CBD SBSTTA21 Side Event: # 2330

# "Importance of Subnational Governments for mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry and health"

**Date/Time:**
13:15-14:45 14th Thu. December 2017
**Venue:**
Asia and the Pacific Meeting Room (518B)
5th floor of Palais des Congrès de Montréal

Organized by :
GoLS (Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets)
〔Aichi (Japan), ANAAE (Mexico), Campeche (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Gangwon (Korea), Ontario (Canada), Québec (Canada), and Sao Paulo (Brazil)〕
nrg4SD, ICLEI, SCBD

# Synopsis

Mainstreaming of biodiversity is strongly focused on Strategic Goal A of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 1-4.

COP13 in Cancùn (Mexico) produced wide and fulfilling discussions on biodiversity mainstreaming into the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fishery and tourism. Subsequently, COP14 is due to have discussions on biodiversity mainstreaming into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry, and health.

In order to instill the value and actions of biodiversity into a variety of stakeholders, the role of subnational governments, closer to regional societies and deeply interested in regional ecosystems, is very important.

This event showcases the efforts for mainstreaming biodiversity by the members of the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (hereafter, referred to GoLS) and also their efforts to enlarge such policies. It also represents a good opportunity to discuss the role of SNGs with some of the Parties and supporting organizations, such as nrg4SD, ICLEI and SCBD, and to clarify the importance of vertical alignment between parties and SNGs.

GoLS was established before COP13 and presented a statement in the 5th Biodiversity Summit, calling on subnational governments in the world to promote their efforts and calling on the Parties to better support subnational governments on biodiversity. The present members of GoLS are Aichi (Japan), ANAAE (Mexico), Campeche (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Gangwon-do (Korea), Ontario (Canada), Québec (Canada) and Sao Paulo (Brazil).

# Cast

**Subnational Governments**

*Aichi Prefecture, Japan*

Ms. Ayako Suganuma, Director General, Department of the Environment

*ANAAE/Campeche, Mexico* (participating through Skype)

Mr. Joaquin Antoio Lopes Sosa

*Catalonia, Spain* (participating through Skype)

Ms. Marta Subira, Secretary for Environment and Sustainability TBC

*Gangwon, Korea* (participating through Skype)

Ms. Young-hee Ham, Environment Division

*Ontario, Canada*

Ms. Darlene Dove, Coordinator, Species Conservation Policy Branch, OMNRF

*Québec, Canada*

M. Jean-Pierre Laniel, Director of Biodiversity Expertise, MDDELCC

Ms. Sabrina Courant, Biodiversity project manager, MDDELCC

Sao Paulo, Brazil (participating through Skype)

Mr. Mauricio Brusadin, Secretary, Secretariat of the Environment

**Supporting Organizations**

*Network of Regional Governements for Sustainable development (nrg4SD)*

Ms. Renata Gomez, Project Manager

*Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) CBC*

Ms. Ingrid Coetzee, Senior Program Manager (Moderator)

**Parties**

*Japan*

Ms. Yuri Hayashi, Section Chief, Biodiversity Strategy Office, Ministry of Environment

*Canada*

TBD

*Mexico*

Mr. Victor Alvarado, Advisor, CONABIO

**SCBD**

TBD

# A. Initiatives by subnational governments for “Mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry and health”

## A-1. Energy and Mining

### AICHI

Aichi is well-known as one of the biggest pottery production area. Therefore, there are a lot of mining sites for clay or silt. There are also mining sites for gravel or clod for construction. Aichi has an original prefectural code to oblige land developers, planning developments larger than 1 hectare, to submit their plans to prefectural office 60 days before they start constructions. Concerning mining sites, the developers must restore forest on the surface of the sites after they finish to mine the purpose material.

### CATALONIA

Catalonia has a legal framework on mining that is now outdated but was once (in 1981) innovative in requesting habitat restoration of mining sites. Mining companies have to pay a guarantee in advance to ensure restoration is feasible. Now the law is on its way to be updated and adapted to international requirements (included in the Catalan BSAP draft).

### GANGWON

(Before development) Gangwon has an Ordinance on Environment Impact Assessment that developers must submit their plans to Provincial Government one year prior to the constructions about the nine major developments over certain scale that are devastating to the environment (especially mining) with preparing means to minimize the environmental damage caused by the development. If the means are not established properly, developers cannot drive their projects.

(After development) Developers must constantly look into the natural environment for up to five years, predicting environmental impact, and submitting the report annually. Mining sites must be restored as originally as possible after development.

## ONTARIO

ENERGY: With 99 per cent of the power it produces free of smog and carbon emissions, **Ontario Power Generation** (OPG) is Ontario's largest producer of clean electricity. In addition to its clean power, OPG's biodiversity program demonstrates leadership and innovation at both its sites and its support of programs and partnerships across Ontario. OPG is committed to operating in a manner that strives to maintain or enhance significant natural areas and associated species of concern. OPG's Regional Biodiversity Program is strategically focused on funding and promoting efforts that contribute to the protection and restoration of habitat cores and corridors across Ontario. Since 2000, OPG and its conservation partners have planted more than 6.5 million native trees and shrubs. OPG is a member of the Ontario Biodiversity Council and supports *Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy*.

