



## **IFLA ASIA PACIFIC REGION REPORT**

**November 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM No** : TBC

**TITLE OF THE REPORT** : Climate Change Working Group Report

**OFFICE NAME AND IFLA POSITION** : Claire Martin, Chair  
Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To communicate to the Exco and member associations attending the annual council meeting the workings of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Climate Change Working Group and Chair.

### **SUMMARY OF THE REPORT (UP TO 100 WORDS)**

The report outlines some of the achievements of the last term of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Climate Change Working Group Chair and opportunities for continual improvement to be considered by the incoming chair.

### **REPORT**

It has been an honour to be the IFLA Asia-Pacific Climate Change Working Group Chair over the last few years. I wish the incoming chair every success and provide this report to communicate the work of the previous working group and to make recommendations for the incoming chair.

### **Achievements**

#### Knowledge Sharing

The main success of the working group has been the coming together of landscape architects focused on the climate emergency. We have shared insights from our respective associations and practices at and Asia-Pacific regional level and across the five regions. Including speaking at events in each other's countries. This has been invaluable and should be encouraged.

### Climate and Biodiversity

It was a suggestion of our IFLA APR Climate Change Working Group to change the name to also incorporate biodiversity. This was taken to the IFLA World Climate Change Working Group for endorsement who in turn took to the IFLA World Exco where it received support and is now reflected at the world and regional level.

### IFLA Climate Action Commitment

I contributed to the development of the climate action commitment as part of a working group which has helped to focus the efforts of IFLA in relation to climate change and to clearly communicate the value landscape architects bring - attached for reference. Our region has done well in getting signatories to the commitment in comparison to other regions but more countries can still endorse.

### IFLA Newsletters

Several of the working group members have contributed to the IFLA newsletters. I am grateful for their contributions on a range of topics including flood and carbon mitigation. I believe our representation has really led the way in terms of how the working group and committee can formally contribute to knowledge sharing and I hope this continues.

### Climate Leadership

One of the best outcomes of my involvement as chair has been to nominate Kotchakorn Voraakhom as the IFLA World Climate Change Working Group Chair as she has been able to draw on her connections with the United Nations to be able to raise awareness of IFLA and the role of landscape architects in the context of climate change. She will again this year promote IFLA at COP28. We also now have Pamela Conrad from ASLA as co-chair of the group who brings great experience in climate mitigation through her development of the Pathfinder Tool.

### Case Studies

Another initiative of our working group was the idea to develop climate case studies to help advocate for the role of landscape architects in climate adaptation and climate mitigation. I took this to the IFLA World Climate Change Working group where it was supported and now has the support of the IFLA President. I also contributed to the development of the questionnaire which will soon be sent to all member associations (refer attached). A video will also be produced to help garner support. I can also confirm that the Asia-Pacific Region was the only region who has already completed the questionnaire by providing four case studies even before the official announcement – thanks to those working groups members.

### An IFLA Knowledge Hub

As part of the discussion of the importance of knowledge sharing at the last world congress we had discussions with the German association delegate which led to informal meetings over the last year with members from Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe and now includes the middle east. I have attended monthly and contributed to ideas around what a global knowledge portal might look like. The intention is to create geolocated links to websites across the world for e.g. landscape architecture courses, jobs, climate tools and resources etc. We have now formed an official working group which includes representatives from JLAU and from across the world. I will talk briefly to this item in the meeting and would like to gain support for pursuing this to help better promote the great work happening within our region and to further climate change knowledge sharing.

### **Recommendations**

#### Call for nominations

Over the previous term we were able to expand the working group to include ten members from nine different nations. Attendance by some has been regular and many members no longer attend. We recently supported a call for new nominations for the working group but did not, as far as I am aware, receive any nominations. I will advise the secretariat of the current member list and request that they write to the members to confirm their intention to remain in the working group to attend or to seek a new nomination from the member association.

#### IFLA Climate Action Signatories

I recommend that the new chair try to get more signatories from within the region to sign up to the IFLA Climate Action Commitment.

#### Software Platforms

I initially set up a Trello Board and uploaded all relevant IFLA documents by way of background. It appears that Trello may be hard to access from China. I subsequently set up a OneDrive file for the sharing of resources but that will now discontinue as it is linked to my office account. I also had to personally subscribe to Zoom at my own cost to run meetings longer than 45 minutes. I recommend that the secretariat provide some sort of file sharing platform access to working group members to ensure continuity of stored information as well as access for the Chair to a Zoom account so they do not incur ongoing costs to host meetings. And that this is made available to all chairs to ensure corporate knowledge is not lost.

### Website

I have not received the recommendations from the group on what to reflect on the IFLA APR website in terms of climate change but will provide my recommendations to the secretariat and the new chair for consideration - including links to key resources.

### Administration

I recommend that the secretariat help to develop and obtain official approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for each committee and working group soon. I will update our terms of reference to capture the name change to Climate and Biodiversity Working Group and note that even with the ToR I also recommend a template for agendas and minutes also be provided as I had to prepare these from scratch. As attendance waned and people did not always action the items, I no longer consistently kept a formal record of the meetings which means corporate knowledge can be lost.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS (MOTIONS TO VOTE):**

N/A

### **APPENDIXES (TO BE ATTACHED):**

- IFLA World Climate and Biodiversity case study letter and Call for Action.
- IFLA Climate Action Commitment

## **Dear Delegates and Fellows landscape architects**

As landscape architects, we are champions of Nature-based Solutions. It is now time for us to amplify our impact and implementation in all regions and conditions as we are currently collaborating with the UN National Adaptation Plan (UN NAP), aiming to help regions and localities become resilient and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Society needs new approaches to decision-making, progressive policies, and a universal commitment to innovative ideas. It is now time for each national member to submit exemplary projects, including design-build best practices and cultural landscape architecture that embodies practices of the wisdom of the land that are relevant to tackling the climate crisis together.

