

The Durban Commitment: Local Government for Biodiversity

The Durban Commitment: Local Government for Biodiversity was developed, founded and signed by 20 Local Action for Biodiversity Local Governments:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Barcelona City Council | City of Amsterdam | City of Bonn |
| City of Cape Town | City of Edmonton | City of Johannesburg |
| City of Joondalup | City of Nagoya | City of Tilburg |
| City of Zagreb | eThekweni Municipality | Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality |
| Ile de France | King County | Leicester City Council |
| Liverpool City Council | Municipality of Walvis Bay | São Paulo City Hall |
| Seoul Metropolitan Government | Waitakere City Council | |

as a commitment and model by local government, for local government and the communities they serve, to protect and enhance biodiversity at the local level.

By signing as a party to this Commitment, the City of joins these leading local governments from across the world as a partner that acknowledges accountability and responsibility for the health and well being of their communities through protecting biodiversity and recognising its role as the foundation of our existence.

This Commitment recognises that biodiversity is the variety of life on earth on which human well-being is dependent and that biodiversity provides ecosystem services that underpin all of our community's needs. Furthermore, it recognises that the value of biodiversity is multi-faceted - including economic, tourism, recreational, environmental, heritage, stewardship, spiritual, intrinsic, medicinal, and social dimensions.

Through signing this Commitment we acknowledge that:

- i) Biodiversity is increasingly under pressure with unprecedented rates of loss due to human activities and over consumption of natural resources;
- ii) The global trend towards growth in urbanisation is placing ever increasing direct pressure on biodiversity at both the local area and through increased resource consumption and ecological footprints;
- iii) The impacts of climate change on biodiversity pattern and process will be significant. We need to build appropriate programmes to address, mitigate and adapt to these changes;
- iv) Future and ongoing human development is dependent on our ability to meet the biodiversity challenges we face;
- v) Ecosystem services can play an important role in poverty alleviation and consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption are harshest for the poor;
- vi) It is our collective responsibility to reverse the current trends of biodiversity loss; and
- vii) Local government, that works most closely with communities and our biodiversity, has a critical role and responsibility (globally, nationally and locally) to ensure that biodiversity is conserved, protected, restored and sustainably used for the benefit of current and future generations.

Through signing this Commitment we hereby commit to promoting, increasing and enhancing the extent and quality of biodiversity within and beyond our administrative area and integrating biodiversity considerations into all aspects of our governance and development planning. We also commit to strengthen and prioritise efforts to control invasive alien species, to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss and to ensure that no further extinctions of indigenous species occur within our area of jurisdiction.

It is our intention to:

- i) Regularly publish Biodiversity Reports on the status of biodiversity in our administrative area and our progress in protecting biodiversity;
- ii) Contribute towards the formulation of global biodiversity good practice guidelines;
- iii) Develop and implement a local long-term Biodiversity Strategy;
- iv) Remain committed to ongoing implementation of that local long-term Biodiversity Strategy and to initiate the respective council decisions;
- v) Raise public awareness of biodiversity in all sectors of society;
- vi) Actively engage with, and ensure participation and involvement of all stakeholders; and
- vii) Actively participate in the ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity Initiative as the global network of local government for biodiversity.

As a Local Authority, we support efforts to promote greater recognition by national governments and international bodies of the critical role local government plays in protecting biodiversity at the global level. We recognise our own role within the global environment and by signing this Commitment we entrench our dedication to global biodiversity by becoming a formal partner to Countdown 2010 by signing the Countdown 2010 Declaration, thereby committing to its targets, goals, objectives and principles.

Please fill in the details below to sign the Durban Commitment:

Signed at: this day of

City name:

Signature:

Name / position:

Countdown 2010 Declaration

BIODIVERSITY - THE WEB OF LIFE ON EARTH - IS ESSENTIAL TO THE QUALITY OF HUMAN WELL-BEING, AND IT IS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN SUSTAINING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF ALL SOCIETIES WORLDWIDE.

YET, BIODIVERSITY CONTINUES TO DECLINE. POLITICAL COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO STOP THIS TREND BY 2010.

FURTHER STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO HONOUR THIS COMMITMENT AND TO TRANSLATE IT INTO ACTION.

