



Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



International training on:
Leveraging Urban Nature and Biodiversity for Local Development

**Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation MASHAV
Weitz Center for Development Studies
28 November to 22 December, 2011**

In past few years the issue of urban biodiversity has risen to the top of the development agenda, reflecting the fact that half of the worldwide population now lives in urban areas. Although 2% of the planet is made up of cities, 75% of the planet's resources are used by city dwellers (UNEP). Cities ecological footprints contribute significantly to biodiversity loss in the city area, but also worldwide

To reinforce the international community's efforts to advance initiatives on biodiversity, the United Nations declared 2010 as the Year of Biodiversity. Urban biodiversity, anchored in the Millennium Development Goals, which MDG (7), is dedicated to sustainable development, biodiversity loss, water and sanitation and slum dwellers. In parallel, the "Convention on Biological Diversity" recognizes the necessity of decreasing the current rate of biodiversity loss. Three main objectives are set: Conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable benefit sharing. The 2010 Nagoya Protocol on "*Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention of Biological Diversity*" reinforces the Convention.

Nevertheless, urban nature and biodiversity inside the city and in its immediate surroundings also provide invaluable assets to leverage and therefore improve the economic, social and cultural life of many city dwellers in the long run. Sustainable management of urban nature contributes to biodiversity and can provide spaces and resources for community activities, tourism, leisure and educational activities. The challenges remain in the capacity of local governments and communities to mainstream urban biodiversity in planning and management.

A global partnership on cities and biodiversity, bringing together main international agencies also permits a coherent international agenda. More specifically, since June 2009 ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability coordinates a global urban biodiversity program: "Local Action for Biodiversity" or LAB. Almost 30 cities and municipalities have taken part in the LAB, aimed at highlighting the role of local governments in sustainable management of urban biodiversity.

In order to leverage urban biodiversity for development it is essential to mainstream biodiversity considerations into local governance and planning. This will contribute to the protection of biodiversity and will promote at the same time sustainable community and economic development.

Israel has taken a step forward in urban biodiversity management, combining environment issues while ensuring sustainable development and inclusion of all groups. Among other

working areas, the city of Jerusalem joined the LAB Initiative and developed a comprehensive master plan, including partnerships with the central government, as well as civil society and the private sector. The Jerusalem LAB intends to improve the quality of life of city dwellers while preserving local nature sites and reducing threats to urban biodiversity. The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) also works toward urban biodiversity in many urban localities in order to increase the local quality of life, while protecting urban nature and promoting sustainable planning policies. Many other cities and towns in Israel are currently promoting urban nature and biodiversity initiatives as part of local development and revitalization efforts. The SPNI also carries out eco-education activities as well to increase public participation for decision making and implementation.

The training is designed to provide participants with concrete experiences, tools and methodologies based on Israeli and international experience.

More specifically, this international training will allow participants to benefit from the Israeli and international experiences in the following areas:

- Comprehensive urban biodiversity program implementation
- Strategic planning toward integration of biodiversity
- Leveraging urban nature for sustainable economic development
- Urban biodiversity and policy-making
- Environment-based income generation
- Sustainable urban green tourism
- Energy, water and waste in cities
- Partnerships and networks for urban biodiversity
- Public participation for urban biodiversity
- Educating and awareness raising .

Presentations discussions, field trips and meetings with professionals and decision makers will be carried out. Participants will experience on-site activities organized with Jerusalem LAB. Personal assignments and formulation of small scale planning projects in small groups will be implemented.

Learning modules will be organized as follow:

- Integration of urban biodiversity considerations into local governance and planning
- Leveraging Local urban nature and biodiversity for economic development
- Socio-economic inclusion of city dwellers for development
- Networks, partnerships and sharing best practices to leverage urban biodiversity
- Eco-education, awareness raising and public participation

Who may apply?

Environmentalists, planners, architects, engineers, economists, community workers, administrators and policy makers working in urban local authorities, relevant NGOs and CBOs , as well as decision makers and officials from central government ministries working directly with urban local authorities in the areas of sustainable development.

The selected participants are required to submit prior to the training a short case on urban nature and biodiversity and projects ideas for further development.

Application Process

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the

Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronitshp@netvision.net.il) not later than 24 October 2011.

Arrival and Transportation

The Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to "Reisfeld Residence" of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, where participants will stay during the training. Transportation will **be free of charge only by this company**.

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after the customs, on the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers' Hall, near gate 2.

Insurance

MASHAV will provide insurance for the participants for the duration of the training. Medical insurance will benefit the participants during their stay in Israel, except for dental treatments, pregnancy, eyeglasses, and chronic illnesses. MASHAV, Weitz Center and the "Reisfeld Residence" are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

About Weitz Center

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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