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Item 11 of the provisional agenda\*

### **ENGAGEMENT WITH SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and encouraged Parties and other Governments to implement it, as appropriate, in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account national priorities, capacities and needs (decision X/22). Implementation of the Plan of Action was reviewed at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>1</sup>

2. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, invited subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, among other groups, to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation, and also invited these groups to facilitate dialogues on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make the results of these dialogues available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other appropriate means (decision 14/34).

3. A consultation on the potential role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was included in the list of meetings, consultations and workshops noted by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its second meeting (recommendation WG2020-2/1). The Scottish Government has been leading this process, known as the “Edinburgh Process” – an online, global engagement and consultation for subnational, regional and local stakeholders – with the aim of securing greater reference to the role of subnational and local authorities, including cities, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>2</sup> Other subnational government partners in the process include the Governments of Wales and Quebec, the European Committee of the

\* [CBD/SBI/3/1](#).

<sup>1</sup> See decisions XI/8, XII/9.

<sup>2</sup> The Edinburgh Process was conceived as a global workshop to contribute the opinion of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to inform the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The workshop was to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 1 to 3 April 2020. Owing to the restrictions on travel and gatherings imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers redesigned the consultation to enable the gathering of opinion globally through electronic submissions and online webinars in a process that commenced on 30 April 2020 and convened over several months in 2020. Further information is provided in section II of the present document and on the website of the Scottish Government, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-biodiversity-framework-edinburgh-process---information/pages/introduction/>

Regions, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4 Sustainable Development and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS).

4. The consultation reviewed the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020), endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at Nagoya in 2010 in decision X/22, to inform the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

5. In a letter dated 11 December 2020 addressed to the Executive Secretary, the Minister of State of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland conveyed the outcomes of the “Edinburgh Process” and requested that these be circulated to the Parties to the Convention for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting under item 11 of its provisional agenda.

6. The document reproduced below describes the Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its outcomes (section II) and provides a draft recommendation on engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, prepared by the Scottish Government and partners in the Edinburgh Process as an outcome of that process, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting (section III), including a proposed update to the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity.

7. Participants in the Edinburgh Process adopted the “Edinburgh Declaration for subnational governments, cities and local authorities on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” on 31 August 2020. The Declaration which is provided in CBD/SBI/3/INF/25 is open for signature by additional subnational governments, cities and other local authorities until the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## **I. THE EDINBURGH PROCESS FOR SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

### **Background**

1. In order to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050, transformative change is required, starting with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Whilst it is up to Parties to the Convention, to negotiate the new global biodiversity framework, Subnational and Local Governments (SNLGs), including cities, have a vital role in its implementation and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Particularly as up to two thirds of biodiversity legislation is adopted and enacted at the subnational and local level in some parts of the world.

2. SNLG are on the forefront of biodiversity action, it is therefore essential that this role is recognised in the post 2020 framework but also that national governments involve their SNLGs in its development, implementation and monitoring. The SNLGs are willing partners, however this resource is not always being used to its full potential.

3. The Edinburgh Process, led by the Scottish Government and its partners,<sup>3</sup> has brought together the SNLG constituency to gather their views through consultations and online events. Its aim is to feed these views into the CBD process for the development of the post-2020 framework, via the Open-ended Working Group (WG2020).

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<sup>3</sup> The Edinburgh Process is led by the Scottish Government in partnership with European Committee of the Regions, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS), Regions4 Sustainable Development, Government of Quebec, Welsh Government; and with the support of UK Government, UN Environment Programme –World Conservation Monitoring Centre, (UNEP-WCMC), NatureScot, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

4. To cope with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, what should have been a physical 3-day meeting in Edinburgh, as agreed at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-30 August 2019, became a series of online consultations and events held across spring and summer 2020. This allowed the Edinburgh Process to engage more widely and equitably than would have been possible otherwise. The views of over 400 global participants with an equal gender balance and representation from all UN regional groupings were captured. Participants represented SNLG (including cities) (41%), national governments (14%), subnational networks (13%), academics/experts (14%), youth (1%). The Edinburgh Process held three main consultations supported by online meetings and thematic sessions, to gather views on the draft global biodiversity framework, elements for an updated CBD Subnational Plan of Action, and on the Edinburgh Declaration.