We the undersigned will take every practical opportunity to:

Support the commitments to halt or significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, made by:

- World Environment Ministers in the Hague Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Netherlands 2002;
- World Heads of State in the Plan of Implementation at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002;
- World Heads of State in the United Nations World Summit Outcome in New York 2005;
- a number of biodiversity related conventions and regional processes since 2001.

Encourage decision makers at all levels, in both the public and the private sector, to contribute to these commitments and to:

- Increase public awareness and participation for biodiversity conservation, including the promotion of exemplary activities towards the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Better integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant sectors of public policy and economy;
- Undertake serious efforts to adapt human activities to the needs of natural systems;
- Support the development of suitable monitoring and indicator tools to assess the state of biodiversity in Europe.

Commit ourselves to encourage and assist decision makers and societies in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, notably through:

- Actively promoting Countdown 2010 to focus attention and mobilise resources for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Significantly reducing our own impact on biodiversity.

In particular, we will:

- Develop a long term Biodiversity Plan.
- Promote biodiversity education within the Joondalup community through our sustainability forums.
- Promote biodiversity within the region through regional committees.
- Protect and enhance our wetlands through our Yellagonga Integrated Catchment Management Plan.
- Protect and enhance our coastal foreshore through our Coastal Foreshore Management Plan.
- Work with our young people through our School Connections program - Adopt-A-Coastline.
- Work with community groups through our Conservation Advisory Committee and Sustainability Advisory Committee.
- Monitor the impact on biodiversity through the development of appropriate biodiversity KPIs.

Please use this space to describe your specific contribution to the above commitments. Use a separate page if needed.

Goals and Principles

BY SIGNING THE COUNTDOWN 2010 DECLARATION, AN ORGANISATION BECOMES A PARTNER OF COUNTDOWN 2010. PARTNERSHIP IS OPEN TO ORGANISATIONS FROM ALL SECTORS AND LEVELS THAT CAN DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET.

Overarching goal:

That all governments and members of civil society, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt or significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

Objectives:

- Encourage and support the full implementation of all the existing binding international commitments and necessary actions to save biodiversity;
- Demonstrate clearly what progress countries are making in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Gain maximum public attention for the challenge of saving biodiversity by 2010.

Principles:

- **Science based:** all Countdown 2010 work will be underpinned by sound science and/or relevant practical conservation experience and will be carried out to the highest possible standard.
- **Transparency:** Countdown 2010 is committed to the principle of transparency in process and decision making. It will ensure public access to information, while respecting individual privacy and institutional confidentiality, as appropriate.
- **Subsidiarity:** the Countdown 2010 Secretariat will work at the most appropriate level (local, national, regional, multi-regional) and it will only undertake those Countdown 2010 activities that partners are unable to undertake.
- **Autonomy:** Countdown 2010 is an independent alliance. It is governed by the will of its partners through the institutional mechanisms in place (Advisory Board and Partners' Assembly).



Please fill in this form to sign the Countdown 2010 declaration and send it to the Countdown 2010 Secretariat:

Name of organisation:

Signature:..... Date:

Name / Position:.....

Details of main contact person for Countdown 2010 activities:

Name / Position:.....

Address:

.....

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

To the Mayor of Joondalup

Mayors Conference

“Local Action for Biodiversity”

**Parallel event to the Conference of the Parties
of the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity
26-28 May 2008, Bonn, Germany**

Dear Colleague,

In May 2008, Germany and the City of Bonn will host the upcoming 9th Conference of the Parties to the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity.

Cities play a key role in biodiversity. Their experience, their knowledge and their support may significantly contribute to global debates and strategies. Your involvement in the project “Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)” is a wonderful example of this commitment. We hope that the activities of your city within the LAB project will be an essential input to the conference programme.

Mayors are already involved – in the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (having expanded its responsibility because of the interlinkage of issues) as well as in a steering group, established in Curitiba in March 2007 and including the Mayors of Montréal, Johannesburg, Curitiba, Nagoya and Bonn.

The Mayors Conference “Local Action for Biodiversity” serves as a platform for discussion, as well as a strategically relevant milestone for demonstrating this commitment. The event will take place from 26-28 May 2008 in Bonn, concurrent to the UN conference (CBD COP 9), which is being hosted by the German Federal Government from May 19 to 30, 2008. The Conference is organised jointly by the City of Bonn, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and the Service-Agency Communities in One World / InWEnt,

following a tradition started in Bonn in 1999, namely to gather local leaders alongside the meeting of national governments. I would be honoured if you would accept my personal invitation to participate in this conference and join our efforts to improve biodiversity in the urban context.

