

Summary from Stakeholder Consultation for the CoR opinion on  
**"Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP15 and in the next EU strategy"**  
 by rapporteur Roby Biwer (LU/PES)

The Stakeholders Consultation on 30 January 2020 opened with a welcome speech by CoR rapporteur Roby Biwer (LU/PES), followed by a contribution on the local and a regional perspective of ICLEI and Regions4.

ICLEI presented the challenges that cities face in implementing biodiversity policy, such as varying **degrees of competencies**; lack of **policy coherence**; green infrastructure protection not yet **integrated into other policies**; **scarce investments**; lack of **administrative capacities**; **scarce awareness** on the value of nature; and **lack of MRV** (monitoring, reporting and verification) techniques. **LRAs are therefore indispensable**. Additional points presented were:

- **NBS (nature-based solutions) can deliver measurable results in addressing biodiversity loss;**
- The next EU biodiversity strategy **must include urban targets.**
- **LRAs must be a CBD party;**
- biodiversity must be a **priority in major EU funds;**
- **agendas must be convergent** at all levels;
- there must be **capacity development**; and
- **education programmes** should be developed, accompanied by a **co-creation approach**.

The table below shows how these insights could feed into the CoR opinion:

<i>ICLEI – Local Governments for sustainability: key insights</i>	
<b>Challenges of LRAs in implementation</b>	<b>Contribution to CoR opinion</b>
varying degrees of competencies	LRAs are indispensable
lack of policy coherence	NBS can deliver measurable results in addressing biodiversity loss
green infrastructure protection not yet integrated into other policies	include urban target in EU biodiversity strategy
scarce investments	make LRAs a CBD party
lack of administrative capacities	make biodiversity a priority in major European funds
scarce awareness on the value of nature	convergence of agendas at all levels
lack of MRV techniques	capacity development
Education/awareness	education programmes (general public and school age children) + co-creation approach

Regions4 presented, also on behalf of the AC SNG (Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the UN CBD), its key contributions to the CBD zero-draft that should be considered by CoR rapporteur. It includes the request to the **CBD to work together with all** institutions and organisations representing subnational governments, such as the CoR. This would result in applying **more specificity on the means of participation of LRAs** in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Additional points were the **materialisation of the contribution of LRAs** throughout the text of the zero-draft; and to consider the **role of LRAs in implementing NBS and mainstreaming biodiversity**.

<i>Regions4 (Global Network for Climate Change, Biodiversity and SDGs): key insights</i>	
request to the CBD to work together with ICLEI and other constituencies and organisations	applying more specificity on the means of participation of LRAs in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
the materialisation of the contribution of LRAs throughout the text of the zero-draft	consider the role of LRAs in implementing NBS and mainstreaming biodiversity.

The main points discussed with the audience were the following:

- financing efforts from the EU side are not sufficient – and biodiversity does not seem to be a priority, as it was pointed out that LIFE+ is the only project to provide funding for biodiversity action and that it only does so for projects of a significant size;
- urban areas are being largely neglected and more action is needed, while peripheral areas are also of great interest as they have a high potential to become 'bridges' between rural and urban areas;
- a key pathway to mainstream biodiversity action is to engage citizens through the integration of biodiversity into cultural and leisure activities, and more positive connotations should be attached to biodiversity action, mainly including health benefits;
- in order to integrate and mainstream biodiversity into all policy fields, we must talk about the links between biodiversity and other issues such as employment and food safety, amongst others; and finally,
- the right incentives should be in place for farmers, as they play a key role and the system is not currently built for them to transition easily to more sustainable practices.