

INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN PERSPECTIVES FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Preparing for the renewal of commitments to the global conservation of biological diversity

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INTERACT-Bio
Integrated action on biodiversity



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1. Framing the context

Creating a favorable environment for experiences exchange among different sectors is extremely important, as it strengthens the partnerships and initiatives for a common goal. It also provides space for reflection over achievements and future goals. The need for this kind of environment becomes essential as we enter the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and Action to attain the SDGs by 2030.

The event BIO2020 was organized by ICLEI together with the State Secretary of Infrastructure and Environment of São Paulo, Regions4 and the initiative “Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework” supported by the European Union as preparation for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15, to be held in Kunming, China. This dialogue also aimed to create a document that stated Brazil’s contributions for the renovation of the global agenda for the conservation of biological diversity, entitled “São Paulo Letter”.

The event was attended by representatives of the three spheres of Government, with emphasis for cities and states. Public and private sectors, academics and civil society representatives were also present. BIO2020 held

round tables, speeches and field activities, most of which were facilitated by ICLEI. Over 350 professionals from different areas of expertise presented their work, shared experienced and debated actions to propose for the new global agenda for the conservation of biodiversity.

This dialogue strongly links to the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aligns with targets 1 and 2, which promotes awareness of biodiversity values and integration into development and planning processes. In terms of SDGs, the event aligns with the goals 11, to make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Also aligns with goals 14 and 15 to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and goal 17, to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



2. Emerging themes

2.1. São Paulo Letter

The event focused on five major themes that were deepened in parallel sessions through the days. By the end, the participants were aware of the importance and benefits that could be achieved by integrating those themes into cities and states management processes. Considering the results of the discussions, an open letter was written and signed by BIO2020 organizers.

The objective of the São Paulo Letter was to suggest contributions and offer support to CBD Secretariat on its efforts to achieve a new global framework that benefits both people and nature. This document highlighted instruments for biodiversity conservation, such as the creation and management of Protected Areas, as well as the use of innovative mechanisms, like applying resources from environmental compensations on ecosystem restoration initiatives.

2.2. Challenges

Through the three days, many themes were brought by the participants, such as ecosystem restoration, native vegetation recovery, sustainable and wildlife-friendly production and consumption, circular economy and Nature-based Solutions. Beside the diversity of themes there were two major challenges: coordinating actors scattered all across the territory and the creation of a new model for economic development and public management. The second seems to be the most challenging one, since it calls for a cultural change that demands great efforts on both education and leadership engagement.

2.3. How can ICLEI help to take action?

Brazil always had to deal with the challenges of being a country with great territorial extension and huge cultural diversity. It wouldn't be any easier to coordinate local, regional and national actors and leaders to work for a common goal. Despite that, ICLEI can help by facilitating communication between different actors by promoting vertical dialogues, as well as create and enhance platforms where ideas and experiences can be shared, like the CitiesWithNature initiative.

ICLEI is also implementing INTERACT-Bio in three metropolitan regions — a project that aims to incorporate nature (its processes and benefits) into the planning and management of cities. One of the deliverables is the execution of projects in SbN that should become a reference for other interventions in facing urban challenges, such as rainwater management.



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3. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implications

Going forward, the dialogue and the points raised can be viewed through the Post-2020 lens, specifically in point 5 of ICLEI's 10 Point Framework, which promotes the creation of an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social and health benefits of nature at the local and subnational levels to improve the quality of life and resilience of communities, enhance social cohesion and lead to financial benefits and savings for both individuals and governments. In addition, Point 3 promotes the creation of an enabling environment for significantly increased private sector investment and development aid in nature-based solutions at local and subnational levels, as they are closer to the mainstreaming sectors and best positioned to build and sustain functional and resilient ecosystems and urban-rural linkages. In this regard, both points highlight the necessity for the issues raised in this dialogue to be addressed, as their resolution can prove to be hugely beneficial to Brazil and the Post-2020 agenda.

INTERACT-Bio project at a glance

Full title: Integrated subnational action for biodiversity: Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across city-regions

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Local Governments
for Sustainability



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