



Working Group on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities 2011-2020 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD)

Work Programme 2011 – 2012

Objectives and Expected Outcomes of the Working Group

The nrg4SD Working Group on the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) is an initiative part of a comprehensive strategy put forward by nrg4SD's Secretariat aimed to establish several working groups within the Network in order to:

- Create dynamism and enhance the "network approach" for the activities and interests of member regions, within the framework of the topics identified for work programme 2008-2011;
- Work on specific and concrete areas, aiming to position the Network in international initiatives/events and identifying project proposals for interregional cooperation, which could fall under the calls for proposals of international funding sources, as appropriate;
- Enhance the strategic vision and long-term work of the Network.

The specific **objectives of the UN CBD WG** are:

1. To develop the **expertise and capacity** of subnational governments/regions on the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities 2011-2020 in their territories Plan of Action, in particular around the following topics:
 - The practical meaning and impact of the Plan on Action at subnational level, and
 - The possibilities for improving subnational biodiversity policies on the basis of the Plan of Action
2. To create a **platform for direct work between nrg4SD members**, on the one hand, **and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity UN CBD and the Global Partnership for**

Biodiversity, on the other hand, towards the development and implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities 2008-2011, in order to look among other issues into:

- The opportunities that the Plan of Action offers to subnational governments;
- The practical contribution of subnational governments to the objectives of the Plan of Action
- The creation of a representative, well-functioning and useful Advisory Committee of subnational governments under the Plan of Action – including both works ahead of its first formal meeting scheduled for early 2012 in Paraná, Brazil, and input to the Committee once it is established;
- The contribution and participation of nrg4SD and its members in UN CBD international dates, such as the Conference of the Parties COP 11 in late 2012.

3. To **encourage decentralised cooperation projects on biodiversity** matters among nrg4SD members and between them and other relevant international actors.

4. To **elaborate and profile nrg4SD position papers and analysis of case studies from members** which disseminate the action of subnational governments on biodiversity protection;

The **expected outcomes of the UN CBD WG** are:

- **Trained officers** within their respective subnational/regional governments **on a key biodiversity dossier of clear relevance and impact for the subnational level**;
- A **quick guide on the practical aspects of the Plan of Action** for subnational governments in collaboration with IUCN Europe and under the sponsorship of UN CBD – potential follow up with a compilation of case studies and a workshop;
- **Direct work with the Secretariat of the UN CBD, including:**
 - **Input to the works of the UN CBD Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments**
 - **Input to the works towards a multilevel strategy for implementation of the Plan of Action** at the next Conference of the Parties (COP11) in October 2012
- **Decentralised cooperation projects** between nrg4SD members and members of the Advisory Committees of both subnational governments and cities;
- **Suggestions for 2 specific pilot projects** for the Working Group, namely on:
 - the elaboration of **guidelines for the development of subnational/regional biodiversity strategic action plans, and**
 - the development of a **set of indicators on the Aichi Target for the subnational/regional level**, based on the experience of the City Biodiversity Index CBI (Singapore Index).

Structure of the Working Group

nrg4SD working groups are intended to share a common structure: each led by a coordinator, which is assisted by two supporting members (one of them if possible from the South). In addition, all members of the working group are encouraged to participate actively. Participants should be in a position to exchange their ongoing works on the matter or demonstrate significant interest in the issue. This is also in the interest of establishing working groups with a reasonable number of members in order to allow for actual exchange and collaboration. In this context, this WG does not seek to achieve the largest membership possible, but it aims to create a compact group of members working together and with the UN CBD.

- A **call for interest in the coordination and membership** of this Working Group is open. nrg4SD members having expressed a keen interest on this Working Group so far are **Canarias, Flanders, Nord Burkina, Rhône-Alpes, Paraná, São Paulo**.

Tools and Methods of the Working Group

- **External technical support and specialised collaborations** – Beyond the direct work with the UN CBD Secretariat, the nrg4SD Secretariat has developed specific collaborations with the EU Committee of the Regions and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature IUCN.
Other collaborations can be sought with the specialised Directorate Generals of the Commission of the European Union, as well as with other partners of the Global Partnership for Biodiversity and the Rio Pavilion for Ecosystems and Climate Change, such ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
All proposals for technical expertise and collaboration **are warmly welcomed**.
- **Analysis of case studies practices** (fiches, questionnaires, presentations).
- **Decentralised cooperation market place** – Which could be articulated on the basis of the existent UN CBD [LifeWeb](#) tool which encourages partnerships for financing protected areas.
- **Side events at key international dates** – UN CBD COPs, Rio Pavilion, EU Green Week etc.
- The nrg4SD Secretariat is committed to **explore IT solutions to facilitate the participation and involvement** in the WG (video and teleconference, webinars, podcasts, etc.).

2011 - 2012 Calendar

Dates around which the organisation of activities is suggested

- **2011 – International Year of Forests** – follow up by the nrg4SD Working Group on Forests, coordinated by Aquitaine (France).
- **22 May** - International Day for Biological Diversity
- **29-31 August 2011 during nrg4SD's General Assembly, Quebec (CA):** Launch of the Biodiversity working group, with the support of UN CBD, Paraná and as regards forest policy, from Aquitaine.
- **3 October 2011** - World Habitat Day
- **UNFCCC COP 17 Durban** – Rio Pavilion for Climate Change and Ecosystems
- **February 2012 - 1st meeting of the Advisory Committee of subnational government** – Paraná, Brazil
- **8-19 October 2012 Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India** - UN CBD COP 11

Evolving with WG members' needs and staying tuned in:

- Within reasonable and feasible limits, the coordinators of the Working Group and the nrg4SD Secretariat will strive to adapt this work programme to the evolving needs of its members and the ongoing international initiatives of relevance to nrg4SD's mandate.
- The suggested work programme is open to any suggestion from WG members. Their active participation is vital to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the objectives, outcomes, tools and methods of the Working Group.

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