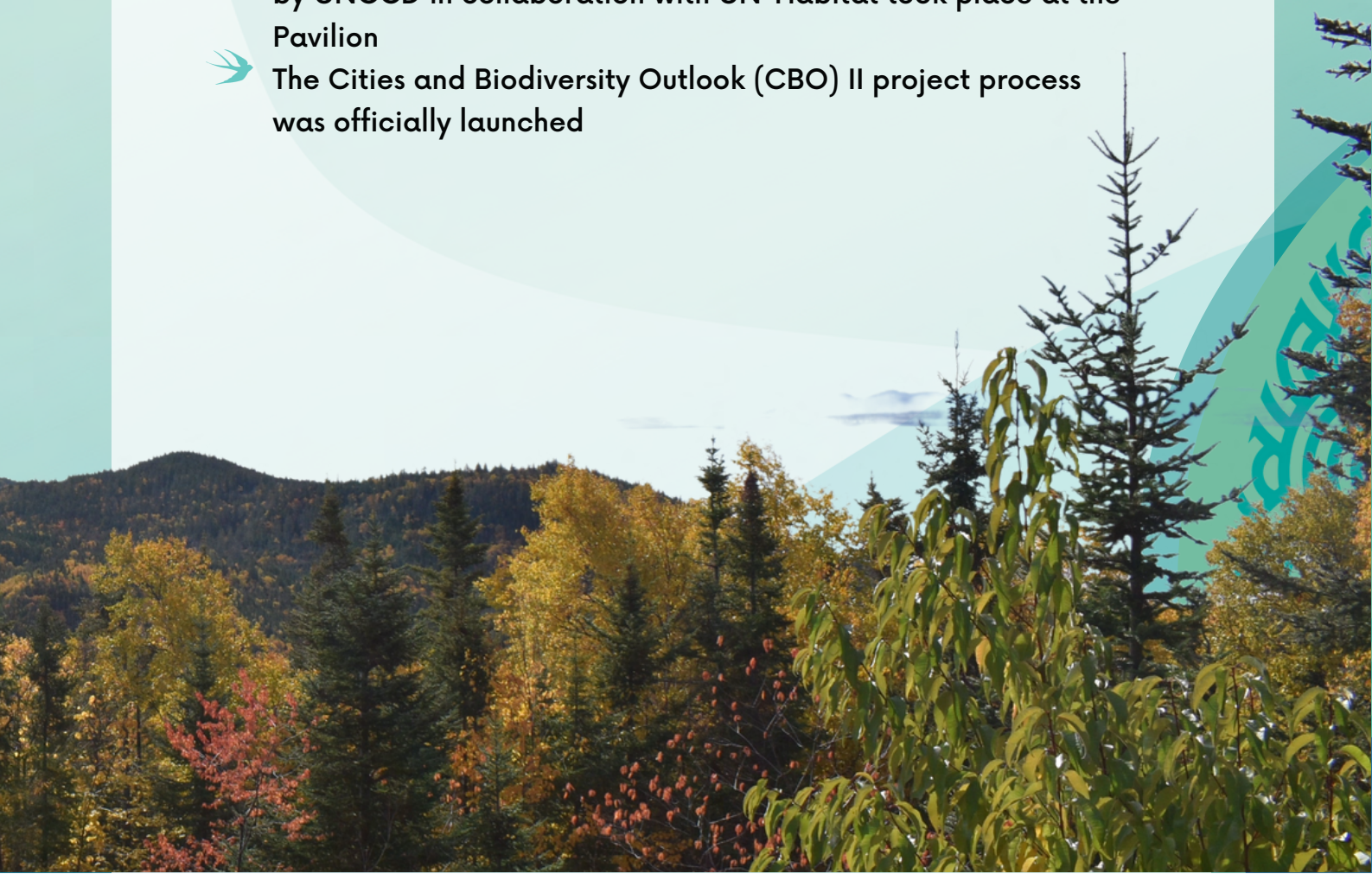
Throughout the rich and vibrant Pavilion sessions, several important highlights and announcements pertaining to taking action for biodiversity on a local and regional level were made, including:

- CIRAD introduced the AfriFOODlinks project - coordinated by ICLEI Africa - to improve the nutritional and environmental outcomes of African food systems
- UN-Habitat's 1000 Landscapes for 1 billion People project was announced
- The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration announced that the previous week, 15 mayors launched a joint call for funding to advance action for restoration
- R20 announced their Cities Financial Partnership with ICLEI and IUCN
- The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) announced the bank's BIOCAF (biodiversity) strategy which was launched two days before, during COP
- The UN Convention on Migratory Species announced that in addition to a Guide on light pollution, CMS in partnership with ICLEI CBC will further launch a Community of Practice on light pollution

- The UN Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) introduced the Wetland City Network to continue the work of the Wetlands City Accreditation



- Councilmember Kelly King from Maui County announced their passing of a light pollution bill to protect migratory birds
- The world premier of the video on urban-rural linkages sponsored by UNCCD in collaboration with UN-Habitat took place at the Pavilion
- The Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO) II project process was officially launched



MONTREAL DAY at the Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion



"In an effort to improve the quality of habitats that are likely to foster biodiversity, the selection of plant species is very important. We will therefore increasingly opt for perennial, indigenous and nectariferous plants, instead of annual species."