The biodiversity program at **Hydro One** aligns environmental priorities with business activities and regulatory / legal requirements. Adding value through internal and external partnerships drives continual improvement of their work in an effort to support Ontario's naturally rich biodiversity and customers who are a part of it. The scope of the program is quite broad and includes (but is not limited to): planting of pollinator friendly seed on Right of Ways, Avian Protection (e.g. Osprey nesting boxes, Bird diverters on transmission lines), Invasive plant species management, and collaborating with external partners on biodiversity initiatives that are important to local communities. In addition, biodiversity is formally addressed in the site selection studies and as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment approvals process.

MINING: Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy, released in 2015, highlighted a Sudbury-based company, BESTECH, which has developed technology that can reduce an underground mine's energy costs by 30 to 50 percent. BESTECH is one of a number of companies working to prototype, develop, and commercialize technologies that can address the mining sector's energy consumption and environmental footprint.

Proposals submitted to the **Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines** for exploration activities requiring permits are posted for 30 days on the

Environmental Registry, and potentially impacted surface right owners are sent direct notifications. Site-specific terms and conditions that reflect input received – including with regard to biodiversity – may be added to plans and permits to avoid or mitigate potential impacts as appropriate.

Habitats for endangered species are protected by using measures on mine openings to surface that protect habitat (i.e., bat hibernacula).

Under Part VII of the Ontario Mining Act a mining company must prepare a Closure Plan before starting (or re-starting) advanced exploration. Section 11 of a Closure Plan is required to address the expected site conditions after closure including ensuring that they will sustain plant and animal life similar to those at the start of the project:

- Physical stability of a site is the primary focus, followed by return of natural vegetation but some types or densities of vegetation can be problematic, as roots can penetrate protective caps over tailings ponds.
- MNDM recommends that proponents make use of native species when reclaiming a mine site/rehabilitated site.

MNDM's Mineral Development Strategy outlines the vision for Ontario to be the global leader in sustainable mineral development. This strategy guides government policy activities across multiple areas, including initiatives focused on the use of innovative technologies, promoting energy efficiency and ways to protect the environment and combat climate change.

The **Cornerstone Standards Council** was created to improve the conservation of the environment and community health and well-being in Canada by developing and implementing certification standards for aggregate extraction (stone, sand and gravel) and use by the aggregate and construction industries. The Council is a collaboration of community, environmental and industry stakeholders committed to developing a world-class certification program that breaks new ground and establishes a leadership standard for the responsible siting and operation of all pits and quarries in Ontario. The Council's voluntary, third-party certification system provides independent auditing and monitoring of aggregate sites with the outcome being that developers, municipalities and

construction companies are able to buy stone, sand and gravel that has been independently verified as socially and environmentally responsible. The Council formally addresses biodiversity in their certification system. Certified sites must adopt the formal "mitigation hierarchy" in the selection of sites with a ‘protect first’ approach for High Conservation Value lands, followed by reduce impacts, mitigate, restore and offset residual impacts to biodiversity.
Biodiversity is also integrated into on-going operations and site reclamation.

## QUÉBEC

**Mining:** Québec has a great potential for mining extraction, especially in the northern part of its territory. The commodities extracted include gold, iron, niobium, copper, titanium, salt, chrysotile, graphite, dimension stone and construction materials. There are approximately 200 active mines, quarries and sandpits throughout the territory. Of that number, about twenty are metal mines, including several world-class producers: the Raglan (nickel) and La Ronde (gold, zinc, copper and silver) mines. Under Québec’s Mining Act (Loi sur les mines), a person who carries out mining exploration or extraction must submit a plan to restore the lands affected by his activities. To facilitate the preparation of restoration plans, the government has produced a guide which specifies the requirements to be respected for the rehabilitation and the restoration of the affected lands, the information that must be part of the restoration plan submitted to the government, as well as the different steps for its approval. The guide was updated in 2016 and is now adapted to the recent legislative and regulatory changes in the Mining Act. It also reflects the last technical and scientific developments in post-extraction ecosystem restoration.

**Renewable energy:** Québec has extensive freshwater resources, some of which has been harnessed to generate electricity. Hydroelectric development is based on the principles of sustainable development, and takes environmental, social and economic concerns into account. Hydroelectric projects are subject to Québec environmental impact assessment procedures. The public hearings held as part of the assessment procedure provide an opportunity for the project to be presented to the general public, along with its environmental, social and economic impacts and the planned mitigation and environmental monitoring measures. At the same time, citizens can express their concerns and give their opinion about the project. Hydroelectric projects are subject to various

environmental requirements, ensuring that the best possible design is used and that the mitigation and environmental monitoring measures are adapted to the host environment. For example, the requirements include maintaining reserved flows downstream from dams, maintaining an operating water level in reservoirs that takes various uses into account, developing fish spawning grounds and the wetlands used by wildfowl, constructing boat launching ramps. For each new project, agreements are signed with the local authorities (regional county municipality or local municipality) and Native communities affected. Where necessary, the agreements provide for the creation of funds for regional development and the promotion of traditional activities, as well as corrective work. Hydroelectric projects generate major regional benefits and support the development of expertise in Québec that can then be applied worldwide. For example, Hydro-Québec supports the establishment of regional economic benefit committees, which work to ensure that contracts, hiring, and the supply of goods and services are kept within the region.