The Mayors Conference will bring together local leaders from cities advanced within the field of urban biodiversity. The conference shall interact with representatives of national governments and international experts from organisations such as IUCN, UNEP and ICLEI, with donors of local government projects, NGO representatives, the media, and high-level representatives from the German Federal Government. Not only will it offer the opportunity to meet with State delegates participating in COP 9, but also the prospect of raising voices vis-à-vis the international community debating global strategies on biodiversity. A contribution of local governments will be included in the agenda of the High Level Segment.

I have sent this invitation to some 50 senior representatives of cities that have shown a special interest and commitment in the field of urban biodiversity, amongst them mayors from all the cities that are part of the "Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)" Project. May I encourage you to also bring a young municipal leader from your city, best a young council member, to this event in order to enable the next generation of leaders to understand the relevance of conserving our natural resources, especially biodiversity.

This invitation is also addressed at a selected group of partners to local governments. Please note the conference dates in your calendar and let me know at your earliest convenience if you will be able to join us. If you are unable to attend, I would be grateful if you appointed a senior representative to attend in lieu.

Thanks to the financial support from the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), your conference fees will be covered and you are invited to be our guest at all conference related-meals.

For further information, please contact ICLEI's International Training Centre (see registration form attached) or visit the conference website: www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008.

I would like to encourage us to convene at the conference as forerunners and leaders, and to influence the debate so that the crucial role of local governments and their partners in the management of urban biodiversity may be demonstrated.

I look forward to meeting with you in Bonn next year.

Kind regards,

Bärbel Dieckmann
Lady Mayor, City of Bonn

Attachments

Conference Announcement

Registration form

MAYORS CONFERENCE LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

Parallel event to the Conference of the Parties to the UN-CBD
Bonn, Germany, 26-28 May 2008



COP 13/MOP 4 Bonn (December 2008)



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

URBAN BIODIVERSITY ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Mayors and other key decision-makers of leading local governments in urban biodiversity from around the globe are invited to convene and exchange their experiences and initiatives for Urban Biodiversity.

This conference offers a unique opportunity for a selected group of local leaders to showcase good practice and express collective commitments for extending "Local Action for Biodiversity". The conference also offers a chance to discuss national and international framework conditions needed to ensure Urban Biodiversity is protected, and to seek political and financial support for local action.

LOCAL LEADERS MEET WITH INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

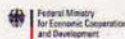
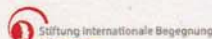
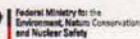
As the Mayors Conference is in parallel to the High Level Segment of the COP of the UN CBD, local leaders can use this opportunity to have their voices heard in the international community through networking with key representatives from national governments and UN representatives. An intervention on behalf of local governments will be part of the High Level Segment.

Participants are invited by the Lady Mayor of Bonn Bärbel Dieckmann, representing outstanding examples of leadership for bringing Urban Biodiversity into action.

LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY (LAB)

Local governments to an increasing extent cooperate globally to advance biodiversity at the local level. A special global initiative is the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project launched in 2006 by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and IUCN, the World Conservation Union. Initiated by the Cities of Cape Town and eThekweni (Durban), the project forms the first step in a broader ICLEI Biodiversity Programme.

LAB is pioneering through coordinating the sharing of experiences, successes and challenges from a diverse group of participant cities around the world. LAB is also preparing for a next phase to include many more cities in these joint efforts. LAB cities will report on their activities and achievements. www.iclei.org/lab



DRAFT PROGRAMME AND THEMES

| | |  COP9 CBD 19-30 May 2008 | | | MAYORS CONFERENCE LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY <small>Parallel event to the Conference of the Parties to the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity</small> | | High Level Segment COP9 CBD  | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | Sunday 25 | Monday 26 | Tuesday 27 | Wednesday 28 | Thursday 29 | Friday 30 | |
| Morning | Arrival of participants | | Excursion/ Study Tour | Opening | Biodiversity for Adaptation and Resilience Building Local Strategies towards Biodiversity | Local Governments intervention at High-Level Segment | Closing day | |
| Afternoon | | | Excursion/ Study Tour | Biodiversity for Economic Sustainability and Well-Being Biodiversity and Municipal Services | Local Commitments and Contributions to International Biodiversity Closing | Interaction with delegates to the CBD COP-9 | | |

Draft as of November 2007

LANGUAGES

The main languages of the conference will be English and Spanish. Whispering translation for other languages will be considered in exceptional cases.

