Final Report (Deliverable A)

Multilevel-governance of our natural capital: the contribution of regional and local authorities to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

for Committee of the Regions

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List of Abbreviations

CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CBD X/22	CBD Decision X/22
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CoR	Committee of the Regions of the European Union
COP	Conference of the Parties
DG ENV	Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission
EU	European Union
EARDF	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EGTC	European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
LA	Local Authority
LAB	Local Action for Biodiversity
LBSAPs	Local biodiversity strategies and action plans
LRA	Local and regional authorities[1]
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MS	Member State of the EU
NBSAPs	National biodiversity strategies and action plans
RBSAPs	Regional biodiversity strategies and action plans
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Please note that this document has been set up according to the “Lay-out rules of all reports” which have been specified to be used within the framework contract.

[1] The report uses the term "local and regional authorities” as it is used in the EU context. Within the context of the UN and CBD, where regions are understood as supra-national/world regions, this means "local authorities and subnational governments".

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Summary

The Committee of the Region's (CoR) has committed to cooperate with the European Commission on the implementation of the European Union (EU) Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.[2] In this context, the European Commission has issued a request to the Committee of the Regions for an Outlook Opinion on "Multilevel governance in promoting the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and implementing the international Aichi Targets".[3] The CoR's support to the European Commission explicitly includes cooperation on the implementation by the EU and its 28 Member States of CBD Decision X/22 (CBD X/22) agreed at the 10th Conference of the Parties in Nagoya/Japan (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)[4]. Moreover, the CoR and UNEP commit in their Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2012 to cooperate in particular on the implementation of CBD Decision X/22.

CBD X/22 includes the so-called "Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity" and aims at increased engagement of local and regional authorities (LRA)[5] in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans through providing a corona of supporting policy tools, guidelines, programmes, technical assistance and alike.

In doing so, CBD X/22 focuses on local and regional authorities as governmental key stakeholders for ultimately implementing the CBD and mainstreaming biodiversity action. The approach of CBD X/22 is reinforced by CBD Decision XI/a and by the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, as well, which encourages "collaboration between stakeholders involved in spatial planning and land use management in implementing biodiversity strategies at all levels" [6].

This study informs the CoR Outlook Opinion on the subject in the light of the European Commission's mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy due in 2015. Furthermore, it contributes to the monitoring of implementing CBD Decision X/22 within the EU and feeds into related political recommendations of the CoR and the reporting of the European Commission to the CBD. Finally, it informs the CoR positioning for CBD COP 12 and its Cities and Subnational Governments

[2] CoR resolution on its priorities 2013; CoR ENVE Commission Work Programme 2013; 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020', COM(2011) 244 final

[3] COR 2013-08074

[4] http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12288

[5] The report uses the term "local and regional authorities", as it is used in the EU context. Within the context of the UN and CBD, where regions are understood as supra-national/world regions, this means "local authorities and subnational governments".

[6] 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020', COM(2011) 244 final

Summit, to be held in the Republic of Korea on 6-17 October 2014 and constitutes a means for cooperation for the CoR with the European Commission, UNEP, and CBD in promoting multi-level governance to achieve delivery of EU and CBD biodiversity targets.

For the purpose of this study, the goals and actions outlined in Decision X/22 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 form the grid to establish a coherent analytical framework. The research methodology for this study differentiated between multilevel governance mechanisms/tools of implementation and the respective policy area addressed. CBD Decision X/22 rather provides direction for the implementation of a multilevel governance framework and was considered guiding with regard to the extracted mechanisms/tools of implementation. These are, with a few exceptions, not specifically dedicated to particular policy areas. The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 focuses on targets for policy areas. Nevertheless, some of the actions addressed herein also contain aspects of multilevel governance.

The analysis carried out in the framework of this study was based on desk research, an online survey and case studies. It focused on the framework conditions and procedures established within EU Member States to engage with and support local and regional authorities in promoting and delivering biodiversity action. This includes both the involvement of local and regional authorities in setting up and reviewing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and the enhancement of local and regional capacity to develop and implement biodiversity strategies and actions in their territories (RBSAPs/LBSAPs). The results of the analysis provide for an insight in barriers, enabling factors and appropriate framework conditions and features for local and regional biodiversity action in the EU.

In order to provide an overview of ongoing biodiversity actions across the 28 EU Member States, a desk analysis was carried out, which reviewed existing publications from governmental, non-governmental and open scientific sources, conducting an online research process from the international and the European level. In particular, the desk analysis fostered preliminary thoughts on the structure of the typology of measures and provided the basis of information from which to elaborate the selected case studies. In the context of the desk analysis, about 90 case studies have been identified.

Parallel to the desk research, an online consultation took place between 1 February and 31 March 2014. A wide distribution of the questionnaire was conducted to maximize adequate representativeness amongst the received responses (i.e. geographical, institutional, and demographical). The list of individuals was assembled in cooperation with the CoR, the Directorate-General for Environment

of the European Commission (DG ENV), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the CBD Secretariat.

38 completed questionnaires were counted as valid results, covering 16 of the 28 EU Member States. More specifically, approximately one quarter were from the new Member States, while three quarters responded on behalf of the EU-15. The highest number of responses was received from France and Spain, followed closely by Belgium, Portugal and Greece. Almost half of the responses were received from regional authorities (47%). Local authorities comprised 32%, followed by national authorities (16%) and LRA associations/others (5%).

Both the survey and the desk research have resulted in a high number of examples of biodiversity action taken across different levels in the EU. While the numerous best-practice examples indicate a positive starting point for achieving the outlined biodiversity goals and targets, the shortcomings and potential areas for improvement that arose from the research should also be noted. Substantial opportunities exist to improve the support of LRA in their efforts to design and implement regional/local biodiversity strategies or actions plans and increase their involvement in national biodiversity-related processes. Suggestions for addressing current gaps are outlined accordingly.

On the basis of the results of the survey and the desk research, as well as the indicative list of actions contained in CBD Decision X/22, a typology of multilevel-governance related biodiversity measures implemented at national, regional and local level has been developed. The typology fulfilled multiple purposes, including serving as:

- an instrument for the selection of 15 case studies from the cases collected both via the online questionnaire and desk research,
- a tool for summarizing the cases collected, and
- the basis for structuring the recommendations of the study.

In this regard, the typology ensured that all relevant information on identified measures were collected for each case and the selection of case studies was based on a structured procedure to ensure that they are representative of a range of EU Member States. The final typology of measures is structured around five overarching categories:

- **LRA involvement in governance processes**, i.e. local and regional authorities' involvement by their national/regional governments in governance processes;

- **National/regional legislative frameworks and planning systems; support/guidance**, i.e. national/regional legislative frameworks and means of support for RBASPs and LBASPs and implementation measures
- **National/regional funding/financing support**, i.e. financial support for activities carried out at local and regional levels;
- **LRA cooperation**, i.e. local and regional authorities engaging in networks/associations on biodiversity
- **LRA key actions;** i.e. key biodiversity actions implemented at local and regional level, including the development of RBSAPs and LBSAPs

Based on the developed typology, desk research and questionnaire responses, 15 representative case studies have been selected for detailed presentation. The selected case studies cover the key arguments emerging from the survey and analysis with an emphasis on the implementation mechanisms in place between the national/regional and local levels. These case studies describe the mechanisms in place for supporting multilevel governance performance in implementation of the CBD decisions and EU Biodiversity Strategy aspects.

The insights gathered in the context of Deliverable A form the basis for the policy recommendations with regard to further developing the instruments in place and – more generally – the multilevel-governance mechanism for implementing CBD X/22 in the EU and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (Deliverable B).

1 Scope of the Document

This document constitutes the final report (Deliverable A) on "Multilevel-governance of our natural capital: the contribution of regional and local authorities to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets", commissioned by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) of the European Union (EU) under the framework contract CDR/DE/191/201.

It includes:

- an introduction to the purpose of the report in the context of the CoR activities on promoting multilevel governance in the implementation of UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Decision X/22 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020;
- an introduction to CBD Decision X/22 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and its intention of involving local and regional authorities (LRA) in its implementation;
- a description of the research methodology applied and a typology of measures implemented at national, regional and local level;
- a summary of the results of the online survey and, also based on the literature review carried out, a critical analysis, as to the state of play of multilevel governance in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and the implementation of CBD Decision X/22 by the EU Member States; and
- a selection of 15 case studies of measures implemented, which are representative of a range of EU Member States.

Both the results of the detailed online survey results and of the desk research have been submitted to the CoR in the form of separate Excel documents.

2 Background and purpose of the report

The CoR has committed to cooperate with the European Commission on the implementation of the European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.[7] In this context, the European Commission has issued a request to the CoR for an Outlook Opinion on "Multilevel governance in promoting the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and implementing the international Aichi Targets".

[7] CoR resolution on its priorities 2013; CoR ENVE Commission Work Programme 2013; 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020', COM(2011) 244 final

The CoR understands multilevel governance within the EU context to mean coordinated action by the EU, Member States and local and regional authorities, based on partnership and taking the form of operational and institutional cooperation aimed at drafting and implementing EU policies. [8]

The CoR's support to the European Commission explicitly includes cooperation on the implementation by the EU and its 28 Member States of Decision X/22 (CBD X/22) agreed at the 10th Conference of the Parties in Nagoya/Japan (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity[9].

CBD X/22 includes the so-called "Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity" and aims at increased engagement of local and regional authorities in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans through providing a corona of supporting policy tools, guidelines, programmes, technical assistance and alike.[10]

The CoR delegation to COP 10 of the CBD in 2010 strongly supported the adoption of the CBD Decision X/22. Moreover, the CoR and UNEP commit in their Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2012 to cooperate in particular on the implementation of CBD Decision X/22.

Accordingly, the CoR aims with this report at

1. Informing the CoR Outlook Opinion on the subject in the light of the EC's mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy due in 2015;
2. Contributing to the monitoring of implementing CBD Decision X/22 within the EU and feed into related political recommendations of the CoR and the reporting of the EC to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. Informing the CoR positioning for and participation in CBD COP 12 and its Cities and Subnational Governments Summit, to be held in the Republic of Korea on 6-17 October 2014;
4. Generally cooperating with the European Commission, UNEP, and the CBD Secretariat in promoting multi-level governance to achieve delivery of EU and CBD biodiversity targets.

[8] Charter for Multilevel Governance in Europe, adopted by the CoR 3 April 2014

[9] http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12288

[10] "Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should, as appropriate, seek to engage their subnational Governments, cities and other local authorities, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by developing policy tools, guidelines and programmes, providing technical assistance and/or guidance, as appropriate, in line with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant governance arrangements established by their national Governments.", UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/22, 29 October 2010.

3 Introduction to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and CBD Decision X/22

This chapter outlines the two most important documents on international and European level for the purpose of the study, CBD Decision X/22 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The chapter provides an overview of overlaps and differences of the two documents and prepares the ground for the description of the applied working methods of the study.

3.1 CBD Decision X/22 and XI/8A

CBD Decision X/22 (CBD X/22) [11] was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity at their tenth meeting in Nagoya in 2010. It mandates a "Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other local Authorities for Biodiversity" to achieve the objective of the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020, the so-called "Aichi Biodiversity Targets" (see Decisions X/2 and X/5).

CBD X/22 particularly highlights the importance of local and regional authorities in the CBD process. The outlined overall mission for its implementation on local/regional level by 2020 is to have tools, guidelines and capacity-building programs in place that create synergies, coordination and exchange between the various levels of governments for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

To fulfil this mission, CBD X/22 in its core contains sixteen indicative activities aiming at strengthening the multilevel governance framework for local and regional authorities to act within and outlines suggestions for possible actions to take. It also highlights possible ways of and provides recommendations for implementation.

With the activities proposed, LRA should be encouraged by their countries to create plans and actions for biodiversity on their respective level, but they should also, where appropriate, be supported to participate in policy development on national and international level; especially in the developments of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP). Thus, the implementation of multilevel governance mechanisms should not only be fostered top down – i.e. from global/to European/to national to regional/local level – but also bottom up. LRA engagement should be rewarded by the countries and good practices might be used for awareness raising and exchange.

[11] http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12288

Box 1: Activities embedded in Decision X/22

Based on the mission of Decision X/22 objectives the activities, that parties may wish to consider can be summarised as the following:

(a) Consider and engage LRA in the revision and implementation of **NBSAP**s.

(b) Encourage **subnational and local biodiversity plans.**

(c) Encourage LRA to apply the **ecosystem services approach** and its integration into climate change adaptation and sustainable development plans.

(d) **Rewarding of efforts** on the local and regional level.

(e) Encourage LRA to **integrate biodiversity** into urban infrastructure, public procurement.

(f) Encourage the establishment and maintenance of **systems of local protected areas.**

(g) Support in setting up **cooperation between local authorities.**

(h) Encourage the participation of **LRA in national delegations** and official events of the CBD

(i) Support LRA in the development of **ecosystem-based partnerships** on conservation corridors and land-use mosaics.

(j) Organise regular **consultation of LRA** in the preparation of COPs of the CBD.

(k) Support the use of the **Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity.**

(l) Organise **forums for dialogue** back to back with meetings for preparing the next COP.

(m) Support the **Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity**.

(n) Organise **capacity building** activities for LRA.

(o) Promote **research and technology** development on urban biodiversity.

(p) Encourage LRA to **outreach to other major groups** such as youth, businesses.

Awareness raising and sharing of information is considered very important, as lack of public awareness is seen as one of the main obstacles for halting the loss of biodiversity. The Convention's CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) programme focusing on these specific actions is also endorsed by the decision.[12] Furthermore capacity building activities including information (e.g. newsletters, websites, web-based tools) or events (e.g. training, conferences, seminars) should be organised and cooperation should be foster.

CBD X/22 also calls for promotion of recent research on and innovative technical approaches to urban biodiversity, such as ecosystem services based partnerships. The decision furthermore gives very concrete direction, as to where to get support for implementation of biodiversity action on local and regional level, e.g. the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity or ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity Programme. Summing up

[12]https://www.cbd.int/cepa/

the CBD X/22 provides a comprehensive framework approach for promoting the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity also on the local and regional levels; however, it leaves space for flexible mechanisms at national level to be put in place.

Decision CBD X/22 can be considered unique in a way that it presents the most advanced "multilevel governance" decision of a multilateral environmental agreement (MEA), in particular also compared to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

A year later, at COP 11 in Hyderabad the important role of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities has been emphasised by Decision XI/8. Decision XI/8a[13] is especially dedicated to the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity. Especially paragraph 4 invites parties and other governments to develop with their local and subnational governments, guidelines and capacity building initiatives to enhance or adapt local and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans. Furthermore, the national level is invited to support networking activities on local and subnational level to complete the Plan of Actions and contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Targets.

Both, Decision X/22 and XI/8a set a comprehensive framework to foster multilevel governance processes and gives guidance and advice for the implementation.

3.2 EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 adopted in 2011[14] outlines the EU's political focus by 2020, while stepping up the EU's contribution to fulfil the international biodiversity commitments. In addition, a number of relevant policy areas and respective EU directives are directly targeted in the strategy, namely agriculture, forestry, and fishery. It includes six major targets addressing the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services in the EU and beyond.

The targets are supported by 20 key actions for implementation. Some of these are of particular interest for the regional/local level, like e.g. the completion and management of the Natura 2000 network, green infrastructure deployment, the link between rural development and biodiversity policies, or actions envisaged on no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Target 6 directly addresses the global biodiversity loss and therefore builds a bridge towards the activities on global level.

[13] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-08-en.pdf
[14] EU Biodiversity Strategy, COM(2011) 244 final

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 states that the shared EU and international Aichi Targets for biodiversity "*need to be pursued through a mix of sub-national, national, and EU-level action*" and encourages "*collaboration between stakeholders involved in spatial planning and land use management in implementing biodiversity strategies at all levels*".

Hence, both the European Union and all individual Member States are committed to engage with and support local and regional authorities in promoting biodiversity, developing biodiversity strategies, implementing related action plans and monitor achievements.

Box 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 targets and actions

The EU Biodiversity Strategy: six targets and twenty actions

1. The full implementation of the EU nature legislation;

   A1: **Complete** the **establishment for the Natura 2000 Network** and ensure **good management**.

   A2: Ensure adequate **financing of Natura 2000**.

   A3: Increase stakeholder **awareness** and involvement and improve enforcement.

   A4: Improve and streamline **monitoring and reporting.**

2. Better protection and **restoration of ecosystems and the services** they provide, and

   A5: **Improve Knowledge** of ecosystem and their services.

   A6: **Set priorities** to restore and promote the use of green infrastructure.

   A7: Ensure **no net loss of biodiversity** and ecosystem services.

3. More sustainable **agriculture and forestry**;

   A8: Enhance **direct payments** for environmental public goods in the EU Common Agriculture Policy.

   A9: Better target **rural development** to biodiversity conservation.

   A10: Conserve Europe's agricultural **genetic diversity.**

   A11: Encourage forest holders **to protect and enhance forest biodiversity.**

   A12: Integrate biodiversity measures in **forest management plans.**

4. Better management of **EU fish stocks** and more sustainable fisheries;

   A 13**: Improve the management** of fished stocks.

   A 14: **Eliminate adverse impacts on fish stocks**, species habitats and ecosystems.

5. **Combat Invasive Alien Species.**

   A 15: Strengthen the **EU Plant and Animal Health Regimes.**

   A 16: Establish a **dedicated legislative instrument** on Invasive Alien Species.

6. Contribute to averting **global biodiversity loss.**

A 17: **Reduce indirect drivers** of biodiversity loss.

A 18: **Mobilise additional resources** for global biodiversity conservation.

A 19: 'Biodiversity-proofing' of **EU development cooperation**.

A 20: Regulate **access to genetic resources** and the fair and equitable benefits sharing

3.3 Conclusion: Relevance of the documents for the study

For the purpose of this study, Decision X/22 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 were considered key. However, by wording and focus the two documents are quite different. CBD Decision X/22 rather provides direction for the implementation of a multilevel governance framework, whereas the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 focuses on targets for policy areas. Nevertheless, some of the actions addressed herein also contain aspects of multilevel governance.