~ **Marie-Andrée Mauger, Mayor of Verdun, executive committee member in charge of the ecological transition and the environment, Ville de Montréal**

The City of Montréal, host of COP15, had the opportunity to inaugurate the first-ever Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion at a Biodiversity COP, with Montréal Day, dedicated to cities and boroughs, on 8 December. Montréal Day included 18 speakers, mayors of cities and boroughs, and experts, representing 7 cities, as well as the president of the biodiversity commission of the Montréal Metropolitan region, and the City of Montréal delegation with 6 mayors.



The opening remarks at the Pavilion and on Montréal Day were delivered by the Director General of the City of Montréal, Mr Serge Lamontagne. Mr Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, Director of COP15 for the city, established the context of the actions of cities, boroughs and the metropolitan region with a view through the local actions for safeguarding biodiversity.

Regions, cities and boroughs are acting to protect biodiversity, nature and the well-being of all. From strategies and plans to actions, including education and citizen participation, cities act and make a difference. Three sessions were curated to underline and expose different actions and projects.



Session 1: Cities and boroughs are taking concrete action for biological diversity through local initiatives that have a global reach. These actions can enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems. In the first session, the actions focusing on the territories of cities that contribute to safeguarding biodiversity were highlighted.

Session 2: The benefits of nature for our mental and physical health are known, and the health of our planet and people are linked. The regulation of air, water, our lakes and rivers depends on the health of our ecosystems. Currently the loss of natural habitats is increasing and many species are in decline. Climate change alters the balance of ecosystems and leads to changes in biodiversity. Cities are key actors and vectors of change in the transformation and presence of nature in the city. In this session, municipal initiatives related to the preservation of biodiversity, the protection and restoration of ecosystems, as well as ecological connectivity were presented.



"Protecting the ecosystems is the best way to ensure that our fellow citizens have a high quality of life, now and for future generations, human and non-human. Municipalities act with audacity, and together, let's base our action on an ecocentric, biophilic and regenerative development, which heals and regenerates our ecosystems while fostering a profoundly respectful and mutually beneficial relationship with Nature, which we are a part of. Let's be better ancestors!"

~ **Alexandre Warnet, city councilor, Member of the executive committee, responsible for ecological transition, environment and climate emergency, City of Laval**



Session 3: Cities oversee the planning, management and implementation of activities on their territory. They can integrate biodiversity into their plans and strategies and secure adequate funding for its conservation and sustainable management. They can also support the mobilization of populations and other actors through awareness-raising, education, research and knowledge transmission activities. By ensuring that their public policies and major projects are favorable to biodiversity and that local communities can participate, cities play a key role in the protection and sustainable management of lifeforms. In this session, the essential role of cities in planning, the creation of management tools, governance and citizen participation were discussed.

“Natural environments in an urban context are very fragile and not easy to protect. The city has made major commitments to protect the territory, such as in its Nature and Sports Plan, an ambitious vision that is deployed across our island through our neighborhoods.”

~ **Caroline Bourgeois, Mayor of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles, executive committee member in charge of large parks, sports and recreation, Parc du Mont-Royal, Parc Jean-Drapeau, Space for Life and the East End of Montréal**



QUEBEC DAY

at the Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion

Québec Day took place at the Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion on 9 December. It included six one-hour sessions touching on a wide range of topics to showcase Québec's public expertise on biodiversity.



One of the highlights at Québec Day was the launch of a new report from Québec's Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Climate and Biodiversity: Redefining Our Relationship with Nature.

