



## **A common road map for cities, metropolitan areas, local and subnational governments towards “Living in Harmony with Nature” - Strengthening the momentum for a Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.**

We are motivated by the extreme urgency indicated in the IPBES and IPCC reports about the steep rate of loss of biodiversity as a critical asset for urban sustainability, peace, health and quality of life. The fate of cities and surrounding rural areas, nature and people are strongly correlated – and their future depends on urgent and transformational actions. The opportunity to mainstream nature-based solutions and to respect the health of ecosystems for urban issues and challenges cannot be missed. We believe that coordinating actions from a variety of players into the process of the formulation and into the implementation of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework is crucial.

We are committed to sharing our engagements, achievements and experiences through the ICLEI - IUCN-TNC CitiesWithNature global platform (<https://cwn.iclei.org>). CitiesWithNature provides key resources for supporting action, options and a registry of commitments, and a forum for exchange, as a contribution to the Sharm-el-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature & People, to strengthen collective local action to mainstream nature into cities and surrounding regions.

We call upon all cities, metropolitan areas, local and subnational governments, their networks, partners and civil society organizations to join us in this movement to contribute to a viable Earth for all and for future generations and to engage others in this endeavor. We will build on the gathering momentum for a Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework considering:

- The consolidated legacy and lessons learned in applying the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity in the period 2011-2020;
- The need to promote and support leadership among local and subnational governments to mainstream biodiversity and develop their own tools, strategies and action plans, in alignment with National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs) and the application of monitoring tools for biodiversity;
- The critical role of nature for urban sustainability and resilience, in particular for food and water security, health and wellbeing, air quality, climate disaster risk reduction, and urban jobs and livelihoods;
- The need to assign technical, human and financial resources, as appropriate and within national legislation, for the implementation of governance decisions following the ecosystem approach adopted in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and
- The need for effective support from, and stronger representation in, the United Nations (UN) through the application of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other Multilateral Agreements, the New Urban Agenda, the New UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Cities and subnational governments require new vertical and horizontal frameworks for multilevel governance and cooperation structures so that each level contributes to governance within their mandates.

We urgently need commitments from all governments and other partners to address the unacceptable loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, arranged within a feasible cooperation mechanism, with a positive narrative, SMART objectives, milestones, projects, governance arrangements and resource mobilization plans. We suggest this mechanism should contain at least the three critical components below:

- A process of constant, gradual and ratcheting improvements from short to long-term (2021-2030 but also with a view to the 2050 vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”);
- Concrete progress reports on the improvements and implementation recognizing the contributions of different levels of government; and
- A process for regular exchange of experiences, access to resources, and continued learning through the CitiesWithNature platform.

After the Paris The Nature Of Cities (TNOC) Summit (4 – 7 June 2019), we agreed to carry out the following priority actions:

- **Seizing opportunities for generating knowledge, experiences and narratives** on the importance of urban nature and the benefits of biodiversity for wellbeing, health and sustainable development, involving all actors including academia, communication specialists and the arts to create engagement and demonstrate the cultural and social importance of nature, strengthening interdisciplinary networks and integrating sustainable development into degree programmes.
- **Working with international organizations and major stakeholders** to increase awareness about the importance of urban nature and the role of cities/subnational in impacting biodiversity far from the urban areas themselves – the urban-rural teleconnections and linkages that connect ecosystem services that provide food and water security, health and wellbeing, air quality, climate disaster risk reduction, and how they can contribute to this agenda. This includes collaborating more closely with, and fostering a more active role by:
  - the CBD and the UN, to show cities' contributions to the CBD objectives and to develop further contributions and positions for the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework and other national/regional strategies and action plans.
  - the private sector, to demonstrate the importance of private investment in cities and metropolitan areas, and the importance of cities for private sector involvement in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and foster collaboration of the private sector with local governments, SNGs and biosphere reserves.
  - the women, religious groups, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Youth, networks of cities, metropolitan areas, local and subnational governments, science and academic institutions, subnational governments, national governments, consumers, and citizens and activists, among others, as generators of a concrete vision for living in harmony with nature.
- **Ensuring that the importance of biodiversity for other critical global agendas** is recognized and taken into account as cities work with nature towards sustainable futures. The prior acknowledgement of the links between biodiversity and other public development policies, such as transportation, climate mitigation and adaptation, economic development, private sector engagement, etc. will support the further mainstreaming of biodiversity in local policies. This will result in enforcing participation and security, involving local actors and facilitating and supporting local, bottom-up initiatives for governance and human rights.
- **Generating creative solutions on the ground for conservation**, such as by:
  - developing a balanced land-use planning and management approach in urban and metropolitan areas, as well nature-based solutions for green infrastructure;
  - fostering awareness of policy makers and public servants through contact with nature and the local generation of ideas through citizens councils;
  - ensuring connectivity of natural spaces and protected areas not only within the metropolitan areas, but with other regions or metropolitan areas promoting forests, trees and park's management to ensure connectivity and create an adequate biosphere in and around cities.

