

VISION

Urban regions as sustainable social, cultural, and ecological systems contributing to equitable access to ecosystem services production, distribution, and consumption.

MISSION

1. Recognize and promote comprehensive sustainability efforts.
2. Increase the resilience of urban social, cultural, and ecological systems.
3. Improve equitable terms of access to and management of resources.
4. Promote adaptive governance.

APPROACH:

- To collaborate on a designation that urban regions can achieve through:
1. Platforms for local and international connections, education, and communication.
 2. A framework for designation to recognize urban regions who meet international standards.
 3. Knowledge sharing of best practices and scenario building.

VALUE PROPOSITION:

- Benefits of investing include:
1. Global recognition and international visibility for sustainable urban planning.
 2. Increased quality of life for residents and improved performance on environmental indicators.
 3. Enhanced global competitiveness and leadership in the green economy.
 4. Tools for multi-scale planning and adaptation to environmental changes.

For more information, please contact:

Christine Alfsen : c.alfsen@unesco.org
 Laura Dickinson: l.dickinson@unesco.org

The URBIS Partnership Proposal for Global Designation

Christine Alfsen
 UNESCO, New York Office
Laura Dickinson
 UNESCO, New York Office
Keith G. Tidball
 Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University

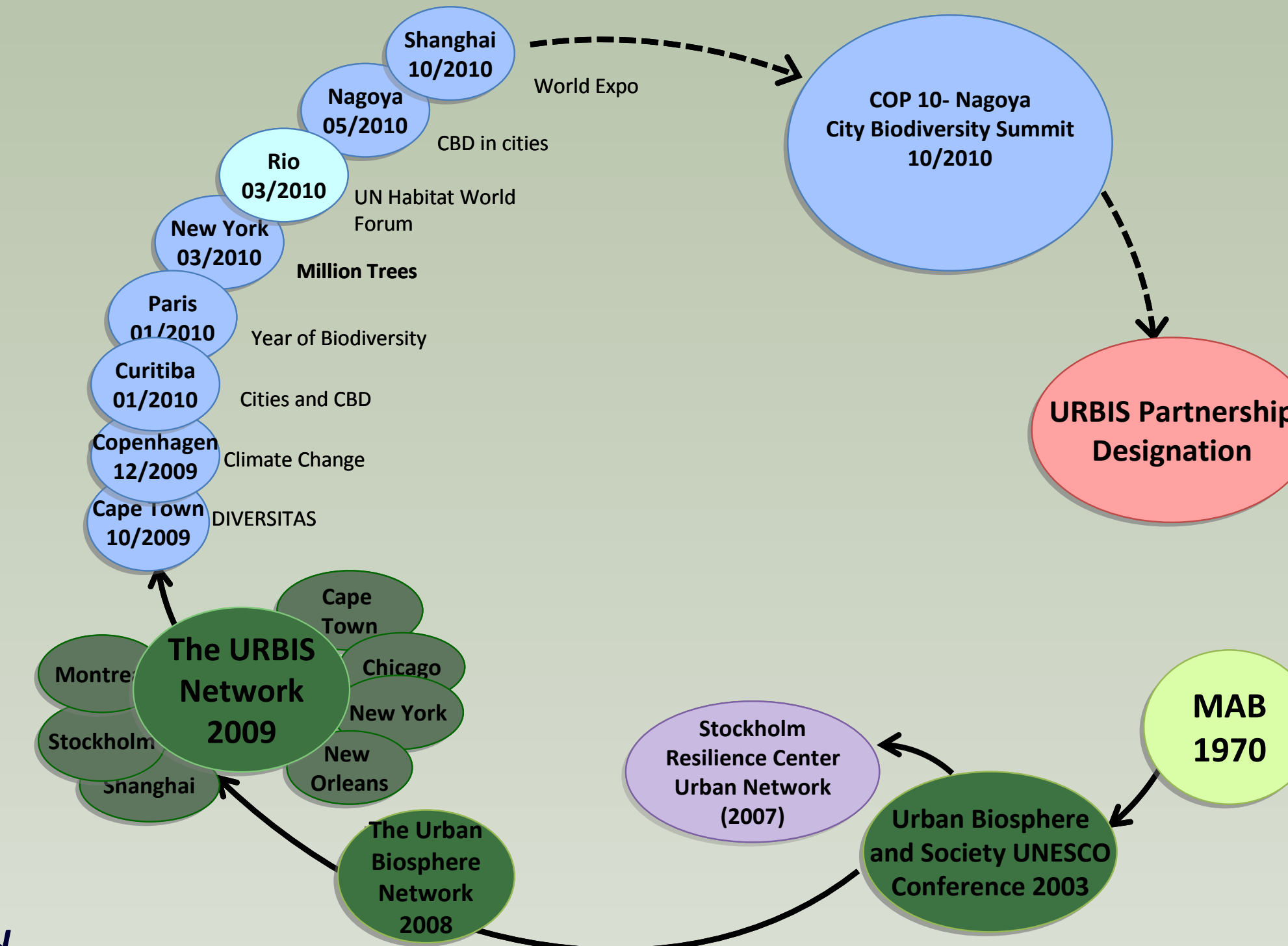


New York Office

**Million TreesNYC, Green Infrastructure and Urban Ecology:
 A Research Symposium
 March 5-6, 2010**

The URBIS Partnership Proposal

The URBIS Partnership is proposing a designation process to recognize urban regions' efforts to engage in participatory, inclusive, and comprehensive approaches in urban planning for sustainability. Through this process, sustainable management practices would be developed and then cataloged for sharing and dissemination as part of a site-based global knowledge network. The URBIS Partnership is inviting expertise in fields including urban ecology, environmental education, policy, and urban planning to develop this process. Currently, urban regions involved include Stockholm, Montreal, Shanghai, Cape Town, Chicago, Istanbul, New Orleans, and New York. This effort will culminate in the establishment of the URBIS Partnership with the CBD Global Partnership of Cities and Biodiversity and other collaborators at the City Biodiversity Summit at Nagoya, Japan, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Proposed Designation Approach