These sessions addressed the following:

- The mainstreaming of biodiversity in agricultural practices
- The links between the protection of biodiversity and the development of a circular economy
- Connecting biodiversity and climate through nature-based solutions
- Good practices for the conservation of biodiversity in Québec
- Tourism as a lever for the conservation of nature and the vitality of northern communities in Québec

Three important press briefings were held by at the Pavilion, covering the following:

- Announcement by ministers Charette and Crowfoot of the signature of a MoU between Québec and California on biodiversity protection.
- Financial support from the Government of Québec for the first phase of the 'Habitat' project. The project will contribute to Québec's goal of protecting 30% of its territory by 2030 by harnessing the ecological and economic benefits of nature-based solutions to address the simultaneous crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Signing ceremony for the financial and technical partnership with the government of Québec's 'Strengthening Agricultural Adaptation' (SAGA) global project. It aims to reinforce adaptation planning for food security and nutrition in two Francophone countries particularly vulnerable to climate change, Haiti and Senegal.

"As the host province of COP15, the Government of Quebec wanted to shed light on the actions of subnational governments because we are convinced that it is at this level that the best initiatives can be found to inspire and guide the required changes. We are proud to be the main partners of the LSNG Pavilion, a first for a COP on biodiversity. The aim of the 'Québec Day' at the Pavilion is to showcase Québec's broad range of public expertise on biodiversity, in a spirit of cooperation that is needed now more than ever."

~ **Sylvie Barcelo, Former Deputy Minister at the Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie**







CHINA DAY

at the Subnational Governments & Cities Pavilion

China Day was held on 13 December at the Pavilion to showcase local and subnational actions for biodiversity in China, and to provide a space for extensive engagement and bilateral meetings between CBD Parties, local and subnational governments, their stakeholders, international organizations, business, and science and research institutes.

SESSIONS



Session I: Strengthen local biodiversity actions – practices and contributions from China



Session II: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development




Session III: Building cities with nature – shift in urban development and planning towards the new framework





It provided opportunity and space for local and subnational government leaders in China to participate in high-level dialogues, hold bilateral meetings and to engage with CBD Partners, development banks, international organizations and experts, and to showcase their actions and best practices. It included an opening and closing event, and offered a series of three thematic sessions partnered with multiple organizations, local and subnational governments, stakeholders and international organizations to focus on local and subnational action for biodiversity.



The day attracted more than 80 participants in-person, with around 40 speakers introducing their biodiversity actions and specific approaches under the topics to the audience

Ten Chinese local governments participated in the event, including Zhejiang Province, Shandong Province, Kunming city, Shenzhen city, Chengdu city, Jiaxing city, Nanyang city, Huzhou city, Lishui city, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Three Japanese cities including Aichi, Nagoya and Sado also presented their local biodiversity actions and interacted with Chinese participants, and **two additional international governmental representatives** from the Scottish Government and Singapore National Parks also made their presentations on China Day. International organizations including UNDP, UNEP, Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia, WRI, and C40 all showed support.



Highlights of China Day included the following:

- Providing an opportunity and platform to actively encourage Chinese local governments' participation in biodiversity conservation work and to showcase their actions and achievements.
- Having high-level leaders such as Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (the then Executive Secretary, the CBD Secretariat), Mr. Yingmin Zhao (Vice Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China), Mr. Gino Van Begin (Secretary General of ICLEI), Mr. Jiachen Liu (Mayor, City of Kunming), Ms. Julie Jodoin (Director of Space for Life at the City of Montréal), and Ms. Marie-Josée Audet (Assistant Deputy Minister, Government of Québec) provide welcome remarks.
- Announcing the Chinese version of the Singapore Biodiversity Index.



- Awarding Kunming city, Shenzhen city, Chengdu city, Jiaxing city, Nanyang city, Huzhou city were awarded as Biodiversity Charming Cities and announcing their commitment to using the Singapore Biodiversity Index. The Biodiversity Charming Cities initiative was developed by ICLEI and China Environmental News to recognize those cities who have achieved remarkable progress and created best practices in biodiversity conservation at the local level in China.

- Increasing awareness among Chinese cities and local governments of their important contribution to the GBF.
- Providing opportunities for exchange for Chinese cities with other foreign cities and international organizations.



Mobilization and advocacy journey of Local and Subnational Governments Major Group towards COP15

Building on six consecutive summits convened as official CBD COP parallel events, the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities marked over a decade of engagement between CBD Parties and the subnational and local governments.



“This is a Party-led, participatory process, knowledge-based, transparent and it engages the whole of society. This is a framework for all. But this framework is part of a bigger sustainable development agenda. The framework will not be successful without other commitments from other frameworks. I want to thank ICLEI for the fantastic job they’ve done. They’ve been a pleasure to work with over the last four years, and I’m looking forward to that point where we will be celebrating a new place for subnational governments in the GBF.”

~ **Basile van Havre, Co-Chair, Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

The CBD Parties have recognized subnational and local governments’ invaluable role in supporting the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) since 2008 (in Decision IX/28); and adopted Decision X/22 and Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) in 2010 at COP10 in Nagoya.