**We need to promote this movement over a timeline of events** detailed in annex I to the present document (some dedicated globally representative events/mechanisms at which the cities/sub-national constituency will discuss and develop its ideas and inputs to the CBD process), and also including:

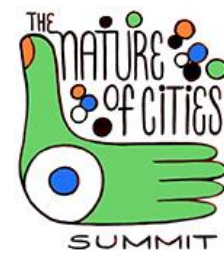
- other events directly discussing the post-2020 biodiversity framework;
- events not directly linked to biodiversity that can provide relevant inputs to the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework;
- other kinds of events dedicated to promoting biodiversity in cities and metropolitan areas.

We will share and implement our common road map to **“Strengthening the momentum for a Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework”**.

Contact and more information: [contact@cwn.net](mailto:contact@cwn.net) - Join us on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoujXzNED5A>



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Signatories :



## Annex I Future Event Timeline<sup>1</sup>

1. Events directly discussing the post-2020 biodiversity framework including the below CitiesWithNature timeline: those with stronger links to the agenda are listed in bold.

- **17-19 July 2019, Meeting of Metropolitan areas in Medellín**
- **18 July 2019, Roundtable on Urban Biodiversity Actions: Subnational Governments' Biodiversity Practices and the Road to Post-2020, Beijing, China**
- 27-30 August 2019, Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), Nairobi
- 23-29 September 2019, Climate Week (Biodiversity track), New York
- **9-12 October 2019, C40 Summit, Copenhagen, Denmark**
- **15 -17 October 2019, Workshop to Review the Implementation of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, National Parks Board, Singapore**
- **17-19 October 2019, 2019 Biophilic Cities Summit, Singapore, <https://www.biophiliccities.org/>**
- 11-15 November UCLG Summit, Durban, South Africa
- 25-29 November 2019, SBSTTA 23, Montreal
- 2-13 December 2019, UNFCCC COP 25, Santiago de Chile
- **29 January 2020, European Committee of the Regions**
- 18-23 May 2020, SBSTTA 24, CBD, Montreal
- 25-29 May 2020, SBI 3, CBD, Montreal
- 26-26 May 2020, Rise Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
- **11-19 June 2020, IUCN World Nature Congress, Marseilles<sup>2</sup>**
- June 2020, Resilient Cities Congress, Bonn
- July 2020, OEWG, UN CBD (venue TBD)
- September 2020, UN Nature Summit, New York
- **October 2020, 7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, Kunming**
- October 2020, CBD COP 15, Kunming

2. Events not directly linked to biodiversity that can provide relevant inputs to the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework:

- 30-31 August, 1 Septembre 2019, France La Bascule, Plateau des 1000 Vaches
- September 2019; organize events in and outside France for *Fête des possibles*
- World Urban Parks Forum
- European Week for Cities and Regions
- December 2019, International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) in Phnom Penh
- EXPO 2020 in Dubai
- Green City Conference AIPH Beijing Expo 2019

3. Other kinds of events dedicated to promoting biodiversity in cities and metropolitan areas, such as:

- Local awards for biodiversity friendly activities and initiatives
- Community awareness events fostering citizen's participation
- Events to attract intergenerational dialogue and develop common ideas and visions
- Events to bring together development agencies, scientific and other organizations and subnational decision and policy makers to coordinate concrete actions to stop biodiversity loss and foster its sustainable use
- Events on environmental impact of consumption relevant to biodiversity and nature-based solutions

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<sup>1</sup> This list is still not comprehensive; other city/subnational events could be used for outreach and/or hold discussions on city/subnational inputs to the development of the pos-2020 framework.

<sup>2</sup> ICLEI is working closely with IUCN on organizing a dedicated cities & subnational event at the congress which will include dedicated post-2020 events & sessions, and are cooperating with both C40 & UCLG re getting post-2020 sessions into their respective annual congresses.