



09  
Oct  
2024

Wednesday | 15.00 - 16.30 HRS (EAT)

21<sup>st</sup>

*Community of Practice*

Policy Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) in collaboration with  
Programme Development Branch (Biodiversity) team

## Biodiversity Beyond Borders UN-Habitat CoP

Fostering Life Across Urban-Rural Landscapes

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## Background

Amidst global urbanization, cities face significant challenges in maintaining and protecting biodiversity within and around their boundaries. Biodiversity is crucial for ecosystem stability, climate resilience, and human well-being. A sustainable relationship between urban and rural landscapes is essential, particularly given that most natural resources are located in rural areas while urban regions are primary beneficiaries. Similarly, the role of intermediary cities which constitutes a third of the global urban population and where urbanization rates are expected to be high cannot be underestimated. They are also the territorial nodes that link the rural communities with the major urban areas.

In recent years, UN-Habitat member states have adopted two resolutions namely the 2019 resolution on urban-rural linkages and the 2023 resolution on integrating cities with nature, including rural landscapes. These resolutions underscore the need for a holistic approach to managing the interactions and interdependencies between urban and rural areas, ensuring that both are resilient, sustainable and meets the needs of vulnerable populations. Collaborative efforts with FAO, UNCCD, UN-CBD, UCLG, OECD, GAIN and other partners have been pivotal, with significant contributions to various global events including the Conference of Parties (CoPs) for the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). UN-Habitat will be present in both Cali and Riyadh for these COPs.

UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, and the biodiversity team in Programme Development Branch, are organizing a community of practice (CoP) session which aims to share inspiring knowledge from experts globally, focusing on practical experiences and innovative solutions on biodiversity and urban-rural linkages. This will support UN-Habitat in guiding member states toward sustainable urban-rural linkages, thereby fostering mutual prosperity between urban and rural landscapes. In addition, it will bring attention to UN-Habitat's preparations for upcoming CoPs in 2024.

## Objectives

1. Share knowledge and experiences on global promotion of biodiversity amidst urbanization.
2. Identify successful tools and strategies for biodiversity conversation across the urban-rural continuum.
3. Understand the role of data and digital solutions for Biodiversity conservation in urban and rural contexts.
4. Share key messages and calls for action, governance models and investment for managing biodiversity in upcoming CBD CoP 16 and subsequent COPs for UNFCCC and UNCCD.





## Event Format and Participants



The event will be held online with sessions comprised of initial stage setting followed by an interactive panel discussion.



Participants and speakers will include representatives from UN agencies, national or local governments, academic institutions, private sector and non-governmental organizations, among others.

TIME (E.A.T HRS)	TOPIC	SPEAKER
<b>Opening and Stage Setting</b>		
15:00 - 15:03	Moderator welcome and introduction	Grace Githiri, PLGS
15:03 - 15:10	UN-Habitat opening remarks	Remy Sietchiping, PLGS
15:10 - 15:17	Setting the stage on biodiversity and URLs	Carlos Correa, UNCCD
15:18 - 15:25	8 <sup>th</sup> Summit for LRGs and biodiversity	Chantal Robichaud, SCBD
<b>Panel Discussion (moderator)</b>		
15:25 - 15:55	UN-Habitat approach to Biodiversity	Andrew Rudd, PDB
	Intermediary cities and biodiversity	Mr. Leonard Mpanju - <i>Arusha, Tanzania</i>
	City actions to protect biodiversity	Sandra Naumann - <i>City of Berlin, Germany</i>
	Colombia – Territorial approaches to biodiversity in LAC, preparations for COP 16	Santiago Granados, <i>ECLAC Colombia</i>
15:55 - 16:20	Discussion – Thomas Forster, PLGS, moderating Open question and answer session	
<b>Conclusion/Way forward</b>		
16:20 - 16:27	Summary and Announcements	Ingrid Coetze, ICLEI
16:27 - 16:30	Closing	Anne Amin, PLGS