After COP14 held in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt in 2018, the Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, led by the Scottish Government and supported by ICLEI, Regions4, the Government of Québec and others, emerged to call on the CBD Parties to renew decision X/22 and significantly raise the ambition concerning subnational and local governments’ role in the implementation of the GBF.





Past CBD COP Decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments

Summit communiqués, resolutions and declarations presented to CBD Parties during CBD COPs

2018
Sharm el- Sheik,
Egypt

CBD COP 14

Adoption by the Parties of the following seven decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and regions:

COP/14/3 -

Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors;

COP/14/4 -

Health and biodiversity;

COP/14/6 -

The conservation and sustainable use of pollinators;

COP/14/7 -

Sustainable wildlife management;

COP/14/8 -

Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

COP/14/11 -

Invasive alien species; and

CBD/COP/14/34 -

Proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments

Sharm el Sheikh
Communique for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People

2016
Cancún,
Mexico

CBD COP 13

Adoption by the Parties of Decision XIII/3, on Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Parties agreed to enhance their efforts to engage subnational and local governments in order to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan.

5th Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments

Quintana Roo
Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action

2014
Gangwon,
Korea

CBD COP 12

Decision XII/9, on Engagement with Subnational and Local Governments, requested the CBD Executive Secretary to support the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action on Biodiversity and its activities as an effective platform for scientific and technical cooperation, capacity development and the dissemination of best practices for local and subnational implementation of the Convention.

Biodiversity Summit For Cities and Subnational Governments

Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution for Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity



2012
Hyderabad, India

CBD COP 11

Adoption by the Parties of Decision XI/28: It highlighted the tangible role of local governments, specifying the need for national support in implementing the Plan of Action 2011-2020

Cities for Life: City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit

Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity

2010
Nagoya, Japan

CBD COP 10

Adoption by the Parties of the ground-breaking Decision X/22 and thereby endorsement of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and encouraged Parties to support cities and local authorities.

City Biodiversity Summit

Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity Support of Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011 - 2020)

2008
Bonn, Germany

CBD COP 9

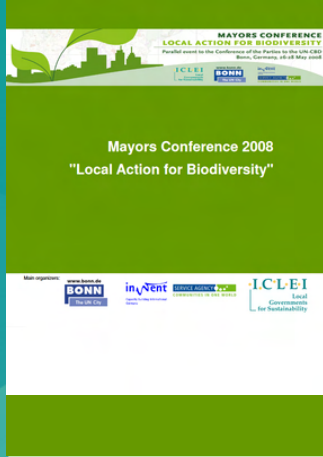
Development of an intervention on behalf of local governments, presented at the COP. Adoption by the Parties of Decision IX/28, which for the first time recognizes the importance of local and subnational governments in supporting the implementation of the Convention and in implementing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

Mayors Conference - Local Action for Biodiversity

Bonn Call for Action on Cities and Biodiversity

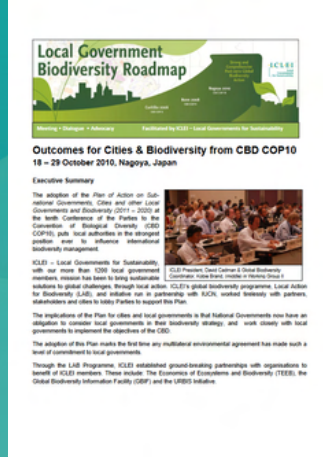
Previous Summit Event Reports

2008



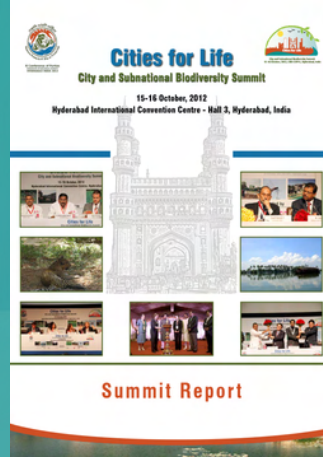
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2010



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2012



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2014



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2016




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2018



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The Edinburgh Process resulted in the Edinburgh Declaration in 2020. As of 9 December 2022, the Edinburgh Declaration was signed by 273 cities and regions across 40 countries and endorsed by 3 CBD Parties and 31 additional supporters. The Edinburgh Declaration called for the adoption at COP15, of a new dedicated Decision and Plan of Action and for the greater inclusion of subnational and local governments in the GBF and its related decisions.