For establishing the research methodology for this study, a differentiation was made between mechanisms/tools of implementation and the respective policy area addressed. CBD X/22 was considered guiding with regard to the extracted mechanisms; however, these are, with a few exceptions (e.g. Activities e, f, k), not specifically dedicated to particular policy areas. To complement the mechanism outline here, relevant policy areas for implementation were taken from the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

The following table provides an overview on the elaborated grid of mechanisms and fields of implementation/policy areas. It refers to the indicative activities (a-p) of CBD X/22 and the targets (T1-6) and actions (A1-20) included in the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Table 1: Overview of interrelations between CBD X/22 and EU Biodiversity Strategy

	Fields of implementation/policy areas				
	Biodiversity				
	Protected areas/species	Ecosystem services/Green Infrastructure	Agriculture and forestry	Fishery	Invasive Alien Species
	T1, A1, (f)	*T2, A6, (i)*	*T3, A 10*	*T4, A 13, A 14*	*T5, A 15, A 16*
Multilevel	Development and Implementation of national strategies/action plans (NBSAP) *(a)*				
	Establishment of local and regional strategies/action plans *(b)*				
	Rewarding the efforts of LRA *(d)*				
	Integrating of biodiversity in other relevant fields				

	(c: climate change/ sustainable development) (e: urban infrastructure) (A7: no net loss) (A 12; forest management plans) (A 17: indirect drivers globally) (A19: in development cooperation)
	Cooperation between local authorities (g)
	Cooperation with LRA and consultation of LRA towards to CBD *(h) (j) (l) (A3: Natura 2000)*
	Capacity building for LRA *(n)*
	Cooperation of LRA with stakeholders *(p) (A3: Natura 2000)(A 11: forest holders)*
	Research and technology (*o: urban biodiversity) (A5: ecosystem services)*
	Mapping, monitoring and reporting *(k: cities' index)(A4: Natura 2000/species)*
	Mobilising of additional resources *(A2: Natura 2000) (A8/A9: EU agriculture funding) (A18: globally)*

4 Methodology and typology

The main task of the present study was the collection and analysis of information from the 28 EU Member States and their regions and cities regarding the implementation of the CBD Decisions X/22 and the involvement of LRAs in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Based on the analysis, clear recommendations on appropriate instruments and multilevel governance approaches were developed to facilitate and support these processes (Deliverable B). For this purpose, the following tasks were carried out:

1. Review of existing literature, studies and other publications, including of representative best practice cases at European, national, regional and local level;
2. Conducting a consultation of relevant actors at European, national, regional and local level across the EU, by means of an online questionnaire;
3. Development of a typology of measures implemented at EU, national, regional and local levels;
4. Selection and documentation of 15 representative case studies in a standard form;
5. Summarising the replies and cases collected and, based additionally on the literature review, conducting a critical analysis as to the state of play of multilevel governance in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and CBD Decision X/22 in the EU;

6. Formulation of recommendations on means, tools, instruments and multilevel governance approaches available to improve LRA involvement and support in the aforementioned processes (Deliverable B).

The study was carried out by using a combination of desk research and a questionnaire. Targeted telephone interviews were also conducted to increase the depth and coverage of the information gathered.

4.1 Data collection

Desk research and a questionnaire were utilised to obtain information about measures and cases across Europe, illustrating ways in which:

1. Member States cooperate with and support LRA in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy's targets and actions, within the context of the CBD Decision X/22, and
2. LRA can contribute to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy's targets and actions, with a particular focus on innovative approaches taken.

4.1.1 Desk analysis

The desk analysis aimed to gather and analyse information already available in print or electronic format (i.e. published on the internet). For the purpose of this study, the desk analysis was applied in two ways:

- first, for the collection of data and information in addition to the survey,
- second, to support the development of the questionnaire and a grid for the analysis of the survey results.

In particular, the desk analysis fostered preliminary thoughts on the structure of the typology and provided the basis of information from which to elaborate the selected case studies. The analysis was documented in table format, including title, source, content and the relevance for the purpose of this study. The initial selection of case studies was embedded in this desk research.

4.1.2 Online questionnaire

The development of the online questionnaire has been guided by the targets and actions of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the objectives and indicative list of activities in CBD Decisions X/22 (see Annex A). The relation between the

individual questions and these aspects has been outlined in a tabular format and are included as an annex to this document (see Annex B).

In order to maximize the utility of information received, a combination of open-ended and yes/no questions were included in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was translated into French and German in order to increase the level of understanding by relevant actors and the number of responses received.

The online consultation took place between 1 February and 31 March 2014, with a series of reminder emails having been distributed in the middle of March. A wide distribution of the questionnaire was conducted to maximize adequate representativeness amongst the received responses (i.e. geographical, institutional, demographical).

The list of individuals was assembled by ICLEI, the CoR Secretariat the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission (DG ENV), and the CBD Secretariat. Targeted recipients included:

- the CBD national focal points of the 28 EU Member States (by transmittal note from the CBD Executive Secretary);
- the EU 28 Member States via the Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature (CGBN), and Members of the European Green Capitals Network and European Green Capital Website, contacted by DG Environment of the European Commission;
- announcement in the "Environment Policy Brief" newsletter of DG Environment, European Commission;
- Regional offices in Brussels; European (e.g. Eurocities, CEMR) and national associations of local and regional authorities; CoR Environment Climate Change and Energy Commission members; CoR national delegations; representatives of regions that contributed to the CoR rapporteur on green infrastructure;
- partners of the CBD Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, and members of the CBD Advisory Committees for local authorities and for subnational governments, as set up following Decision CBD X/22, contacted by the CBD Secretariat;
- Relevant European associations and networks of local and regional authorities, such as: ICLEI’s European members and European pioneer LAB participants; European Learning Network for Regions & Biodiversity (ECNC); IUCN (e.g. URBES partners), European regions of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4sd); SURF,

GreenInfranet and GRaBS projects; EU partners of Medievercities; members of the EUROPARC Federation; Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe;

- NGOs organised in the European Habitats Forum, COPA/COCEGA.

4.2 Typology of measures implemented

On the basis of the questionnaire and desk research, as well as the indicative list of actions contained in CBD Decision X/22, a typology of biodiversity measures implemented at national, regional and local level has been developed. The typology fulfilled multiple purposes, including serving as:

- an instrument for the selection of 15 case studies from the cases collected both via the online questionnaire and desk research,
- a tool for summarizing the cases collected, and
- the basis for structuring the recommendations of the study.

In this regard, the typology ensured that all relevant information on identified measures was collected for each case and the selection of case studies was based on a structured procedure to ensure that they are representative of a range of EU Member States.

4.2.1 Overview

Table 2: Typology of biodiversity measures implemented at the national, regional and local levels

Overarching category	Specific actions	
LRA involvement in governance processes	Inclusion of LRAs by Member States/regions in setting up, reviewing and implementing of NBSAPs or RBSAPs	1A
	Coordination by Member States with LRA/their national associations concerning the national positions on and implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and nature legislation	1B
	Cooperation by Member States with LRA/ their national associations on national activities related to the CBD	1C

National/regional legislative frameworks and planning systems; support/guidance	Guidance documents/handbooks by Member States/regions for assisting LRA in developing RBASPs and LBASPs	2A
	Capacity building, training, practical advice services by Member States/regions for LRA (e.g. on implementing nature legislation, integration of biodiversity in other sectors, utilizing EU funding schemes)	2B
	Member States/regions supporting local/regional community partnerships/committees (to implement national objectives locally)	2C
	Comprehensive national/regional legislative and territorial planning frameworks for biodiversity	2D
	Creation or support by Member States/regions of awards/recognition schemes for LRA biodiversity efforts	2E
National/Regional Funding/financing support	All levels promoting/applying new, innovative means of funding to support local/regional biodiversity action	3A
	National/regional co-funding of EU projects/operational programmes	3B
	National/regional own funding programmes to fund LRA (pilot) actions	3C
LRA cooperation	LRA collaboration on biodiversity in networks and/or platforms	4A
	LRA (cross-border) collaboration on biodiversity and decentralised development cooperation between LRA	4B
LRA key actions	Development of RBSAPs and LBSAPs	5A
	LRA conducting innovative biodiversity actions (e.g. TEEB studies, green infrastructure/offsetting etc.)	5B
	LRA promoting stakeholder engagement and setting up multi-stakeholder partnerships	5C
	LRA setting up regional/local biodiversity advisory committees	5D
	Local/regional public education and awareness raising campaigns	5E
	Improving the state of knowledge and participation of the public in local/regional research	5F

4.2.2 Detailed description

1. *Local and regional authorities' involvement by their national/regional governments in governance processes*
    A. Inclusion of LRAs in setting up, reviewing and implementing of **National or Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** (NBSAPs/RBSAPs) and other national/regional specific biodiversity strategies or green infrastructure planning;
    B. Coordination with LRA and/or their national associations concerning the **preparation of national positions** and follow up of outcomes related to the Common Implementation Framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the review and implementation of EU nature legislation;
    C. Coordination with LRA and/or their national associations on **national (reporting) activities related to the CBD**, and inclusion of representatives of LRA in **national delegations to the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the CBD**, e.g. at the related Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments.
2. *National/regional legislative frameworks and means of support for RBASPs and LBASPs and implementation measures*
    A. Guidance documents/handbooks for **assisting LRA in developing RBASPs and LBASPs** (Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans);
    B. **National/regional capacity building, training, practical advice services** for LRA;
    C. National/regional initiatives that aim at **supporting self-sustaining local community partnerships** that contribute to achieving the government's national/regional environmental biodiversity objectives locally;
    D. **Comprehensive national/regional legislative and territorial planning frameworks** for biodiversity, e.g. for green infrastructure planning, integration of biodiversity into spatial/territorial planning, applying no net loss/ habitat compensation schemes in authorisations of projects;
    E. Creation or financial support of **national/regional awards/recognition schemes** for LRA biodiversity efforts.
3. *National/regional funding/financing support*
    A. **New, innovative means of funding** to support biodiversity strategies and action plans (e.g. regional/national lottery funds; providing seed money to kick start targeted projects; offsetting company emissions by supporting

local/regional carbon sink forestry projects or peatland restoration/ management; payments for ecosystem service (PES); labelling/ certification; local enterprise partnerships);

B. **National co-funding of EU funded projects/operational programmes**, e.g. for "nature-based solutions" for projects traditionally co-funded by the ERDF, formation of partnerships by LRA for joint submissions to LIFE, INTERREG and other relevant inter-regional projects, rural biodiversity measures via the EARDF;

C. **National/regional own funding programmes**, e.g. to fund LRA (pilot) actions that contribute to national biodiversity objectives.

4. LRA cooperation on biodiversity issues

A. **LRA collaboration on biodiversity in networks and/or platforms** at international, European or national levels (e.g. the Netherlands "Millennium Municipalities" on decentralised cooperation, European associations with working groups on biodiversity, European Learning Network for Regions & Biodiversity, MediverCities, nrg4SD, ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB));

B. **LRA cross-border collaboration** on biodiversity, e.g. by means of European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), and decentralised development cooperation between LRA.

5. LRA key actions

A. **Development of RBSAPs and LBSAPs;**

B. Conducting **innovative biodiversity actions**, e.g. on the mapping and valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the implementation of green infrastructure or offsetting/compensation of unavoidable impacts;

C. Promoting **stakeholder engagement and voluntary commitments** and setting up **multi-stakeholder partnerships**, e.g. involving key territorial stakeholders such as farmers, hunters, landowners, business, civil society representatives, environmental NGOs, relevant regional/local authority sectors;

D. Setting up **regional/local biodiversity advisory committees;**

E. Developing strategies for **public education** and designing and implementing **awareness raising** campaigns;

F. Programmes and initiatives that improve the state of knowledge and promote and **facilitate public participation in biodiversity-related**

research activities at local and regional level (**promotion of citizen science, cooperation by local/regional observatories).**

4.3 Selection of case studies

The selected case studies cover the key arguments emerging from the survey and analysis with an emphasis on implementation mechanisms in place between the national/regional and local levels. These case studies describe the mechanisms in place for supporting multilevel governance performance in implementation of the CBD decisions and EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 aspects.

Criteria for selection included ensuring that the case studies are representative in terms of practices gathered and taking into account geographical, institutional and demographical criteria. The 15 case studies selected are documented based on a common template (see Annex C).

5 Main results and critical analysis

As previously described, the findings of this study stem predominantly from the responses received as part of the online survey (38 responses were analysed[15]) and the cases identified in the desk research. Particular attention is also given to the 15 best practice case studies, which stem from both of these sources (Table 3). Finally, account is taken of available position papers and documents regarding the application of multilevel governance across the European Union.

The structure of this chapter follows the themes covered in the survey, while closely referencing the typology categories. Relevant examples and information from the aforementioned sources are integrated to increase the utility of the results.

5.1 Distribution of survey responses

Responses were received from 16 of the 28 EU Member States, as illustrated in Figure 1 below. More specifically, approximately one quarter were from the new Member States, while three quarters responded on behalf of the EU-15. The highest number of responses was received from France and Spain, followed closely by Belgium, Portugal and Greece.

[15] A total of 39 responses were received, but the questionnaire completed by Conseil Régional de Fatick (Senegal) was not included in the results.

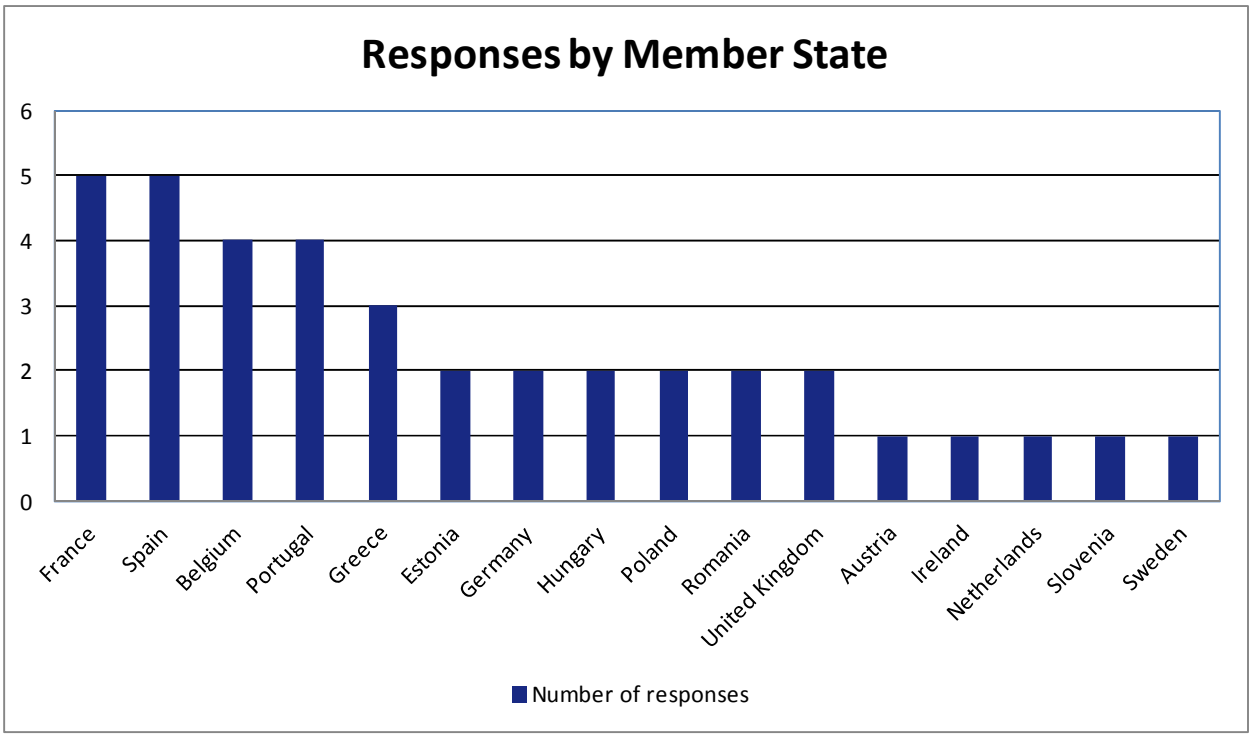


Figure 1: Countries of the respondents (n=38).

The figure below shows that almost half of the responses were received from regional authorities (47%). Local authorities comprised 32%, followed by national authorities (16%) and LRA associations/others (5%).

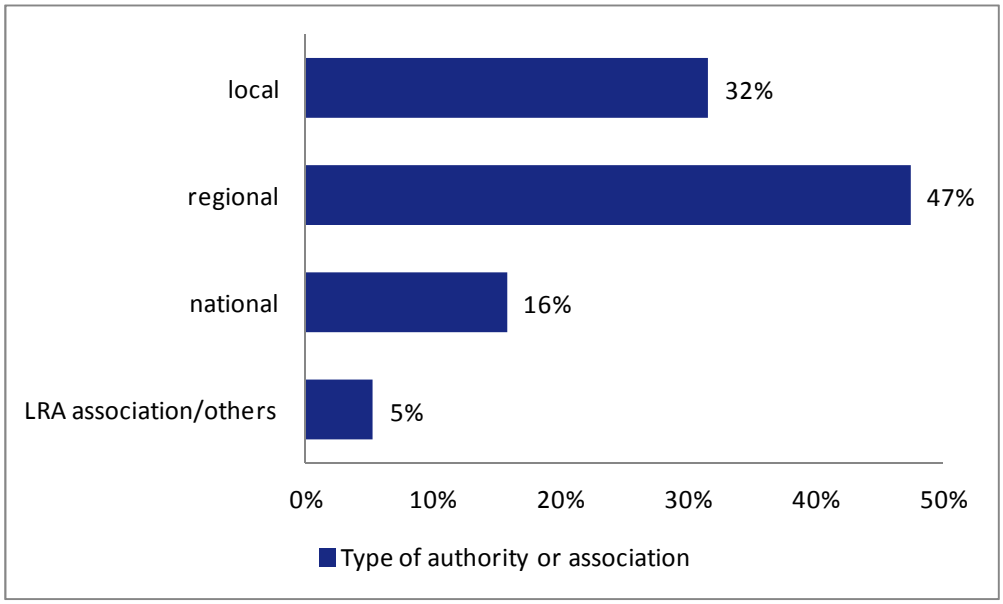


Figure 2: Type of authority or association. (n=38).

It should be noted that due to the limited sample size, the results of the survey cannot be regarded as representative. Rather, they should be considered to provide valuable insights regarding relevant biodiversity actions that have been or are currently being carried out across the EU. While not all participants provided responses for every survey question, the quality of responses received was very high, with single respondents often providing multiple examples for a given topic. For this reason, the survey results are presented in combination with the desk research findings in the following chapters.

5.2 Local and regional authorities' involvement in governance processes

5.2.1 Inclusion of LRAs by Member States/regions in setting up, reviewing and implementing NBSAPs or RBSAPs

Both the design and practical implementation of national/regional biodiversity strategies/action plans (NBSAPs/RBSAPs) can benefit greatly from input by LRA. The specifics of *how* this involvement was structured at the national and regional levels can potentially provide new ideas for those MS that have been less successful in this regard.

LRA involvement in setting up and reviewing BSAPs

The involvement of LRAs in setting up and reviewing the NBSAPs has often been accomplished via a dedicated national commission/steering committee. Belgium, for example, has established a Coordinating Committee of the International Environmental Policy[16] with representation from the government of the federated entities of the country (regions and federal level); this group contributed to the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy. Austria and Finland have similarly developed National Biodiversity Commissions.[17] France has similarly developed a National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) Monitoring Committee, bringing together all stakeholders as based on the 'Grenelle model'[18]. This group is a consultative, steering and decision-making body, which is tasked with monitoring

[16] Comité de coordination de la politique internationale de l'environnement (CCPIE)
[17] See e.g. UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/3
[18] The Grenelle de l'Environnement (2007) «was a large-scale national consultation forum made up of 5 major colleges representing the stakeholders involved in sustainable development: the State, local authorities, environmental NGOs, and representatives of employers and employees. The overall aim of this process was to restructure national ecology policy and create favourable conditions for the emergence of a new national ambition with regard to the environment» (IUCN France 2011)

the National Strategy as well as the implementation of the three Nagoya Agreements and the European strategy in France.

Targeted consultations of the LRA are another mechanism for contributing to the design of NBSAPs. In Portugal, regional authorities are specifically called upon to take place in the development of the national strategies within the context of a working group, as well as to give their advice and attend periodic meetings on the implementation and monitoring of measures. In Sweden, the County Administrative Board of Stockholm is composing a strategy to reach the National Environmental Objective concerning biodiversity[19] at a regional level and, in doing so, is consulting the municipalities. To date, several dialogue meetings with nature conservation staff from the municipalities in the county have been held to this end.

