



# SATOYAMA INITIATIVE

## PARIS DECLARATION ON THE “*SATOYAMA* INITIATIVE”

1. The Global Workshop on the *Satoyama* Initiative was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 29 to 30 January 2010. It was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE-J) and the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), and co-organized by UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). The Global Workshop built on the two preparatory workshops held in Asia, the first in Tokyo on 25 July 2009, and the second in Penang, Malaysia, on 1-2 October 2009 (see reports at [www.satoyama-initiative.org](http://www.satoyama-initiative.org)).
2. The objectives of the Global Workshop were to discuss the *Satoyama* Initiative’s concept and define the elements of activities to be included in the Initiative. Participants in the workshop included members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Bureau of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and biodiversity and community development experts from intergovernmental and governmental agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations, in particular those working very closely with indigenous and local communities. The meeting was open to the public and co-chaired by Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice Rector, UNU, Dr. Spencer L. Thomas, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), CBD, Ms. Somaly Chan, Director, International Convention and Biodiversity, Department of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, and Prof. James H. Seyani, Director General, National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens of Malawi.
3. Participants of the Global Workshop welcomed with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Japan and UNU-IAS in developing and putting forward the *Satoyama* Initiative. Opportunities for the participation of Parties, other governments and relevant organizations in this initiative were noted. The Government of Japan and UNU-IAS have developed and maintained an internet-based portal site for the *Satoyama* Initiative. They have conducted more than 20 case studies based on literature review and through local stakeholder workshops held in Malawi, Cambodia, Mexico, Peru and other countries during 2009.
4. The primary outcomes of the Global Workshop were the Co-Chair’s Summary and this Paris Declaration, which broadly reflect the discussions among participants, and not necessarily the opinion of their respective countries or organizations. The annex to this declaration contains a description of the *Satoyama* Initiative, its objectives, headline activities and mechanisms for its operationalization. Participants at the Global Workshop requested the Co-Chairs to jointly submit this Declaration to the Fourteenth Meeting of the SBSTTA, to be held in Nairobi from 10 to 21 May 2010, and the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010.

Water morning glory (*Ipomoea aquatica*) flourishes naturally throughout the tropics and sub-tropics. It is often found in waterways and rice fields adjacent to human settlements. It is consumed extensively in these regions and its economic value is significant in both local and commercial terms.

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia: The Kadazan cultivate rice on a small scale mainly for family consumption. These pesticide-free rice fields provide habitats for various species of frogs, insects and fish. White egrets and other birds that feed on these small creatures coexist harmoniously with humans and are seen as indicating a healthy ecosystem.

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## Annex

### THE “*SATOYAMA* INITIATIVE” FOR THE BENEFIT OF BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

1. “Socio-ecological production landscapes”<sup>1</sup> are dynamic mosaics of habitats and land uses that have been shaped over the years by the interactions between people and nature in ways that maintain biodiversity and provide humans with goods and services needed for their well-being. These landscapes have proven sustainable over centuries and are considered living examples of cultural heritage. A number of studies indicate that management of these landscapes is compatible with the Ecosystem Approach and the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity<sup>2</sup> and could be a tool for implementing the post-2010 Target of the CBD. In these landscapes, natural resources are used in a cyclical manner within the carrying capacity and resilience of ecosystems; the value and importance of local traditions and cultures are recognized; and the management of natural resources involves various participating and cooperating entities and contributes to local socio-economies. These landscape management practices are conducive to maintaining an optimal balance of food production, livelihood improvement and ecosystem conservation.
2. Socio-ecological production landscapes are found in many regions of the world under various names such as *muyong*, *uma* and *payoh* in the Philippines, *mauel* in Korea, *dehesa* in Spain, *terroirs* in France and other Mediterranean countries, *chitemene* in Malawi and Zambia and *satoyama* in Japan. Some of these areas are formally recognized as protected landscapes/seascapes under the IUCN protected area category V, World Cultural Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, and/or Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. They all have in common the wise and sustainable use of biological resources in accordance with traditional and, in some cases, modern cultural practices.

#### Benefits

3. Information presented in the workshop and from case-studies in the literature indicates that when they are managed effectively, socio-ecological production landscapes provide a wide range of provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services, and thus contribute to livelihood and human well-being of local communities, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and relevant national development policies. They also provide members of local communities a sense of their roots and identity. In addition, they can contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, *inter alia*, by conserving and enhancing carbon sinks and reservoirs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing resilience to adapt to the negative effects of climate change at the landscape or territorial scale. These socio-ecological production landscapes can make an important contribution to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. They can also play an important role in achieving connectivity/corridor conservation across wider landscapes by making linkages between other protected areas.

#### Issues

4. Some socio-ecological production landscapes have been abandoned as a result of rural depopulation and ageing populations, while others are increasingly threatened in many parts of the world due to various pressures such as unplanned urbanization, industrialization and increase in population/resource demand. The loss or degradation of these landscapes leads inevitably to a decline in the various ecosystem services that they provide, with serious consequences for the local

<sup>1</sup> Socio-ecological production landscapes are certain kinds of biocultural landscapes. In the context of this declaration, they include seascapes.

