

INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: NBSAP & LBSAP

Discussing the links between the Tanzanian NBSAP and the development of the Ilala LBSAP

28 March 2019 | Ilala Municipal Council Offices, Mnazi Mmoja, Dar es Salaam City, Tanzania



INTERACT-Bio

Integrated action on biodiversity



1. Framing the context

The Ilala Municipal Council is one of five municipal councils that make up the City of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. An interactive dialogue between the Tanzanian Vice President's Office's (VPO) Environment Division, the Ilala Municipal Council and other relevant stakeholders was held during March of 2019 to discuss the links between the Tanzanian NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) and the development of the Ilala LBSAP (Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan). This dialogue marked the final session of a series of workshops whereby the Ilala Municipal Council LBSAP was developed. This is the first LBSAP for Tanzania. The dialogue was facilitated by ICLEI Africa/ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, as part of the INTERACT-Bio project, and it followed a panel discussion format whereby the conversation was framed by a few guiding questions.

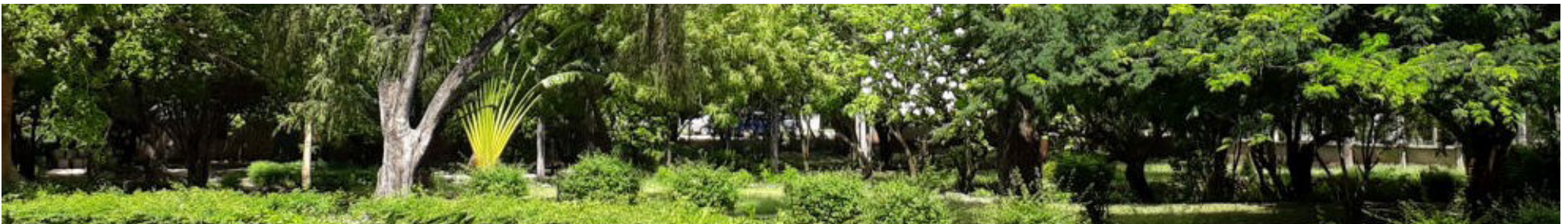
This dialogue forms part of a series of dialogues to serve as a vehicle for promoting and strengthening biodiversity mainstreaming. Furthermore, these dialogues are intended to bring together national, subnational and local actors for a vertically and horizontally integrated dialogue on the importance and benefits of biodiversity conservation as well as providing an opportunity for knowledge sharing and information exchange on the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The NBSAPs and LBSAPs also have global significance. The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are major instruments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that set and delineate strategies and actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in each country (which are Party to the Convention), and are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level. Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs), a local-level equivalent of the NBSAP, are increasingly being developed at provincial, local and city levels, and is a guiding strategy, complemented by specific actions to achieve optimal and realistic protection, restoration, governance and management of biodiversity

and ecosystem services. In Tanzania, The VPO: Environment Division is responsible for the implementation of the national-level NBSAP through localised strategy and action, such as the Ilala LBSAP. For national and subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans to be effective, and to enable national governments to meet international commitments set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, strong strategic links should exist between NBSAPs and LBSAPs so that common goals and objectives are complementary.

The NBSAP/LBSAP dialogue has strong links to multilateral global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In terms of SDGs, the dialogue aligns with Goal 15 to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. In fulfilment of Aichi Biodiversity Target 17, by 2015 each Party was to have developed an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP, adopted it as a policy instrument and must have commenced implementing it. The development of national targets and their incorporation into updated NBSAPs is a key process in fulfilling the commitments of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Tanzania is a member country of the CBD and therefore has prepared its first NBSAP in 2001 (with 20 targets). The NBSAP serves as a guidance document to realise and promote sustainable utilisation and conservation of biodiversity. LBSAPs play an important role because they will give effect to the NBSAP through implementation from the sub-national/local level and are also important because they are embedded in local contextual realities.



2. Emerging themes & lessons learned

2.1. IMPACT of NBSAP revision on the LBSAP

When asked about the status of the current NBSAP in Tanzania, the VPO representative explained that the current NBSAP (2015 – 2020) will expire in the year 2020 and that they were at the time, preparing a report which will form the basis of the new national biodiversity strategy. The VPO also explained that while there would be some changes to the new NBSAP, the Ilala LBSAP content was sound and would still be relevant beyond 2020. It was also advised that the Ilala LBSAP should match the new time frames of the revised NBSAP.

2.1.1. The importance of clarifying the NBSAP/LBSAP process

There were also questions around the interactions between the Ilala Municipal Council and the national-level VPO and how this should occur once the LBSAP was finalised. A request from the VPO was for the Ilala Municipal Council to include the initiatives supported by ICLEI, for example progress on LBSAP development, in their quarterly reports (i.e. implementation status reports) to the VPO. To secure endorsement of the Ilala LBSAP, once the LBSAP was developed and reviewed, ICLEI together with the Ilala Municipal Council Senior Technical Environmental Staff, would present the LBSAP to the City Director and then to the Ilala Municipal Council Management Team (i.e. consisting of all Ilala MC Heads of Departments).