#### **Ambition and views of the subnational constituency**

5. Today there is a gap between the ambitions of SNLGs in developing and implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the reality. A key finding of the Edinburgh Process consultation on the post-2020 framework is that whilst 53% of SNLGs have a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) only 35% have contributed to their national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and only 25% to the related national reports. However, a further two-thirds expressed their wish to contribute to both. This indicates that there is a willingness from subnational and local governments to contribute to the implementation and achievement of the new framework.

#### *Addressing key biodiversity issues facing SLNGs*

6. Most consultation respondents felt that the post 2020 global biodiversity framework addressed key biodiversity issues for the subnational constituency. However a number of areas for improvement in the framework were raised. One key theme was that the role of SNLG needed to be clearly recognised within all relevant sections of the framework to ensure that it is politically relevant, vertically integrated and that governments at all levels feel responsible for its implementation. SNLGs are uniquely placed due, in some cases, to their statutory role in implementing biodiversity legislation and actions and their closeness to their communities. Rather than just stakeholders to be consulted, they should be considered as integral partners in implementing the framework, in line with the whole of government approach. Subnational and local governments are also well placed to address biodiversity mainstreaming, in line with the long-term strategic approach, due their closer links to stakeholders including businesses, NGO's, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples.

#### *Raising the level of ambition*

7. The overall level of ambition in the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was generally considered towards what is needed to set us on the road for recovery by SNLG, although is dependent on the ambition of State Parties during final negotiations of the text. However not all SNLGs were convinced that the final framework would deliver the transformative change that is required to put us on the path to recovery for the benefit of planet and people. Respondents highlighted there shouldn't be distinct levels of ambition between national, subnational and local governments, but rather all jurisdictions should feel challenged to raise the bar of the desired ambition for the next framework in order to engender meaningful action.

#### *The monitoring framework*

8. Integrating the monitoring framework within the overall global biodiversity framework is considered a positive step forward from the previous Aichi targets where indicators were adopted only after a number of years. However two thirds of SNLGs considered the current framework insufficient to allow monitoring of the action targets at the subnational level. The direct inclusion of implementation by all levels of government is required within the framework to ensure that those wishing to monitor and report on the implementation of their commitments can do so. Elements or indicators on the participation of SNLG,

including for the adoption of LBSAPs and promotion of nature-based solutions<sup>4</sup> are essential. Tools need to be developed for use by all levels of government so that the role of subnational authorities in collecting and reporting upon data within their competencies is clear. It is also important that the resources to carry out monitoring activities are adequate - both human and financial - hence the use of citizen scientists in monitoring should be encouraged to empower and engage communities.

### **The Edinburgh Declaration**

9. Based on the views and consultation responses put forward by participants, the Edinburgh Process concluded that to achieve the transformative change required to put biodiversity on the road to recovery, SNLGs need to be actively involved in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in line with the whole of government approach. Participants wanted to make a clear political commitment to this effect, outlining the contribution they could make, calling on Parties to the CBD to match that ambition, and to engage with them in implementing the actions required. The result of this commitment is the Edinburgh Declaration.

10. The declaration, which was initially signed by the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Process Partners, will remain open for signature until COP 15 in order to gather the strength of the subnational constituency into a single voice. The Declaration calls on States Parties to:

- take strong and bold actions to bring about transformative change;
- recognise the vital role of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- support the adoption of a new dedicated Decision and Plan of Action for subnational governments, cities and local authorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- establish a multi-stakeholder platform that ensures representation of subnational governments, cities and local authorities to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

11. The Declaration also sets out ten commitments from SNLG with regard the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. These set out how SNLG will work to deliver the framework, including by:

- recognising the overall value of nature and integrating it into planning, management and governance instruments;
- implementing appropriate actions that deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and action targets;
- aligning biodiversity strategies and actions, and our monitoring and reporting efforts with NBSAPs;
- increasing resource mobilisation;
- mainstreaming biodiversity across public, private and business sectors;
- communicating, educating and raising public awareness;
- strengthening capacity building;
- providing opportunities for knowledge exchange;
- sharing best practices across subnational, city and local levels;

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<sup>4</sup> [Read Expertise on #7](#)

- delivering convergence with other intergovernmental agreements and processes.

