Countdown 2010

Global Challenges Call For Local Solutions

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Presentation Agenda

- The 2010 Biodiversity target and the MEA
- History of Countdown 2010
- The 3 pillars of the initiative
- Countdown 2010 Partners
- Why a Local focus?

Sample of major projects

- ICLEI – LAB project
- Local and Regional Authorities Network

The 2010 Biodiversity Target

- European Union Heads of State and Government in the Presidency Conclusions adopted at the Göteborg European Council, Sweden in 2001

- World Environment Ministers in the Hague Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Netherlands 2002

  "to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth"

  Decision VI/26 CBD Strategic Plan

- World Heads of State reconfirmed their States' commitment to sustainable development and the 2010 biodiversity target at the United Nations World Summit in New York, New York in 2005

Loss of Nature, Loss of Life

COUNTDOWN 2010
SAVE BIODIVERSITY

Result of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment:

- More than 50% of all natural services to humans are in decline

- 60% of ecosystems are threatened

- Today's extinction rate between 100 & 1000 times higher than the former natural average one



History of Countdown 2010

Goal of Countdown 2010:

All European governments and members of civil society, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010

- Addressing the implementation gap
- Countdown 2010 starts with focus on National level
- Declaration Form

- Local and Regional
- Business and Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

The 3 Pillars of the Initiative

- **Partnerships**
  Encourage and support the full implementation of all the existing binding international commitments and necessary actions to save biodiversity

- **Communication**
  Gain maximum public attention across Europe for the challenge of saving biodiversity by 2010

- **Assessment**
  Demonstrate clearly what progress Europe makes in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target

Countdown 2010 Partners

Approximately 150 partners

- 6 National governments: Finland, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Germany is coming soon.
- 18+ Regional and Local Governments: Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom
- 20+ Aquariums, Museums, Parks and Zoos: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom
- 10+ Private or public-private
- 90+ NGOs and CSOs

2010 Partner Activities

- UK 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund
- Italy's Lega Navale Return to Troy
- Species Adoptions in Limburg, BE



Why a Local Focus…?

Local and regional governments:

- manage and administer much of the land
- plan and implement development
- control land-use within their boundaries
- manage all of the above with a fairly limited budget

Urban biodiversity is linked to all municipal functions:

- urban and transportation planning
- social development
- green space management
- water supply, storm-water management
- building regulations
- procurement

Why a Local Focus…? continued

Urban centers:

- are removed from many ecosystem services on which they are dependent
- ecosystems tend to suffer from the pressures of highly concentrated populations
- consume a lot of resources and impact significantly on biodiversity
- have the voters, the political institutions, the media, the opinion-shapers, and the corporate headquarters
- will have 85% of world population growth between 2000 and 2010 and 2007 will see the half of the world's population urbanized. (UN)

ICLEI – Local Action for Biodiversity

ICLEI, with Countdown 2010, launches LAB Project which will bring together 15 cities to:

- Support local biodiversity projects and initiatives
- Secure a declaration of commitment
- Increase global awareness at the local level
- Build a global momentum at local level
- Document and demonstrate good practises
- Document and develop biodiversity management tools
- Plan for expanding globally the local biodiversity programme
- Enhance global networks, communication and sharing of experiences

Local and Regional Authorities Proj.

Based on the 3 pillars

- Partnership
  - Commitments
  - Document and Exchange Knowledge

- Communication
  - Increasing communications

- Assessment
  - Pilot testing of Assessment tool

Thank you for your time!

- Commit to 2010 action: Sign-up the Countdown 2010 Declaration
- Use Logo and Communication Toolkit
- Organize your Countdown 2010 Platform