

REGIONS4 CONTRIBUTIONS AND OUTCOMES AT CBD COP15

Key highlights and takeaways for a successful regional implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

December 2022



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP15 - CP/MOP10 - NP/MOP4
Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING - MONTREAL



KEY OUTCOMES OF NEGOTIATIONS RELEVANT TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Among the most important outcomes of CBD COP15 are:

- The adoption of a new global framework for biodiversity, the “**Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**” that includes important references to “subnational governments, cities and other local authorities” as well as to the “whole-of-government” approach, which Regions4, along with its partners and leading subnational governments, have been advocating for. Specifically, the subnational constituency is referenced in section B. Purpose and Section C. Considerations for the implementation of the framework as well as in targets 12 and 14 on urban planning and mainstreaming of biodiversity, respectively.
- The adoption of a **Decision and Plan of Action on the Engagement with subnational governments, cities, and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework** that includes a detailed list of how subnational and local governments are to fulfil their role. Particularly important is the fact that it highlights the importance of using online commitment and reporting platforms, such as RegionsWithNature and CitiesWithNature where subnational governments can report on, and track progress against, their commitments to contributing to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- Launch of the **RegionsWithNature** and its featured tool the **Case Study Database** during the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities.
- The **Edinburgh Declaration** arrived at COP15 with the signature of 308 subnational and local governments, across 51 countries, and the endorsement of 3 national governments.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AT COP15

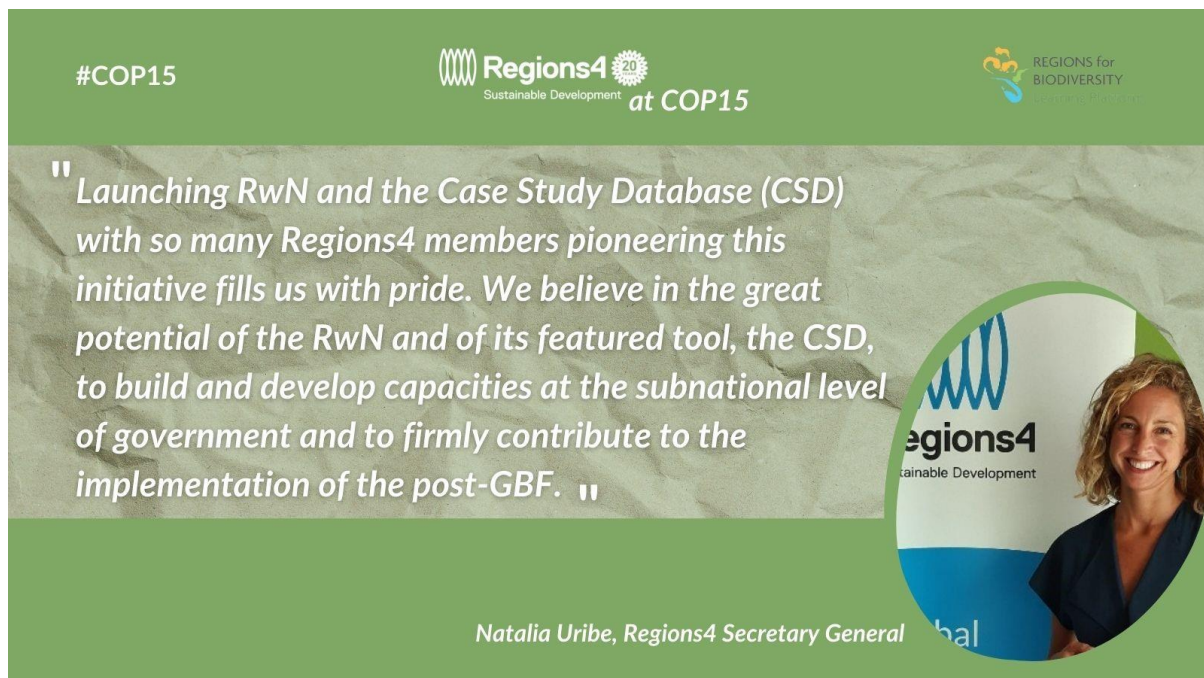
Launch of RegionsWithNature platform

Regional leaders and partner organizations, including Regions4, ICLEI, the European Committee of the Regions among others, launched the **RegionsWithNature (RwN)** platform during the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments at CBD COP15. Among the Regions4 members present at the launch ceremony were **Jalisco, Guanajuato, Yucatán, Sao Paulo, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Catalonia, Scotland, Lombardy and Quebec**; but many more are considered pioneer members, including **Åland Island, Campeche, La Rioja, Basque Country, Goa, Pernambuco, Western Cape, the Community of Madrid and California**.