Responding to the call in the Edinburgh the UK Government produced a draft recommendation for a renewed decision on the Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 Global biodiversity framework and its revised Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities (2022-2030). This was submitted to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for consideration under item 11 of its agenda and discussed at the resumed in-person SBI-3 and Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-3) meetings held in Geneva in March 2022. The SBI adopted the draft recommendation (CBD/SBI/3/L.16) as recommendation 3/14 to COP15.

The Local and Subnational Governments Major Group made several interventions at both the resumed in-person SBI-3 and OEWG-3 meetings held in Geneva in March 2022, calling for greater ambition and mainstreaming subnational and local governments' role in supporting the implementation of the GBF. In addition, ICLEI CBC and the Geneva Cities Hub (a platform fostering local and regional governments and their networks' participation in multilateral diplomacy) organized and hosted an informal 'brown bag' meeting with selected Parties. This meeting, held under the Chatham House Rules, provided a platform where Parties and the local and subnational major group could engage and discuss the draft recommendation on engaging subnational governments, cities and other local authorities. These interventions were important in communicating the major group's ambition and obtaining support from many CBD Parties.

At the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-4) meeting held in June 2022 in Nairobi, a growing number of Parties called for the inclusion of subnational and local governments in the GBF and its related decisions.

The Edinburgh Process & Partners

CBD COP14 adopted Decision 14/34 on the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and urged Parties, other Governments and stakeholders to “actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework”. At its first meeting, the Open-ended Working Group took note of a preliminary list of meetings, consultations and workshops for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and requested that this be further developed. The Scottish Government took the lead to develop a partner consultative workshop to seek the views of subnational and local governments on the development of the post-2020 framework. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the partner Workshop for Subnational and Local Governments, which was due to be held in Edinburgh in April 2020, was moved online and renamed the Edinburgh Process. The consultative Edinburgh Process consisted of a series of online information sessions, thematic webinars and online consultations over the course of 2020 - 2021.

The [Edinburgh Process](#) was led by the Scottish Government in partnership with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the European Committee of the Regions, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS), Regions4 Sustainable Development, the Government of Quebec, the Welsh Government, the Government of São Paulo State and the Government of California; and with the support of UK Government, UN Environment Programme -World Conservation Monitoring Centre, (UNEP-WCMC), NatureScot, and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

“We are the interface between the ambitions of the global framework and delivering on the ground. We will not stop extinctions or restore our natural environment without cities, regions and other subnational governments working with and mobilizing the communities they represent to deliver the grassroots on the ground action that is needed.”

~ **Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, Scotland**



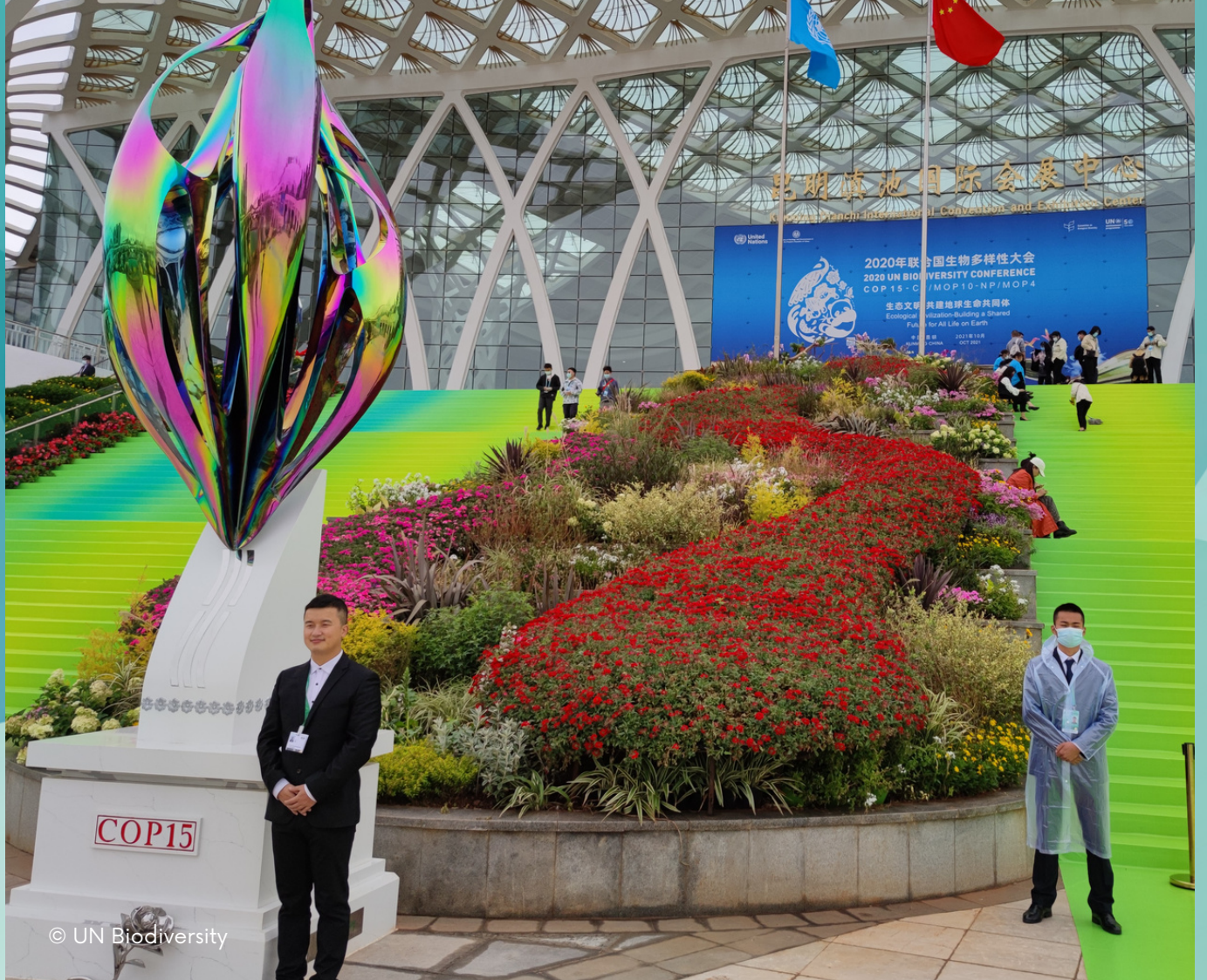
The journey towards Montréal is summarized below:

COP15, initially scheduled to be held in 2020 in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China, was postponed and transformed into a two-part process in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first part of the Meetings, held between 11 and 15 October 2021, addressed the agenda items that were identified as essential for continuing operations of the Convention and the Protocols, and set the stage for adopting an effective new global framework for the next decade at the resumed meetings in 2022. During Part 1 of COP15, two short joint statements were given on behalf of the Local and Subnational Governments Major Group. These were coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Québec, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the European Committee of the Regions, ICLEI and the Edinburgh Process Partners, and were read by ICLEI on behalf of the constituency at the opening meeting and the closing plenary of the High-Level Segment, amplifying subnational governments' voice, ambitions and commitments in the international advocacy process

"There is a growing international awareness that the climate battle will be won or lost in cities. The latest IPCC report has highlighted the role of cities as critical. Climate solutions would never be applicable without placing sustainable consumption and production in action with domestic policies that reflect positively on nature and stopping the degradation of biodiversity."

~ **Ambassador Ayman Amin, COP27 Presidency Lead Team from COP27 to subnational and local government constituency at COP15**





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CBD COP15 Decisions focused on local and subnational governments

At COP15, Parties expressed unequivocal and strong recognition of subnational and local governments' integral role in supporting the successful implementation of the GBF and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 global targets.

This is evident in the adoption of a renewed Decision on engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance the implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, and more ambitious Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2021-2030). This Decision is important because it represents, since 2010, the only mechanism for multilevel governance in the three Rio Conventions, and comprises a comprehensive plan of action for the decade ahead. It further endorses CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature, and encourages Parties to encourage subnational and local governments to report on, and track. Additionally, Parties are encouraged to involve subnational and local governments in the regular monitoring and review of progress against targets, and include their contributions in national reports under the CBD.

Subnational and local governments' crucial contribution is further recognised in many references in the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (including in the targets), as well as in its related decisions. The CBD COP15 decisions which relate to the contributions of subnational and local governments, are outlined in the table.



CBD COP Decisions directly relevant to local and subnational governments

Summit Declaration presented to CBD Parties during CBD COP15

2022
Montréal,
Canada

CBD COP15

Adoption by the Parties of the following Decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and regions:
Adoption by the Parties of the eleven decisions that relate to the mandates and issues of cities and/or subnational regions:

CBD/COP/DEC/15/4

Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework

CBD/COP/DEC/15/5

Monitoring framework of the GBF

CBD/COP/DEC/15/6

Mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing

CBD/COP/DEC/15/7

Resource mobilization

CBD/COP/DEC/15/8

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

CBD/COP/DEC/15/12

Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

CBD/COP/DEC/15/29

Biodiversity and Health

CDB/COP/15/17

Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors

CBD/COP/15/L12

Invasive alien species

CBD/COP/15/L15

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

CBD/COP/15/L16

Biodiversity and Agriculture

7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities

The Kunming-Montréal Declaration on Action by Subnational Governments and Cities for Nature and People 2022



Around and about at COP15: Subnational and local governments influencing COP15 activities and platforms

Official CBD COP15 side event on 7 December

CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature: Mobilizing funding, projects, commitment to take action and reporting at subnational levels

The side event co-hosted by ICLEI, Regions4, the IUCN, UN-WCMC and supported by UNEP and the SCBD involved high level representatives and key CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature partners, including UNEP, GoLs, the National Parks Board of Singapore, the City of Montréal and the Government of Québec.