In Germany, the Federal Government has conducted dialogue forums on the national, federal state and regional levels to implement the national biodiversity strategy. There have been more than 30 topic-related forums taking place that incorporate different stakeholders in discussions on a specific topic. LRA can participate in all levels, but are primarily represented in the federal state and regional fora. The national forum is a bigger stakeholder meeting that takes place annually and is open to all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. All of these fora support the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy. The common understanding of the Germany is that the national goals can also be achieved if all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from different levels are embedded in the process.

A more open approach to consultation on the NBSAPs was taken in several other countries. In Hungary, the general public (and therewith the LRAs) was invited to attend workshops and two national conferences during the revision process of the National Biodiversity Strategy as well as to submit written comments and opinions on the strategy as part of a three-week public consultation process. Similarly, public consultations are carried out in Romania and the UK to comment on the national strategy.

LRA involvement in implementing BSAPs

Regarding the implementation of the NBSAP, Germany is a good example of how cooperation of the federal level with the regions in Germany on relevant nature conservation issues can be formalised. The Federal-State Working Group on Nature

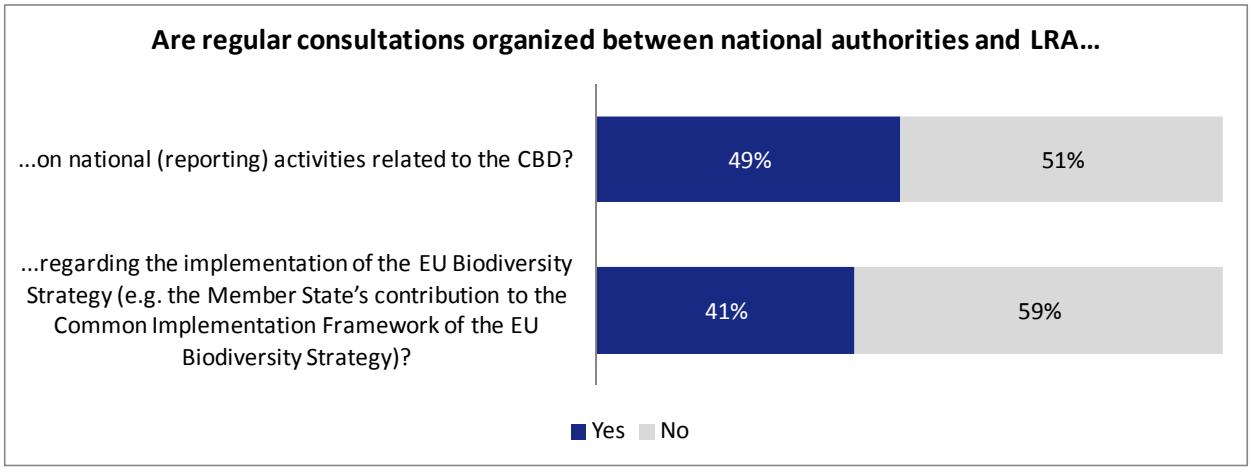
[19] http://www.miljomal.se/sv/Environmental-Objectives-Portal/Undre-meny/About-the-Environmental-Objectives/16-A-Rich-Diversity-of-Plant-and-Animal-Life/

Conservation, Land Management and Recreation (LANA)[20] is a forum which meets biannually to advise the representative of the highest nature conservation authorities of the federal states and the federal government on the key issues of nature conservation in order to harmonize the implementation of nature protection laws and find solutions to any barriers which may have arisen.

In France, Regional Ecological Coherence Schemes have become a tool around which communities collaborate on regional projects that are then integrated in national green and blue infrastructure projects or marine protected area strategies. All steps are based on existing natural inventories, from organizations or scientific publications. Other stakeholders (citizens, communities) are involved in the second phase.

5.2.2 Cooperation by MS with LRA on national activities related to the EU Biodiversity Strategy and CBD

Recognition exists of the critical role LRA have to play in implementing the internationally agreed objectives of the CBD and EU Biodiversity Strategy on the ground and thereby in assisting national governments in preventing the continuation of biodiversity loss.[21] However, in contrast to the relatively high level of involvement of local and regional authorities in NBSAPs, less than 50% of survey respondents report that they are regularly consulted regarding the national implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD. Consultations are felt to be more frequently conducted regarding national (reporting) activities related to the CBD (49%) than is the case for the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (41%).



[20] Bund-Länder-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Naturschutz, Landschaftspflege und Erholung (see http://www.la-na.de/servlet/is/10561/)
[21] ECNC 2012

Figure 3: Consultations organized between national authorities and LRA (n=35 and n=34).

In addition to involvement of LRA via consultation, survey respondents were also asked if participation in official CDB and EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 events and activities are supported. Only 47% of respondents felt that this participation is supported by their institution/government[22]. Specific instances of participation are found in France (Montpellier is on the Advisory Committee of the cities of the CBD) and Romania (the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority has also participated in delegations to the CBD COPs and related events). Furthermore, in Belgium, in view of the devolution of powers, representatives of subnational regions and communities join the federal government to compose the Coordinating Committee for International Environment Policy, a mechanism to ensure coherence of international environmental policy at the national level and means of enabling participation of LRAs in the CBD COPs.[23]

An innovative approach to raise interest and involve LRA in the CBD processes was the LIFE project 'European capitals of Biodiversity', which organised competitions in 2010 and 2011 for Hungarian towns and villages and in 2010 and 2011 in France to find the capital of biodiversity (see case study). Representatives of the winning cities were then awarded the opportunity to attend the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 in Nagoya and the Award Ceremony on in Brussels in 2011.[24]

5.3 Supportive frameworks and provision of guidance for LRAs

5.3.1 National/regional support of LRA in developing RBASPs and LBASPs

Numerous examples have been provided by respondents and identified in the desk research that illustrate the efforts of LRA to develop local and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans (see section 5.6.1). While these successes are noteworthy, however, the number of examples that could potentially be provided if given more support remains relevant.

When asked about the support provided from regional and national administrations for developing and implementing RBASPs/LBSAPs, only approximately half of

[22] These respondents represent Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK.
[23] UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/32
[24] http://www.natureparif.fr/agir/concours-capitale-francaise-de-la-biodiversite/recueils-d-experience/1311-concours-capitale-francaise-de-la-biodiversite

respondents believed support is being provided. Regional level support for local plan/strategy development was reported by 54% of respondents, while national level support was only 49% (see Figure 4 below).

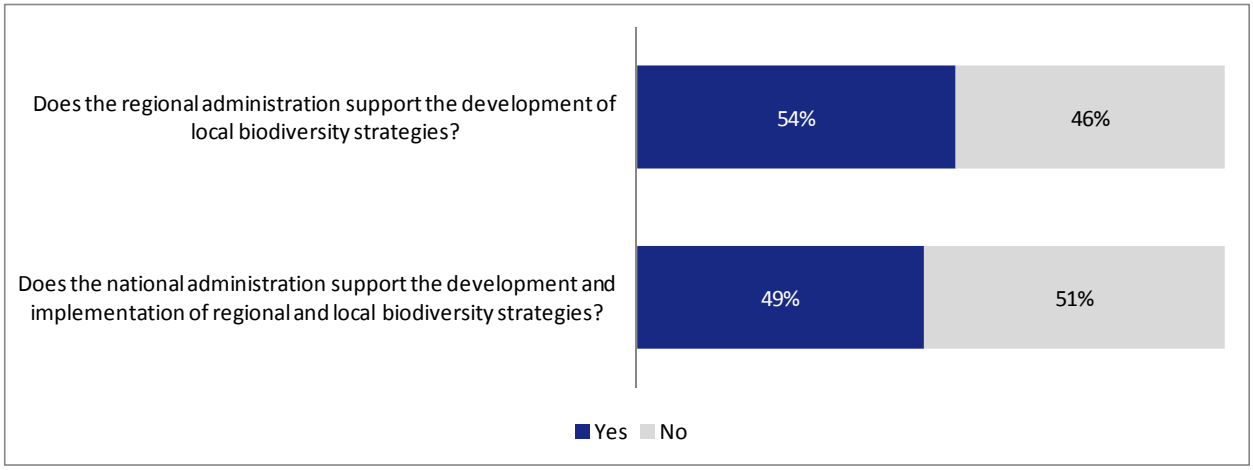


Figure 4: Regional and national administration support of regional and local biodiversity strategies. (n=37 and n=37).

Several instruments and mechanisms were frequently cited which support the development and implementation of regional/local biodiversity strategies and action plans. Among the most commonly mentioned were the provisioning of informational materials and guidance documents (see section 5.3.3 for more information). In Ireland, for example, a guidance document entitled "Guidelines for the Production of Local Biodiversity Action Plans" was prepared by the Irish Government's Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in cooperation with the Heritage Council to assist local authorities (see 'National support and guidance for developing LBAPs' case study).

Additional forms of support included organizing exchanges of experiences and best practices as well as capacity building exercises (workshops, conferences, working groups) (see section 5.3.2) and the provision of financial support (see section 5.4).

5.3.2 Capacity building, training, practical advice services by Member States/regions for LRA

As previously mentioned, capacity building, trainings and practical advice services assist LRA not only regarding LBSAPs/RBSAPs, but also in the achievement of other biodiversity related objectives. In Croatia and Slovenia[25], for example, the National Fund for the Development of Civil Society and Ministry of Environment, respectively, contributed to financing capacity building and opportunities for

[25] http://www.natura2000.gov.si/index.php?id=87&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=422&tx_ttnews[backPid]=17

exchanging experiences regarding the effective management and financing of Natura 2000. This supported the LRA in their efforts to implement EU nature legislation and increased awareness about the value of the network.

In Ireland, targeted trainings for LA were delivered from 2006-2011 with funding from the National Heritage Council grants and support from the County Heritage Officer Network (50% of their salary is paid by the LA and 50% by national funding). More specifically, Woodrow environmental consultants delivered week-long trainings for each of 13 separate Local Authorities across Ireland[26]. Specialist days were delivered with case studies and exercises for engineers, planners, roads, water service & community/ enterprise staff. Approximately 1060 Local Authority staff were trained by Woodrow during this time. Targeted guidance notes were provided to attendees.

Figure 5 provides an overview the extent to which capacity building and/or awareness-raising initiatives have been organized for LRA regarding the implementation international, national and regional biodiversity strategies or related biodiversity actions.

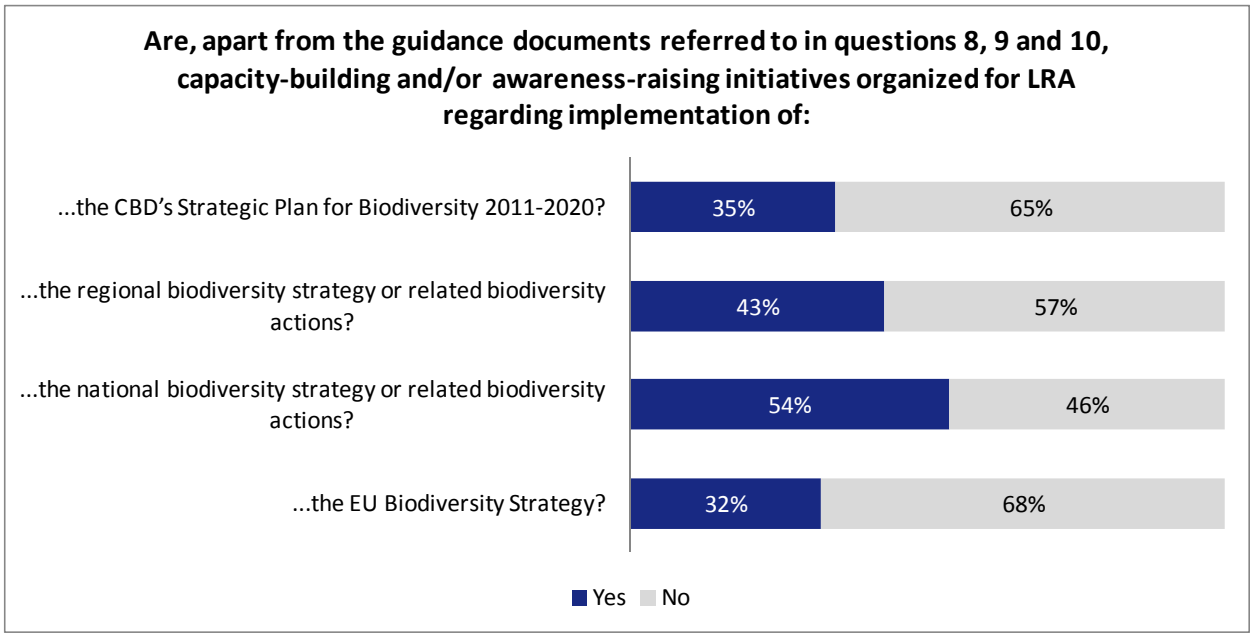


Figure 5: Capacity-building and/or awareness-raising initiatives organized for LRA regarding implementation (n=26; n=28; n=28 and n=28).

An example from Hungary highlights the relevance of EU funding for such activities. In the context of a LIFE project, the Hungarian Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency organized nine capacity building trainings for local experts (from local governments) on biodiversity issues. Similarly, in

[26] http://woodrow.ie/index.php/case-studies/training ; http://woodrow.ie/index.php/case-studies

Monaghan County Council (Ireland), awareness and capacity-building initiatives were designed and implemented through an INTERREG IV Action for Biodiversity project. This included a conference entitled "Working together for Biodiversity", training for LA staff and awareness raising initiatives.

5.3.3 Guidance documents for LRA to implement biodiversity actions

Guidance at national/regional level

Approximately one third to half of the respondents were aware of guidance documents that have been produced on the national/regional level to assist LRA in fulfilling the CBD, EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 targets and EU nature legislation requirements. Guidance documents explicitly referring to the CBD were the least commonly known. LRA-targeted guidance documents about EU nature legislation and the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 were slightly better known, with 53% and 42% awareness, respectively.

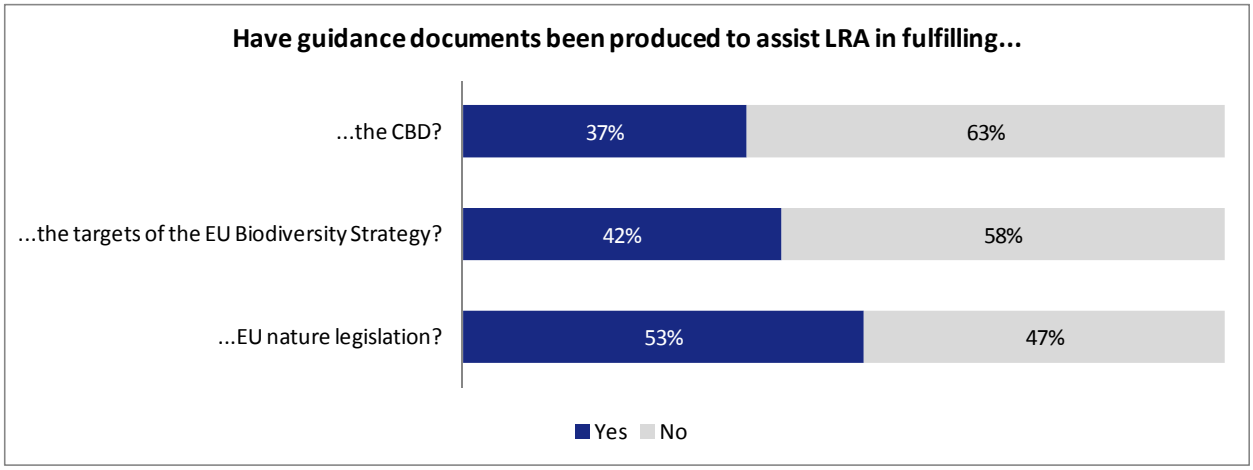


Figure 6: Provision of guidance documents to assist LRA (n=35 n=36 and n=38).

Examples of guidance documents that were identified predominantly focused on EU Nature Legislation, including e.g. Natura 2000 guidance (Belgium); Cost of Management of Natura 2000 and regional handbooks to identify, plan and manage habitats included in EU directives (Spain); Conservation Plans for Natura 2000 (Sweden); Methodological Guide on Evaluating the State of Conservation of Habitats and Species of Community Interest (France). However, the development of RBASPs/LBSAPs was also supported with publications from the IUCN France

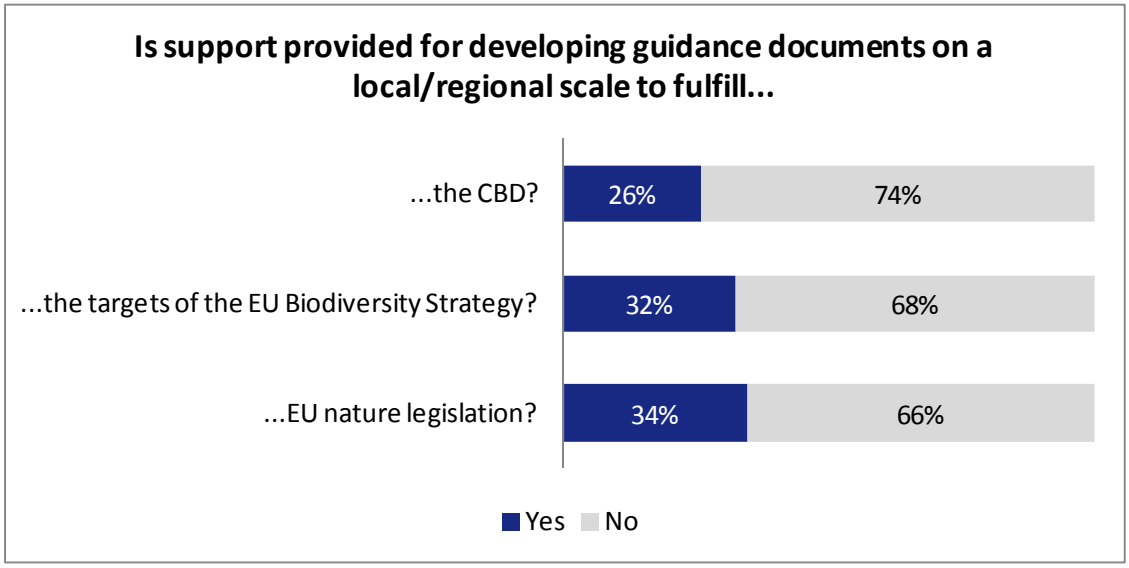
and the Irish Heritage Council (see 'National support and guidance for producing LBAPs' case study).

Further guidance included a guide on invasive alien species (Belgium) and an Irish document entitled 'Ecological Guidance for Local Authorities and Developers' (2013). The later document provides basic information for local authority staff and developers on the legal requirements and national policies governing habitats and protected species and offers best practice advice on addressing ecological constraints at an early stage in the planning process or the development of local authority projects. It is also hoped that these guidance notes will assist local authorities in setting common standards and approaches when dealing with ecological issues and constraints.

Several countries also highlighted the guidance role that the national strategies and action plans play in fulfilling European and international requirements. In Poland, for example, the 'National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity' and a work program for 2007-2013 provide guidance and tips[27].

Support for developing guidance at regional/local level

There seems to be limited support available from the national/regional levels to encourage LRA to develop their own targeted guidance documents. More specifically, less than a third of all respondents reported that support existed within their countries for this purpose (see Figure 7 below).



[27] http://biodiv.mos.gov.pl/biodiv/files/Krajowa_strategia_roznorodnosci_biologicznej.pdf

Figure 7: Support for developing guidance documents on a local/regional scale (n=31; n=31, and n=32).