RegionsWithNature (RwN) brings together the strengths of leading organizations and networks of regional governments in one global platform. The platform counts on the endorsement of UN agencies such as the UN Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.


RwN is an easily accessible, user-friendly, and free online platform that connects regional leaders and their partners; provides them with tools and resources that builds capacities by translating good practices into knowledge, such as the Case Study Database; and allows them to share regional commitments to achieving the global nature goals.

All regional governments of the world are welcome to join. To sign up, please visit the [website](#) or email us at rgomez@regions4.org




#COP15

 **Regions4** 
Sustainable Development **at COP15**

 REGIONS for
BIODIVERSITY

" Launching RwN and the Case Study Database (CSD) with so many Regions4 members pioneering this initiative fills us with pride. We believe in the great potential of the RwN and of its featured tool, the CSD, to build and develop capacities at the subnational level of government and to firmly contribute to the implementation of the post-GBF. "

Natalia Uribe, Regions4 Secretary General

 **Regions4**
Sustainable Development

Launch of the Case Study Database

The Case Study Database, one of RegionsWithNature’s crucial tools, was also launched during the ceremony at the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments. The Database is exclusively dedicated to showcasing the subnational experience. It is an open online source of knowledge creation, accessible to all. It currently **showcases 8 case studies** from 6 regions (Quebec, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Lombardy, Jalisco, and Aichi) in **Spanish, French, and English**, however more cases will be launched in regular basis as the Database is open for all Rwn and Regions4 members.



Its goal is to **build and develop capacities at the regional level of government**, transforming on-the-ground knowledge into learnings and making them **replicable and accessible** to other subnational governments with similar challenges.

The Case Study Database is a project that not only will **share good practices** but will **support the role of subnational governments in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**, to be adopted at COP15.

Visit the Case Study Database through this link: regions4.org/csd

The Database is a **permanent project that is open to receiving new cases on a continuous basis**. If you are interested in sharing one of your success stories, contact gcarrera@regions4.org.



#COP15

Regions4 Sustainable Development at COP15

REGIONS for BIODIVERSITY

Regions4 Case Study Database will...

- Support the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the subnational level through peer-to-peer learning.
- Showcase subnational good practices and recommendations to feed global discussions on biodiversity.
- Enhance the role of subnational actors in tackling biodiversity loss and boosting environment preservation.

Edinburgh Process and the Edinburgh Declaration

The Edinburgh Declaration, that resulted from the Edinburgh process, led by the Scottish Government with the support of Regions4 Sustainable Development, and many other partners arrived at COP15 with the signature of 308 subnational and local governments, across 51 countries, and the endorsement of 3 national governments.

A great testament to the work of the Edinburgh Process partners and the subnational and local constituency and their aspirations and commitments in delivering for nature over the coming decade.

A list of final signatories can be found [here](#).

Quebec commits to 30x30

During COP15, the Government of Quebec announced their ambitious new plan for nature conservation in the region.

The “Plan Nature”, announced at the opening of the COP15, has a 650 million budget, including 344 million for the next 4 years. The ambitious plan has an unprecedented budget in Quebec’s history, and will enable the region to attain the next global targets, especially the target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of:

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

REGIONS4 HIGHLIGHTS IN A FEW KEY FIGURES

- ✓ Supported 11 member regions on site
- ✓ Represented and supported a delegation of 50 Regions4 members to the COP15 and facilitated 34 accreditations to COP15
- ✓ Provided financial support to enable participation of 1 Latin American region
- ✓ Facilitated 29 member interventions in 7 events, including the intervention of 18 high-level regional representatives in the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities
- ✓ Co-organized 4 events, a Networking Cocktail and co-hosted the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities (11 & 12 December) alongside ICLEI, and hosts the city of Montreal and the government of Quebec
- ✓ Supported and promoted 4 of our member's events
- ✓ Participated in 4 networking events from part
- ✓ Participated and facilitated 14 bilateral meetings with regions and potential partners
- ✓ Launched the RegionsWithNature platform together with ICLEI
- ✓ Launched the Case Study Database, a featured tool of RwN led by Regions4, with 8 case studies from 6 regional governments in 3 languages (EN, ES, FR)
- ✓ Launched a Press Release on the RwN and CSD launch
- ✓ Launched a Social Media campaign on the importance of tools such as the Case Study Database to exchange knowledge
- ✓ Produced a video on Regions4's efforts at CBD COP15
- ✓ Influenced the Negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and advocated for the adoption of a dedicated Decision and Plan of Action for regional governments
- ✓ Facilitated, together with Quebec, an in-person AC SNG executive meeting with members



Lorna Slater, Scottish Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, after having a bilateral meeting with Regions4 Executive Director, Jordan Harris, to discuss the common challenges in dealing with nature protection and restoration, and the vision for a more sustainable future

REGIONS4 SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AT COP15



[Video on Regions4 presence at CBD COP15](#)

To make the information about Regions4's initiatives and events at COP15 more accessible, Regions4 launched a 3' video with a short description on what is the CBD, why is COP15 important, a brief introduction of our initiatives and a compilation of Regions4-led events at the COP.

You may find the video in our LinkedIn, Twitter (@Regions4SD) and YouTube accounts.

Case Study Database social media campaign before and during COP15

We also produced and published a social media campaign with reels of the case studies included in the Case Study Database. The short videos showcase, in under a minute, some of the key aspects of each project and invited viewers to stay tuned to the launch of the CSD and to visit it, once launched. You can find the videos in our LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube accounts.

Two press releases included in 16 newspapers

Regions4 wrote, together with Gabinete Seis, two press releases about our strong presence at COP15 and on the launch of the RegionsWithNature initiative and the Case Study Database.

The press releases were included in over 16 newspapers from Brazil, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, Spain and Sweden. You may read our press release on Regions4 presence at COP15 [here](#) and on the launch of the initiatives [here](#).

Social media engagement

Regions4 has had a continuous social media presence and engagement throughout COP15. Regions4 shared and promoted their member's key messages, photos and announcements during events and public appearances, with the use of visual materials like quote cards, short videos and photos.



Regions4 team after having a bilateral meeting with California and Jalisco

REGIONS4 EVENTS AT COP15: SHOWCASING REGIONAL LEADERSHIP & INSPIRING ACTION

CBD COP 15 was a crucial moment and historic opportunity to ensure the recognition of the role played by the subnational and regional constituency in the implementation of the new GBF and to determine the enabling conditions that will allow its implementation at all levels of government.

At COP15, Regions4 focused on supporting and co-organizing strategic events that catalyzed regional leadership, upscaled their efforts internationally and shared key messages. Ten Regions4 members, including the governments of Catalonia, Jalisco, Lombardy, Parana, Quebec, Rio de Janeiro State, Sao Paulo State, Scotland, Wales and Yucatan, formed by a group of nearly 50 delegates, attended CBD COP15, and an unprecedented number of subnational leaders took the floor at the 7th Summit of Subnational and Local Governments.

One of our goals was to give visibility to the efforts and initiatives that are already taking place, and to showcase action on the ground to inspire the audience and Parties to the Convention on the benefits of scaling-up these great regional initiatives. In these events, regional governments showed that they are key actors in the protection of biodiversity and that they are already leading the implementation of nature-positive actions in their regions. In addition, Regions4 promoted the discussion about resource mobilization, a key factor for the favorable implementation of the new biodiversity goals and targets at all levels of government.