### SAO PAULO

With national rules avoiding conflicts among different investors, Sao Paulo has a code and a participative system to plan and control environmental impacts – from all plants on energy and mining. The investor must access the system before start improvements. All sites must be recovered by natural vegetation.

## A-2. Infrastructure

### AICHI

Rivers can give rich habitat for many creatures such as fresh water fish, insect, birds, some kinds of plants. They also frame the trunk network of regional eco-system. Small rivers, including many subsidiary streams of biggest rivers, in Japan are mainly controlled by prefectural governments. About two thirds of the total length of rivers in Aichi, approximately 3,000km, are maintained by Aichi prefecture. In 1997, the national river act has been changed. The new act put much weight on the environmental aspect of rivers. Since then, Aichi has been developing Nature Friendly Maintenance Plans for 31 rivers of 59 rivers it controls. These plans include conserve of natural cover in rivers, forestry along streams,

decreasing of gaps in stream and even nature friendly grass control.

## CATALONIA

Large scale zoning at regional scale was used to establish the first protected areas in Catalonia back in the 1990's. The protected area system now covers more than 32% of the land. Alongside with environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, both tools have been of great use to stop habitat loss and fragmentation, but not sufficient to effectively mainstream biodiversity into infrastructure planning. This is why Green Infrastructure, understood as all the different pieces of land that guarantee the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, is so important. Because it brings infrastructure planning and conservation planning at the same level for decision makers. We understand that consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into land planning will effectively be achieved by means of identifying the components of the green infrastructure, as stated by the Catalan BSAP draft. Up to now land planning in Catalonia covers the whole country and defines 64% of its area as 'land of special protection', as a first step towards establishing a complete green infrastructure. Meanwhile habitat restoration projects are being undertaken to recover ecological connectivity and ecosystem services; all of these projects refer to linear, urban or coastal infrastructures.

## GANGWON

Approval authorities (local governments or provincial government) can request mitigation plans for minimizing environmental impacts caused by development when developers submit their plans 6months to 1 year prior to the constructions on small and medium scale development except large-scale development controlled by central government.

Approval authorities manages and supervises the progress of plans for minimizing negative effects during construction.

## ONTARIO

Supporting Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy actions to reduce threats, the **Ontario Road Ecology Group** (OREG) is a not-for-profit conservation organization that formed in 2009 to ensure wildlife thrives in the face of an ever-growing road network. New roads eliminate habitat for wildlife, create barriers for safe movement and result in the death of many animals from wildlife/vehicle collisions.

OREG achieves its goals by working closely with a diverse membership that includes government and non-government transportation planners, developers, scientists, educators and organizations dedicated to resolving road ecology issues through data collection, policy and public engagement.

**Green Infrastructure Ontario** (GIO) is an alliance of organizations that share a common vision for a healthy, green Ontario where the economic, social, environmental and health benefits of green infrastructure are fully realized. GIO is a member of the Ontario Biodiversity Council and works to promote awareness and understanding of green infrastructure, and to support policy and activities that increase implementation of green infrastructure across Ontario. GIO's current policy area focus include green infrastructure investment, strategic investment in infrastructure for climate change mitigation and adaptation, urban forests and using an asset management approach for managing ecological systems.

The **Ontario Ministry of Transportation** (MTO) strives to be a world leader in moving people and goods safely, efficiently and sustainably to support a globally competitive economy and a high quality of life. The MTO recognizes the potential threats of the transportation network to ecosystems. The ministry supports conservation by seeking opportunities to mitigate environmental impacts in the highway right-of-way (ROW) during highway planning, design, construction, and maintenance operations.

Examples of recent major projects where the ministry has incorporated extensive biodiversity conservation include major provincial highway construction projects that collectively include conservation for reptiles, birds, aquatic species, and mammals, protection of habitats, the preservation of native plant species and the rehabilitation of degraded aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Ontario's expansion of Highway 69 from Parry Sound to Sudbury includes several measures for reducing wildlife collisions. In particular, the ministry installed approximately 30 kilometers of large mammal fencing with 15 more kilometers of fencing currently underway, to divert animals such as deer, moose, bears and wolves from crossing Highway 69. In the Burwash area, the fencing directs animals toward a wildlife overpass, a unique bridge located 1km north of Highway

637. The wildlife overpass, built in 2012, is the only one of its kind in Ontario; it traverses Highway 69 and is monitored by motion sensor cameras, which show its extensive use by wildlife, including bobcats and deer. Five large wildlife underpasses on Highway 69 are completed, improving driver safety and promoting habitat connectivity for large wildlife and small animals. The remaining sections of the Highway 69 expansion project incorporate plans for an additional ten large wildlife underpasses and 68 kilometers of large mammal fencing.

