

Thematic Session C: Cities and Biodiversity

High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities
under the East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting
2-4 March 2010, Jakarta, Indonesia

Session Chair:

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Overview of Session

- Sharing of experiences by 3 cities:
 - ◆ Waitakere City Council, New Zealand
 - ◆ Sibu Municipal Council, Sarawak, Malaysia
 - ◆ Puerto Princesa City Government, Palawan, Philippines
- Sharing of experience by West Java Province, Indonesia – Case study on the city of Bandung
- Introduction of the City Biodiversity Index – a self-assessment tool to evaluate the biodiversity conservation efforts of cities
- Nagoya's preparation for COP-10 of the CBD and the Cities Biodiversity Summit

Key Messages

- **Governance** — complexities of city planning and management vis-à-vis cities' challenges – climate change, increasing population density and related issues such as housing needs, traffic congestion, pollution, access to clean water and sanitation; if not addressed – environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity
 - ◆ Coordination and transparency
 - ◆ Political commitment
 - ◆ Garnering multi-stakeholder participation
 - ◆ Economic impact of policies and programmes
 - ◆ Local autonomy over environmental issues
- **Partnerships - 3P (Public, People and Private) Sectors**
 - ◆ Examples: Sibu/ Private & Public Sector; Puerto Princesa/ People; Waitakere/ People

Key Messages ... (2)

- Value of sharing experiences and best practices – learning from others - approaches, techniques, tools, methods

Examples

- ◆ Retrofitting stream habitats (Waitakere)/ Riverbank Rehabilitation (Puerto Princesa)
- ◆ Greenfield concept planning (Waitakere)
- ◆ Watershed based planning (Bandung)
- ◆ Vertical development (Bandung)
- ◆ Ecological network approach (Bandung)
- ◆ Smart Partnerships – private sector; national govt (Sibu)
- ◆ “Protect, Rehabilitate, Plan” Management Plan (Puerto Princesa)
- ◆ Puerto Princesa Watch – includes the Forest and Bay Watches

Key Messages ... (3)

Continuation of Examples

- ◆ Developing a biodiversity strategy/ plan (Waitakere, Bandung, Nagoya)
- ◆ “One Village, One Playground” (Bandung)
- ◆ Urban Agriculture (Bandung)
- ◆ Awareness (all cities – employing different approaches)
- ◆ Evaluation tool (self-assessment) for cities’ biodiversity conservation efforts – City Biodiversity Index
- Sharing our experiences with a wider network – City Biodiversity Summit, Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Framework, ICLEI-LAB, etc.
- Importance of engaging cities and local authorities in biodiversity conservation – increasing recognition at the global level (Decision IX/28 of the CBD). At COP-10, a draft decision to be considered on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity, which includes a draft Plan of Action