The events co-organized and co-hosted by Regions4 and their main results are the following:

- **Official side-event: CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature: mobilizing funding, projects, commitment to take action and reporting at subnational levels**

On the first official day of the COP15, Regions4 hosted, together with ICLEI the official side event called “**CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature: mobilizing funding, projects, commitment to take action and reporting at subnational levels**”, that took place at the CBD COP 15 official venue. The side event showcased the two initiatives as the platforms of choice for mobilizing, inspiring and enhancing implementation and action by local and subnational governments to support their national governments in contributing towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 23 targets, and specifically through the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2021-2030).

We had the great honour of counting with the participation of representatives of the CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature members including Aichi, Montreal and Quebec and a panel discussion among key partners including representatives from UNEP, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center, IUCN and the National Parks Board of Singapore, moderated by Oliver Hillel from the CBD Secretariat.

Some of the main points and contributions made by our team and our members were:

- Regions4 Executive Director, Jordan Harris, highlighted regions' key role in advancing and scaling-up innovative solutions to address biodiversity global challenges through the RegionsWithNature platform. “States and regional governments are best fit for purpose to bridge the urban-rural divide, to protect landscapes and to facilitate and

manage the necessary connections and alliances between cities, countryside, local and indigenous communities, protected areas, national governments, industries and the financial community”.

- Caroline Daguét, Biodiversity project manager from the Government of Quebec, stressed the importance of the AC SNG as the official channel of communication with the CBD. “The AC SNG is the only officially recognized and accredited space for subnational governments in the CBD. It represents the voice of regions to the CBD. The Government of Quebec, as coordinator of the AC SNG alongside Regions4, will continue to work with regions, partners and stakeholders to make sure that the RegionsWithNature platform becomes a leading initiative of the post-2020 GBF”.



Caroline Daguét, Biodiversity project manager from the Government of Quebec, intervening in the “CitiesWithNature and RegionswithNature: mobilizing funding, projects, commitment to take action and reporting at subnational levels”

- **Pavilion associated to the 7th summit for subnational governments and cities**

For the first time at a CBD COP, there was a dedicated Pavilion –from 8 until the 18 December– focusing on subnational government and city actions and opportunities. The Pavilion showcased an exciting daily program and offered subnational governments and cities, their partners and CBD Parties more opportunities than ever before to showcase their work, learn from others, and make the links between biodiversity, climate, water security, food security, pollution and waste, the circular economy and job creation, focusing on systems-based approaches.

- **Official side-event: Local solutions to global problems: how the Edinburgh Declaration highlights the critical role played by local, regional and subnational governments in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

On December 10, Regions4 co-hosted with the Edinburgh Process Partners, the side event **“Local solutions to global problems: how the Edinburgh Declaration highlights the critical role played by local, regional and subnational governments in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”** at the CBD COP15 official venue.

The event showcased the success of the Edinburgh Process, considering best practices and emerging policies at subnational level from Edinburgh Declaration signatories around the globe. It also successfully conveyed how the Edinburgh Process has bridged the climate and nature agendas by highlighting how actions at all levels of government can deliver global goals.

Regions4 members that participated at the event are Ms. Sayda Rodríguez, Minister of Environment of Yucatán; Mr. Benoit Charette, Quebec’s Minister of Environment, Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks and Ms. Lorna Slater, the Scottish Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity; as well as the participation of the IUCN Director of International Policy Center, Ms. Sonia Peña, among other representatives from California and the city of Kunming.

Some of the main messages from our members and partners were:

- Ms. Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity of Scotland, stressed the importance of the Edinburgh Declaration for subnational governments. “The Edinburgh Declaration sends a strong message: collectively, we subnational governments, stand ready to implement an ambitious global biodiversity framework and play our part in delivering the transformative action needed to halt biodiversity loss”.
- Ms. Sayda Rodríguez, Secretary of Sustainable Development of Yucatán remarked on the importance of partnership links with Regions4 to bridge climate, biodiversity and sustainable development efforts. “Working with Regions4, and integrating the one health approach to bridging biodiversity, climate and sustainability, will help us to conserve biodiversity with healthy economic development”.
- Mr. Benoît Charette, Québec's Minister of Environment, Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, developed with more detail the announcement made by the regional government, which consists of an ambitious new plan for its conservation efforts that is unprecedented in the region's history.
- Ms. Sonia Peña, IUCN’s Director of the International Policy Center, gave some final remarks about the event. “One of the key highlights from today’s event is the need to strengthen collaboration on the local and subnational level to make sure that we act in the conservation of nature with the engagement of all actors and the whole of society”.