There were several conservation opportunities for the preservation and restoration of tallgrass prairie throughout the planning and construction of the Right Honourable Herb Gray Parkway project. During the project, the ministry established a successful partnership with a Walpole Island First Nation-based ecological restoration business, and the Essex Region Conservation Authority, to protect rare native plants. Plants, grown from seeds collected in the future highway footprint, were grown in a greenhouse and transplanted to three Conservation Authority restoration areas. Partner Danshab Enterprises undertook a significant portion of the species at risk plant relocation and the ecological restoration efforts on the Parkway. A population in excess of 700,000 species at risk plants are currently being monitored. At year seven of a ten year monitoring program, the relocation efforts are a resounding success.

In the Parkway's design phase, MTO reduced construction impacts to the Ojibway Prairie Complex, a 350-hectare area of parks and nature reserves on the west side of Windsor, representing a collection of five closely situated natural areas. Overall, the Parkway project preserved and restored an estimated 100 hectares of tallgrass prairie, a globally rare ecosystem.

As MTO moves forward with the planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of future projects, it will continue to seek opportunities to re-establish habitats, enhance and protect the environment and native species and explore opportunities to collaborate with provincial partners to advance the Ontario government's biodiversity vision, goals and objectives.

## QUÉBEC

Infrastructure projects are subject to Québec environmental impact assessment procedures. With the modernization of the Environment Quality Act and the

adoption of Act respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water in 2017, the use of mitigation hierarchy, the possibility of requiring financial offsets and the objective of no-net loss of wetlands have been reinforced. Land-use spatial planning that integrate sustainable use and conservation of wetlands for **urban infrastructure** developments is a major development that will be implemented in the next two years, as requested by the Wetlands Conservation Act. The expertise of the Transports Ministry (MTMDET) is important in reducing the impacts of **linear infrastructure** developments in the province of Québec and takes in account different concerns when building new linear infrastructure: water quality of lakes and rivers, protection of small and large wildlife, preservation of fish habitats, soil stabilization and general enhancement of landscapes. Examples of great work is available.

## SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo has a code & a participative system to plan and control environmental impacts related to the infrastructure sector – according to its size and amount / type of impact. The public or private investor must access the system before start improvements.

## ICLEI

Nature provides us with wide ranging benefits and essentially services, including green and blue infrastructure. Current development patterns are straining natural systems across the world, often to such an extent that nature cannot fully recover, further weakening the very ecosystems upon which our welfare and livelihoods depend. To overcome challenges faced at subnational government level, coordinated action from all levels of government and innovative methods to mainstream biodiversity across land use and sector planning systems is needed. To address these challenges, and support subnational governments in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ICLEI has designed a cutting edge project – INTERACT BIO – Integrated action for biodiversity, which is designed to improve the utilization and management of nature, ecosystem services and green and blue infrastructure. The project will enable governments at all levels – subnational and national – to integrate their efforts for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into core subnational government functions such as spatial planning, land-use management, local economic development and infrastructure design. INTERACT-Bio is being implemented in Brazil, India and Tanzania.

The project also focuses on strengthening cooperation between the different levels of government, and supports several Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the Sustainable Development Goals such as SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation).

## A-3. Manufacturing and Processing Industry

### AICHI

Aichi, the center of manufacturing industry such as automobile or aerospace industry, had invited many large plants on both coastal filled-up land and inland. The industrial output of Aichi has been the first in Japan during 39 years in row, with value of approximately 400 billion US dollars in the latest year.

World Exposition in Aichi in 2005, was held under the theme of “Nature’s Wisdom”, which was the first EXPO highlighting the value of nature. The plan of EXPO Aichi, the theme, venue, layout and methodology, was produced by the process of conversation between the governments and citizens. The plan was understood widely, and gave our society much more aware of the value of the environment.

Toward the EXPO, companies which have their HQ in Aichi established a group “Environmental Partnership Organizing Club”, EPOC, and organized “Backyard Tour” of their pavilions which presented their contributions to the environment during EXPO. This experience gave the business sector the motivation to carry on their initiatives after the EXPO. Now EPOC consists 281 companies. They have kept collaborating to improve their acitions through close exchange of information.

Biodiversity COP10 was invited to Aichi to enhance the change EXPO had given even futher. Aichi paid great effort to increase awareness of Biodiversity through many methods. We planted symbolic trees in every municipality across the territory, invited variety stakeholders to present their effort on biodiversity in several public events before and during the COP. They have caused high awareness on biodiversity among the citizens and companies.

A good example of the initiatives of business sectors is “Toyota Envrionment Challenge 2050”, presented in 2015. It advocates six goals toward sustainable societies, such as to eliminate CO2 emission from its products and factories, to

contribute to biodiversity conservation and to reduce the consumption of resources. Now members of Toyota group are fostering forests in their factories across the world.

