

# What do Local Governments Need?

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# Background

- ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center (Cape Town) also working to bridge science/policy/practice gaps
- Process of “feeling the pulse” of local governments
- Mini survey of local governments for this workshop
- Need for continued dialogue...

# Local Governments Surveyed

- **Cape Town** (South Africa)
- **Edmonton** (Canada)
- **Seoul** (South Korea)
- **eThekweni** (South Africa)
- **Helsingborg** (Sweden)
- **Kaohsiung** (Republic of China (Taiwan))
- **Grande-Synthe** (France)
- **Calgary** (Canada)
- **Mexico City** (Mexico)
- **Jerusalem** (Israel)

# Questions

1. *What information do you need from researchers and experts now to support your biodiversity management objectives?*
2. *How do you currently communicate such needs to researchers and experts, if at all?*
3. *How might such communication channels be strengthened?*

# ***1. What information do you need from researchers and experts now to support your biodiversity management objectives?***

- *Specific* and relevant information & tools
- Assessment, planning and management
- Land-use management data at a fine-enough scale
- Ecosystem & species thresholds (esp. considering CC & LUC)
- Impacts of fragmentation
- History of species composition change with urbanization
- Standards and indicators (e.g. CBI)
- Ecosystem services and their valuation
- Climate changes data/projections
- Ecological footprint
- No expression of the potential for confusion, but we should be aware...

## ***2. How do you currently communicate such needs to researchers and experts, if at all?***

- Some observed need for better and increased communication
- Links with local institutions (universities, botanical gardens etc.) but usually informal and driven by individuals
- Passive approaches may prevail
- Credit given to the idea of project-based multi-stakeholder cooperation

### ***3. How might such communication channels be strengthened?***

- Watch our language...
- Note the need for local relevance (local academics with THEIR local governments may achieve more)
- Understand different ways of measuring success
- More forums for academia and practitioners to interact, especially around particular projects
- Networks like URBIO
- Involvement of citizen science in city-wide information collection
- Academic seminars aimed at managers
- Scaling-down of global objectives to the local scale