**It is now time to Act. IFLA is asking for your support and your commitment to actions. All results from this will flourish with our president and all delegates in our next World Council and World Congress in Turkey in 2024.**

**Action 1: What is a commitment that your national association will commit to with IFLA and all national members that will be completed in 1 year?**

**Action 2:** Please share a selected landscape architect climate champion from your jurisdiction and their effect on climate adaptation activities. We may then invite them to be part of our IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Webinar, the annual webinar that our working group hosts.

**Action 3: Could you share one of your nation's landscape architecture-built best practices, projects, or cultural landscape strategies from your jurisdiction that IFLA can feature and apply to be part of UN landscape architecture Nature-based adaptation implementation guidelines?**

Through our partnership with UN NAP, we will select and include best practices from around the world to acknowledge the power of landscape architecture as a tool for tackling climate change.

Thank you for your kind consideration and collaboration. This is an urgent issue and we appreciate your committed actions. Please provide documentation regarding all 3 of your actions in this link.



<https://forms.gle/JmfKC7j2SUN5QtAu7>

**Please submit before the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2023** to your regional climate and biodiversity chairs. Stay tuned for further information and we look forward to working with you.

With our commitment to Action,

### **The IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group**

**Kotchakorn Voraakhom**, Chairwoman of IFLA Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Pamela Conrad**, Vice Chairwoman of IFLA Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Claire Martin**, Chairwoman of IFLA Asia Pacific Climate Biodiversity Working Group

Tony Williams, Chairman of IFLA Europe Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Farimah Jamali**, Chairwoman of IFLA Middle East Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Raquel Peñalosa**, Chairwoman of IFLA America Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Tamsin Faragher**, Chairwoman of IFLA Africa Climate Biodiversity Working Group



# Call for Action

## IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group (IFLA CCB)

Over 70,000 landscape architects around the world are taking action as global citizens to limit planetary warming to 1.5° C.

In 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported on the looming global warming crisis and the resultant impacts it will have on environments and communities throughout our world. As a response, IFLA launched the **IFLA Climate Action Commitment** with the belief that landscape architecture is a critical component key to solving the climate crisis in the reduction of emissions, in the resilience and transformation of human society, and in ensuring the sustainability of the natural environment.

As a creative discipline, we bring expertise on Nature-based Solutions, technological innovation, and strategic thinking that deliver for nature and people. We accelerate city afforestation to sequester carbon, generate urban biodiversity, and protect cities from extreme heat – a growing threat to human survival. Beyond urban environments, we work at all scales: global, regional, local, and human, to strengthen, protect and enhance the wider functional ecosystems. Landscape architects deliver climate solutions at scales that matter.

As our mission, landscape architects are uniquely qualified to help prevent catastrophic global environmental and societal breakdowns. Through planning, design, and management, our work protects and repairs global ecosystems; fosters human health, well-being, and happiness; cools the environment and draws down atmospheric carbon.

Through the IFLA Climate Action Commitments (the 6 commitments), we commit to:

1. Advancing the UN SDGs
2. Attaining global net zero carbon emissions by 2040
3. Enhancing capacity and resilience of livable cities and communities
4. Advocating for climate justice and social well-being
5. Learning from cultural knowledge systems
6. Galvanizing climate leadership

It is now time to Act. IFLA is asking for your support and your actions at the IFLA World Congress in Kenya.

**Action1: What is a commitment that your national association will commit to with IFLA and all national members that will be completed in 1 year?**

As the climate crisis is escalating, what is the critical role of landscape architecture in the role of the climate crisis? IFLA's President and the IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group ask for one commitment to action from your national association's profession. Within the 6 Commitments, we will reconvene at the IFLA World Congress in Kenya and host a workshop with all national associations. Your commitment to action and its realized impacts will be shared at the IFLA World Congress in 2025.



**Action 2: Please share a selected landscape architect climate champion from your jurisdiction and their effect on climate adaptation activities. We may then invite them to be part of our IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Webinar, the annual webinar that our working group hosts.**

**Action 3: Could you share one of your nation's landscape architecture-built best practices, projects, or cultural landscape strategies from your jurisdiction that IFLA can feature and apply to be part of UN landscape architecture Nature-based adaptation implementation guidelines?**

As landscape architects, we are champions of Nature-based Solutions. It is now time for us to amplify our impact and implementation in all regions and conditions as we are currently collaborating with the UN National Adaptation Plan (UN NAP), aiming to help regions and localities become resilient and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Society needs new approaches to decision-making, progressive policies, and a universal commitment to innovative ideas. It is now time for each national member to submit exemplary projects, including design-build best practices and cultural landscape architecture that embodies practices of the wisdom of the land that are relevant to tackling the climate crisis together.

The project submittal categories include:

Flood, drought, urban heat, coastal erosion, sea level rise, decreased agricultural and fishery yields, landslides, human settlement and security.

We ask that each national association submit at least one 1 project and no more than 3.

Through our partnership with UN NAP, we will select and include best practices from around the world to acknowledge the power of landscape architecture as a tool for tackling climate change.

Thank you for your kind consideration and collaboration. This is an urgent issue and we appreciate your committed actions. Please provide documentation regarding all 3 of your actions in this link.



<https://forms.gle/JmfKC7j2SUN5QtAu7>

**Please submit before the 30th of November 2023** to your regional climate and biodiversity chairs. Stay tuned for further information and we look forward to seeing you and your actions in Kenya.

With our commitment to Action,  
The IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group

**Kotchakorn Voraakhom**, Chairwoman of IFLA Climate Biodiversity Working Group

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