After COP10, which produced “Aichi Targets”, Aichi adopted new BSAP “Aichi Biodiversity Strategy 2020” in 2013. It aims to take advantage of such circumstances of the region, prosperous manufacturing industry, but aware of the value of biodiversity. Based on this BSAP, Aichi has called enterprises to join “Regional ecosystem network councils”, established by academic bodies, NPOs, businesses and administrative bodies and so on, led by the prefecture. The councils have made plans to enhance ecological networks in each region, and conserve or create habitats. Now 57 companies are the members of the regional councils. Some of them have provided spaces for “biotopes” or have started collaborating to conserve natural habitats.

## CATALONIA

Catalonia pioneered a transboundary approach on global biodiversity conservation with its report on environmental global governance focused on ‘External Responsibility on Biodiversity Loss’. It was presented in the CBD-COP12 (Korea). The report refers to the pressure exerted on biodiversity components and processes beyond national borders needed to keep the socio-economical model of Catalonia, highly dependent on transnational mechanisms, and the import of manufactured and processed goods.

The Catalan BSAP draft includes a guideline to adopt certification schemes for those businesses that include biodiversity and ecosystem services assessments in their accounting systems, similarly to what has been set with businesses that opt to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

## GANGWON

Gangwon Province, which consists of the mountainous areas covering about 82% of the total area, is not established large-scale industrial complexes.

About the factories that emit a large number of environmental pollutants, Gangwon Province recommend promoting restoration of habitats for wildlife and endangered species by voluntary participation.

Restoration project of Apollo Butterfly (Parnassius bremeri), an endangered species carried out by cooperation of Gangwon Province, a media and a company is known as a best practice promoted by voluntary participation of

company.

## QUÉBEC

The manufacturing and processing industry is well developed in Québec. There are numerous examples of industrial sectors where good practices for reducing their impacts on biodiversity have been developed. These are typically corporate policies. However, the government of Québec has produced different guides and tools to help with the sustainable management of residual materials and water, for example. Moreover, manufacturing and processing developments (involving new infrastructure or methods for example) are subject to Québec environmental impact assessment procedures when needed.

## SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo State concentrates more than one third of processing industries from Brazil, with some plants located at its metropolitan regions, like Sao Paulo Metropolitan Region, Campinas, Santos (coastal) and Ribeirao Preto.

Sao Paulo has a code & a participative system to plan and control environmental impacts related to the manufacturing and processing industry sector – according to its size and amount / type of impact. The investor must access the system before start improvements.

Sao Paulo State had established sectorial councils related to develop environmental issues: some of them are being updated. A special State Biodiversity Commission is being updated.

# A-4. Health

## CATALONIA

Initiatives in the sector are still scarce, though some research has been done on the effect of old forests on health, through the collaboration between environmental NGOs and hospitals. The public administration is not directly engaged with these projects though the Catalan BSAP draft considers the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity into the health sector.

## ONTARIO

There is an action in *Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011* to develop a strong network of partners engaged in acquiring a deeper understanding of the linkages between biodiversity and human health and well-being. This action was realized through the creation of the **EcoHealth Ontario** which brings together professionals in the fields of public health, medicine, education, planning and the environment. EcoHealth Ontario is a working group of the Ontario Biodiversity Council and its outputs have included conferences and workshops as well as several research reports including: Conserving Biodiversity: A Public Health Imperative; Greenspace and Ecohealth Toolkit: Improving Health and Wellbeing Through Greenspace Provision, Design, and Access, and; Green City: Why Nature Matters to Health - An Evidence Review.

**The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care** (MOHLTC) in collaboration with Health Canada developed the Environmental Health Climate Change Toolkit which includes the technical document, workbook and health modelling study. The document will assist Public Health Units with analyzing the impacts of climate change on human health and improve evidence and understanding between climate and health outcomes, provide information on severity and pattern of current and future health risks, provide a baseline analysis for future change. The toolkit also assists public health units in identifying the effects of climate change on biodiversity and how this links to human health. For example, risk of disease (e.g. Lyme disease, West Nile virus), and aggravation of allergy symptoms and respiratory conditions.

MOHLTC has also developed the Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System for Ontario (HWIS): Standard Operating Practice (SOP) to reduce heat health vulnerability. This SOP was developed in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, Health Canada, Public Health Ontario and public health units across Ontario as part of the Ontario Heat Harmonization Project.

## QUÉBEC

The National Institute on Public Health of Québec (INSPQ) has developed a program called "My climate, my health", to promote actions leading to air quality improvement, temperature regulation, green infrastructure promotion, habitat connectivity reflexing in planning and zoning considering, etc. However, the implementation of these actions are mostly at the municipal level.

## SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo State hosts the largest health center in Brazil, with some components located at different regions.

Sao Paulo has a code & a participative system to plan and control environmental impacts related to the health sector – according to its size and amount / type of impact. The private and the public investor must access the system before start improvements.