The side event showcased CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature as the global platforms mobilizing and enabling actions for local and subnational governments supporting their national governments in contributing to implement the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 2030 Action Targets.

The high level speakers acknowledged the importance of the two partnerships providing the frame and the tools turning local and subnational ambitions into actions. It also highlighted key instruments such as the Action Platform, which is connected to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature, UNEP-WCMC Nature Commitments platform, and the Singapore Index (CBI), among others. While IUCN also presented the Urban Nature Index and their target-setting for nature positive development tools, Montréal City and Québec Government conveyed their experience respectively with CitiesWithNature and as pioneer subnational government to RegionsWithNature. The Secretariat of Biological Diversity connected all the interventions advocating for a robust and ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework to realize the goals of bending the curve on biodiversity loss by 2030.

Official side events ICLEI CBC co-hosted/spoke at

8 December	Walking the Talk towards a Transformative GBF: Voices from Civil Society on Issues at Stake for a Successful Agreement (ICLEI CBC)
8 December	Exploring the Nature-Positive Pathway (ICLEI CBC)
10 December	Local solutions to global problems: How the Edinburgh Declaration highlights the critical role of local, regional and subnational governments in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (ICLEI CBC, ICLEI EAS)
15 December	Nature-based Solutions for Health, WHO (ICLEI CBC)

Other events ICLEI CBC co-hosted

6 December	Workshop on Health, Climate and Biodiversity: Mainstreaming biodiversity and climate solutions for sustainable and healthy food systems, WHO (ICLEI CBC)
7 December	How can SNLGs contribute to create positive incentives for biodiversity and accomplish nature-positive productive landscapes/seascapes? - Post-2020 EU support (ICLEI CBC)
10 December	Biodiversity Communications CEPA Fair (ICLEI CBC)
14 December	UNEP-WCMC Nature Commitment Platform Launch (ICLEI CBC)
15 December	Unlocking finance for scaled action for GBF implementation (ICLEI CBC)

Other events our constituency co-hosted/spoke at

8 December	China-Québec Forum/Forum sur la coopération sino-québécoise - FCSQ (ICLEI EAS, ICLEI Canada)
9 December	National Jurisdictions - Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the Post-2020 Framework, Brazilian Day (ICLEI SAMS)
9 December	Urban Nature-Based Solutions: Cities as drivers of Nature-positive development (ICLEI ES)
10 December	Bioeconomy and Green & Blue Economy - tools to implement the GBF (ICLEI SAMS)
10 December	Call for Financing Nature for Sustainable Cities and Regions - UNEP (ICLEI CBC, ICLEI SAMS)
11 December	Towards Targets and Standards for Nature Positive Urban Action (ICLEI ES)
12 December	Exploration and practice of multi-stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, China Pavilion (ICLEI EAS)
13 December	Take stock of the Action Agenda at COP15 and briefly discuss the next steps for this collaborative platform following the adoption of the GBF after COP15 (ICLEI CBC)
13 December	Jiangsu Day; China Pavilion (ICLEI EAS)
13 December	Greener Cities, Cooler Planet, Healthier People: Unleashing the Power of Urban Nature by GEF7 Program (ICLEI EAS)

15
December

Official launch of the international coalition "biodiversity corridors":
An international coalition co-chaired by the Republic of France, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania is thus proposed to address the issue of biodiversity corridors in Africa (ICLEI CBC, ICLEI Africa)

16
December

Action Day Dialogues: Driving implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework through a whole of society approach under the Nature Action Agenda (ICLEI CBC)

16
December

Inside Out: Activating Cities for Biodiversity at Multiple Scales (UN-Habitat, ICLEI CBC)

17
December

WWF Side Event: Global Biodiversity Framework through the Action Agenda for Nature (ICLEI SAMS, ICLEI Colombia)





Summit Press Conference

Following the successful completion of the 7th Summit, a well attended press conference was held on the key outcomes. It took place on Tuesday 13 December 2022 in the COP15 Press Room.