The only country whose respondents all reported the provision of support for each of the three items was France. In this context, assistance has been provided in the form of knowledge transfer via consultations when preparing the guidance documents as well as the provision of funding via fund-raising contracts between the national government and the regions.

5.3.4 National/regional legislative and territorial planning frameworks for biodiversity

Complementing the commitment of Member States under the CBD to develop and update their NBSAPs, a strong political backing and national legislative support for LBSAPs and RBSAPs can provide both a comprehensive vision and a practical framework for the sustainable management of biodiversity at territorial level.

In France, for example, the NBS (2004) specifies that its orientations "*beyond their cross-cutting nature, are meant to be developed operationally for each territorial or sectorial context, and to be translated into initiatives by public and private stakeholders*". To achieve these goals, the NBS advocates for common strategies for biodiversity to be set up regionally[28].[29] The strategy first appeared in French law under the Grenelle 1 Law (2009), which stated: "*the State establishes the objective […] of defining coherent regional and local strategies, on the mainland and in its overseas territories, respecting the competences of local authorities and in involving a full dialogue with all stakeholders involved*"[30]. As previously mentioned, France has also adopted legislation aimed at ensuring the development of regional and local green infrastructure.[31]

Additionally, apart from proper national transposition of EU nature legislation, comprehensive national legislative frameworks for biodiversity can serve as an important means for national governments to encourage or reward improved biodiversity management by LRA. The German Federal Law on nature conservation, for example, obliges regional and local authorities to draw up landscape plans, apply mitigation hierarchy and compensation/offsetting measures, and protect certain habitats, amongst other requirements. The United Kingdom

[28] Natural Heritage action plan in NBS 2005 – 2008, then 2008 – 2010 (sub-action 2.2.1).
[29] IUCN France 2011
[30] Article 23 in law n°2009-967 (passed on 3 August 2009): calendar for implementing the Grenelle Environmental Project.
[31] UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/32

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act also places a statutory duty on all public authorities, including regional bodies and local authorities, to have regard for biodiversity conservation during the exercise of their functions. Finally, local biodiversity plans are required under Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan (adopted in 2002).

5.3.5 Creation or support by MS/regions of awards/recognition schemes for LRA biodiversity efforts

When asked whether national and/or regional awards/recognition schemes are in place which recognize or promote efforts undertaken by LRA on biodiversity issues 52% of the respondents say that they are aware of such schemes in their countries. Several examples were provided by the survey respondents as well as identified in the desk research which:

- Target a whole city or region;
- Are eligible to both individuals and LRA organisations; and
- Are given from regions/cities to citizens, businesses, etc.

As elucidated in a case study, the LIFE-funded competition "Biodiversity Capitals" selected projects in each of the following categories: nature in the city, species and biotope protection, forests, water and agriculture, communication and awareness raising, urban planning. Ultimately, nine Capitals were awarded to cities. The mayors of the French, Hungarian, and Spanish Capitals of Biodiversity 2010 then contributed to the City Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya, Japan.

In France, the initiative *Capitale française de la biodiversité* awards specific activities focusing on stakeholder engagement in the context of the national biodiversity strategy. Further examples were found in Northern Ireland ('Sustainable Ireland Awards', open to both individuals and LRA), Poland (*Najpiękniejsze Parki Mazowsza* award to the most beautiful park in the region), Finland ('Biodiversity Competition' for promoting biodiversity[32]), Bulgaria (nationwide 'Green Bulgaria' campaign) and Spain (Red+Biodiversidad[33]). Finally, the Deutsche Umwelthilfe organisation (DE) also highlights best practice examples

[32] http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=358679&lan=en

[33] The local government network +Biodiversidad is the section of the Spanish Federation of Municipality and Provinces (FEMP) aiming to promote local policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and for the conservation of natural heritage. This network is geared towards the promotion of local policies for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, the conservation of natural heritage, and the support of rural development following sustainability criteria (see http://www.redbiodiversidad.es/).

of cities and towns taking action towards nature conservation in its *Bundeshauptstadt im Naturschutz*[34] competition.

In addition to the aforementioned awards or recognition schemes, MS and regions can encourage LRA to apply for their land use international/European labels such as 'PEFC/FSC' in forestry or those existing in other sectors, to promote land use that is more sustainable for local biodiversity. LRA can also be encouraged to apply for international/European awards schemes, for example, the EUROPARC Federation Transboundary Protected Areas programme[35] and European Commission's newly launched Natura 2000 Award[36] (since 2014).

5.4 National/regional funding and financing support

In view of the difficulties faced by competent LRA to prioritise funding for biodiversity, financial support and funding from the national and regional levels is crucial. National/regional support can take the form of co-funding European projects, contributing own funding or supporting innovative finances.

Regarding the co-funding of European projects, Figure 8 below illustrates the high number of cases in which European funds/programmes have been utilized to support local/regional biodiversity conservation efforts. The LIFE Programme has been identified as crucial in this regard.

[34] Deutsche Umwelthilfe 2008
[35] http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/transboundary-parks
[36] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/

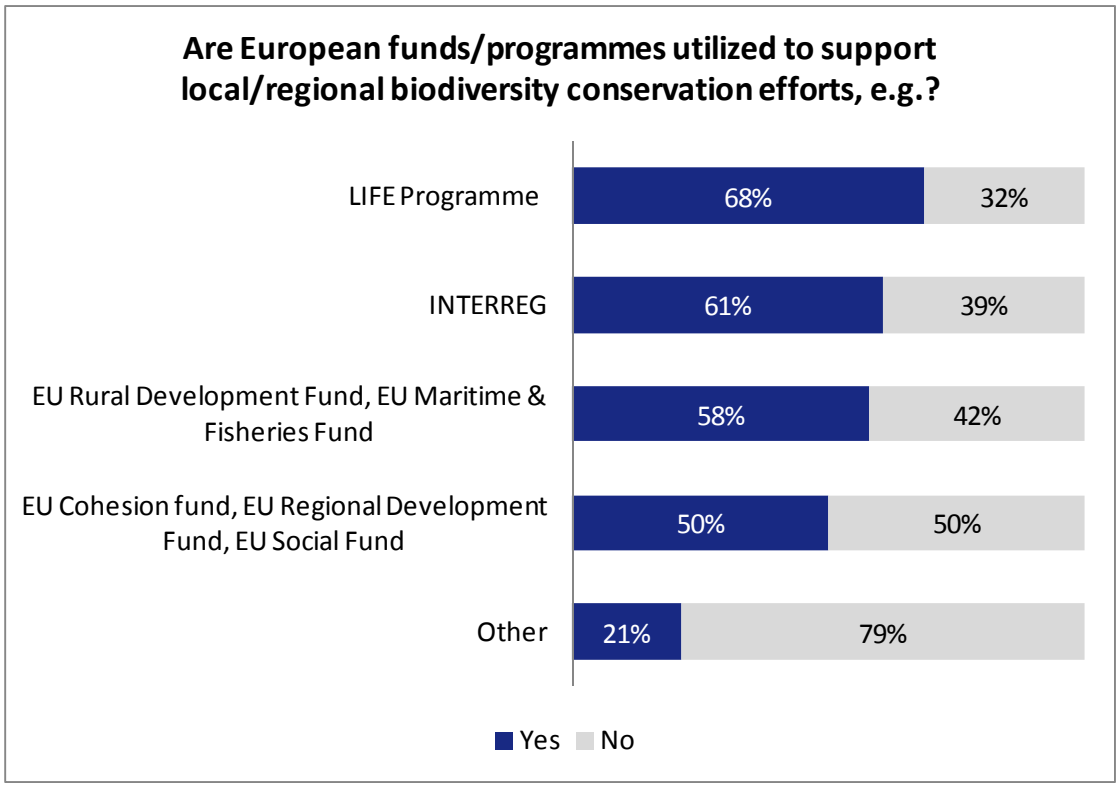


Figure 8: Utilisation of European funds/programmes to support local/regional biodiversity conservation efforts (n=38).

In addition to EU funds, a total of 72% of survey respondents were aware of additional innovative means of funding or national/regional own funding schemes that are made available to LRA to support their biodiversity conservation efforts. Such national funding programs can serve as a complement to the EU funding programmes and fund LRA (pilot) actions to contribute to national biodiversity objectives, such as German funding programme "Biological Diversity"[37]. This programme has existed since 2011 specifically for the implementation of the German NBSAP.

Several additional examples of Member States or regions providing their own funding to LRAs for biodiversity conservation have been identified. In Sweden, for example, the LONA project (Local Nature Conservation project of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) distributes funds to Sweden's county administrative boards, which decide on projects that must contribute to one or more of Sweden's environmental quality objectives (see the LONA case study). Own funds are also contributed by, for example, Ireland's National Heritage Council, Poland's national and provincial funds for environmental protection and water management, the budget from the Autonomous Region of the Azores (Portugal),

[37] www.bundesprogramm.biologischevielfalt.de

Spain's provincial funds for land stewardship and habitat restoration projects. Some funds re-allocate fees for nature conservation projects, as e.g. Estonia's National Fund KIK from environmental fees and CO2 quotas trading, and in Bavaria (Germany) funds from waste water discharge, water abstraction charges and fishing fees.

National funds have also been shown to often be specifically dedicated to improving the state of knowledge of biodiversity, ecosystems and their services and green infrastructure at the local/regional level (82% of survey respondents were aware of national funds intended for this purpose). Examples of such innovative LRA actions resulting from national level support include:

- A national database (EELIS), which contains GIS data of habitats and species (Estonia);
- The projects *Atlas de Biodiversité communale* and *Trames Vertes et Bleues* (France);
- Ecosystem mapping activities and specific conservation projects (Germany);
- The ECOPLAN project (funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency) and habitat mapping at county level (funded through the Heritage Plan fund) (Ireland);
- National activities on the mapping of green infrastructure (Sweden); and
- The surveying of marine biodiversity in the British Virgin Islands (UK).

Funding capitalizing on the private sector has also been identified. In several countries (e.g. UK, FR, DE), afforestation and ecosystem restoration have been paid for by private and public investors as compensation for construction projects. An additional project in Germany is the MoorFutures project, which offers companies the opportunity to offset their greenhouse gas emissions by supporting local/regional carbon sink forestry projects or restoring and management of peatlands and wetlands (see MoorFutures case study).

Novel-funding approaches can be found in the German city of Düsseldorf (offers the incentive of reduced sewage charges for houses with green roofs[38]), Scotland (Greenspace Scotland[39] providing seed money to kick start projects that help implement the strategy), and Spain, amongst others. In Spain, green infrastructure projects specifically are supported through the economic value of the:

- rights of new developments created by the urban municipal plans (3% of the development rights);

[38] ECNC 2012
[39] http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/

- public land estate; and
- development rights of the Strategic Regional Projects (5% of the development rights).

Finally, it is also important to pay attention to the support and encouragement of voluntary actions, such as those undertaken by landowners on their private properties (via incentive measures).[40]

5.5 Exchange and cooperation activities of local and regional authorities

A majority of the respondents (65%) acknowledged that exchanges, cooperation and partnerships on biodiversity issues have been organised between local and regional authorities within a Member State or a region. To a lesser extent, respondents were also aware of such activities between different regional authorities (46%) and between different local authorities (40%).

With regard to local-regional cooperation, cooperation agreements exist in Spain between some regional governments and local authorities and concrete collaborations take place in the field of protected area management and planning (e.g. Catalonia/ Province of Barcelona) or in the form of specific joint working groups on the design of management plans for Natura 2000 sites (Basque Government with municipalities).

In the context of local-local cooperation, the efforts by the ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) serve as best-practice examples in this area. Further activities include networks of municipal ecologists in Sweden (City of Stockholm) who meet regularly, sometimes with direct support from the County Administrative Board, and the Italian network of LA, which began in 2005 with 4 municipalities and has grown to include approximately 80 municipalities from around the country[41].

Regional-regional cooperation includes direct collaboration of provinces and regions. In the case of Portugal, a cooperation project between the Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands and Cape Verde is in place. In Germany, the aforementioned "LANA" promotes formalised cooperation between the regions and the annual “Länderforum” are organised on the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy.

Exchanges, cooperation and partnerships on biodiversity issues are also organized within the European and international context. Within this context, 36% of the

[40] EEA 18/2011, EHF 2011
[41] http://www.comunivirtuosi.org

respondents stated that the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity is utilized as a platform in the context of international cooperation.

Catalonia provides one example of such collaborative efforts. More specifically, Catalonia is member of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments of the CBD and a founding member of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD[42]).

EU-level initiatives such as ICLEI-LAB (Local Action for Biodiversity), the EuroCities network and the MediverCities project (see 'MediverCities' case study) were mentioned as further best-practice examples.

In addition, EU-funded projects (specifically LIFE and INTERREG) play an important role in facilitating cooperation at the European level. Examples of projects receiving this type of funding include, e.g.:

- Biodiversity Marketplace[43] (NL) - LIFE+;
- Action for Biodiversity[44] (UK) - INTERREG IVA;
- People with Nature[45] (EE) - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013;
- LandLife project[46] - LIFE;
- SURF nature project[47] – INTERREG IVC;
- NATREG project[48] (IT, AU, SI, HR and RS) – ERDF; and
- EU Biodiversity Capitals[49] - LIFE.

The 'European Learning Network for Regions and Biodiversity' represents a further noteworthy effort to bring together all relevant players and information on the implementation of biodiversity policy by local and regional authorities in pan-European scale (includes EU member states and non-EU countries and pre-accession countries). The network intends to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise and best applied methods and successful actions between EU member states, accession countries and third countries. Regional authorities and the regional and local actors (stakeholders) they work with in the field of biodiversity (NGOs,

[42] http://www.nrg4sd.org/
[43] http://biodiversiteitbrabant.nl/index.php?pagina_id=357
[44] http://actionforbiodiversity.eu/; http://www.eastborderregion.com/pages/index.asp?title=Action_For_Biodiversity
[45] See case study and http://www.ctc.ee/running/people-with-nature
[46] http://www.landstewardship.eu/
[47] http://www.surf-nature.eu/
[48] http://www.natreg.eu/
[49] See case study and http://www.capital-biodiversity.eu/53.html

businesses, area managers etc.) are welcome to use the website and its contents for the purpose of knowledge sharing, presenting projects, and searching for partners.

5.6 Key local and regional authority actions

5.6.1 Development of RBSAPs and LBSAPs

When asked about the development of local and regional biodiversity strategies/action plans, the majority of respondents indicated that they were aware of such activities taking place. Awareness of the development of regional level strategies/plans is slightly higher than that of similar activities taking place at a local level (see Figure 9 below).

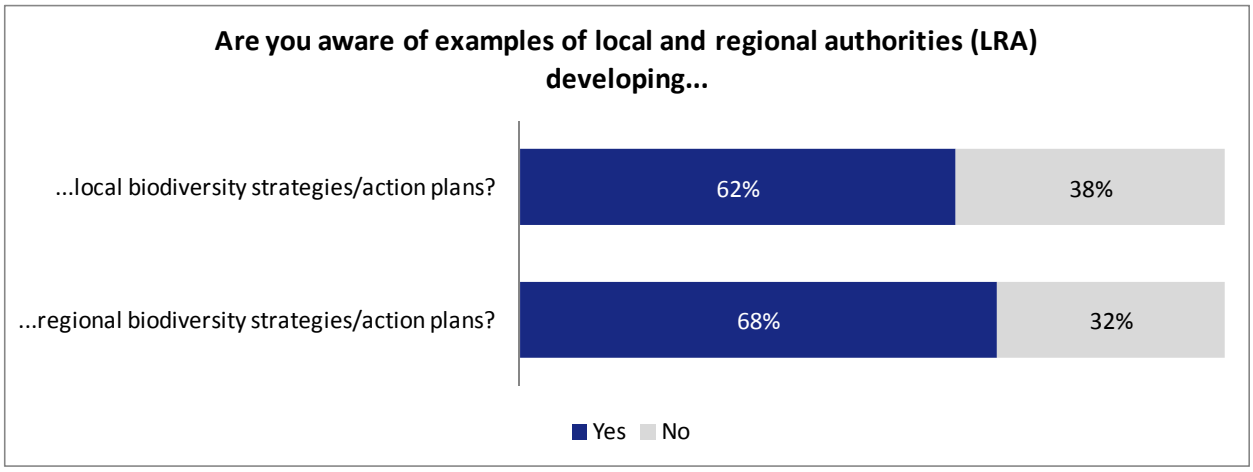


Figure 9: Awareness of examples of RBSAPs/LBSAPs (n=34 and n=37).

Development of regional biodiversity strategies/action plans (RBSAPs)

Respondents further identified what they consider to be 'best practice' examples of such development processes on a regional level. For example, the participatory process for the development of the regional nature plan of the Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium) was highlighted.[50] Here, the draft biodiversity plan was developed in a participatory process involving representatives of regional and local authorities as well as NGOs, academic institutions and representatives of the business world. Approximately one quarter of the participants represented local authorities (municipalities). They are now invited to submit their views on the draft plan before its final adoption by the regional authority. Two presentation sessions

[50] For more information, see:
http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/etat/informer.aspx?id=12252&langtype=2060&detail=tab1;
http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/uploadedFiles/Contenu_du_site/Etat/09Plans_et_programmes/14_Plan_nature/RAP_20130207_PROPAfr.pdf?langtype=2060

of the draft plan have been specially organized for them, with approximately two thirds of the municipalities attending.

Further examples include the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Bavaria (Germany), East Border Region Regional Biodiversity Framework (Ireland), Basque Country, Navarra and Canary Islands Regional Biodiversity Plans (Spain), and the Silesian Region's Conservation Strategy 2030 (Poland). French respondents also listed the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Strategy for Biodiversity and PACA Regional Ecological Coherence Schemes (SRCE). The French Nord-Pas-de-Calais region is also involved in the Regional Ecological Coherence Schemes and in developing a regional strategy for biodiversity.[51]

Development of local biodiversity strategies/action plans (LBSAPs)

The involvement of cities and municipalities in developing local strategies/action plans was also revealed by the survey respondents. In Belgium, examples included the local contributions to Agenda 21 (development of management plans for green spaces, creation of flower meadows, etc.) as well as to municipality nature action plans and awareness raising strategies targeting local populations about the importance of preserving biodiversity. The Biodiversity Plan of Paris (France), Augsburg (Germany), Mainz (Germany), Monaghan County (Ireland), Zoetermeer municipality (Netherlands) and Menorca (Spain) are some examples that were raised. In the UK, the Surrey Local Nature Partnership has involved all organisations in the county and was raised as an additional best practice example.

A further example is the small rural community of Lestrem (France), which was a pioneer when it commissioned a study on the feasibility of a local network of biological corridors within the framework of "biological corridor contracts". The neighbouring community of Mont-Bernanchon subsequently joined the study and also developed a network of biological corridors, which are directly connected to the Lestrem corridors. Lestrem was therefore the first community in France to have a cartography of biological corridors and to apply it on the field, with the collaboration of scientists.[52]

[51] https://www.nordpasdecalais.fr/upload/docs/application/pdf/2013-01/volet_biodiversitetrame_verte_et_bleue_du_sraddt.pdf
[52] http://www.lestrem-nature.org/

5.6.2 Conducting (innovative) biodiversity actions

A vast array of actions has been identified which are being conducted at the local and/or regional level by LRAs. Some of these are more innovative in nature, such as green infrastructure, offsetting, no net loss and TEEB related activities, while others are more standard in nature – but nevertheless playing a central role in contributing to the conservation of biodiversity.

