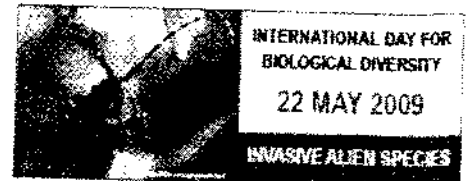




Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/OH/ch/67547

25 May 2009

**Subject: Inviting the City of Waitakere to participate in the Global Partnership on  
Cities and Biodiversity**

Dear Mr. Harvey,

At the recommendation of Her Excellency Ms. Helen Elizabeth Clark, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, I would like to invite the City of Waitakere to join the CBD initiative on cities and biodiversity, as one of the global leaders in biodiversity-friendly urban management. As the local government representative of New Zealand to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) in 2002, Johannesburg, and through your key role in the enactment of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act, your contribution to the Global Partnership would be highly appreciated.

As you may know, the CBD initiative resulted in the launch of a Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity at the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 7 October 2008 in Barcelona, bringing together networks of local governments (such as ICLEI and its groundbreaking Local Action on Biodiversity project, to which Waitakere has contributed so much as its pioneer base), United Nations organizations, research institutions and non-governmental organizations. The

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objectives of the Partnership are to support cities in the sustainable management of their biodiversity resources, to assist cities to implement practices that support national, regional and international strategies, plans, and agendas on biodiversity, and to learn from existing initiatives. The CBD Secretariat has been coordinating efforts to develop a monitoring tool, the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, and a Plan of Action on Cities and Biodiversity, to be presented at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10, October 2010, Nagoya, Japan) and the Nagoya Biodiversity City Summit, which is a parallel event to COP 10 for local governments around the world. Additionally, we are also collaborating to raise public awareness on biodiversity by promoting participation in the Green Wave initiative (a global biodiversity campaign to educate children and youth through tree planting) and the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB, the year of 2010) related activities.

The critical role cities and local authorities can play in the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) has been recognized through CBD decision IX/28, adopted at COP 9, in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany. Specifically, paragraph 3 of the decision encourages Parties to the CBD, *"in accordance with national legislation, to recognize the role of cities and local authorities in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to facilitate the adoption by cities and local authorities of practices that support the implementation of these strategies and action plans, and to support the development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans consistent with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans"*.

Your city's participation would be an asset to the partnership and will surely strengthen our collaboration. I look forward to welcoming the City of Waitakere as participant in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity and in the Nagoya Cities' Summit, in close cooperation with the New Zealand government.

Yours sincerely,



Ahmed Djoghfaf  
Executive Secretary