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UCLG CONGRESS
**WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**



MANIFESTO
The Future of Biodiversity

#CitiesAreListening

UCLG Manifestos

MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF BIODIVERSITY

ADVOCACY ROADMAP FOR LOCAL & SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE POST-2020 GBF

ICLEI's Draft proposal to the Special Session on Biodiversity at the UCLG Congress

Cities and regions called to engage in, and contribute to, the Post-2020 GBF, also referred to as the “New Deal for Nature”

We live in the urban century and find ourselves at a **crossroads as we face a climate emergency coupled with the destruction of the natural world**. Collectively, all levels of local and regional governments hold the key to changing this current negative trajectory and to achieving the global sustainability agenda with its associated SDG's.

These governments make and execute decisions daily, which impact directly on nature and on urban communities' well-being and resilience to extreme weather events and multiplier effects of climate change. The urban and peri-urban footprint extends beyond city boundaries as the consequences of local government decisions and actions are often felt far beyond its judiciary boundaries, while urban-rural linkages are increasingly recognized as vital for effective multi-level governance options required to drive systemic and collective change to set us on a much-needed and urgent new sustainable development trajectory.

The year 2020 presents a **unique opportunity** and **urgent necessity** for nations to adopt a 'New Deal for Nature' under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that will replace the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and most of its' associated “Aichi targets”, which come to an end in 2020. The new global agreement is set to be adopted during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP), in Kunming, China in late October 2020. The CBD COP 15 is increasingly heralded as the “Paris Moment for Nature”.

To this end the COP adopted Decision 14/34 at COP 14, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018, which called for a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent and participatory process for the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

This Decision urges **local and regional governments to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework** in order to foster wide ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation. The Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) has further encouraged key actors, such as local and subnational governments, the business sector, the youth, indigenous and local communities, academia and the research sector, non-governmental organizations, to organize their own post-2020 advocacy roadmaps and events to allow for maximum collective engagement in the preparatory processes ahead of COP15.

ICLEI, with the support and active engagement of its partners **Regions4, the European Committee of Regions** and several others, committed to continue its advocacy work - which started already ahead of the CBD COP8 - and to develop, coordinate and lead a **roadmap for local and regional government engagement and contributions to the post-2020 GBF process**. This commitment was made in the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People* adopted at the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments and subsequently presented to, and welcomed by the CBD Parties in the COP 14 closing plenary. ICLEI accepted the role of continuing to convene the voice of our local and regional constituency into the post-2020 process, with continued support and engagement by partner networks such as Regions4 and the European Committee of Regions, who have continued to active alongside ICLEI in this field over the last years.

The implementation of this roadmap is currently well underway and has resulted in a series of advocacy interventions such as

- post-2020 consultation events at all levels of government and among key network and other partners
- regular monthly webinars hosted by ICLEI
- the development of a draft position statement to be presented to the 2nd Open Ended Working Group meeting of the CBD in February 2020 in Kunming, China, currently underway.

For example, ICLEI, the SCBD and the Post-2020 Biodiversity framework- EU Support Project, co-convened a thematic session entitled “Living in Harmony with Nature,” in Paris in June this year, which sought to strengthen the momentum for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework among local and subnational governments. In July, ICLEI, the Post-2020 Biodiversity framework- EU Support Project, the SCBD, Aburra

Valley Metropolitan Authority and the Humboldt Institute co-convened an event on “Unlocking the power of metropolises to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services for nature and people” in Medellin, Colombia. This resulted in the “Aburrá Valley - Medellin Declaration of Metropolitan Areas to the post – 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”, which was adopted by the 17 metropolitan area authorities and 27 other local and subnational governments from 12 countries that attended the event. ICLEI floated a draft position statement, *Shaping the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: A Ten-Point Framework for Subnational Biodiversity Action*, at the **first meeting of the CBD Open-ended Working Group in Nairobi**, Kenya in August. This draft statement was agreed to by the currently active local and subnational partners and together we committed to develop and refine it further into a consolidated and collective statement reflecting the commitments and ambitions of local and subnational government towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Proposal for Adoption by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments

In conclusion, it is hereby proposed that ICLEI, through its Cities Biodiversity Center and supported by its World Secretariat, leads the advocacy work and contribution on behalf of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments **towards the negotiation and implementation of a ‘New Deal for Nature’** to ensure that the role of local and subnational governments is firmly entrenched in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

ICLEI, is ideally placed to fulfil such a role through its proud history of advocacy in the CBD; its recognized technical leadership in the biodiversity sector; and its existing strong partnerships and relationships in the biodiversity context with several members of the GTF such as Regions4, the European Committee of Regions, UCLG and others, as well as with the SCBD and other global partners such as the IUCN, and networks such as the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS). These networks and organizations are already actively engaged, through our collective roadmap, in mobilizing their respective constituencies and in contributing to the development of a collective and consolidated ongoing engagement on behalf of local and subnational governments towards shaping the new Global Biodiversity Framework which fully recognizes, values and enables our collective role in the formulation and implementation thereof, ahead of, and beyond 2020.

If mandated to fulfil this role on behalf of the GTF, ICLEI hereby commits to work with, and enable the engagement of all interested GTF partners, and to regularly report to the GTF on progress achieved.

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