The respondents of the survey were asked to select from a broad range of issues for which support has been provided by national, regional, and local authorities for local/regional action. Species protection, the management and implementation of the Natura 2000 Network, and green infrastructure were the top three issues arising (see Figure 10).

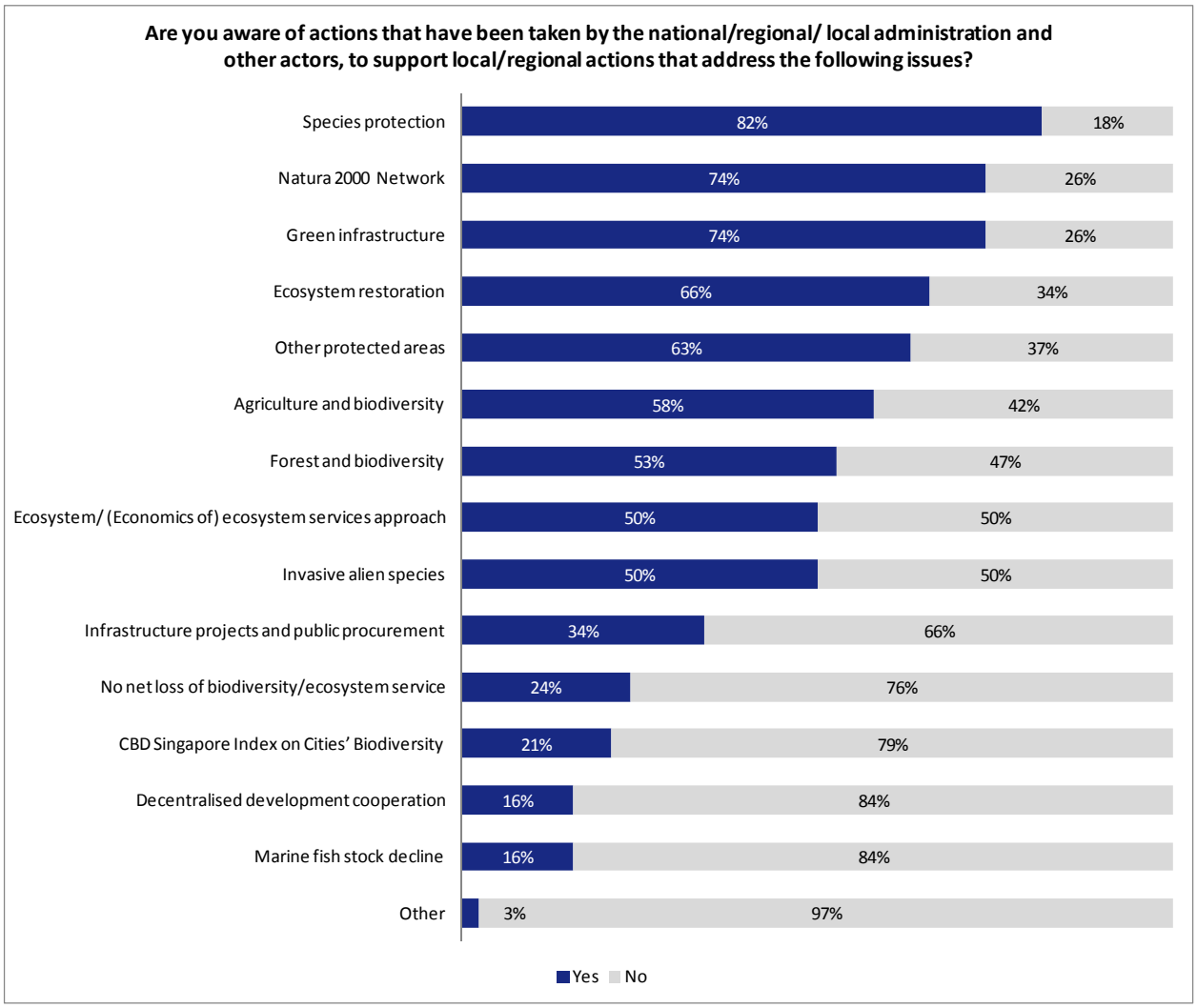


Figure 10. Support of local/regional action addressing a range of biodiversity-related issues.

Within these areas, examples of relevant actions across the Member States include:

- Evaluation of the socio-economic benefits derived from Monaghan's wetlands (Ireland);
- Development of a Green Infrastructure framework for an efficient urban model in the region of Valencia (Spain);
- Ecosystem restoration priorities have been indicated as an issue for discussion in the territorial development plan (UK);
- Management measures for the protection of Phasianus colchicus in the Nestos Delta implemented by Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace (Greece);
- The establishment of round tables (including local authorities and stakeholders) on the management of Natura 2000 sites;
- Agri-environmental payments focused on Habitats of European Interest in Catalonia (Spain);
- Adaptation of Mediterranean Woodlands to Climate Change Effects (Portugal);
- The construction of a wildlife crossing over the national A8 highway (France);
- Compensatory measures regarding the environmental evaluation of infrastructure projects (Spain); and
- Annual removal of invasive alien species in the protected areas in the Municipality of Ljubljana (Slovenia).

5.6.3 Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagements

The cooperation of LRA with other institutions and actors in related sectors (agriculture, fishery, forestry, sports/tourism, business, NGO, etc.) has proven to be a valuable tool in achieving biodiversity objectives several cases. According to the survey respondents, 67% feel that the national and/or regional levels support such forms of cooperation.

In Belgium, for example, the Wallonia Nature Network catalogue of actions foresees that by 2018, 10 sectorial charters will be established and implemented with interested partners, such as the quarry sectors, sports associations, tourism administration, industrial areas, etc. These charters aim to develop biodiversity-friendly practices and allow concerned industries to communicate about these

actions. The federation of quarry (FEDIEX), for instance, was signed in April 2012 and began to implement a sectorial charter on biodiversity.[53]

The Briston Natural History Consortium[54] illustrates a further voluntary program that aims to engage people with the natural world through collaborative action. The consortium started in 2003, when 6 organisations in Bristol (UK) joined forces on flagship environmental communication projects. From 2003-2008, these organisations worked together under a memorandum of understanding, before gaining charitable status in May 2008. Now, the collaboration delivers events and activities to inspire public interest and participation in nature conservation and builds further partnerships bringing together diverse organisations to exchange experiences and learn from one another.

Finally, a novel branding program was recently developed in Portugal (in the Lands of Priolo territory of the Azores), entitled 'Priolo Brand'.[55] Registered by the Regional Government of the Azores, the brand was created to encompass the actions of the LIFE Sustainable Laurel Forest Project, following the LIFE Priolo Project. The goal is to be a quality seal for companies to establish partnerships with the São Miguel Island Natural Park and contribute to the promotion of the development of sustainable tourism in the municipalities of the Nordeste and Povoação.

A participative and permanent system of governance has been highlighted as being essential to successfully implementing RBSAPs and LBSAPs.[56] The Alkborough Flats Project in the UK[57] is an interesting example of such a participative approach as it focuses its efforts on stakeholder engagement services. In the project, existing flood defences were breeched and 440 hectares of intensively farmed agricultural land were flooded. To accomplish these feats, multiple stakeholder and partnership meetings were held and local community projects were agreed upon, such as the South Humber Wildlife and People Project and the Alkborough Community Archaeology Project.

Finally, the Rheinland-Pfalz National Park development process (see case study) serves as an example for multilevel governance cooperation between a region, its local authorities, other key stakeholders and the wider public.

[53] Fediex 2012
[54] http://www.bnhc.org.uk/
[55] http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/srrn-cets-en/menus/principal/marca+priolo/
[56] e.g. IUCN France 2011, ICLEI, CdR4577/2013 fin, CdR 112/2010 fin
[57] http://www.coastms.co.uk/resources/9f84d25f-5505-4113-9a6a-21fe135fafb1.pdf

5.6.4 Public education and awareness-raising campaigns

A number of specific mechanisms/instruments are in place to support LRA in efforts to raise awareness of key actors (e.g. agriculture, fishery, forestry, sports/tourism, business, youth) on biodiversity objectives. Examples of such mechanisms and instruments include:

- The publication "*366 gestes pour la biodiversité*" by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Belgium)
- Information bulletins aimed at awareness raising on local radio stations (France)
- Public relation activities by conservation authorities at regional and local level (Germany)
- Organization of open meetings and dissemination of printed materials (Greece)
- Raising awareness of local biodiversity among all sectors of the community while increasing the knowledge of the habitats and species by gathering information and promoting relevant research relevant in 'Galway Biodiversity Project' (Ireland)
- Conducting a national survey entitled 'What the Poles think about biodiversity' (Poland)
- Organization of trainings and workshops, specifically in the context of protected area management (Spain)

Additionally, the 'People with Nature' project[58] aimed to unite ideas, capacity and tools for improvement of nature education situation and so awareness of the society on sustainable development and integrated nature conservation in the project region of territories of Estonia, Latvia and Russia (see case study). A further example is found in Lithuania, home to the Nature Heritage Fund (NHF)[59]. This non-profit, non-governmental environmental organisation works in close cooperation with administrations of protected areas, municipalities, local communities as well as other environmental non-governmental organisations active in the country to raise environmental awareness and promote environmental education.

Further tools are also available to support LRA communication, education and public awareness raising (CEPA) efforts, such as the CEPA Evaluation Design

[58] Supported by the Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation Programme within European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument 2007-2013 and Environmental Investment Centre.
[59] http://www.gpf.lt/en

Toolkit[60] from ICLEI. This toolkit aims to assist CEPA managers, practitioners and partners in planning the evaluation of their biodiversity communication, education and public awareness programmes.

5.6.5 Improving the state of knowledge and participation of the public in local/regional research

With regard to research activities on urban biodiversity specifically, 50% of the respondents state that such activities have been promoted in their region. Some of these have been linked to global networks such as URBIO and URBIS. Specific examples include the *Observatoire régional de la biodiversité* (Nord Pas de Calais) in France, the University of Lodz as a member of URBES and participant in the Green Surge research project (Poland), the project BCNEcology and the Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF) in Spain.

Publication participation can also extend to scientific research and monitoring of the status of species, which can complement the LRA information base on which to build their biodiversity management and to educate citizens. In Malta, for example, an initiative has been started by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), which aims to develop the national network of volunteers and to engage the public in observing elements of biodiversity.[61] These findings are to then be reported to the MEPA via a centralised system.

5.7 Final reflection

Regardless of the numerous best-practice examples that were identified in the context of the desk research and the stakeholder survey, our research also showed that overarching shortcomings in the support of local and regional authorities' efforts to design and implement regional/local biodiversity strategies or actions plans still exist. The existing problems can be ascribed to two general issue areas: the general lack of awareness– among politicians and the wider public – and coordination of efforts for biodiversity issues, and the lack of financial resources for the implementation of concrete biodiversity actions on multiple levels.

[60] http://cbc.iclei.org/cepa-toolkit
[61] http://www.mepa.org.mt/citizenscience

Lacking awareness and coordination of efforts on biodiversity issues

Our research showed that biodiversity and nature protection is still a lower-ranked priority among the various policy areas across most Member States. This is usually reflected in the lack of appropriate funding, but often also in an inappropriate design of the overall legislative framework and specific policy instruments. A general lack of awareness or perceived importance among politicians often hampers the aspired integration of biodiversity issues into sectorial policies. In Spain, for example, respondents of the survey stated that the country misses a clear, legal background for biodiversity conservation at national and regional scales. This includes a lack of specific laws, instruments, coordination efforts, and action plans. As a result, the actions that are being carried out are described as 'weak and fragile' with no clear priorities. A similar situation can also be observed in other Member States.

In general, a strong legal and administrative framework for biodiversity protection would certainly improve the situation. Examples of existing legislation addressing this issue have been provided in the results chapter, including e.g. the German Federal Law on nature conservation, French legislation for developing green infrastructure and the UK Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

Within the suggested framework, support for integrated national biodiversity knowledge infrastructures with full support for system development and implementation at the territorial level are also necessary. This could take the form of, for instance, guidance documents. Ireland's 'Guidelines for the Production of Local Biodiversity Action Plans' serve as a useful example of supporting LRA in their efforts to conserve biodiversity, while making sure to address nationally relevant framework conditions and considerations.

The promotion of best-practice examples (i.e. demonstration projects) has also been highlighted as an effective tool in awareness raising campaigns.

National administrations fail to implement national fora and discussion platforms for the different administrative levels, which in the case of Ireland was reported to have resulted in a 'leadership vacuum'.

Insufficient financial support and human resources

Without sufficient financial resources, LRA struggle to mobilise capacities for the design and implementation of local and regional biodiversity actions. As a general phenomenon, LRA suffer from inadequate financial means in relation to the various tasks they have to accomplish across all policy areas. The consequences are also felt in the area of nature conservation. On the one hand, the lack of appropriate

funds leads to a structural shortcoming of qualified staff (biodiversity officers) in the respective administrative units. On the other hand, there is only limited room to finance concrete actions, such as awareness raising campaigns, exchange programmes, and key actions related to the design and implementation of RBSAPs and LBSAPs.

Recently, in light of tight national budgets, some Member States have announced further cuts in nature protection spending, which might lead to a further deterioration of the situation.

With respect to additional actions or mechanisms required, LRA in most Member States would favour the expansion of national funding programmes to fund LRA (pilot) actions that contribute to national biodiversity objectives (such as the German funding program 'Biological Diversity' and Swedish LONA project).

In addition to national funding, LRA are also in favour of exploring new, innovative means of funding to support their biodiversity strategies and action plans, including financing schemes with private-sector involvement, e.g. businesses and landowners[62], as e.g. Vittel's payments for ecosystem services programme[63] or the MoorFutures project in Germany. The importance of EU funding programmes needs to also be stressed, including the potential of INTERREG IVC and LIFE projects, European research projects, as well as funding opportunities under the ERDF, EARDF, ESF and EMFF Operational Programmes.[64] The latter should recognize the funding requirements as identified in the national/regional Prioritized Action Frameworks for Natura 2000 and by the regions and cities.

6 Case studies

6.1 Selected case studies

The following 15 case studies have been selected as best-practice examples.

[62] EEA 18/2011, EC expert group on GI 2011, EHF 2013

[63] Farmers in the catchment received financing to change farming practices and technology in order to address the risk of nitrate contamination of the aquifer used by Vittel (ECNC 2012).

[64] SURF project 09/2012

Table 3: Selection of case studies

Source	Type	Topic	Country	Timeframe	EU Funding
Survey	1A, 2C, 5A, 5D	Barcelona City's Green Infrastructure Plan and cooperation with the Diputacio	Spain	ongoing	partly
Survey	1A	NBAP development forum	Austria	ongoing	n/a
Survey	1B, 2C	Participatory national park planning	Germany	ongoing	yes
Desk research	2A, 3C	National support and guidance for developing LBAPs	Ireland	2008-2012	n/a
Survey	2B, 3B	Action for Biodiversity	Northern Ireland (UK) and Ireland	2011-2013	yes
Desk research	2C, 3C, 5A	Local Nature Partnerships	UK	2012-ongoing	n/a
Survey	2D, 5A	Loi Grenelle initiant les Schémas régionaux de Cohérence écologique (SRCE)	France	ongoing	partly
Survey	2E, 3B	European Capitals of Biodiversity	EU	finished	yes
Desk research	3A	MoorFutures	Germany	ongoing	n/a
Survey	3C	The LONA funding instrument	Sweden	ongoing	n/a
Survey	4A	MediverCities	France / Mediterranean	ongoing	n/a
Desk research	4B	International Marine Park Bonifacio	France / Italy	ongoing	yes
Desk research	5E, 4B, 3B	People with Nature	Latvia / Estonia	2012-2014	yes
Survey	5C, 2B, 3B, 5E, 5F	South Holland (GIFT-t project)	the Netherlands	ongoing	yes
Survey	5C	Contracts for biodiversity	Belgium	ongoing	n/a

In order to provide the reader with a clear overview of the most relevant points within each case study, a template has been drafted (Annex C). This structure serves as the basis for presenting the 15 in-depth case studies and includes criteria such as the design and implementation, multilevel governance aspect, challenges and enabling factors for success, costs/financing and lessons learnt.

6.2 Presentation of case studies

Barcelona City's Green Infrastructure plan and the cooperation with the Diputacio

The City of Barcelona has created a new green development plan based on the concept of Green Infrastructure with the core ambition of biodiversity protection. The City of Barcelona is strongly supported in its ambition by the Barcelona Provincial Council. Strategies and plans are developed on both levels, but a good cooperation has been established to create a consistent and coherent development process on both levels.	
Member State(s)	Spain
Executing entity	**Barcelona Provincial Council** (Diputacio Barcelona), **City of Barcelona** (Ajuntament de Barcelona)
Multilevel Governance aspect	Cooperation between the local and the regional level supported by different development and action plans
Timeframe	Ongoing

Summary:

The City of Barcelona has developed an ambitious plan to embed the green infrastructure approach in its future city planning. The City will implement this plan with the support of the Diputació, the surrounding province of Barcelona. Both authorities are developing their own strategic plans and implementation actions, but they harmonize their work to create more consistent solutions.

Barcelona city's Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Plan (2011-2020) is the fundamental strategic tool that defines the challenges, objectives and commitment to preserve green spaces and biodiversity, and supports the overall strategic planning and development goals of the city. Its long-term aim is to develop green infrastructure that will provide multifunctional solutions for a sustainable urban development. It supports the creation of green spaces and support green solutions for urban construction challenges. This plan has been developed by the respective department of Barcelona's City Council and was enriched by a broad stakeholder consultation that involved over 300 citizens.

The Diputacio has also participated in the development of the Green Infrastructure plan. This is a good example of the working collaboration between these two levels. It is a strategic partnership based on knowledge exchange and strategic planning. The Diputacio's main objective is to develop the province and the embedded municipalities in a sustainable way. Therefore, they coordinate a number of projects and initiatives to give technical and non-technical support. One biodiversity project of reference is the SITxell project, where support is given to the 31 municipalities for their green space analysis and planning.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

In its Green Infrastructure Plan, the city of Barcelona has set ambitious goals regarding their future urban development. To reach these goals and to guarantee a coherent development within the surrounding area of the city, a collaborative partnership has been created with the Diputacio.

Additional Information:	https://w110.bcn.cat/MediAmbient/Continguts/Documents/Documentacio/BCN2020_GreenInfraestructureBiodiversityPlan.pdf	
Contact:	Toni Pujol Vidal Strategy Department - Urban Habitat Barcelona City Council Diagonal 240, 4th floor E-08018 Barcelona T. +34 932914892 tpujol@bcn.cat	Carles Castell Puig Head of the Office for Land Analysis and Planning Natural Areas Service, Area of Territory and Sustainability - Provincial Council of Barcelona Comte d'Urgell, 187. 08036 Barcelona Phone 934 022 896 castellpc@diba.cat

Austrian national Biodiversity-Commission

The Austrian National Biodiversity Commission was established by the former Ministry for Environment and Youth. It coordinates all biodiversity-related issues and integrates representatives from different authorities and institutions, as well as civil society. It is a cross-sectorial institution and aims to fulfil the multidimensional issue of biodiversity protection.	
Member State(s)	Austria
Executing entity	Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Multilevel Governance aspect	In the national Commission, both the national and sub-national (federal-state) levels are represented and align their work.
Timeframe	1996 - Ongoing

Summary:

The National Biodiversity Commission (NBC) is currently chaired by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The members of the Commission are representatives of several Federal Ministries, Provincial Governments, universities, landowner associations and other interest groups, such as the Austrian Trade Union, the Austrian Hunting Association, the Austrian Fishing Association and several environmental NGOs.

