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The CBD "Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020" provided options for national governments and their partners in implementation for facing the challenges of biodiversity loss from the urban perspective (CBD 2010). To support this "Plan of Action" the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) asked the International Network URBIO to develop a research agenda for the necessary scientific fields and skills needed by local governments.

During the URBIO workshop the research needs will be discussed among the URBIO Advisory Board, contributors of the CBO (Global Biodiversity Outlook), representatives of the SCBD and ICLEI. The discussion will be based on existing studies on urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design, the findings of City Biodiversity Outlook and the needs stated by local governments.

Main Questions are:

1. What information do decision makers and managers in governments and other sectors need to support biodiversity?

A minimum set of data that all cities should aspire to collecting:

- All the following should be spatially explicit (maps!)
- Species list (distributions, abundance, rarity)
- Habitat list/Communities/Vegetation types
- Targets of conservation (e.g., rare species or critical sites)
- % cover of all major categories of green infrastructure
- Primary threats of each of the above

Key products and uses of these data are (in the form of BMPs)

- Critical Natural Capital Plan (driven by local actors) including which elements of green infrastructure and biodiversity is critical to maintain, and at what levels
- As part of the above, a map of critical ecosystem services
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Urban Plan (e.g., **zoning**, spatial development framework) that includes explicit reference to green infrastructure

These form the basis of explicit support for the 6 TEEB steps

2. What knowledge is currently available in the cities and what are critical knowledge gaps?

- Relative to the minimum data list above, most cities are data poor, including many that are in biodiversity hotspots.
- More data of these types exist in Europe, and in many rich cities of the world.
- Citizen knowledge of biodiversity lacking (especially species knowledge, ecological, economic and social values)

(do we need to create priorities for addressing these gaps?)

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3. What are our main research needs in urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design that would be of use to local authorities (see no. 1)?

How do we link biodiversity to the mapping and valuation of ESS, and then how can this knowledge be used in planning, design, and management?

4. How can we communicate our knowledge to decision-makers?

- Compile and interpret scientific literature into accessible documents in non-technical language and in the form of Best Management Practices
- Establish forums and trainings to bring practitioners, city managers, and scientists together
- These should be at both the international level and local/national level
- Forums should be both web-based and training teams that visit cities
- Who should take responsibility for these? The Parties first must agree this is valuable. Then for the design and implementation of the programs could include such organizations as ICLEI, URBIO, URBES, IUCN, CI, etc.