12. The Edinburgh Declaration builds upon recent communiques from metropolitan and subnational constituencies, Aburra Valley<sup>5</sup> (Colombia) and Carta de Sao Paulo<sup>6</sup> (Brazil) Declarations, further demonstrating that the changes required at all levels and in all sectors can only be achieved collectively to set nature on the path to recovery. The Edinburgh Declaration<sup>7</sup> is set out in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/25. Note that the list of signatories and supporters of the Edinburgh Declaration will be regularly updated towards COP-15.

### **Updated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity**

13. One of the main objectives of the Edinburgh Process was to consult the subnational and local government constituency on the current *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)*, adopted under [decision X/22](#). To this end, a review document on the current PoA was co-produced by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS), Regions4 Sustainable Development (Regions4), Government of Quebec and the Scottish Government. It included recommended elements for a stepped-up decision and renewed PoA, and formed the basis for the consultations. The review document was shared with respondents and they were invited to provide inputs on the recommended elements through an online consultation document.

14. The current Plan of Action (PoA) concludes its 10-year implementation term in 2020, with no successor to guide biodiversity actions for subnational and local governments in the same way over the coming decade. Building on the invitation in [decision 14/34](#) to participate in the post-2020 process and shape the new global biodiversity framework, ICLEI, Regions4, the European Committee of Regions, and GoLS committed, at the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, held parallel to CBD COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, to mobilising and coordinating subnational and local action and contributions to the Action Agenda for Nature and People on the journey to COP 15; and the associated consultation and negotiation process on the post-2020 GBF. The Edinburgh Process provided opportunity for reflection on the role and contribution of subnational and local governments, and for communicating this constituency's ambitions to the post-2020 GBF process. Outcomes of these consultations are set out in an information document (CBD/SBI/3/INF/26).

### **The call for a stepped-up dedicated Decision and renewed Plan of Action**

15. The Edinburgh Process consultations resulted in a clear message from subnational and local governments, calling on Parties to increase the ambition and renew Decision X/22 at COP 15 by adopting a stepped-up decision and Plan of Action on subnational and local governments that is more ambitious than the current PoA.

### **Next steps for developing a dedicated decision and renewed Plan of Action**

16. Consultation with the global subnational constituency has resulted in a call for parties to adopt the greater inclusion of SNLG throughout the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through a new

<sup>5</sup> [Aburra Valley – Medellin Declaration of Metropolitan Areas to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(2019\)](#). Adopted by the 17 metropolitan area authorities and 27 other local and subnational governments from 12 countries that met in Medellin, Colombia, from 17 to 19 July 2019, to contribute to the process defining the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

<sup>6</sup> [Carta de São Paulo - BIO2020 – Brazilian Perspectives for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(2020\)](#). Adopted at the BIO2020 event, that took place in the city of Sao Paulo (4-6 February 2020) gathered local and subnational leaders, stakeholders from academia, NGOs, the business community and technical experts from the biosphere reserves of Brazil with the objective of jointly creating a contribution that could feed the current negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

<sup>7</sup> [Edinburgh Declaration on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(2020\)](#)

dedicated decision for subnational governments, city and local authorities to replace decision X/22. The Edinburgh Process outcomes have informed a draft decision which has been submitted to SBI-3 under agenda item 11 on ‘Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation’, as a sub-item for further consideration alongside the long term strategic approaches to mainstreaming.

## **II. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENGAGEMENT WITH SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

### *The Subsidiary Body on Implementation*

1. *Notes the contributions of the consultative Edinburgh Process for subnational governments, cities and other local authorities<sup>8</sup> on the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as agreed by the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its first meeting, in Nairobi, on 27-30 August 2019;*

2. *Also notes the outcome of the Edinburgh Process consultation on an updated version of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity contained in decision [X/22](#) as set out in CBD/SBI/3/19, also highlighted at the Edinburgh Process webinar for Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on 23 September 2020;*

3. *Further notes the unprecedented and urgent need, in view of the current and compounding environmental, health, social and economic development crises, for a ‘whole of government approach’ to act at all levels of governance reflecting the principles of the ecosystem approach adopted in [decision V/6](#) ;*