Once the LBSAP was finalised at the level of the Ilala Municipal Council, the document should then be submitted to the VPO: Environment Division and the document will be signed by the VPO Office. While there is no obligation to submit an LBSAP to the VPO, it is better to have the national government's approval and go ahead. The VPO will emphasise the importance of the document and this will give power to its implementation.

An idea was to also construct forums for deeper discussions around LBSAP and NBSAP linkages. However, this would have required resources.

2.1.1. The Ilala LBSAP is a model for other sub-national governments

The Ilala Municipal Council LBSAP was the first LBSAP for Tanzania and will therefore be a model for other sub-national governments in Tanzania. To be chosen to be the first local council for the LBSAP was an opportunity, but it is also a responsibility to be proactive, to work hard to implement the Local Action Plan and to showcase

that it can be done. The VPO sign-off of the LBSAP would then be followed by letters drafted and sent to the various district councils to promote the LBSAP product and to encourage other sub-national governments to prepare their own LBSAPs..

2.2. How effective are these tools in protecting biodiversity?

Tanzania has extraordinary biodiversity which has already been substantially affected by its fast-growing cities. A well-structured NBSAP provides a strong platform for the development of a Local, City-level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the simultaneous opportunity to strengthen functional links between urban biodiversity and its contribution to national efforts to protect and sustain Tanzania's unique biodiversity and natural resources.



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In addition, local champions are present in cities and can create opportunities to facilitate the mainstreaming of nature's benefits into city planning and implementation. In particular, there are opportunities to make explicit links to livelihood improvement, climate change adaptation and mitigation and other co-benefits offered by urban nature.

In the case of the Ilala LBSAP, this plan defines various goals which should mobilise action and these goals create an opportunity to consider how these different elements of the LBSAP can be resourced. For example, municipal funding can be restructured to address the LBSAP goals, and some of the goals are already being addressed as part of ongoing municipal activities and investments. Some of the goals are being addressed through the INTERACT-Bio project. The goals also open opportunities for private sector investment and for developing funding proposals for future donor funding.

2.3. How can ICLEI get involved?

This dialogue highlighted the importance of the linkages between NBSAPs and LBSAPs. It would appear that ICLEI can assist in the development of the strategy, possibly constructing or facilitating forums for deeper discussions around NBSAP and LBSAP linkages and also assisting with the presentation and finalisation of the plan. ICLEI could also perhaps engage with government directly to encourage and educate the necessity of Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and why conserving biodiversity is vitally important in cities.

3. Post-2020 implications

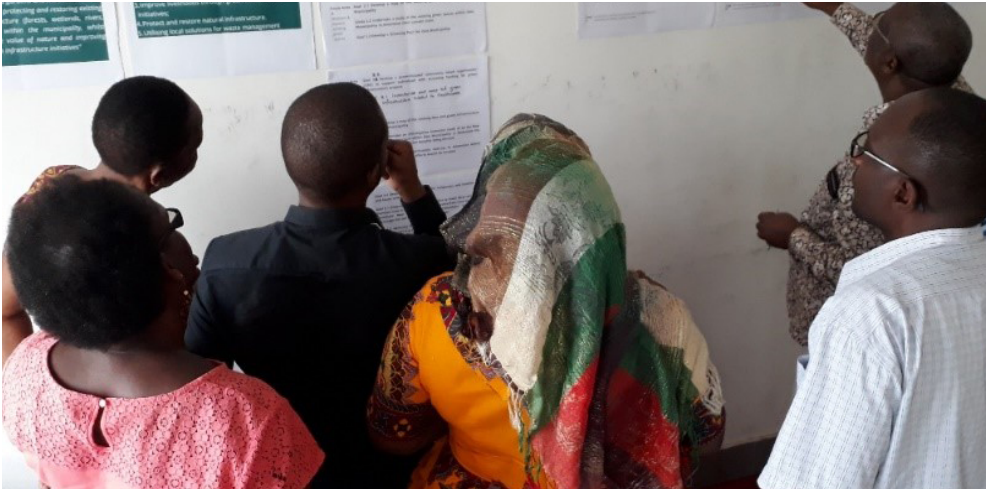
Going forward, the dialogue and the points raised can be viewed through the Post-2020 lens, specifically in the action targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Draft 1) which promotes the creation of an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social and health 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, the framework makes a very specific call for financial flows to follow biodiversity values. These points highlight the necessity for the issues raised in this dialogue to be addressed, as their resolution can prove to be hugely beneficial to Dar es Salaam and the Post-2020 agenda and supporting the achievement of global biodiversity goals.

Finally, the Pathways for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity is relevant in this case as 'The land and forests transition' which aims to conserve intact ecosystems, restore ecosystems, combat and reverse degradation, and employ landscape-level spatial planning to avoid, reduce and mitigate land-use change. This transition recognizes the essential value of well-conserved habitats for the maintenance of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services for the benefit of people, and the need to move to a situation in which maintaining and improving food security no longer involves the large-scale conversion of forests and other ecosystems.



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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

Funded by: The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Project duration: Four years - January 2017 to December 2020

Project countries: Brazil, India and Tanzania

Supported by:



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www.interactbio.iclei.org



biodiversity@iclei.org



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