Ms. Sayda Rodríguez, Secretary of Sustainable Development of Yucatán, intervening in the official side event “Local solutions to global problems: how the Edinburgh Declaration highlights the critical role played by local, regional and subnational governments in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”



Speakers and attendees of the official side event “Local solutions to global problems: how the Edinburgh Declaration highlights the critical role played by local, regional and subnational governments in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”

- **Pavilion event: RegionsWithNature catalyzing biodiversity action and resources for implementation**

That same day, on December 10, Regions4, as a partner of the RegionsWithNature platform, together with ICLEI hosted the event “**RegionsWithNature catalyzing biodiversity action and resources for implementation**” in the **Pavilion for Local and Subnational Governments**”. The event highlighted the potential of the platform to catalyze regional actions and develop resources to stop biodiversity loss at the subnational level of government. The event also showcased the Case Study Database (CSD) as the tool to foster knowledge exchange and capacity building at the regional level of government.

Mr. Marc Vilahur from Catalonia, Ms. Caroline Daguét, from Quebec and Mr. Hiroshi Kondo, from Aichi, all three authors of case studies featured in the CSD, had the opportunity to share

their experience on putting into practice the objectives of the CBD and translating those good practices into learning. They thanked Regions4 and all other RwN partners for organizing a space where they can share and learn on the best biodiversity practices and underlined the importance of the regions for sustainable development. In addition, they highlighted the importance of the regional approach to bring all actors together to collaborate from the beginning, with a whole-of-government and whole of society approach.

Moreover, the event facilitated a discussion, moderated by Regions4 Executive Director, Mr. Jordan Harris, around the challenges to on-the-ground action for biodiversity and how to overcome them, how to identify possible channels and mechanisms through which finance can be mobilized and about RwN as channel to mobilize financial support to “biodiversity champions”. This moderated discussion included very interesting inputs from Mr. Paul Dale, Sao Paulo State; Mrs. Alessandra Norcini, Lombardy; Mr. Philippe Campelo, Rio de Janeiro State, and Angel Cardenas, from CAF.

Some of the key messages from the speakers in this discussion were:

- Mr. Philippe Capello commented on Rio de Janeiro’s ambitious efforts to date in terms of forest conservation. “Rio de Janeiro, which conserves 30% of its continental area, 10% of maritime area and has zero deforestation since 2010 has high ambitions for the Atlantic Rainforest restoration. The Forests of Tomorrow, a major restoration program in Brazil, has the goal to restore 440,000 he, with 120 million USD committed to invest in restoration over the next 5 years. The program has a partnership of 36 million USD with Live Forest Program, coordinated by the National Economic Development Bank”
- Mrs. Alessandra Norcini identified several lines of work from RegionsWithNature that are compatible with efforts that are already being done by the region of Lombardy and she stressed the connections between the climate, energy, biodiversity and health crises. The region also expressed they are very proud to be part of this important experience.
- Mr. Paul Dale expressed the importance of RegionsWithNature and these international events that gather experts and politicians in the sector to reinforce regions’ actions and to have impact beyond the regional and national borders.

Finally, Mr. Roby Biver, representative of the European Committee of the Regions and partner of the AC SNG, made some final remarks, highlighting the importance of subnational and local leaders of acting now for biodiversity and making the most of COP15



Speakers Caroline Daguët, Marc Vilahur Chiaraviglio, and Hiroshi Kondo.



Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director, moderating the discussion panel at the event “RegionsWithNature catalyzing biodiversity action and resources for implementation”



Philippe Capello, President of the State Institute for the Environment of the Rio de Janeiro State; Alessandra Norcini, Responsible at Nature and Biodiversity Unit in the Lombardy Government, and Paul Dale, International Advisor at the Sao Paulo State Government, having a moderated discussion at the event “RegionsWithNature catalyzing biodiversity action and resources for implementation”

- **7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities: Taking Action for Biodiversity**

During the 11th and 12th of December, an unprecedented event took place at COP15, the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, which for the first time occurred in the main Plenary room. The Summit’s main theme was “taking action for biodiversity” showcasing commitments from subnational governments and cities as well as high-level participation from UN organizations, donors and financial institutions, including the opening keynote speeches from the David Suzuki Foundation, UN Habitat, FAO, the Centre for Nature and Climate at the World Economic Forum and Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Summit, to which over 1200 people initially registered, focused on three action-oriented areas: Engage, Influence and Act. The outcome of this historic Summit was presented formally

by the hosts to the CBD COP 15 High Level Segment as a united message from the subnational constituency.

From Regions4, 14 high level representatives from Quebec, Jalisco, Scotland, Lombardy, Wales, Parana, Catalonia, Rio de Janeiro and Basque Country had speaking opportunities and shared efforts, ideas and strong messages about their role in protecting biodiversity and implementing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



Governor of Yucatan, Mauricio Vila, intervening in the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities



Latin American subnational and local representatives gathered at the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities



Sergio Humberto Graf Montero, International Coordinator for Climate Action of the Jalisco State and Regions4 Vicepresident of the Americas, intervening on behalf of Regions4 at the opening plenary of the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities

Moreover, the second day of the Summit was the official launch of the RegionsWithNature platform and its featured tool, the Case Study Database. This ceremony gave a special recognition to RegionsWithNature’s Pioneer Members, including 10 Regions4 members: **Jalisco, Guanajuato, Yucatán, Sao Paulo, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Catalonia, Scotland, Lombardy and Quebec**, additionally, California was also celebrated as the most recent Rwn member. Non-present Pioneer Members include: **Åland Island, Campeche, La Rioja, Basque Country, Goa, Pernambuco, Western Cape, the Community of Madrid.**



RegionsWithNature pioneer members present at the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities and CitiesWithNature new members, after receiving a badge in the ceremony of the launch of the RegionsWithNature platform

- **Executive Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to Biodiversity (AC SNG) – for members and guest regions only**

On December 13, Regions4, as co-coordinators of the AC SNG along with Quebec, held an in-person executive meeting of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments (AC SNG) in which the AC SNG members and partners held preliminary discussions around the role of the Advisory Committee in the implementation of the new global framework; and brainstormed on its implementation.

The members of the AC SNG that attended in person were Aichi, Jalisco, Lombardy, Scotland, Ontario, Wales, Catalonia, the European Committee of the Regions (partner), Sao Paulo and Quebec. The states of Rio de Janeiro and Mato Grosso attended as observers.

The session concluded with the importance of further discussing the future work of the AC SNG considering the results of COP15 and the implications for the regional level of government of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the dedicated Decision and Plan of Action on the engagement of subnational governments on its implementation.

An invitation was launched to observer regions and all subnational leaders to join and engage in the advocacy efforts of the AC SNG as much still needs to be done at the heart of the CBD, particularly on the topic of monitoring and reporting of the new global framework and its 23 targets.



AC SNG members and observers at the in-person AC SNG Executive Meeting

- **Regions4 cocktail reception for members and friends**

On the afternoon of December 13, Regions4 celebrated a cocktail reception at COP15, which gathered Regions4 members, friends, and partners to share experiences, discuss and look at future collaborations, in the year of the 20th anniversary of the network and of the adoption of a new global framework. The session strengthened synergies for biodiversity among our membership.



Regions4 members and friends at the Regions4 Cocktail reception

MEMBERS' AND PARTNERS' - LED EVENTS

Some of Regions4 members and partners, apart from attending, organizing and intervening in Regions4 events, organized their own impactful events at the CBD COP 15. These events are:

- **Quebec Day at the Pavilion for Subnational Governments and Cities**

Organized by the Government of Quebec, Quebec Day was celebrated on the 9th of December in the Pavilion for Local and Subnational Governments. This day celebrated a series of events that showcased Quebec's efforts related to biodiversity, agriculture, the environment and much more.

- **Closed-door session: *Pre-Summit closed event for Mayors and Governors***

This event, organized by the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal, enabled leaders from the subnational and local constituency to gather, meet, socialize and deliberate. At this event, subnational leaders shared ideas on an outcome statement for the Summit that was presented to the CBD COP15 Plenary during the High-Level Segment of COP15.