The Commission is in charge of the coordination and strategic development of Austrian's position towards the Convention on Biological Diversity, and functions as a platform for steering the biodiversity protection process within Austria. The first meeting of the Commission was held in 1996 and has been followed by at least one subsequent meeting per year.

Under the lead of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Environment, the NBC elaborated the first national biodiversity strategy in 1998. The strategy has since been evaluated twice and updated once (in 2005). The Commission is also responsible for the compulsory reporting towards the CBD. The fourth and most recent report was developed in 2010. In its biodiversity work, the Commission has also furthered additional processes such as the awareness raising campaign "vielfaltleben.at" as well as the biodiversity forums to prepare the new national biodiversity strategy that is due to be released in 2014.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

The Commission incorporates different representatives from the national and the regional levels, as well as scientific stakeholders and NGO representatives. This set-up offers an excellent opportunity to develop a coherent implementation process that takes different governmental levels and societal perspectives into account. The Austrian National Biodiversity Commission also serves as an example of many similar coordination mechanisms existing in other European Member States.

Additional Information:	www.biologischevielfalt.at	
Contact:	Andrea Nouak Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft Stubenbastei 5, 1010 Wien	+43-1-51522/1616 Andrea.nouak@bmlfuw.gv.at

Hunsrück-Hochwald – Rheinland-Pfalz National Park

The Hunsrück-Hochwald National Park project aims at establishing the first national park in the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate, located in south-western Germany. It will cover an area of about 100 km^2 and has the primary objective to protect natural biodiversity. This initiative is of particular interest due to involvement of a wide range of decision-makers and stakeholders in the ongoing development process, such as citizens and NGOs as well as local and national authorities.	
Member State	Germany
Executing entity	Ministeriums für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Weinbau und Forsten Rheinland-Pfalz Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld of Trier University
Multilevel Governance aspect	The project was initiated by the Ministry of Environment, but is based on a broad decision involving the citizens of Rhineland-Palatinate. The initiative is developed in an ongoing process and involves a range of stakeholder groups.
Timeframe	2011 – Ongoing (April/May 2015)

Summary:

The Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Food, Wine and Forests (MULEWF) of Rhineland-Palatinate wanted to account a National Park Reserve - the first in the region - as measure of the regional development of its largely rural areas and to support national and international biodiversity objectives. The park will contribute to one of the German National Biodiversity Strategy's targets, namely that 10% of state forest should be left for natural development.

The Ministry opted for a bottom-up and participatory approach from the onset, as it considered the will and commitment of the local communities as crucial for the success of such a national park reserve. In a first step, five regions were selected as being suitable for hosting the reserve and they were asked for an expression of basic interest. Subsequently, the government organized extensive dialogue processes in the local communities. The results were integrated into the development concept, which was then submitted to the districts and municipalities. These opted for voting in the local council or through organized referenda. The majority of local communities voted for the establishment of a National Park Reserve in their region, enabling the park to be established in the envisioned area. The final legislative step started in early 2014 and the park is expected to be opened in April/May 2015. It will cover 101,2 km^2 (92 km^2 in Rhineland-Palatinate, 9,2 km^2 in Saarland) and will integrate the already existing Saar-Hunsrück nature park, the majority of which is state-owned property. Currently, the implementation process is managed by a team that, among other responsibilities, also organizes exchanges with the different stakeholder groups. With the official opening of the park in 2015, these responsibilities will be transferred in an official national park management department, which will continue the work on public involvement and will function as a focal point for education and awareness raising.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

The described development process serves as a best practice example for three reasons, namely due to the: (1) approach to awareness raising about biodiversity, (2) involvement of stakeholders and the wider public and (3) multilevel governance cooperation of different governing levels.

Contact:	Dr. Harad Egidi Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Food, Wine and Forests (MULEWF) - Referat Bildung für nachhaltige Umwelt, inter-nationale Umweltpolitik, Umwelt und Sport	Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße 55116 Mainz 06131 16-4634 E-mail Harald.Egidi@mulewf.rlp.de

National support and guidance for developing LBAPs

The national government in Ireland has provided several forms of assistance to counties to support the development of local biodiversity action plans, including producing a guidance document and (previously) co-financing the development and implementation of the plans. Numerous examples exist throughout Ireland of plans which have been enabled or benefited from such support.	
Member State(s)	Ireland
Executing entity	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Irish Heritage Council
Multilevel Governance aspect	National guidance and finances support local authorities in developing their respective biodiversity action plans.
Timeframe	Document published in 2005 and revised in 2008

Summary

The Irish Heritage Council and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government drafted a guidance document to assist Local Authorities in the preparation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and to provide background information on the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, while also supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The preparation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plans is part of an overall process that the government has initiated to address heritage concerns and to fulfil international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Local Biodiversity Action Plans are required under the National Biodiversity Plan, which was adopted by the Irish government in 2002. Amongst other aspects, the guidance document elucidates the main elements in the planning/development process as well as how to establish a biodiversity working group, promote and raise awareness of biodiversity, identify information gaps, establish priorities and set targets, structure the plans and identify delivery mechanisms and financial resources.

In addition to providing guidance, the Irish Heritage Council has worked with the Dept. of the Environment, Community & Local Government and with Local Authorities around the country, assisting in the development of these plans and providing resources for their implementation. An innovative support mechanism was joint funding of the Heritage Council and a Local Authority of a 'Biodiversity Officer' to guide the development process, as was the case in e.g. Dublin City's LBAP. Due to resource constraints, there is currently no funding available from the Heritage Council to support the implementation of projects under these plans; however, biodiversity projects are still supported under the County Heritage Plan Programme and the Heritage Council remains committed to increasing support when conditions permit. Numerous LBAPs have benefited from this support, such as County Cork, County Clare, Dublin City and County Meath, amongst others.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

The multifaceted approach taken by national authorities in Ireland to support local biodiversity efforts has proven successful for a multitude of reasons. The guidance document provides a detailed outline of the legislative context as well as steps needing to be taken by the Local Authorities regarding Local Biodiversity Action plans. Direct financial support for the implementation of measures, as well as indirect support via the financing of a Biodiversity Officer also increased the capacities of the Local Authorities to create and successfully implement their respective plans.

Additional Information:	http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Wildlife/Guidelines_LocalBioPlan.pdf	
Contact:	The Heritage Council - Áras na hOidhreachta Church Lane Kilkenny, Ireland	Telefon +353 (0) 56 777 0777 E-mail mail@heritagecouncil.ie

Action for Biodiversity

Action for Biodiversity is an INTERREG funded project which aims to deliver a coordinated approach to conserving and promoting the biodiversity of the cross-border region between Ireland and Northern Ireland (UK). The project works on building capacity, raising awareness and protecting and conserving biodiversity.	
Member State(s)	Ireland, Northern Ireland (UK)
Executing entity	10 member authorities of East Border Region Ltd (Ards Borough Council, Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council, Craigavon Borough Council, Down District Council, Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Monaghan County Council, Newry and Mourne District Council, North Down Borough Council)
Multilevel Governance aspect	Cross-border collaboration between local authorities to deliver their respective biodiversity agendas
Timeframe	Started in 2013 – Ongoing

Summary:

Action for Biodiversity is a three-year project funded through the Special European Union Programme Body's INTERREG IVA funding and coordinated by East Border Region Ltd, costing a total of £815,455. The project aims to deliver a coordinated approach to conserving and promoting the biodiversity of the cross-border region between Ireland and Northern Ireland (UK). More specifically, the project works to build capacity within local authorities to deliver the biodiversity agenda and raise awareness through engagement with local authorities, NGOs, community groups, schools, businesses and other key stakeholders. In doing so, the project aims to protect and conserve biodiversity.

The working group established within the project devised the idea of developing a Regional Framework for Biodiversity after a considerable number of meetings, devising and refining the project vision and aims. It is considered flexible enough to meet the different needs for each local authority, while at the same time offering the security of targets and benchmarks at regional and local level.

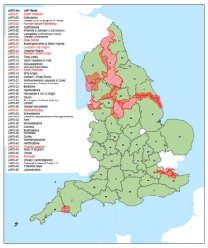
More specifically, project activities include e.g. targeted trainings, awareness raising events, assistance to Local Authorities to develop and implement a Regional Biodiversity Framework through a regional structure and active engagement with NGOs and other stakeholders to deliver of local and regional actions.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

At present, while each council may work towards improving biodiversity in its own area, these efforts are disjointed, with some authorities carrying out a range of improvements while others have a very low capacity to deliver. Currently, local authorities do not generally work together for biodiversity. There is very much to be gained by changing this approach to one of partnership and inter-council working. The fact that the project will also be cross-border, means that another boundary is crossed to allow for the flow of information, services and physical work on the ground. Furthermore, the Regional Biodiversity Framework produced by this project will form the basis of biodiversity delivery in the region for many years to come, certainly well beyond the life-span of the project.

Additional Information:	http://www.actionforbiodiversity.eu/	
Contact:	Mr Ron Murray - Project Officer Tel: 028 3831 1676 Email: ron.murray@craigavon.gov.uk	Ms Carmel Brennan - Project Officer Tel: 00353 47 73716 Email: cbrennan@monaghancoco.ie

Local Nature Partnerships



Across England, Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) have been implemented, which consist of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and individuals who jointly aim at preserving biodiversity in their regions or local communities. The main objective of the LNPs is to design strategies for the effective management, enhancement and promotion of the natural environment. These efforts shall result in outcomes that take into account the needs of nature, people and the economy. In 2013, a total of 48 LNPs had been implemented across England.	
Member State(s)	United Kingdom (England)
Executing entity	Coordinated by the UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), supported by Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, and the Marine Management Organisation
Multilevel Governance aspect	While LNPs are implemented at local level, the concept of LNPs has been designed at national level based on commitments formulated in the Natural Environment White Paper (2011). Implementation at the local level is supported by national-level public bodies.
Timeframe	Ongoing (start date: 2012)

Summary:

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) have been designed by the UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of the commitments of the Natural Environment White Paper from June 2011. The objective was to support "local areas to work in a joined up and strategic way to help manage the natural environment to produce multiple benefits for people, the economy and the environment." Today, there are 48 LNPs in England.

In an overview of the LNP role, Defra further outlined that the concept should entail "self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with the credibility to work with, and influence, other local strategic decision makers." In this context, special attention has been given to a broad representation of stakeholders, including "an active involvement of economic, health and environmental interests and a range of public, private, NGO and local community organisations, including Local Authorities and those directly involved with land management." LNPs are supposed to work collaboratively with Local Planning Authorities on strategic planning matters within their area.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

LNPs are a good example for the collaboration of national-level public bodies (i.e. Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission and the Marine Management Organisation) with local administrations and stakeholders. The support from Defra's delivery bodies to LNPs focuses on sharing information, sharing strategic priorities for specific areas, and "considering an LNP's priorities and ideas when undertaking strategic planning and making decisions about the targeting of resources."

Additional Information:	https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/local-nature-partnerships	
Contact:	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	E-Mail: LNPs@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Schéma Régional de Cohérence Ecologique (SRCE)

Schéma Régional de Cohérence Ecologique (SRCE) is a scheme developed in France at the regional level by the Region and the State, together with the local actors and authorities. It aims to further develop the Trame Verte et Bleue (TVB), a network of green and blue corridors all over France.	
Member State(s)	France
Executing entity	Province of Alpes Côte d'Azur (PACA)
Multilevel Governance aspect	All French regions are involved
Timeframe	2013 - Ongoing

Summary:

Based on the national legislative framework of the "Grenelle Environment Round Table", regional development plans for coherent ecology (les Schémas régionaux de Cohérence écologique – SRCE) have been initiated across the country. These schemes support coherency in the development of the French network of green and blue infrastructure, taking into account the specific biogeographical and ecological features of each region. SRCEs aim at halting the loss of biodiversity and guaranteeing ecological continuity of the national green/blue network through the preservation and restoration of natural sites, and with regional support. The development of a SRCE needs to take place in close cooperation with the citizens to guarantee a plan that reflects the citizens' opinions and needs.

One SCRE currently under development is in the Province of Alpes Côte d'Azur (PACA). The development is led by PACA, with a strong involvement of experts and the general public. In 2013, specific stakeholders such as the Conseil Scientifique Régional de Patrimoine Naturel (CSRPN) and the Regional Committee of Biodiversity were invited to comment on a first draft of the PACA SCRE. Based on these comments, a revision of the draft took place, which was then reconsolidated in an early-2014 public inquiry in 20 communities. The SRCE was modified according to the various opinions and observations collected in the consultation process. The final outcome will be presented at a Regional Biodiversity Committee in spring 2014, before being approved and adopted by the Regional Council. The scheme will be put in place for 6 years, with an evaluation and revision process foreseen.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

THE SRCE is an interesting support mechanism for multilevel governance as it has been initiated by the national level and is implemented on a regional level with the support of the local level and the involvement of the public. It further supports the national goal of creating a network of green-blue corridors all over France.

Additional Information:	www.paca.developpement-durable.gouv.fr	
Contact:	Annabelle Jaeger Regional Councillor Hugues Parant, Préfet, Region PACA Prefecture de région PACA	ajaeger@regionpaca.fr 04 89 08 90 33 sgar@paca.pref.gouv.fr Tel: 04.84.35.40.00 biodiversite@regionpaca.fr Tel: 04.91.57.50.57

European Capitals of Biodiversity

The competition rewarded local efforts to conserve and enhance biodiversity, focusing its attention on green spaces and urban habitats. It has been a cross-border initiative, highlighting cities and towns of all sizes. Amongst other results, a biodiversity monitoring system was developed which allows for the collection of indicators in order to assess municipal efforts in relation to biodiversity loss on a global scale. Furthermore, it helped to increase the visibility of the topic on different implementation levels.	
Member State(s)	Germany, France, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain
Executing entity	Initiated from and led by a Group of NGOs Deutsche Umwelthilfe, Natureparif Implemented by (REC) Slovakia, LBDCA, The Biodiversity Foundation, IUCN, ICLEI
Multilevel Governance Aspect	The initiative has been conducted on a local level, but it links different levels of implementation especially in terms of awareness raising.
Timeframe	2009-2011, completed

Summary:
Two competition rounds were carried out in 2010 and 2011, with invitations going out to municipalities of all sizes in France, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain. Detailed questionnaires with sophisticated evaluation schemes were provided, together with training workshops. The best projects were selected in each of the following categories: nature in the city, species and biotope protection, forests, water and agriculture, communication and awareness raising, urban planning. Ultimately, nine Capitals were awarded. The mayors of the French, Hungarian, and Spanish Capitals of Biodiversity 2010 then contributed to the City Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya, Japan.

Over 500 municipalities across Europe have had a close look at their biodiversity performance, demonstrating their commitment to do their part in halting biodiversity loss. Over 1,500 local practitioners participated in the numerous workshops and are now equipped with the knowledge to better implement biodiversity issues in their daily work. A monitoring system has been developed for local authorities to monitor local biodiversity.

The project was funded with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community from 2009 to 2011 and ended in January 2012, but further competitions are anticipated in the next few years if financial support is provided.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:
Through this project, local authorities were supported and informed regarding nature and biodiversity protection. They could showcase their efforts and promote efforts for increasing local engagement in biodiversity protection. It also fostered the exchange between different cities and enabled the use of a common monitoring system. Furthermore, it provided a venue by which representatives of Local Authorities could participate and help to shape international processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The project highlighted activities on local level in five member states, and has combined the local implementation level with its governance framework, starting from the local initiative over the Member States' awarding system towards European recognition.

Additional Information:	www.capital-biodiversity.eu/8.html	
Contact:	German Environmental Aid Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4 78315 Radolfzell - Germany Ms. Silke Wissel, Mr. Robert Spreter	Tel: +49 7732 9995 65 E-mail: wissel(at)duh.de Tel: +49 7732 9995 30 E-mail: spreter(at)duh.de

MoorFutures

MoorFutures are emission certificates that enable companies to improve their greenhouse gas emission balance by investing in peatland conservation projects. The credit project, initiated and developed in a close cooperation between various civil society organisations and LRAs, is an innovative funding and investment tool.	
Member State(s)/Partner(s)	Germany
Executing entity	Partners in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Landgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (MWP); Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of MWP; Ernst-Mority-Arndt-University of Greifswald; The Trust for the Environment and Nature Protection of MWP; The Forestry Research Institute of MWP Partners in Brandenburg: Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection of Brandenburg, Department of Nature Conservation; The Flächenagentur Brandenburg GmbH; University of Sustainable Development Eberswalde (FH)
Multilevel Governance aspect	Cooperation between LRAs and other stakeholders, including an innovative market-based tool for biodiversity protection.
Timeframe	Kieve Polder(Mecklenburg-Vorpommern): Ongoing (2012-2062) Rehwiese/ Fließgraben (Brandenburg): Ongoing (2012-2062)

Summary:
MoorFutures are emission certificates that enable the offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions. It is a flexible investment mechanism for the protection of peatlands, which serve as valuable habitats for a number of plant and animal species. One MoorFutures certificate corresponds to one ton of CO_2 per year that can be offset against the current emissions of the investor.

The investors (mainly companies) choose a project they wish to invest in and purchase a MoorFutures certificate. All MoorFutures funds are invested in the project region in Germany, located between the two major urban centres of Berlin and Hamburg (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Brandenburg). Currently, two long-term projects (Kieve Polder and Rehwiese/ Fließgraben) are open for investment.

To become an investment site for MoorFutures, potential projects are evaluated regarding their emission reduction potential and the most effective proposals are then taken into account. MoorFutures certificates are currently not traded as part of the European emissions trading system, but are rather voluntary certificates designed as long-term investments. Their benefits accumulate over 30 or 50 years, which contributes to a long-term and sustainable maintenance and protection of peatlands. Thus, investors do not only benefit from the quantitative emission offset, but also invest in a concrete and viable project in a specific area.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:
The outcome of this project is a proven cooperation between local authorities and the private sector, showcasing an innovative funding mechanism that is attractive - especially to companies - for carbon emission offsetting. In addition to supporting LRA efforts in preserving peatlands, the project increases public awareness for this particular ecosystem.

Additional Information:	www.moorfutures.de	
Contact:	Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania: Dr. Thorsten Permien Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection of Brandenburg: Andreas Piela	Tel: +49 385-588 6230 E-mail: t.permien@lu.mv-regierung.de Tel: +49 331/ 866-7562 E-mail: andreas.piela@mugv.brandenburg.de

LONA – Local Nature Conservation

Municipalities, NGOs, foundations and private individuals can receive economic funding - entitled LONA (LOkala NAturvårds satsningen) - from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The aim of the funding is to stimulate nature protection activities on a local level which is based on local commitment.	
Member State(s)	Sweden
Executing entity	The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Multilevel Governance aspect	The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) distributes funds to Sweden's County administrative boards that give grants to the local level, where the projects are coordinated and administrated.
Timeframe	Started in 2004 - Ongoing

Summary:
The LONA (LOkala NAturvårds satsningen) funding instrument supports all kinds of nature-related projects at the local level and, in particular, awareness-raising for nature. The first evaluation period (2004-2006) has shown that many of the projects had a clear connection to this goal. LONA further supports initiatives that strengthen the relationship between man and nature, by putting nature conservation in a societal context and demonstrating how conservation work can create added value in people's lives.

