



SESSION DESCRIPTION

B5 Mayor Adaptation Forum

Integrating urban biodiversity into ecosystem based adaptation

Panel discussion

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014
Time: 16:30-18:00
Room: S29-31

Language: English
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Organized by: ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, ICLEI Africa Secretariat, ICLEI World Secretariat, and World Mayors Council on Climate Change

OBJECTIVE

This session will focus on understanding the links between urban biodiversity and climate change, especially in the context of ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) – how biodiversity can increase city resilience and contribute to climate change objectives. This session will explore opportunities and challenges of aligning biodiversity and climate change at the local and global level. The session will provide background information and examples on EBA measures implemented at the local level, as well as a platform for Mayors and other high-level delegates to engage in interactive peer-to-peer exchange, in collaboration with experts. At the same time, this session will be used to unpack some of the major challenges to implementing effective EBA measures by local governments, in a “brainstorming” discussion. In 2013, ICLEI BiodiverCities Advisory Committee called for a stronger synergy between urban biodiversity and climate change agenda. Utilizing EBA as one of the approaches to preparing for climate change is recognized as one of the 10 key principles of the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) for Local Governments. This session will therefore explore how local governments and Mayors can be better prepared, informed and assisted to implement such approaches.

OUTCOMES

Participants will gain a better understanding of:

- How biodiversity can contribute to climate change objectives;
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation initiatives currently being implemented at the local level; and
- What knowledge and support is needed to enhance synergies between urban biodiversity and EBA.



METHODOLOGY

PART 1: DEMYSTIFYING EBA: SETTING THE SCENE (35 min)

- The facilitator will open the session with a **short introduction** of the session and each of the expert speakers (**4 min**).
- The 2 introductory panelists will each provide a short background presentation (**2 x 7 min each**).
- The 2 presenters will each provide some tangible examples from the Global South and North (**2 x 7 min each**).

PART 2: LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSIGHTS AND EXAMPLES (15 min)

- The facilitator will introduce the decision-makers panel for inputs and brief local EBA examples (**2 x 7 minutes each**).

PART 3: FACILITATED DISCUSSION and PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE (40 min)

- Facilitated discussion between Mayors, panellists, presenters and the audience:

Guiding questions:

1. What are the benefits of implementing ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) at the local level?
2. How can local governments participate in the global processes for both the biodiversity and climate change agenda, and support this alignment?
3. How can urban biodiversity help the implementation of EBA at the local level? What types of technical, institutional and financial supports should be developed to enhance synergies between urban biodiversity and EBA?

CONTRIBUTORS I

Facilitator *Shela Patrickson, Manager, ICLEI Global Biodiversity Center, ICLEI Africa Secretariat, Cape Town South Africa*

Panelist *Helen Santiago Fink, Buildings and Cities Acting Head, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Paris, France*

Global view on local level and urban EBA

This will be a brief explanation and introduction to EBA and the importance in the global context as one of a suite of approaches to responding to climate change. It will touch on some of the numerous multiple co-benefits both globally and locally with examples to highlight the theory in practice.

Panelist *Neil Pratt, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, Deputy Director, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Montréal, Canada (tbc)*

At the national and global level, the CBD has supported significant progress for vertical alignment between government levels, for example through Decisions IX/28, X/22 and XI/8. A few of the relevant projects that CBD has been engaged in will be described, with a focus on the linkages with ecosystem-based adaptation



Presenter *Kara Reeve, Climate Smart Communities Campaign, National Wildlife Federation, Washington D.C, USA*

Experiences and examples from the USA, Climate Smart Communities Campaign

This presentation will provide some specific examples of urban and local government EBA approaches in the USA.

Presenter *Maricarmen Esquivel, Climate Change Senior Associate, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Washington D.C., USA*

Urban EBA experiences in Latin America

This presentation will provide some specific examples of urban and local government EBA approaches in Latin America, with a specific link to urban poverty and informality.

CONTRIBUTORS II

City Official *Sean O'Donoghue, Manager Climate Protection Branch, eThekweni Municipality/Durban, South Africa*

Experiences of EBA in eThekweni

This will be a brief highlight of a few projects that the city of eThekweni (Durban) has in implementing EBA approaches. In particular a reflection on what aspects have been most useful from the perspective of the administration in providing evidence and motivation for the role of ecosystems both in responding to climate change and in creating jobs and other co-benefits to the city.

City Official *Lykke Leonardsen, Head of Climate Section, City of Copenhagen, Denmark*

Experiences of EBA in Copenhagen

The City of Copenhagen is recognized as being a leader in responding to climate change, and will describe some of the approaches that utilize biodiversity as a mechanism to do this.

Further recommended reading

www.cbc.iclei.org

www.iclei.org/africa

www.iclei.org

www.worldmayorscouncil.org
