

## &lt;&lt;Inquiry 1&gt;&gt;

It is great to work on leading to achieve Aichi Targets in cooperation with worldwide subnational governments.

You said that it is important to vertical cooperation of government a while ago, and I would like to know how you think of cooperation with municipality.

Could you give me your views if you have?

Yours sincerely,

(From a person working at municipality)

## 【SCBD】

Many examples of vertical cooperation can be found at UN Habitat's manual (<https://unhabitat.org/books/supporting-local-action-for-biodiversity/>) and at the ICLEI-SCBD guidelines for cooperation and collaboration, at <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/bsap-guidelines/>.

## 【nrg4SD】

Subnational governments (provinces, regions, states, prefectures, oblast etc.) are the link between the National and the local levels. Therefore, they play a crucial role in ensuring vertical integration of policies and the achievement of global targets on the ground. Besides, they bring essential bottom-up information to International Summits that enable right decision-making.

Although varied from one country to another and depending on the level of decentralization, subnational governments hold a wide range of competencies affecting directly and indirectly biodiversity: management of national parks, protection of flora and fauna, environmental impact assessments, ecosystem services etc. Also, the scope of their competencies ensure the continuum and balance of territories. Therefore, their involvement in achieving the Aichi Targets and the 2020 Agenda is a must.

In addition, subnational governments are closer to citizens and stakeholders in their territories and are in a privileged position to trigger behaviours and create partnerships with the private sector, research institutes, associations of farmers and users etc. Their proximity to the territory enables them to better understand issues and to listen to social demands.

Despite the global tendency of migration to cities, only big cities count with the necessary human, technical and budgetary resources to tackle climate change, preserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable development. Most of the territory in the world is rural and lack of the aforementioned resources. However, rural areas are key to life quality in cities, since they ensure ecosystem services, water and food supply and are sink to GHG emissions, among other. In this context, it is subnational governments who support rural authorities in the development of their duties and promote collaboration, cooperation and coherence of policies and implementation of actions. Some examples of support to rural areas are agreements between locals and their subnational government in which the first delegate their competencies in the latter (i.e. water sanitation, green transport etc.), subsidies specifically targeted or capacity building/empowerment workshops (i.e. civil servants in subnational

governments train local authorities in environmental management, raise of awareness campaigns and training addressed to civil society and stakeholders etc.).

**【Aichi Prefecture】**

Thank you for your inquiry.

We think that municipality contacting with the residents directly has a major role to play in the conservation of biodiversity, and we can achieve nothing without their efforts.

On the other hand, nature crosses over the boundary of municipalities.

Aichi prefecture is developing formation of biodiversity network as an engagement to connect them each other. This offers the way of the conservation of biodiversity in terms of watershed area, and we share the vision with municipalities.

We think it is interesting to discuss this sort of theme at the meeting of GoLS.

**<<Inquiry 2>>**

I see it was very interesting challenge and ways for sharing view all over the world although there are some technical issues.

My question is

Level of commitment to biodiversity conservation in local govt policy are very different and many of local govt set biodiversity conservation as low priority in Japan.

Even the local government who set Local biodiversity strategy, have not changed allocation of budget/staff to BD related office in local government.

What kind of action/thing will change this situation more better, especially budget/staff issues and

how National government and civil society could contribute to better change for high prioritization of Biodiversity in local Govt.

Strong leadership/good guideline/subsidies from national government?

movement from civil society? any scientific evidence for biodiversity?

Hope your insight or views.

(From a person working at NGO)

**【SCBD】**

The inclusion of budgetary allocations for coordination, a necessary step in harmonization of BSAPs, is highlighted at in the ICLEI-SCBD manual at <http://cbc.iclei.org/project/bsap-guidelines/>, pages 51 to 55.

Scientific evidences for the importance of biodiversity can be found in the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (*Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities — A Global Assessment*), particularly along the 10 key messages. See <http://cbobook.org/resources.php?r=1&width=1920>.

**【nrg4SD】**

All governmental levels have a crucial role to play in this regard:

1. The National level engages international commitments and therefore, is responsible to translate those targets into the National legislation and ensure they are implemented in the whole National territory.

2. In decentralized countries, subnational and local governments must translate the National objectives into their own legislation (acts, laws, rules, regulations, initiatives, actions etc.).

Cooperation, coordination and coherence between the three governmental levels is key to ensure that global targets are achieved on the ground. As well, all of them must ensure a cross-cutting approach from their jurisdictions, following the 2030 Agenda and the SDG.

Another key issue is training and capacities. Therefore, it is important to:

1. To train, capacitate and raise awareness in subnational civil servants, and especially local authorities and local staff.

2. To raise awareness and train civil society (including differentiated segments: schools, women and association of users and other stakeholders).

The aforementioned, includes empowerment of rural and indigenous communities, engaging their actions and ancient know-how. An emphasis in rural women is key, since women are drivers of family education and behaviour, as well as production actions (agriculture, farming, cooking) affecting the environment and biodiversity preservation.

A second step once the aforementioned is achieved, is to ensure budgetary capacity of governmental levels to execute their competencies and develop the necessary actions on the ground. Such can be done by means of subsidies or agreements of joint actions of different governmental levels, but also with the private sector (public-private cooperation).

#### 【Aichi Prefecture】

Thank you for your valuable comment, and we apologize for the inconvenience about YouTube. In order to achieve the Aichi Targets further strengthening of efforts of all sorts of subjects including national government, local authority, company and NPO are necessary.

Therefore, we think it is desirable to increase “allocation of budget/staff to BD related office in local government” in terms of achieving Aichi Targets.

However, budget/staff in local government is allocated according to the regional political demand, and budget/staff are never strengthened without considering the momentum at local community.

We would like to ask you to encourage the momentum toward biodiversity at local community and contribute to the achievement of Aichi Targets through your activity, such as “strong leadership/good guideline/subsidies from national government, movement from civil society and scientific evidence for biodiversity”.