TIER 1		Conduct Inventory of activities, plans and concerns. SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Upon completion, City becomes an URBIS Partnership Participating City .
TIER 2		Set Overall Vision and Goals Assess and Prioritize areas of concern related to social- ecological urban practices.
TIER 3		Develop Comprehensive Plans according to Tiers 1 and 2. Identify financial, educational, technical requirements and partners.
TIER 4		Implement Plans using financial, educational and technological assistance and resources available.
TIER 5		Evaluate Progress and Determine Next Steps. Upon review, city becomes an URBIS Partnership City of Distinction . Continues monitoring and self assessment.

Main Concepts:

- Informed by local and global challenges
- Driven by internationally agreed development goals
- Adapts the *ecosystem approach* to urban landscapes
- Uses a collaborative management, multi-scale, and multi-disciplinary approach
- Builds on innovative local technical and scientific expertise
- Locally led and implemented
- Driven by science, both peer-reviewed and community-based
- Provides tools for building resilience and adapting to global environmental change



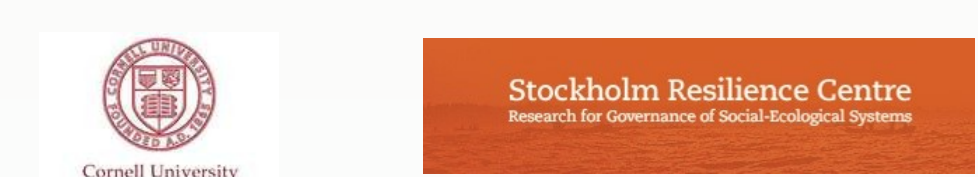
Biodiversity is life
 Biodiversity is our life

CBD Convention of the Parties (COP 10) City Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya (Oct 2010) and Beyond:

- Identify stakeholders and determine value added by proposed designation
- Propose and discuss designation process
- Establish the science to policy partnership
- Develop the roadmap forward



Current Partners Also Include:



References

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2. UN University Institute of Advanced Studies, "Defining an Ecosystem Approach to Urban Management and Policy Development" available at: http://www.ias.unu.edu/binaries/UNUIAS_UrbanReport1.pdf
3. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Article 2, available at: <http://www.cbd.int/convention/articles.shtml#a=cbd-02>
4. "Solving the Puzzle: the Ecosystem Approach and Biosphere Reserves" adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the CBD, available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001197/119790eb.pdf>
5. The Introductory Notes from the Norway/UN Conference on the Ecosystem Approach for Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity
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7. Elmquist T., C. Alfsen, J. Colding J. (2008) Urban Systems pp. 3665-3672 in Jørgensen, S.E. and Fath., (ed). *Encyclopedia of Ecology* Elsevier/Oxford