4. *Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its fifteenth meeting, adopt a decision focused on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, including an updated plan of action based on the outcomes of the Edinburgh Process consultation, along the following lines:*

### *The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling decisions [X/22](#) and [XII/9](#),*

*Noting that subnational governments, cities and other local authorities are a constituent part of many Parties and other Governments, and that the implementation and monitoring of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is a shared commitment by all levels of government,*

*Recognizing the important role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of biodiversity objectives, monitoring and reporting, mainstreaming, resource mobilization, capacity-building and communication, education and public awareness, and the benefits of harmonizing planning and action for biodiversity across different levels of government,*

*Recognizing that in the post-COVID world, the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities is even more important, so that effective green responses, recovery and redesign approaches requiring collaborative action can be co-designed and rapidly implemented, with respect to each level of government’s competencies, ensuring that such approaches apply and promote biodiversity in both cities and non-urban territories,*

*Recognizing the importance of a multi-stakeholder mechanism to support the review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the long-term approach to*

<sup>8</sup> The distinction between local and subnational governments is proposed in the Plan of Action endorsed in decision X/22 – “For the purposes of this document, “local authorities” include all levels of government below the subnational, national or federal level (prefectures, districts, counties, municipalities, cities, towns, communes, etc.), while “subnational governments” (states, provinces, domains, territories, regional governments, etc.) applies only to the first immediate level of government below the national”

mainstreaming and other related strategies, as called for in the Edinburgh Declaration,<sup>9</sup> [and proposed as part of the long-term approach to mainstreaming arising out of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation],<sup>10</sup>

1. *Adopts* the updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, as set out in the annex;

2. *Urges* Parties, as appropriate, to implement the updated plan of action referred to in paragraph 1, above, including by:

(a) Involving subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the revision and implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(b) Ensuring engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in mainstreaming of biodiversity, in line with the long-term approach to mainstreaming adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/--;

(c) Allocating human, technical and financial resources, as appropriate, in a manner supportive of principle 2 of the ecosystem approach,<sup>11</sup> adopted in [decision V/6](#);

3. *Requests* Parties to report on the implementation of the updated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity, as appropriate, in their national reports to the Convention;

4. *Encourages* Parties, and *invites* other stakeholders, including entities engaged in development finance, to invest resources and build capacity, in line with the principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in [decision V/6](#), at the level of governance where they can be most effective;

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider further expanding and strengthening its sustainable cities initiatives in its 8<sup>th</sup> and future replenishments, and piloting land-and seascape level initiatives targeted at subnational and local governance and urban-rural linkages;

6. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting, to undertake a review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the regular review of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the long-term approach to mainstreaming.

#### *Annex I*

### **PLAN OF ACTION ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY (2021-2030)**

#### **A. Background**

1. The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (2021-2030) is intended to support Parties, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and their partners in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and achieving the 2030 targets and milestones and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. The elements contained in the updated Plan of Action have been identified through a series of consultations with Parties, subnational governments,

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/>

<sup>10</sup> Dependent upon the agreement of the long-term approach to mainstreaming at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

<sup>11</sup> Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in decision [V/6](#), is “Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.”

cities and other local authorities and their networks and stakeholders, including the “Edinburgh Process”, and culminating with the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments.<sup>12</sup>

## B. Objectives

2. The Plan of Action has the following objectives:

- (a) Increase the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, to support the successful implementation of, and reporting on, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its 2030 targets and milestones and the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) Improve regional and global coordination and exchange of lessons learned between Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional and global organizations, United Nations and development agencies, academia, and donors on ways and means to encourage and support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to manage biodiversity sustainably, provide ecosystem services to citizens and integrate biodiversity concerns into urban and territorial planning and development;
- (c) Identify, enhance and disseminate policy tools, guidelines, and programmes that facilitate subnational and local action on biodiversity and build the capacity of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support their national governments in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, with respect to each level of government’s competencies;
- (d) To facilitate the development of awareness-raising programmes on biodiversity in line with communication, education and public awareness strategies.