The Pre-Summit closed event counted with the participation of Regions4 Executive Director as well as members from Jalisco, Catalonia, Scotland, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro State, Sao Paulo, Wales and Yucatan.



Local and Subnational leaders gathered at the Pre-Summit closed event for Mayors and Governors

- **Event: *Business and finance needs for mandatory requirements to assess and disclosure impacts and dependencies on nature (target 15)***

CDP, a Regions4 partner, together with other institutions and partners, organized this event that took place on December 10, with the aim to explore how the business and finance community can work with governments to implement an ambitious Target 15 successfully. This was done by demonstrating the current use by business and financial institutions of frameworks, tools and metrics and by outlining what is needed from governments to scale up these practices. The main audience of this session were CBD negotiators and business leaders.

- **Event: *Speaking up for nature. Better communications for the CBD/IUCN communities***

The Government of Catalonia and IUCN hosted, on December 11, an event that facilitated a discussion around how IUCN members, including regional governments, youth and indigenous peoples, can engage and communicate effectively through relevant collaborations such as IUCN's National and Regional Committees and Commissions.

Regions4 Biodiversity Programme Manager participated as speaker in this event and shared how Regions4, through the AC SNG and other channels, supports regional governments in their communication efforts with the CBD, that can potentially be of interest of IUCN subnational members.

- **Workshop: *dedicated session on subnational and local leadership towards 30x30***

This workshop, hosted by the California Natural Resources Agency and the Government of Québec on December 13, showcased subnational and local initiatives that contribute to the upcoming global 30x30 target, and presented transformative approaches to governance and

management that go beyond traditional protected areas, to include concepts such as indigenous protected areas, key biodiversity areas (KBAs) or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM).

The event fostered a dialogue between on-the-ground actors and other stakeholders looking to support subnational leadership and partnerships in their essential contributions to conserving 30% of the planet's terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030.

- **Executive Meeting: GoLS Networking Lunch and Meeting**

The Group of Leading Subnational Governments, an operational partner of the AC SNG, organized on December 13 a networking lunch, followed by an executive meeting with its members. This session was organized in alignment with the AC SNG executive meeting and was exclusive to GoLS members.

- **Event: *Our food systems are threatened by biodiversity loss and climate change – what can cities and subnational governments do?***

Rio de Janeiro State's Minister of Environment, Jose Ricardo Brito, participated at the event **“Our food systems are threatened by biodiversity loss and climate change – what can cities and subnational governments do?”** on December 14, at the Subnational Pavilion.

- **Event: *Unlocking finance for scaled action for GBF implementation***

This session, part of the High-Level Segment, counted with the interventions of Sergio Graf, International Coordinator for Climate Action of the State of Jalisco, and Lorna Slater, Scottish Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity.



Lorna Slater, Scottish Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, intervening in name of Regions4 in the High-Level Segment session “Unlocking finance for scaled action for GBF implementation”

- **Event: Bioeconomy and green & blue economy: tools to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework**

The Government of São Paulo and the Community of Madrid hosted this event to support the actions of subnational and local governments, together with other players like Parties of the CBD, UN Agencies, companies and NGOs to support these actions. They also reinforced the importance of supporting initiatives and organizations like RegionsWithNature, Regions4 Case Study Database, the Edinburgh Process, and more, while supporting actions on advocacy, such as the AC SNG, GoLS and AC Cities.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

As a follow up of COP15, Regions4 will:

- Continue the dialogue with the members and partners of the Advisory Committee for Subnational Governments to the CBD on the future work of the committee and will launch a consultation process to its members considering the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Decision and Plan of Action on the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities on its implementation.
- Follow up on initiatives identified at COP15 for potential partnerships and funding opportunities. You may find a map of initiatives [here](#). The initiatives listed are potentially interesting resources for us and our members, not officially supported by us.
- Continue to closely follow and attend the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the CBD –the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation- as they will continue to refine and negotiate the scientific and monitoring foundation upon which the framework is based. The schedule of these meetings for 2023 hasn't yet been released.

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