Left to right: Jordan Harris, Executive Director: Regions4; Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs; Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal and ICLEI Global Ambassador for Local Biodiversity; Jiachen Liu, Mayor of Kunming, China; Gino Van Begin, Secretary General: ICLEI; Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Ingrid Coetzee, Director: Biodiversity, Nature & Health, ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Global Biodiversity Targets (GoLS)

At COP15, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS) changed its name to the 'Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Global Biodiversity Targets (GoLS)' in response to the replacement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Based on GoLS' efforts since 2016 to contribute to global targets, the members and the supporting organizations of GoLS agreed at the in-person meeting held during COP15 on a new statement that outlines GoLS determination to contribute to the new Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, mainly focusing on the three pillars;

- to foster implementation that contributes to the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework while promoting a whole-of-society approach
- to share experiences through international platforms, including RegionsWithNature and CitiesWithNature
- to evolve as pioneers in implementation and advocacy to spark 'transformative change' in light of Plans of Action through mutual exchanges and collaboration among members.

Regions4 events and Subnational Advisory Committee

Regions4 were involved in three key events at COP15:

The Executive Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Subnational

Governments to Biodiversity (AC SNG): This meeting provided preliminary discussions around the role of the Advisory Committee in the implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework; and brainstorming on its implementation. An invitation was launched to observer regions and all subnational leaders to join and engage in the advocacy efforts of the AC SNG.

Speaking up for nature. Better communications for the CBD/IUCN

communities: The event focused on how IUCN members, including regional governments, youth and Indigenous Peoples, can engage and communicate effectively through relevant collaborations such as IUCN's National and Regional Committees and Commissions.

Regions4 cocktail reception for members and friends.

During the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities, Regions4's **Case Study Database**, one of RegionsWithNature's new tools, was launched. The Database is a free open source online database that showcases the subnational government experience. Currently eight case studies from six regions - Québec, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Lombardy, Jalisco, and Aichi - are available in Spanish, French, and English. Its goal is to build and develop capacities at the regional level of government, transforming on-the-ground knowledge into best practice learning opportunities in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Subnational governments in action - Québec leadership at work: Québec joins a new subnational taskforce within the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC N&P)

On 13 December, 2022, at an interactive workshop in the Place Québec auditorium, Québec announced it is joining a new HAC N&P subnational government taskforce, alongside California, São Paulo, Scotland and Campeche. Following this, subnational and local initiatives were showcased that contribute to the global target of preserving at least 30% of the world's land and sea by 2030, and transformative approaches to governance and management were presented. During COP15, Québec committed to achieving the 30x30 target.

Bilateral meetings

COP15, particularly the Subnational Governments and Cities Pavilion, provided an opportunity for **120+ bilateral meetings** between a diverse range of stakeholders from our constituency - including staff from ICLEI regional offices, Regions4, Québec, Montréal, Kunming, as well as mayors, governors, partners and various organizations, such as banks and funding institutions - fostering collaboration and strengthening partnerships across multiple sectors.



Towards COP16 and beyond

COP15 was a major success for the Local and Subnational Government constituency, with the biggest mobilization so far at any CBD COP and the first ever Pavilion, which proved to be an invaluable space, so much so that the CBD has indicated that such Pavilions are part of their thinking for future COPs.

The Government of the Republic of Türkiye hosted a Reception on 17 December at COP15. High level officials from China, Québec and Montréal made their institutional salutes, leaving the floor to Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the then Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat, who announced that COP16 will be held in Antalya. The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye, Vahit Kirisci, gave his official remarks, highlighting the commitment of the Turkish government to nature and welcoming the delegates and negotiations to Turkey in two years.

We look forward to working with our partners and local and regional governments from around the world to take this proud tradition forward, and to further build this strategic global platform for subnational biodiversity action in parallel with the CBD COP16 and beyond.

"The Parties adopted an ambitious framework, and subnational and local leaders set the bar high in committing to action, creating an expectation that the successful implementation of the GBF will, in respect of certain aspects, hinge on subnational and local governments' performance. NOW is the time to demonstrate the impact of collective local action on reaching global targets, bending the curve on biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and turning the tide in the 'war on nature'."

~ **Ingrid Coetzee, Local Government representative in
CBD Local & Subnational Governments Major Group**



Thanks

ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) wishes to thank the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Regions4, the host Government of Québec and the City of Montréal, the Province of Yunnan and the City of Kunming.

Both the Summit and its associated Pavilion were financially supported by the Government of Québec as main sponsor.

We would also like to thank additional partners, UNEP, the David Suzuki Foundation, CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature, as well as all speakers, presenters and participants for making the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities, and its associated Pavilion, a major success.





We would like to thank the Government of Québec for financially supporting both the Summit and Pavilion as our main sponsor.

Québec 

Co-hosts & convening partners



Co-host & main sponsor



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Additional partners



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