Statistics from 2006 show that the funding scheme is well-received, with nearly all of Sweden's 290 municipalities involved in one or the other LONA initiative. The funding supports a wide range of projects: from the restoration of canoeing waterways that creates the basis for small-scale tourism, to hiking trails that highlight the area's cultural history, to the transformation of wetlands close to urban developments into resources for schools and recreation. The majority of projects are connected to environmental objectives and themes, including: "A well-shaped Environment", "Sustainable forests", "Flourishing Lakes and Streams" and "A Various Agricultural Landscape".

Subsidies are provided by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and distributed to the County administrative boards. The County administrative boards then decide on the allocation of grants to projects. Applicants must show how the project idea supports goals identified by LONA, and the selection process is done accordingly to agreed approaches, such as equality and integration. Once accepted, the applicants (e.g. municipalities) coordinate and administrate the projects locally. For a successful implementation they are guided by the county administrative board and are also obliged to report back to them.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:
The LONA project is regarded as an important step to broaden and strengthen local and municipal commitment towards the Swedish natural environment. Using national funds which are managed and distributed at the county level, LONA combines national nature protection goals with implementation efforts by supporting local "nature" action.

Additional Information:	http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Om-Naturvardsverket/Publikationer/ISBN/8200/91-620-8255-8/	
Contact:	Naturvårdsverket Ingegerd Ward SE-106 48 Stockholm Sweden	Tel: +46 8 698 10 00 E-mail: Ingegerd.ward@naturvardsverket.se

MEDIVERCITIES

MediverCities is an open network of Mediterranean local governments, their associations and partners that aims at improving the protection and management of biological resources and ecosystem services in the Mediterranean basin.	
Member State(s)	France, Spain, Lebanon, Croatia
Executing entity	MediverCities, (French association, NGO) Secretariat associated with the City of Montpellier
Multilevel Governance aspect	Mediterranean network of local governments that seek to support the implementation of NBAPs and the objectives of the CBD.
Timeframe	Started in 2013 – Ongoing

Summary:

MediverCities is an open network of Mediterranean local governments, their associations and partners (national and subnational governments, academia and scientific institutions, international organizations) that aims at improving the protection and management of biological resources and ecosystem services in the Mediterranean basin. The idea of the MediverCities network arose during a regional workshop of Mediterranean Governments on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans held in Montpellier from 17th-19th January 2012. Since then, a steering committee has been constituted and the city of Montpellier, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), runs a secretariat to coordinate activities. Therein they promote and coordinate exchanges between members of the network in order to improve the efficiency of local actions (provision of expertise, best practices and implementation capacity). Of specific interest is the incorporation of new scientific knowledge in these efforts.

At the same time, MediverCities dedicates its communication work to increased awareness raising and capacity building. The members of MediverCities are supposed to mobilise local Mediterranean authorities in order to implement the objectives of the CBD. The MediverCities Executive Committee, that consecutive body of the steering committee was established during the official launch of the Network in May 2013 in Sarajevo. Currently, a scientific advisory board is formed. From a legal status MediverCities is a French association open to all local authorities and partners along the Mediterranean basin.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

Implementation of actions to halt the loss of biodiversity cannot be achieved effectively without planning and exchange. National biodiversity actions plans are important instruments for that and MediverCities is a mechanism to foster planning and exchange between local authorities in the Mediterranean to develop plans that are in line with national and international objectives.

Additional Information:	www.medivercities.org	
Contact:	MEDIVERCITIES Stéphanie Grosset City of Montpellier	E-mail: stephanie.grosset@ville-montpellier.fr

Bouches de Bonifacio international marine park

The Bouches de Bonifacio international marine park represents an example of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). This EGTC is a community-level cooperation instrument with a legal personality. The Bouches de Bonifacio is best practice example for the establishment of this type of organizational set-up for the implementation of EU environmental policies at cross-border level.	
Member State(s)	France , Italy
Executing entity	Corsica Environment Office and the La Maddalena Archipelago National Park
Multilevel Governance aspect	The EGTC initiatives must involve at least two member states. In this specific case local authorities from Corsica and Sardinia.
Timeframe	2012 – Ongoing

Summary:

Setting up the Bouches de Bonifacio international marine park as an EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation) has afforded the possibility to manage the strait of Bonifacio as a "morpho-functional unit" in spite of regional or national boundaries. The strait of Bonifacio is one of the most remarkable natural sites in the western Mediterranean. The marine fauna and flora that can be found in its underwater landscape have become rare in the Mediterranean. The reserve forms part of the Ligurian Sea Cetacean Sanctuary and is also home to many marine birds and a wide variety of terrestrial plants.

The establishment of an EGTC in this area supports a cooperative management approach to protect and maintain this important European natural area in an integrative and coherent way. The EGTC does this by fostering cooperation between MS. It is a community level cooperation instrument with a legal personality created under the EU council Regulation 1082/2006. Despite increased cooperation between MS, such a coordinated approach can support the international recognition of and raise awareness for such areas. Currently, the Bouches de Bonifacio is involved in an application process to be listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:

The EGTC is an interesting European legal instrument designed to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. The EGTC is unique in the sense that it enables public authorities of various Member States to team up and deliver joint services based on a legal entity, without requiring a prior international agreement to be signed and ratified by national parliaments.

Additional Information:	www.rnbb.fr www.oec.fr	
Contact:	Roger Pantalacci Uffiziu di l'Ambiente di a Corsica 14 Corsu Ghjuvanni Nicoli – 20250 Corti	+31 4 95 45 04 info@oec.fr

People with Nature

People with Nature is a project that aims to promote nature education as a mean of awareness raising and foster stronger cooperation on this topic. The main idea is to unite awareness raising and capacity building efforts in the neighbouring countries of Estonia, Latvia and Russia.	
Member State(s)	Estonia, Latvia, and Russia
Executing entity	Leading partner is the Nature Conservation Agency, (Latvia). There are 11 other partners: Estonia: Tartu Environmental Education Centre, Peipsi CTC Latvia: Nature Conservation Agency, Natural History Museum Support Society, Gauja National Park Foundation, Dagda local municipality Russia: Organization "Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov", Federal State Institution "The Sebezh National Park", Pskov regional centre of the development of gifted children and youth, State committee on natural resources use and environment protection, Saint-Petersburg charitable public organisation "Biologists for nature conservation"
Multilevel Governance aspect	The Project is supported by Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation Programme within European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument 2007-2013 and Environmental Investment Centre.
Timeframe	April 2012 - September 2014

Summary:
The main objective of the project is to unite ideas, capacity and tools for improving the quality of nature education and to increase awareness raising activities. Therefore, nature conservation projects in the neighbouring countries of Estonia, Latvia and Russia have aligned their capacity building and communication efforts under the umbrella initiative “People of Nature”. They have established a cooperation network between public and non-governmental organisations to disseminate information and exchange experience between 14 nature education centres and the interested public. Within this network, advanced environmental education methods are developed and trainings for specific target groups are organized. A brought awareness raising initiatives informs the interested public about the importance of integrated nature conservation solutions.

The idea to develop such a network has grown over the course of several years. Some of the project partners from Latvia and Estonia have already been working in cross-border projects and the experience has shown that cross-border cooperation provides effective solutions for regional challenges and activates new strategic partnerships. Such a strategic partnership was officially launched in 2012 by the “People with Nature” project. In addition to its education and information efforts the network also seeks for opportunities to promote exchange between various target groups, promote cooperation and investments from businesses, creates employment opportunities and strengthens a positive connotation of nature preservation in the society. All of the network partners are significant stakeholders in their regions and act as multipliers for the network.

Lessons:
Awareness raising and capacity building are important mechanisms to work towards the achievement of set biodiversity targets in the respective MS. This case study shows an approach to jointly develop modern nature education methods in order to build capacity among both the general public and interested experts and stakeholders within Russia and two Member States of the EU.

Additional Information:	www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/projects/est_lat_rus1/	
Contact:	Peipsi Koostöö Keskus Puiestee 71a, Tartu 51009 Estonia Project Manager: Ms. Sintija Kordule Project Coordinator: Ms. Sille Talvet	Tel: +372 29104225 E-mail: sintija.kordule@daba.gov.lv Tel: +371 29482965 E-mail: sille.talvet@gravitas.ee

My Green – Our Green
Mijn Groen – Ons Groen

My Green-Our Green is part of the Green Infrastructure For Tomorrow Project- Together (GIFT-T) and aims to build extended experience with the opportunities of the so called "dream sessions" in which users or customers of the landscape are asked to tell their dreams about the landscape and biodiversity.	
Member State(s)	The Netherlands
Executing entity	Province of South Holland, Leiden Municipality and Municipality of Zoetermeer.
Multilevel Governance aspect	Locally initiated project, combining the local and the regional level in European cooperation financed by the European INTERREG IVB North West Europe program
Timeframe	2011 – Ongoing

Summary:
The project GIFT-T! started in September 2011 and is a three-year European project involving seven partners from three countries (Great Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium) that invests in the creation of jobs, protection of valuable habitats and boosting the rural economy. GIFT-T! brings public and private partnerships together to address issues such as climate change, energy and food security, and facilitates new initiatives for green enterprises, such as recreation and bio-energy.

As part of the GIFT-T project My Green - Our Green (Mijn Groen – Ons Groen) campaign is taking place in the Netherlands in the province of South Holland. It is a mainly rural area which is very near the cities The Hague, Leiden, Alphen aan den Rijn and Zoetermeer. My Green – Our Green has the aim to create common future visions on landscape development in this area. To achieve this goal so called "dream sessions" are organised. In these sessions stakeholders are invited to start dreaming about landscapes and biodiversity and describe their desired vision for the future. Individual's presented dreams are further used in two ways: First they feed into the regional vision building process and help to shape different development scenarios. Secondly, the method seeks to create commitment among stakeholders by challenging them to implement the most executable dreams during the project.

As part of the GIFT-T project, the Province of South Holland receives funding from the INTERREG IVB North West Europe. Within the national context it is co-funded by the Province of South Holland and the municipalities of Leiden and Zoetermeer.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:
The GIFT-T project links local/regional initiatives from across three Member States by using the INTERREG funding opportunity. My Green - Our Green is interesting in terms its methodology and outcomes. It supports awareness raising and capacity building on local/regional level and knowledge transfer between three different Member States.

Additional Information:	www.mijngroenonsgroen.nl www.gift-t.eu/index/index	
Contact:	Sherida Groenefelt Province of South Holland	Tel: +31 70 441 78 69 E-mail: Info@mijngroenonsgroen.nl

Business-Biodiversity Partnerships (Contracts for Biodiversity)

The Flemish and Walloon regions in Belgium have been active in engaging the private sector in biodiversity protection efforts. In the Flemish region, a stakeholder communication platform has been set up to facilitate discussions between regional authorities and relevant stakeholders. The main objective was to engage the private sector in biodiversity protection efforts by means of so-called 'contracts for biodiversity'. In the Walloon region, public-private partnerships have been established under the theme 'business and biodiversity'.	
Member State(s)	Belgium
Executing entity	Flemish Region: Department for Environment, Nature and Energy; Walloon Region: L'état de l'environnement wallon
Multilevel Governance aspect	The Flemish and Walloon regions show how the private sector can effectively become involved in biodiversity conservation efforts.
Timeframe	Ongoing

Summary:
Belgium strives to integrate biodiversity concerns into all sectorial policies and to involve the private sector in biodiversity conservation efforts. One instrument applied in this context are the so-called business-biodiversity partnerships, which have been implemented in the Flemish and Walloon regions. In the Flemish region, the Department for Environment, Nature and Energy has set up sector-specific platform which facilitate communication and exchange activities between administrations of the regional environment authority and sectorial interest groups, such as industry, agriculture and consumers.

A major objective of these platforms is to design "programmes in which the actors agree to take up their responsibilities", meaning that companies sign up for environmental improvements in their production processes (so-called "contracts for biodiversity"). Examples include the design of environmentally sound site management strategies, the conservation of biodiversity on domains of private companies, the sustainable provision of raw materials, sustainable harvests and resource management, and the implementation of certification schemes. Similarly, a number of public-private partnerships focusing on biodiversity preservation have been implemented in the Walloon regions.

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation:
The two Belgian regions, Wallonia and Flanders, provide an example of how the private sector can effectively become involved in biodiversity conservation efforts. Stakeholder platforms proved to be an effective means to raise awareness of biodiversity issues and to engage companies in biodiversity protection efforts related to their activities.

Additional Information:	http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/index.htm	
Contact:	Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	Contact Center: +32 (0)2 524.97.97

7 Bibliography

CBD Decision X/2 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12268

CBD Decision X/22 with Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020), http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12288.

CBD Decision XI/8(A) Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities – A. Subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13169

CBD Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, http://www.cbd.int/en/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/global-partnership

CBD URBIO - Urban Biodiversity & Design

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Annex A. Questionnaire

a) Thematic introduction

Survey questionnaire on
Multilevel governance of our natural capital:
The contribution of regional and local authorities to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and the Aichi Targets

The Committee of the Regions of the EU (CoR) has commissioned Ecologic Institute and ICLEI to carry out a study on multilevel governance in biodiversity protection to support an Opinion of the CoR on the subject. The CoR cooperates with the European Commission, DG Environment, UNEP and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the study.

The survey aims to

- determine which efforts have been made by national administrations to support and cooperate with local and regional authorities on biodiversity actions; and
- identify positive examples of actions being taken on a local/regional level that contribute to the EU Biodiversity Strategy and Aichi Targets.

The answers received will feed into recommendations of the study on how to improve multilevel governance of biodiversity within the EU.

The study report, which will include a presentation of the identified best practice case studies, and the Opinion of the CoR will be publicly available by July 2014.

The study and the CoR Opinion will feed into:

- the European Commission's mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; and
- the monitoring of and EU's reporting on the CBD Decision X/22 'Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)'.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 states that the shared EU and international Aichi Targets for biodiversity "*need to be pursued through a mix of sub-national, national, and EU-level action*".

In addition to the international Aichi Targets for 2020, COP 10 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Decision X/22 with the 'Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)'. The parties to the CBD are invited to support local and regional authorities in protecting biodiversity. COP 11 in 2012 re-confirmed this approach by Decision XI/8A.

b) Practical notes

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this survey. The questionnaire is divided into eight thematic fields, on which we would appreciate your feedback.

Please note that the survey is addressed to experts of national, regional and local authorities, as well as of European and national associations of local and regional authorities and other key stakeholders. This is why some questions might be more relevant to certain respondents than to others.

We would like to ask you to answer as many questions as possible. However, in case you do not want to or cannot answer one of the questions, you may simply skip to the next question.

You can save your entries and complete the survey via the "Resume later" button.

We thank you for your support and very much appreciate your inputs into this survey.

If you have questions about the content or functioning of the questionnaire, please contact McKenna Davis (mckenna.davis@ecologic.eu) or Holger Gerdes (holger.gerdes@ecologic.eu) at Ecologic Institute.

Abbreviations used in the survey and definitions:
LRA = Local and regional authorities (local authorities = municipalities, cities; regional authorities = regions, provinces of a country, "subnational authorities/governments" in the CBD context)
local level = at the level of local authorities
regional level = at the level of regional/subnational authorities

CBD = United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

Privacy Statement

The follow-up to your contribution requires that your personal data (name, contact details, etc.) be processed in a file. All the answers to the questions are voluntary. Your replies will be kept for a period of 5 years after the reception of the questionnaire. Should you require further information or wish to exercise your rights under Regulation (EC) No. 45/2001 (e.g. to access, rectify, or delete your data), please contact the data controller at enve@cor.europa.eu. If necessary, you can also contact the CoR Data Protection Officer (data.protection@cor.europa.eu). You have the right of recourse to the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time (www.edps.europa.eu). Your questionnaire might be transmitted to CoR rapporteurs and other EU institutions for information. If you do not wish so, please inform us accordingly.

Questions in the online survey

Contact information:

- Name, email, phone number
- Institution, Department, Country
- Type of authority or association (European/national/regional/local)
- Position held
- Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up phone interview? (Y/N)

National biodiversity framework

1. With regard to a national biodiversity strategy/action plan, what is the current state of development in your country? (in preparation / implemented / under review / not being developed)
2. What other e.g. sectorial strategies, programs, decisions, plans related to and in support of the EU Biodiversity Strategy are in place or planned at national level, (e.g. Prioritised Action Frameworks for Natura 2000)?

Name of national strategy/program/decision/etc.	Planned	Established
1.		
2.		
3.		

Local and regional authorities' (LRA) involvement in national/international activities

3. Have efforts been made to involve LRA in the design and/or strategic implementation of the national biodiversity strategy/action plan at:
    a. the national level? (Y/N)
    b. the regional level? (Y/N)
    c. If yes, please describe the mechanisms in place to support LRA involvement.

d. More specifically, what role have local authorities played in the design and implementation processes?

4. Are regular consultations organized between national authorities and LRA regarding the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (e.g. the Member State's contribution to the Common Implementation Framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy)? (Y/N)
5. Are regular consultations organized between national authorities and LRA on national (reporting) activities related to the CBD? (Y/N)
6. Is the participation of LRA in official CBD and/or EU Biodiversity Strategy events and activities supported by your institution/government? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, please specify (e.g. participation of LRA in delegations to CBD Conferences of the Parties and related events).

Local/regional biodiversity strategies

7. Are you aware of examples of local and regional authorities (LRA) developing regional biodiversity strategies/action plans? (Y/N) local biodiversity strategies/action plans? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, please describe what you would consider as two 'best practice' examples.
    b. With regards to the regional biodiversity strategies/action plans: Have efforts been made to involve local authorities in their design and/or strategic implementation? (Y/N)
8. A. Does the national administration support the development and implementation of regional and local biodiversity strategies (Y/N)
    a. Does the regional administration support the development of local biodiversity strategies (Y/N)?
    b. If yes, what are the mechanisms in place to support their implementation (e.g. guidance documents)?

Support of local and regional authorities (LRA) in implementation actions

9. Have guidance documents been produced to assist LRA in fulfilling EU nature legislation (Y/N), the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (Y/N), the CBD? (Y/N)?

a. If yes, please specify at which level (national/regional) and provide a short description or link to relevant documents.

10. Is support provided for developing guidance documents on a local/regional scale to fulfil EU nature legislation (Y/N), the targets of the CBD (Y/N), the EU Biodiversity Strategy? (Y/N)?

a. If yes, please provide a short description or link to relevant documents.

11. Are European funds/programmes utilized to support local/regional biodiversity conservation efforts, e.g. (please check as appropriate):

European Fund/ Programme	**Please provide example where utilized to support local/regional efforts**
EU Cohesion fund, EU Regional Development Fund, EU Social Fund	
EU Rural Development Fund, EU Maritime & Fisheries Fund	
LIFE Programme	
INTERREG	
Other (please specify)	

12. Are other financial instruments made available to the local/regional level for this purpose? (Y/N)

a. If yes, please specify.