# B. Intermediating initiatives among subnational governments on biodiversity and its mainstreaming

## B-1. Yucatan Peninsula Framework Agreement on Sustainability for 2030 (ASPY 2030)

The Yucatan Peninsula Framework Agreement on Sustainability for 2030 positions the Yucatan Peninsula as a leading nationally and internationally in low-emission sustainable landscape development.

ASPY 2030 provides the opportunity to implement climate change strategies and the private, financial, and agricultural sectors.

**ASPY 2030 promote:**

-Alignment of efforts of different sectors and actors to achieve low emissions growth and the successful implementation of existing sustainability strategies (REDD+, biodiversity, restoration, and coastal resilience, among others).

-inter-institutional coordination at the state level, among the states, and with the national government, private sector, academia, financial institutions, civil society and international bodies.

**The 2030 goals of ASPY are:**

1. Achieve net-zero deforestation by 2030.

2. Restore 2 million hectares of degraded land, including:
   -Sustainable intensification of cattle ranching on 250,000 hectares
   -Sustainable intensification of agriculture on 250,000 hectares
   -Reforestation and forest restoration

3. Achieve 50% of terrestrial and coastal territory of the Yucatan Peninsula under conservation and/or forest management schemes

4. Promote Mayan biocultural landscapes on 5,484,000 hectares

5. Attract resources from private and/or international sources that represent the equivalent of public resources currently earmarked for activities that promote the green economy.

6. Restore 20% of the reef crests (54kms) and 30% of the beach-dune systems altered by human settlements (80kms) that protect human communities, beaches, and infrastructure

**ASPY 2030 consists of two inter-linked agreements:**

**1. Collaboration Agreement between the 3 states of the Yucatan Peninsula**

The agreement between three governments aims “to set common goals and coordinate strategies to achieve the sustainability of the Yucatan Peninsula, recognizing the value of biodiversity and the need for sustainable rural development to that communities and ecosystem can thrive. To this effect, the Agreement is based on compliance with the strategies and plans elaborated at the state and regional level during the period 2010-2016, recognizing the established governance structures and the importance of the participation of the social, academic, productive and business sectors in the design of such plans.

**2. Private Sector Declaration**

The Declaration of the private and Financial Sector for the Sustainability of the Yucatan Peninsula is a voluntary statement that emanates from the desire of companies to move towards a responsible operation with the environment

and communities in support of the Yucatan Peninsula Framework Agreement on Sustainability signed by the three State Governments of the Yucatan Peninsula (ASPY). In it, the companies declare “We support and seek to contribute, within our areas of action, to fulfill the goals that the three states of the Yucatan Peninsula have proposed Yucatan Peninsula Framework Agreement on Peninsula (ASPY)” and defines concrete lines of action.

## B-2. Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP) led by nrg4SD

The Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP) is a flagship initiative of nrg4SD and is officially endorsed by the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (CBD). R4BLP began as a pilot project to test the practical application of a learning platform for addressing the significant gap in support and resources available to subnational governments motivated to develop initiatives to conserve biodiversity. Through the pilot project, the feasibility was confirmed and R4BLP graduated to a full-time project at the Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments at COP13. R4BLP is now a global community of 10 proactive regional governments working together to conserve and protect biodiversity, encourage healthy ecosystems, and promote sustainable livelihoods for their citizens. More specifically, the regional governments are working toward subnational implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (SP) and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) by designing and implementing policies and best practices intended to drive progress, promote innovation, and contribute to advancing the global biodiversity agenda.

The R4BLP provides a collaborative environment for cross-jurisdictional exchange, mutual learning, technical capacity building, and it cultivates partnerships among regions from both the north and south. The participating regions share their unique perspective, identify common obstacles, recognize and adopt best practices, are innovative and develop creative solutions, and generally serve as a support system to assist each other in streamlining the phases of design, development and implementation of biodiversity initiatives.

To ensure a comprehensive approach to policy development, the R4BLP also

considers biodiversity in the context of other relevant agendas. For example, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the Sustainable Development Goals 14 – Life Below Water and 15 – Life On Land, respectively, the Paris Climate Agreement, and generally operating in a balanced manner as encouraged by the CBD's Ecosystem Approach – a strategy adopted by the parties for the integrated management of land, water, and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

## C. Collaboration with the National Government

### AICHI

Aichi Prefecture adopted new Subnational BSAP in 2015, after the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) and National BSAP, and has developed vast measures for biodiversity, called "Aichi Method".

When Aichi was studying the new SNBSAP, an adviser came to the studying council to make the new SNBSAP according to NBSAP.

Aichi has periodically called the national government to enhance its policy on biodiversity along Aichi Targets.

Ministry of Environment of Japan compiled a "Guidebook" on Subnational and Local BSAP. It carries Aichi's attempt as one of good practices by subnational governments.

When Ministry of Environment of Japan established "Network of Local Governments on Biodiversity", Aichi committed it with full force, and become the first representative of it.

The 5th national report on biodiversity of Japan carries Aichi's attempt as one of advanced initiative by subnational governments.