LOCATION AND VENUE

The Mayors Conference will run concurrent to the UN Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the UN City of Bonn, Germany. The venue for the Mayors Conference is the Weltsaal in the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt).

LOGISTICS & REGISTRATION

For detailed information regarding all aspects of logistics for this event, particularly registration and accommodation, please refer to www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

The Mayors Conference is the local government gathering on the occasion of the ninth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn. It builds up on the Curitiba meeting held from 26-28 March 2007 in Curitiba, Brazil. Similar and successful events in Bonn where local leaders met on the occasion of a UN-event, include Desertification (1999), Local Renewables (2004), and Early Warning (2006).

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

ICLEI International Training Centre (ITC)
 Leopoldring 3, D-79098 Freiburg, Germany
 Phone: +49 - 761 / 368 92 - 20
 Fax: +49 - 761 / 368 92 - 29
 E-mail: biodiv-bonn2008@iclei.org

LOCAL LOGISTICS

Service-Agency Communities in One World / InWent GmbH
 Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40, D-53113 Bonn, Germany
 Phone: +49 - 228 / 44 60 16 - 34
 Fax: +49 - 228 / 44 60 17 - 64
 E-Mail: heike.wuelfing@inwent.org



MAYORS CONFERENCE LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

Parallel event to the Conference of the Parties to the UN-CBD
Bonn, Germany, 26-28 May 2008



Please return to ICLEI's International Training Centre (ITC)

E-mail: biodiv-bonn2008@iclei.org

Fax: +49 - 761 / 36 89 229

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete in English (type or print in block letters). All fields are required.

Mr. Ms. Title _____

First name _____ Last name _____

Organisation (in local language) _____

Organisation (in English) _____

Job title/Function (in local language) _____

Job title/Function (in English) _____

Street _____ Postal / Zip code _____

City _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

(Country code/city code/phone number)

(Country code/city code/fax number)

E-mail _____ Website _____

Your assistant (the person we might communicate best with)

First name _____ Last name _____

Job title/Function (in English) _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

(Country code/city code/phone number)

(Country code/city code/fax number)

E-mail _____

Special needs: Vegetarian meals Wheel chair access
 Other special needs: _____

Mayors Conference: Local Action for Biodiversity 2008

Registration and Confirmation Information

The deadline for registration is 15 April 2008.

*Note: Please keep this page for your records. For updated information please visit:
www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008*

Registration for the Mayors Conference

The participation is upon invitation by the Lady Mayor of Bonn, Ms Bärbel Dieckmann. The deadline for registration is 15 April 2008. As places are limited we advise you to indicate your interest as early as possible. For your registration for the Mayors Conference you will receive a confirmation from ICLEI.

Registration includes the admission to the event, participation in all sessions, including the workshops and study tours, conference materials, two lunches, coffee breaks, one evening reception.

Accreditation for the COP 9

Through the registration for the Mayors Conference you can ask ICLEI to facilitate the official accreditation process to attend the Conference of the Parties to the UN-CBD (COP 9).

If you wish access **COP 9**, you need to fill out all required data, which will be forwarded to the CBD Secretariat for accreditation. For the accreditation to COP 9 you will get a confirmation letter from the CBD Secretariat. People asking for the official UN accreditation are kindly asked to check some days before the event if the permission has been agreed. Please know that the details of the procedure are currently still in consideration.

Attending the High Level Segment of the COP requires an additional permission from the German Government. Please indicate your wish to attend this High Level Segment on the registration form and ICLEI will contact the responsible ministry. Confirmation for this will be provided to you by the ministry or by ICLEI.

Visa

Please check www (German foreign ministry) for visa requirements. Let us know, please, if you need an official invitation letter.

Local logistics and accommodation

Our partner InWent is responsible for local logistic, such as visa, accommodation and local transport. For accommodation, please check www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008 or contact Ms Wuelfing. Please make the necessary accommodation arrangements as soon as possible – May is a busy tourist season in Bonn.

Conference Secretariat

ICLEI's International Training Centre (ITC)
Leopoldring 3
D-79098 Freiburg, Germany
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E-mail: biodiv-bonn2008@iclei.org

Local Logistics

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Tel: +49 – 228/ 4460 17-64

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