13. Are you aware of actions that have been taken to support the local/regional level to address the following issues:

ISSUE	**Example actions**	**YES**	**NO**	**Best practice example**
Ecosystem/ (Economics of) ecosystem services approach	Inclusion of ecosystems (services) in local/regional strategies, territorial/spatial planning, etc. Regional/local TEEB studies			
Green infrastructure	Development of green infrastructure framework Integration in regional/local territorial/spatial planning			
Ecosystem restoration	Identification of restoration priorities			
Species protection	Protection measures/plans			

	Identification of species of regional/local importance			
Natura 2000 Network	Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites Impact Assessments			
Other protected areas	Designation and management of these areas			
Agriculture and biodiversity	Promotion of uptake of agri-environmental measures Integration of biodiversity in Rural Development Programs			
Forest and biodiversity	Integration of biodiversity in forest management plans			
Marine fish stock decline	Involvement in national level processes relating to marine fish stock decline			
Infrastructure projects and public procurement	Integration of biodiversity issues in plans/projects, and in Operational Programs of EU Cohesion/ Regional Development Fund			
No net loss of biodiversity/ecosystem services	Compensation / offsetting schemes			
Invasive alien species	Prioritisation within plans, strategies, etc. Targeted action plans, strategies, etc.			
CBD Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity	Integration of Index into evaluation or management plans			
Decentralised development cooperation	Development cooperation of LRA with LRA in development countries			
Other (please specify)				

Exchange and cooperation activities of local and regional authorities (LRA)

14. Are exchanges/cooperation/partnerships between LRA on biodiversity issues organized within the national/regional context?

Type of cooperation/exchange	No	**Yes (please specify if at a national or regional level and provide an example and brief explanation, including of possible national/regional support)**

Local-local		
Local-regional		
Regional-regional		

15. Are exchanges/cooperation/partnerships between LRA on biodiversity issues organized within the European context (Y/N)?
    a. If yes, please specify
16. Are exchanges/cooperation/partnerships between LRA on biodiversity issues organized within the international context? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, is the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity utilized as a platform for these purposes? (Y/N)
17. Is cooperation of LRA with other institutions/actors in related sectors (agriculture, fishery, forestry, sports/tourism, business, NGO, etc.) supported by the national and/or regional level? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, what mechanisms are in place to facilitate such cooperation and between which sectors is this planned or established?

Recognition / capacity building with local and regional authorities (LRA)

18. Are national and/or regional awards/recognition schemes in place which recognize/promote efforts undertaken by LRA on biodiversity issues? (e.g. *Red + Biodiversidad 2010* in Spain)? (Y/N)
    a. Please list award or recognition scheme
19. Are, apart from the guidance documents referred to in questions 8, 9 and 10, capacity-building and/or awareness-raising initiatives organized for LRA regarding implementation of:
    a. the EU Biodiversity Strategy? (Y/N)
    b. the national biodiversity Strategy or related biodiversity actions? (Y/N)
    c. the regional biodiversity Strategy or related biodiversity actions? (Y/N)
    d. the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020? (Y/N)
        i. Are these disseminated through the CBD clearing house mechanism? (Y/N)

20. If yes, please provide examples of such initiatives.

Awareness-raising

21. What mechanisms/instruments are in place to support LRA in efforts to raise awareness of key actors (e.g. agriculture, fishery, forestry, sports/tourism, business, youth) on biodiversity objectives?
22. More specific, are there support mechanisms in place to assist the LRA in awareness-raising efforts regarding the Natura 2000 Network? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, please specify.

Improving the state of knowledge

23. Are research activities on urban biodiversity promoted within your country? (Y/N) And in your region? (Y/N)
24. Have national and regional centres of excellence in urban biodiversity been established (linking to global networks such as URBIO and URBIS)? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, please specify links to global networks.
25. Are efforts being made at national level to improve the state of knowledge of biodiversity, ecosystems and their services, and green infrastructure at local/regional level (e.g. mapping)? (Y/N)
    a. If yes, please specify.

Final reflection

26. Where do you see current shortcomings in supporting local and regional authorities' efforts to design and implement regional/local biodiversity strategies or actions plans?
27. What additional actions or mechanisms could be useful at a European, national and/or regional level to further support local/regional biodiversity conservation efforts?

Annex B. Relationship between survey questions and EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 actions / CBD Decision X/22 indicative list of actions

Actions of the EU Biodiversity Strategy	**Relevant Question**	**CBD Decision X/22 - Indicative List of Actions**	**Relevant Question**
Action 1	9, 10, 13	A	3
Action 2	11	B	8
Action 3	9, 10, 19, 20, 21, 22	C	13
Action 5	13, 23, 25	D	17
Action 6	13	E	13
Action 7	13	F	13
Action 9	13	G	13, 14, 15, 16
Action 11	13, 21, 22	H	6
Action 12	13	I	13
Action 13	13	J	5
Action 14	11, 13	K	13
Action 16	13	L	6
Action 18	13	N	19
		O	23, 24
		P	21

Annex C. Case study template

Name of the case study

LOGO/Picture of the Case study

Short description: In 5 lines the most important content and facts will be summarised. If the reader would like to get more in-depth information, he/she can read further in the 'Summary' section below.	
Member State(s)	Mention the Member State(s) in which the leading entity and other key entities are located.
Executing entity	Describe shortly the organizational setup of the case and clarify who is the leading entity.
Multilevel Governance aspect	General description of the multilevel aspect e.g. locally initiated project financed by the national Ministry of Environment.
Timeframe	Ongoing (include start date), completed (list timeframe), planned (expected start date), one-off, ongoing (including e.g. annual competition)

Summary *(This section will describe more in-depth the case taking the following categories, as paragraphs into account)*

Design and implementation: (including policy areas addressed, contribution to specific EU Biodiversity Strategy targets), specific ecosystem/ecologic problem addressed; integration of mapping/monitoring/reporting)
Financing: (including e.g. sources of funding, costs incurred, adequacy of funding to carry out desired measures)
Factors for success/challenges/ innovative elements

Lessons learnt for multilevel governance implementation: *(This section will describe in depth the added value the multilevel governance aspects)*

The section will contain a summary from the multilevel governance perspective, especially taking the lessons learnt into account. It can be understood as the reasoning for the selection of the case study. It will highlight the connection to the categories of the typology.

Additional Information:	URL or other online sources	
Contact:	Organisation Contact person Address	Telephone E-mail

Annex D. List of survey respondents included in the analysis

Name	Institution	Country
Plattner, Gerald	Österreichische Bundesforste	Austria
Debruyne, Catherine	Service Public de Wallonie	Belgium
Godin, Marie-Céline	Bruxelles Environnement - IBGE	Belgium
Louillet, Christine	Ville de Bruxelles - Service Espaces Verts	Belgium
Naisse, Véronique	Ville de Bruxelles	Belgium
Auväärt, Kadri	Ministry of the Environment	Estonia
Lotman, Kaja	Environmental Board	Estonia
Grosset, Stephanie	Ville de Montpellier	France
Jäger, A.	Conseil régional Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur	France
Leclaire, Cecile	Région Nord-Pas de Calais	France
Lecuir, Gilles	NATUREPARIF	France
Lendi Ramirez, Fanny	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie	France
Boye, Peter	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz	Germany
Sound, Peter	Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Weinbau und Forsten	Germany
Kontaxi, Christina	Administration of Environment & Spatial Planning/Region of Central Macedonia / Hellenic Republic	Greece
Miranta	REGIOEUROPA (Representation of	Greece

	Greek Local and Regional Authorities)	
Skordas, Kyriakos	Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace	Greece
Egerszegi, Zita	Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency	Hungary
Greguss, Ditta	Ministry of Rural Development	Hungary
Clerkin, Shirley	Monaghan County Council	Ireland
Verdouw, Kees	Province of South-Holland	Netherlands
Kronenberg, Jakub	Sendzimir Foundation + University of Lodz	Poland
Struzik, Adam	The Office of the Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw	Poland
Correia, João	Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais (SRA) – Direção Regional de Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (DRFCN) – MADEIRA - PORTUGAL	Portugal
dos Santos Amaro, Álvaro	Câmara Municipal da Guarda	Portugal
Fidalgo, Lília	Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Alentejo	Portugal
n.n.	Regional Government of the Azores	Portugal
Bratfanof, Edward	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority	Romania
Dunca, Emilia	Universite du Petrosani	Romania
Jazbinšek Seršen, Nataša	City of Ljubljana	Slovenia
Castell, Carles	Provincial Government of Barcelona (Diputació de Barcelona)	Spain
Doménech, Vicente Gregori	Generalitat Valenciana	Spain
Grau, Salvador	Government of Catalonia	Spain

Pujol, Toni Vidal	Barcelona City Council	Spain
Rozas, Marta	Basque Government	Spain
Hjorth, Gunilla	City of Stockholm	Sweden
Gillham, Linda	Runnymede Borough Council	United Kingdom
Potter, Bruce	Island Resources Foundation	United Kingdom

Annex E. Text of CBD Decision X/22

X/22.Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision IX/28, which recognizes the role of cities and local authorities in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and invites Parties to support and assist cities and local authorities in implementing the Convention at local level,

Acknowledging the progress achieved by the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity and consolidated in events such as the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity, held in January 2010 in Curitiba, Brazil, the fifth World Urban Forum held in March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the second Conference of the Network Urban Biodiversity and Design URBIO 2010 in May 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and the Expo Shanghai 2010, in China,

Welcoming the significant support of the cities of Curitiba, Bonn, Nagoya and Montreal to this initiative, and of Singapore in incorporating biodiversity in the annual World Cities Summit, developing the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) and offering Singapore National Parks Boards Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology as a collaborative centre for the implementation of this Plan of Action, as well as the support of South Africa to the development of the guidebook Biodiversity Management for Local Governments, produced in partnership with ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity programme as a twin publication to the UN-HABITAT Supporting Local Action for Biodiversity: The Role of National Governments,

Welcoming the outcomes of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010, held in the City of Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, from 24 to 26 October 2010,

1.Endorses the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) annexed to the present decision and encourages Parties and other Governments to implement it, as appropriate, in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account national priorities, capacities and needs, and to report on their activities in the fifth national report of the Parties to the Convention;

2.Invites Parties to involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities when revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

3.Invites subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and their networks to contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action, in coordination with their national Governments, taking into account activities conducted to implement the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA);

4.Also invites Parties, other Governments, regional organizations, development cooperation agencies, non-governmental organizations and other donors to support the implementation of the Plan of Action technically and financially, considering in particular the needs of developing countries especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

5.Welcomes the invitation by the City of Montpellier, France, to host the first meeting on the implementation of this Plan of Action on 17-18 January 2011;

6.Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, based on the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and convene, with appropriate partners, meetings of local authorities at the margins of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as per its two previous meetings, and continuing with a summit on local authorities and biodiversity to be held in India prior to the high-level segment of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7.Further requests the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the Plan of Action at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

PLAN OF ACTION ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY (2011-2020)

A.Background

1.The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity is intended to support Parties, their partners and local authorities in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, as well as paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of decision IX/28, consistent with each Party' s specific governance arrangements and legislation. The Plan of Action has been developed through a four-year long wide-ranging consultation process with Parties, cities and local

authorities, and other organizations cooperating through the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity at various events through 2010, culminating with the Aichi/Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit, held from 24 to 26 October 2010, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan.

B.Mission

2.Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should, as appropriate, seek to engage their subnational Governments, cities and other local authorities, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by developing policy tools, guidelines and programmes, providing technical assistance and/or guidance, as appropriate, in line with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant governance arrangements established by their national Governments.

3.By 2020:

(a)Relevant tools, guidelines and capacity-building programmes based on best practices, as well as innovative financial mechanisms to support their implementation should, as appropriate be in place to increase synergies between the various levels of government in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, considering the specific mandates of each level of government;

(b)National biodiversity strategies and action plans should be supported, as appropriate, by subnational and local strategies and corresponding action plans;

(c)Awareness campaigns on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services should, as appropriate be implemented at local level as part of the Parties' communication, education and public awareness strategies, including major groups such as business, youth, non-governmental organizations and indigenous and local communities, through initiatives such as celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22), The Green Wave initiative, and other activities in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d)Monitoring and evaluation systems for subnational governments and local authorities should, as appropriate be applied, guided by national frameworks, to report on progress to national governments in line with reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to set benchmarks for local biodiversity management in line with the 2011-2020 indicator framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, using tools such as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity. 59

C.Objectives

4.The present Plan of Action has the following objectives, based on the mission outlined above:
(a)Increase the engagement of subnational governments and local authorities, in support of their Parties, in the successful implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the 2020 target and the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
(b)Improve regional and global coordination and exchange of lessons learned between Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional and global organizations, United Nations and development agencies, academia, and donors on ways and means to encourage and support local authorities to manage biodiversity sustainably, provide ecosystem services to citizens and incorporate biodiversity concerns into urban planning and development;
(c)Identify, enhance and disseminate policy tools, guidelines, and programmes that facilitate local action on biodiversity and build the capacity of local authorities to support their national Governments in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity;
(d)Develop awareness-raising programmes on biodiversity for local residents (including major groups such as business, local administrators, non-governmental organizations, youth and indigenous and local communities) in line with communication, education and public awareness strategies.

D.Indicative list of activities
5.Parties may wish to consider the activities below, based on concrete examples researched with the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, in order to enable and support their subnational governments and local authorities to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. These activities are considered to be interrelated and complementary:
(a)Consider and engage subnational governments and local authorities in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) at the local level, as appropriate;
(b)Encourage the development and implementation of subnational and local biodiversity strategies and actions plans in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
(c)Encourage subnational governments and local authorities to apply the ecosystem approach and promote other holistic landscape management approaches, consistent with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, integrated into adaptation and sustainable development plans, and engage them in synergies across the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions;
(d)Recognize and reward efforts of subnational governments and local authorities in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at their respective levels,

such as through the ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity programme, the European Capitals of Biodiversity award, the Nordic Nature project, the Red + Biodiversidad 2010 in Spain and many others;

(e)Encourage subnational governments and local authorities, as appropriate, to integrate biodiversity considerations into public procurement policies and urban infrastructure investments (parkways and green transportation systems, public buildings, vertical gardens, water treatment and distribution, convention and conference centres, housing projects, waste management, etc.);

(f)Engage subnational governments and local authorities in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity, by supporting the establishment and maintenance of systems of local protected areas, local conservation corridors and mosaics of land-use (such as biosphere reserves), in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(g)Encourage, promote and support, as appropriate and through policy tools, guidelines and programmes, direct decentralized cooperation on biodiversity and development between local authorities at national, regional and global levels;

(h)Promote and support the representation of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in delegations for official events and activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Working Group on Review of Implementation, and ad hoc technical expert groups. Local authorities can contribute specifically to thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues such as inland waters, protected areas, invasive alien species, climate change, development and poverty alleviation, tourism, health and biodiversity, agriculture, food and nutrition, among others;

(i)Support the development of landscape-level and ecosystem-based partnerships between subnational governments and local authorities on conservation corridors and sustainable land-use mosaics at national and transboundary levels, also in the context of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation for Biodiversity and Development;

(j)Organize regular consultations with local authorities (such as Japan's preparatory meeting for the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 and Canada's consultative process), regarding their commitments and activities that contribute to the targets and relevant programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also as a contribution to each Party's reporting process to Conference of the Parties and Convention bodies.

(k)Support as appropriate the use of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, and local biodiversity surveys and assessments or similar mechanisms, as a means

for local authorities to measure the state of their biodiversity and its management in line with the Convention's 2011-2020 indicator framework;

(l)Contribute to a dialogue with and between subnational governments and local authorities at regional and international levels through relevant forums to be held back to back with or parallel to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(m)Welcome the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity as a possible platform for promoting cooperation and strengthening local-national dialogue;

(n)Organize, as appropriate and while recognizing the roles of different levels of government, capacity-building initiatives (web-based tools, publications, newsletters, collections of case studies, best practices and lessons learned, workshops, seminars and conferences) for local authorities on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and on the present Plan of Action and its tools (including the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity), at national, regional and global levels, and disseminate these activities through the clearing-house mechanism;

(o)Promote research and technology development on urban biodiversity, and encourage the establishment of national and regional centres of excellence in urban biodiversity, and biodiversity friendly city design, planning and management, with links to global academic networks such as URBIO and URBIS,

(p)In line with the communication, education and public awareness programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, encourage local authorities to reach out to major groups such as children and youth, women, local parliamentarians and/or legislators, NGOs and businesses, to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and promote partnerships on local action for biodiversity.

E.Partnerships and coordination mechanism

6.Parties and other Governments are encouraged to implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention, and other key partners, taking into account national priorities, capacities and needs, and to report on their activities in future national reports of the Parties to the Convention.

7.An advisory committee comprising mayors of relevant cities will provide input and support to the Plan from the point of view of cities and local authorities. These cities may be previous and/or current hosts of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of its Secretariat. When first set up in 2007, it included the mayors of the headquarters of the Convention, Montreal, and of past and future venues of the Conference of the Parties: Curitiba, Bonn and Nagoya. The host mayors of the last and upcoming meetings of the Conferences of the Parties shall act as co-chairs of the Advisory Committee. A similar mechanism may be set up for subnational governments in close consultation with Parties and partners, such as National and

Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), in recognition of their critical, complementary and distinct role in the implementation of the Convention.

8.Implementation of the Plan of Action will also be supported by the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, an informal cooperative platform launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2008 and composed of United Nations agencies and programmes, such as UN-HABITAT, UNEP and UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), academic networks such as URBIO and networks of local authorities such as ICLEI and its Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) programme, and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Global Partnership and its advisory committees may propose events and activities in support of the plan of action, and may meet at the margins of relevant and appropriate meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The meetings shall be open to Parties, observers or special invitees, and its outcomes shall be incorporated into reports submitted to Parties by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9.Parties may further promote projects and programmes and coordinate activities in support of sub-national and local authorities at the regional and global levels through regional centres of excellence and organizations, and regional offices of United Nations agencies. Consultations and partnerships may involve other relevant and interested stakeholders such as donors, regional economic commissions, regional development banks, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental organzations, and indigenous and local communities as appropriate. Where such regional mechanisms do not exist and when appropriate, Parties and the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity may cooperate towards their establishment.

10.The Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its strategy for implementation in order to accommodate changing national and local priorities as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

F.Monitoring and reporting

11.In order to measure the success of the Plan of Action, Parties are requested to include, in their national reports and other reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (such as in-depth reviews and issues-based consultations), information on cooperation between different levels of government, and with relevant local organizations, on subnational and local action for biodiversity. Towards this goal,

Parties may promote the use of self-monitoring tools such as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (CBI) to set goals and milestones, and to measure progress by subnational and local authorities.

12.At the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2012, and at future meetings, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will report on the implementation of the present Plan of Action. Contributions will be sought from relevant Parties, participating organizations and United Nations agencies.

G.Funding

13.The present Plan is designed to avoid additional financial burdens on Parties and partners; however, according to national priorities and processes, and in acknowledgment of the substantial implementation capacity and obligations of the subnational and local levels, Parties may identify funding avenues oriented specifically towards biodiversity at the subnational and local levels for the implementation of this plan of action. Initiatives may include, inter alia:

(a)In line with the communication, education and public awareness programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, encourage local authorities to reach out to major groups such as children and youth, women, local parliamentarians and/or legislators, NGOs and businesses, to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and promote partnerships on local action for biodiversity.

(b)Engaging and linking subnational governments and local authorities and their networks with new and innovative financial mechanisms being discussed and formulated in other areas such as climate change, payments for ecosystem services, and enhanced efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +);

(c)Exploring opportunities presented by environmental fiscal reforms, including innovative tax allocation models and fiscal incentives for achieving the three objectives of the Convention at the subnational and local levels;

(d)Earmarking national budgetary allocations and re-prioritizing existing allocations to engage subnational and local authorities on local action on biodiversity;

(e)Engaging the Global Environment Facility to assist in the efforts to implement the Plan of Action at the project level.