### ANAAE

Mexico is one of the main mega-diverse countries in the world. With about 200 thousand different species, it's home of 10 to 12 % of the world's biodiversity. It's in 4th place in world's flora, with 26,000 different species, and the 2nd country in the world in ecosystems and 4th place by the total species. 2,500 species are protected by the Mexican Laws.

The National Association of State's Environment Authorities (ANAAE) work towards creating strategic alliances, cooperation and exchange of experiences between Government and Civil Society that promotes the exercise of environment governance, as the seminal point from which we can create public policies that contribute to halt the degradation and loss of biodiversity, to ensure and protect ecosystems, the responsible use of our natural wealth and the fair distribution of environmental services, complying with the Aichi goals.

The environmental authorities in the country recognize the importance the biodiversity provides to the national development; so we fight for fair reorientation of resources to this area. In addition to strengthening the institutional capacities and mainstreaming the value of biodiversity in the government agenda, as a top priority.

As the result of vast natural wealth of Mexico, the ANAAE divided their task and efforts in 5 regions, Northwest, Northeast, West, Center and Southeast.

## CAMPECHE

Campeche State adopted and published its SNBSAP in 2016, after the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) and NBSAP of México. One year before COP 13 in Cancun, Mexico adopted new NBSAP updating strategic lines and mainstreaming biodiversity in 4 sectors: agricultural, tourism, fisheries, but not yet in energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and health.

## CATALONIA

In general terms, a certain degree of operational coordination between the national government and the subnational authorities exists at the ministerial level (e.g., during Environment Conferences that gather all ministers of natural resources) and by participating in national/subnational biodiversity working groups on specific issues and projects, such as the Spanish Inventory of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. Regarding the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, however, Catalonia and other subnational governments have developed their own strategies without such coordination.

At the national level, a Spanish Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity 2011-2017 was approved in September 2011, on the premises of a previous National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (1998), that inspired too the National Law on Biodioversity in 2007. The current Strategic Plan establishes the goals, objectives and actions to

promote conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural heritage and biodiversity. It incorporates actions to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan on Biological Diversity 2011-2020 of the CBD, but does not refer to Aichi Targets directly. When it deals with inter-administrative co-operation, collaboration and coordination, the document does not state the need for subnational governments to coordinate nor does it encourage the development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans.

During 2016-2017 Catalonia has developed its own strategy and will have it passed as soon as its Parliament is restored, since –under normal conditions- the management of most of its biodiversity and natural heritage falls within its own jurisdiction.

## GANGWON

Central and Subnational governments (including local governments) are very closely linked in terms of policy or budget use in Korea.

Some of the projects promoted by central government are also consistent with the projects in Gangwon's strategies, so such projects are supported by the central government for 50% or 70% of the project costs.

For this reason, Gangwon are becoming important contributors to implement national biodiversity strategies.

Gangwon Province, which is the second subnational government to established biodiversity strategy in Korea, established SNBSAP(2015-2020) in December, 2014 after CBDCOP12.

The Government (Ministry of Environment) has compiled a guidebook for "Activating Local Biodiversity Strategy" with the aim of establishing biodiversity strategies in 8 Subnational governments in "Third Biodiversity Strategy (2014-2018)". Subnational governments are encouraged to refer to the guidebook to develop biodiversity strategies.

The government is currently establishing the "Fourth Biodiversity Strategy (2019 ~ 2023)" and is considering ways how to support local governments and citizen participation.

## ONTARIO

Ontario is an active contributor to federal, provincial and territorial biodiversity projects and initiatives. Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity: It's In Our Nature, Ontario Government Plan to Conserve Biodiversity contain actions

and activities that support both national and global goals and targets. Collaboration between levels of government addresses conservation issues including climate change, species at risk, fish and wildlife management and disease, invasive alien species, parks and protected areas and biodiversity conservation including reporting.

## QUÉBEC

The Canadian Biodiversity Strategy was adopted in 1995. It recognizes provincial responsibilities and powers and encourages provincial governments to pursue the strategic guidelines set out in the Strategy in accordance their own policies, plans, priorities and financial capacity. In response to the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Canada developed its Biodiversity Goals and Targets for 2020, which are inspired by the Aichi Targets and were adopted in 2015.

While Québec took note of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets, it has not committed to implementing these policies and rather implements its own policies and tools for achieving the Aichi Targets according to its own powers, priorities, timetables and resources.

## SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo State Government is the first Brazilian Government to create a commission related to the Aichi Targets: October 2011.

Sao Paulo State developed its first SNBSAP in 2012, linked to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets) and before the NBSAP.

Sao Paulo has systematically called the national government and the local governments to enhance its policy on biodiversity related to the Aichi Targets.