## C. Activities to engage subnational government, cities and other local authorities

3. The catalogue of activities, grouped into seven interrelated and complimentary action areas, presented below provides a framework based on which Parties, their subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and all stakeholders can develop their own actions to implement the Plan of Action. As such, any activity is offered as a complement to their post-2020 biodiversity strategies, action plans and targets. It is understood that activities will be implemented with respect to each level of government’s competencies and according to each Party’s national and subnational context and circumstances.

### 4. Action area 1: Development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans reflecting the involvement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities

- (a) Involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in defining appropriate strategies and actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (b) Encourage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to develop biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

### 5. Action area 2: Harmonization between levels of government, and mainstreaming

- (c) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to improve harmonization of strategic planning, coordination and implementation between levels of government;

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<sup>12</sup> This updated plan of action builds on the Plan of Action adopted in decision X/22.

(d) [Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support the implementation of the action plan for the Long-term Approach to Mainstreaming],<sup>13</sup>

(e) Engage the Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity<sup>14</sup> to provide input and support to the implementation of the Plan of Action from the point of view of local and subnational governments, cities and other local authorities.

#### **6. Action area 3: Resource mobilization**

(f) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support the application of principle 2 of the ecosystem approach in resource mobilisation, where appropriate;<sup>15</sup>

(g) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, to create enabling conditions for significantly increased private sector investment, and reforms that can introduce new revenue streams for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration at the subnational and local levels;

#### **7. Action area 4: Capacity development**

(h) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to implement capacity development initiatives contributing to the implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans;

#### **8. Action area 5: Communication, education and public awareness**

(i) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to develop inclusive and action-oriented communication, education and public awareness initiatives at subnational and local levels, reconnecting nature and people in and around our cities and regions;

#### **9. Action area 6: Assessment and improved information for decision-making**

(j) Support the use of the Singapore Index on Cities Biodiversity as a self-assessment tool for city and local governments to benchmark and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines;

(k) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in co-producing data and gaining better access to data and scientific evidence and expertise to improve decision-making, enabled by improved capturing, analysis and reporting of local and landscape-based biodiversity data;

#### **10. Action area 7: Monitoring and reporting**

(l) Encourage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to use online commitment and reporting platforms, such as RegionsWithNature and CitiesWithNature,<sup>16</sup> where subnational governments can report on, and track progress against, their commitments to contributing to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

<sup>13</sup> Dependent upon the agreement of the long-term approach to mainstreaming at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

<sup>14</sup> Referred to in paragraph 7 of the Plan of Action adopted in decision X/22, and paragraph 13 of this Plan of Action.

<sup>15</sup> Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in decision V/6, is “Management should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level.”

<sup>16</sup> Linked with the CBD Action Agenda.

- (m) Involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the regular monitoring and review of progress against NBSAP targets;
- (n) Include contributions made by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (o) Coordinate inputs from subnational governments, cities and other local authorities on their contributions to achieving the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the long-term approach to mainstreaming for the purposes of the mid-term review, as set out in the long-term approach to mainstreaming.

#### **D. Implementation of the Plan of Action**

11. Parties and other Governments are urged to implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention, and other key partners that convene subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4 Sustainable Development (Regions4), the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the European Union’s Committee of the Regions, among others, considering national priorities, capacities and needs.

12. Implementation of the Plan of Action will also be supported by the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Governments for Biodiversity, an informal cooperative platform composed of United Nations agencies and programmes, academic networks and institutions, and networks of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. The Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity<sup>17</sup> and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity,<sup>18</sup> will provide input and support to the Plan of Action from the points of view of cities and local authorities and subnational governments, respectively, in recognition of their critical, complementary and distinct role in the implementation of the Convention. Both Committees, recognized in the Plan of Action endorsed through decision X/22, are open and free platforms with the sole objective of coordinating the contribution and participation of these levels of government in CBD processes.

14. The Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its approach to implementation in order to accommodate changing national, subnational and local priorities, as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>17</sup> The current Terms of Reference for this Advisory Committee can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/global-partnership/advisory-committee-on-sub-national-governments>, however they are currently being revised by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability acting as its Secretariat.

<sup>18</sup> The current Terms of Reference for this Advisory Committee can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/global-partnership/advisory-committee-on-sub-national-governments>, however they are currently being revised by Regions4.