



European Committee
of the Regions



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Link to the video recording: https://youtu.be/gvSnMjd_8Ks

Link to the presentations: <https://europa.eu/!nj47bm>

"Thematic webinar on Resource mobilisation"

Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

organised by the [European Committee of the Regions](#) with [Edinburgh Process partners](#)

Webinar's key outcomes for the Edinburgh Process

The key outcomes of the webinar that the Edinburgh Process should consider are:

- I. **Leveraging of resources:** subnational governments are on the front line in taking action on biodiversity. This requires investments by subnational governments, and national governments are often unaware of the scale of investment required. If CBD parties were able to assess such investments and include them in their reporting, then they would see more clearly that the vast majority of resources should be accessed and used by subnational governments;
- II. **Additional resources from additional players:** while some finance opportunities exist, such opportunities are not enough to meet the investment needs of subnational governments. Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, national governments should support subnational governments in the leveraging of finance from additional sources, such as the private sector;
- III. **Ecosystem-approach efficiencies:** the ecosystem approach is a wide and well-structured system that should be applied in resource implementation to create efficiencies across all levels of governance

The post-2020 framework must improve the readiness and capacity of local and subnational governments to access and harness financial resources in support of the implementation of the post-2020 framework.

The Edinburgh Process should include these key outcomes to make sure that by 2050, "biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people", as stated in the 2050 vision on biodiversity.

A detailed summary of the webinar is available in the next chapter of this document.

Detailed summary of the webinar

After an introduction to the Edinburgh Process, **Tracey Cumming** – Biodiversity Finance Initiative Technical advisor at the UNDP – presented the main work of the CBD panel of experts on resource mobilisation, of which she herself is a member. In particular, she presented the third report – available as of July 2020 – which outlines a strategic approach and recommendations for resource mobilisation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The key messages of the report are:

- Requirement for transformative, inclusive and equitable change across economies and society;
- Important roles for public sector, private sector, and finance sector;
- Approach built around three interconnected components:
 - reduce or redirect resources causing harm to biodiversity;
 - generate additional resources from all sources;
 - enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use;
- Mainstreaming is an important approach in all three components.



Roby Biwer, political coordinator of the [ENVE commission at the European Committee of the Regions \(CoR\)](#) presented the main results of [the study that the CoR published on biodiversity finance available for local and subnational governments at the European Union level](#). Based, inter alia, on case studies of the situation in Luxembourg, France, Italy and Poland, the study identifies seven main barriers and obstacles that local and subnational governments need to overcome to access and use resources for biodiversity action. These are:

- Budgetary constraints and limited funding earmarked for biodiversity;
- Insufficient knowledge of how to combine available financing;
- Lack of awareness of the multiple benefits of nature;
- Insufficient links between biodiversity and other related policies;
- Insufficient administrative capacity and expertise;
- Other political priorities;
- Barriers to development and upscaling of NBS (Nature-Based Solutions).



Teru Kisuna – Director of the Natural Environment Division in the Department of the Environment of **Aichi Prefecture in Japan** – presented the "ecosystem network councils" introduced in Aichi aimed at committing various stakeholders to increasing the resources allocated to conservation activities (households and businesses, skills, time and money). The prefecture has established nine ecosystem network councils, and now more than 60 private companies, 40 academic organisations and many individual citizens are involved in this initiative, which is supported mainly by Aichi's forest and greenery tax. This is a financial resource dedicated to the public benefits of forests and greenery, based on a prefectural order. The purpose of the forest tax is to increase the public benefits derived from forests and greenery, such as disaster reduction, biodiversity, urban amenity, water source, etc. In Japan, it is generally recognised that healthy forests provide a good habitat for flora and fauna. This is well understood by people. Through this process, the concept of "paying for ecosystem services" has taken root across Japan.



From Japan to **São Paulo (Brazil)** thanks to **Paul Dale**, technical advisor on biodiversity to the International Affairs Advisory in the Secretariat for Infrastructure and Environment in the State Government of São Paulo. He is also member of the national council of the Mata Atlântica Biosphere Reserve, MaB, in Brazil, under the UNESCO

programme. The goal in São Paulo regarding resource mobilisation involves not only financial resources but also industry, human capital, knowledge, unions, nature resources, etc. integrating with one another. To do so, the approach to resource mobilisation focuses on each of the systems: the internal, regional, national and global.

- The internal system (the local part of the overall system) includes actions such as working in sectoral councils and other groups focusing on sustainability. For example, ethanol production, which is one of the most important commodities in São Paulo (12.2% of the global market), has seen the signing of the "ethanol protocol". The results of this include the co-generation of electricity, a reduction of GHG emissions, the elimination of straw-burning, and the use of mills to reduce water consumption.
- At the regional and national level: the Protected Areas system has been created thanks to partnerships and integration via the link with the Brazilian Network of Biosphere Reserves
- In the global system, there is a mix of commercial partnerships among subnational governments focusing on sustainability, and more engagement of the economic sector, partnerships with global players and other subnational governments, including municipalities, to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Brazil, and finally the Global Brazilian Network (UNESCO MaB programme).

Karen Stothard – Head of Strategy of the EU Exit & Strategy Unit in the Department for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs of the **Welsh Government (UK)** – presented the integrated ecosystem-based approach designed to manage Wales' natural resources sustainably for current and future generations. The approach integrates legislation, policy and implementation. In particular:

- Legislation: the Welsh government has adopted three Acts enshrining seven well-being goals into law and requiring public bodies to apply sustainable development principles, to enable a modern statutory process to plan and manage our natural resources in a joined up and sustainable way, while the Planning Act ensures that the right development is located in the right place;
- Policy: the Natural Resources Policy sets out the national priorities for Wales, with the "biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty" that embeds biodiversity considerations across government and public bodies;
- Implementation: three main components:
 - "Area statements" – implementing the Natural Resources Policy locally – which identify opportunities for investment and collaborative action;
 - Funding mechanisms e.g. the Sustainable Management Scheme and the "enabling natural resources and well-being grant", to support biodiversity action as part of action to benefit the environment, and the well-being and health of communities;
 - Strategic budgeting securing funding, e.g. from the [Natura 2000 Capital Fund](#) of the European Union.

During the debate with the other webinar participants, the following experiences were shared:

- The "[£1 billion Challenge route map](#)", devised by the Scottish Conservation Finance Project which finances biodiversity towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The [Landscape Enterprise Networks \(LENs\)](#);
- An example of how to leverage public resources in partnership with other investments for local and subnational governments: *Fonds des Municipalités pour la biodiversité* in Quebec (Canada);
- In Cameroon, OAI-DEMOS supports municipalities in developing their local planning, and presenting their plans to the various technical and financial partners, while supporting them in the creation of their own resources.