Thematic Session C: Cities and Biodiversity

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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