<sup>2</sup> Annex II of decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

and broader communities that rely on them. In some cases, socio-ecological production landscapes may not fully provide for the livelihood of local communities and could thus be abandoned as people move to urban areas in search of employment and better living conditions. There is therefore a need for a range of options to support indigenous and local communities in continuing to maintain these landscapes, as they have done for generations.

## ***The Initiative***

### ***Overall description and objectives***

5. Measures are urgently needed to support and, where necessary, revitalize or rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes including through broader global recognition of their value and by addressing the issues identified above. The *Satoyama* Initiative has been developed to respond to these needs. Its overall objective is to promote and support socio-ecological production landscapes to maintain their contribution to human well-being and the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
6. The *Satoyama* Initiative recognizes the importance of other ongoing initiatives dealing with socio-ecological production landscapes and seeks to provide a platform for cooperation and support.
7. The Initiative can also be considered as a tool, consistent with the Ecosystem Approach, for the implementation of the proposed post-2010 Strategic Plan of the Convention, in particular the 2020 targets relating to the sustainable management of all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry; the reduction below critical ecosystem loads of pollution from excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and other sources; the management of the multiple pressures on vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change and ocean acidification; the improvement of the status of crop and livestock genetic diversity in agricultural ecosystems and of wild relatives; the raising of awareness of the role of biodiversity; the safeguarding or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems that provide critical services, and contribute to local livelihoods; the guarantee for all of adequate and equitable access to essential ecosystem services; the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, as well as the rights of indigenous and local communities; and the increase of capacity (human resources and financing) for implementing the Convention.

### ***Specific goals/activities***

8. The *Satoyama* Initiative aims to
  - (a) Enhance understanding and raise awareness of the importance of socio-ecological production landscapes for livelihoods and the three objectives of the Convention. This goal will be met by
    - (i) Collecting, analyzing, synthesizing and comparing case-studies, and distilling lessons learned for dissemination through a searchable online database and other means, and for use in capacity-building activities;
    - (ii) Undertaking research on ways and means to (i) promote wisdom, knowledge and practice which enables us to enjoy a stable supply of diverse ecosystem services, (ii) build bridges for inter-cultural communication between traditional ecological knowledge systems and modern science; (iii) explore a “New Commons” or new forms of co-management while respecting traditional communal land tenure where necessary, (iv) revitalize and innovate socio-ecological production landscapes; and (v) integrate results in policy and decision-making processes;
    - (iii) Developing measurable indicators of resilience associated with linkages between human well-being and the socio-ecological production landscape mosaic, including linkages between wild and anthropogenic components of landscape and ecosystems; and applying these indicators to contribute to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach; and
    - (iv) Increasing awareness by promoting education, information dissemination, and document production about these landscapes,



Maranhão State, Brazil: The local communities in the Mearim Valley in the Amazon practice an agro-extractive economy by integrating shifting cultivation, livestock raising and the extraction of products from babassu palm (*Attalea speciosa*) secondary forests. Babassu palm has multiple uses: leaves for thatch and basketry; fruit for oil, feed and charcoal; and biomass for nutrient cycling.



Yongding County, Fujian Province, China: The agriculturally centered Hakka who adhere to the *fungsui* (wind-water) philosophy in molding their local landscape, often build castle-like communal dwellings and co-manage their resources through a common clan system. Rice and tea terraces, crop fields and secondary forests surrounding their dwellings create a harmonious flow of mosaics throughout the whole landscape.

- (b) Support and expand, where appropriate and as part of the implementation of the post-2010 Strategic Plan, socio-ecological production landscapes, building on activities in subparagraph (a) above. This goal will be achieved by:
  - (i) Enhancing capacities for maintaining, rebuilding and revitalizing socio-ecological production landscapes, including through regional capacity-building workshops and support for on-the-ground projects and activities;
  - (ii) Collaborating with and/or strengthening synergies with local community organizations, national governments, donor agencies, and NGOs, other UN agencies and organizations dealing with socio-ecological production landscapes in the implementation of their respective activities related to the Initiative,
- (c) Collaborate with other initiatives and programmes which are operating in this area such as *inter alia* GIAHS and those of IUCN and UNESCO.

### ***Supporting mechanisms***

9. An International Partnership will be established and strengthened, with links to national/sub-national and regional partnerships, to carry out the activities identified by the *Satoyama* Initiative. The International Partnership will be open to all organizations dealing with socio-ecological production landscapes to foster synergies in the implementation of their respective activities, as well as others planned under the Initiative.
10. In order to facilitate the activities proposed for the *Satoyama* Initiative, it is important to:
  - (a) Identify and develop potential windows and mechanisms to finance, including through innovative financing mechanisms such as the payment for ecosystem services, the implementation of the Initiative and support the International Partnership-related projects and activities,
  - (b) Mobilize the financial resources needed for implementing the Initiative, including support for the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative,
  - (c) Facilitate consultations among partner organizations, including on the processes of the proposed General Meetings for the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative, in order to facilitate cooperation and create concrete collaborative programmes and activities among partner organizations, including regional collaboration/cooperation, with a view to generating synergies in the programme implementation by such partner organizations, and
  - (d) Report on relevant achievements to the CBD SBSTTA and Conference of the Parties in accordance with the items on their respective agendas and the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties, and as part of the review of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015.