## ICLEI

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been encouraging the involvement of subnational governments in the implementation of the Convention since 2008. In 2010 the Conference of the Parties to the Convention endorsed *"Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity"(CBD COP decision X/22)*. At each of its subsequent meetings, the Conference of the Parties has taken decisions that have strengthened and expanded attention to this matter. Strengthening coordination and collaboration with subnational governments provides an important opportunity for national governments to achieve national goals for the conservation and sustainable use

of biodiversity and contribute to attainment of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To this end ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) have collaborated with the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in developing Guidelines for AN INTEGRATED APPROACH IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL, SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS. These Guidelines are intended as a tool to advance subnational and local implementation of NBSAPs, provide guidance on how to make best use of subnational and local authority knowledge in compiling and implementing NBSAPs, and coordinate planning, governance and monitoring mechanisms between different levels of government to optimize synergies.

## About GoLS

GoLS (Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets) was launched at 5th Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments along COP13 in Cancun, Mexico in December 2016.

On 10th Dec. 2016, six subnational governments, Aichi (Japan), ANAAE (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Ontario (Canada), Québec (Canada) and Sao Paulo(Brazil) gathered in Cancun to adopt the joint statement, with support of nrg4SD, ICLEI, SCBD and CONABIO.

On 11th, the members of GoLS including Governor Ohmura of Aichi presented the joint statement, declaring our initiative to discuss on our actions and lesson learnt on biodiversity conservation to enhance measures of ourselves and other subnational governments, calling the Parties to encourage subnational governments better, and expressing our will to support international efforts to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, and got praised in the outcome document “Quintana Roo Communiqué”.

On 12th, our first joint action “SNGs Forum ~Contribution of Subnational Governments for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets~” was held as a side event of COP13. In this forum, we shared experiences of subnational initiatives on biodiversity and the fact that collaborations among many stakeholders in the regions are quite important and subnational governments commonly have great power to promote such regional collaboration.

After COP13, Campeche(Mexico) and Gangwon(Korea) who declared their full agreement to the joint statement have joined. Now GoLS consists of eight subnational governments, connected with periodical online meetings.

More information ➞ http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/

## The Statement by the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

(Adopted in December 2016, along COP13)

Biodiversity is key to the well-being of humankind, for it provides us with food, clean air and water, and also helps to adapt to, and mitigate, the negative effects of climate change. However, it is endangered by various drivers including excessive exploitation of resources, pollution and rapidly changing climate.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are the twenty substantial targets adopted, as a part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to improve the status of biodiversity at CBD COP10 held in Nagoya, Aichi in 2010. Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are also critical to the achievement of some of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 (GBO-4) concluded that although there has been significant progress towards meeting some components of the majority of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in most cases this progress will not be sufficient to achieve the targets set for 2020 and additional action is required to keep the Strategic Plan on course.

Subnational governments, including States, Provinces, Regions and Prefectures, are the stewards of global ecosystems in microcosm, and have the potential to develop comprehensive efforts for the conservation of biodiversity as well as its sustainable use Their active contributions are essential to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Subnational governments are also able to work with their respective national governments, ultimately responsible for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

They have a close relationship with citizens, municipalities, private companies, NGOs and educational institutions. By joining them in taking actions, subnational governments are able to utilize unique methods corresponding to the characteristics of local ecosystems. Therefore, subnational governments are expected to play a role in society, and integrating the activities of each region's various stakeholders

At COP10, Decision X/22 endorsed the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020,* and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments (AC SNG) was established in April 2012 under the leadership of the Secretariat of the CBD in order to contribute to the implementation of this action plan.

**1. Our initiative and actions**

Recognizing the importance of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in conservation of biodiversity and the role of subnational governments towards achieving them, we have implemented advanced measures within our respective territories to conserve biodiversity on our own volition. (Find our major efforts in Annex)

We will discuss those actions and lessons learned to enhance our measures toward conservation of biodiversity.

Furthermore, we will be a driver in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To this aim, we call on subnational governments in the world to take part in our discussion and, building on the past activities of the AC SNG, apply the lessons learned into the implementation of each government's actions to conserve biodiversity. We also encourage them to participate in international learning platforms for subnational governments including the Learning Platform Regions for Biodiversity led by The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and the Global Community for Local & Regional Action for Nature coordinated by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

**2. Call to the Parties**

Subnational governments can fulfill their potential under the efficient political frame set by the COPs and the appropriate development of policies by the Parties to the Convention.

We call on the Parties to take measures to enhance the capacities of subnational governments and to better support subnational governments in implementing the CBD and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

We call on the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue their assistance in implementing the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

We are willing to support the efforts of the Parties, the Secretariat of the CBD and other critical players such as donors and financing mechanisms to the fullest extent possible in achieving these goals.

10 December, 2016

## 【Notice!】 Open Online Meeting by Executives of GoLS

Date/Time: Late March 2018, 1000-1100 in Montreal time(TBD)

Cast: Executive of GoLS including Governor Ohmura of Aichi(TBC)

Supporting Organizations, Some of the Parties

Theme: Importance of Subnational Governments for mainstreaming of biodiversity in many spheres

More information ➞ http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/

GoLS
Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

(Bureau)
Natural Environment Division,
Department of the Environment,
Aichi Prefectural Government, Japan
TEL -81-52-954-6229 FAX-81-52-963 3526
Email aichi.shizen@gmail.com

(Dec. 2017)