

Chair's Summary

International Expert Meeting on the International *Satoyama* Initiative Concept “Biodiversity and Sustainability” Tokyo, 25 July 2009

1. Introduction

The International Expert Meeting on the International *Satoyama* Initiative Concept was organised by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE-J) with the participation of eminent experts in various fields; i.e., ecology, human well-being, sustainability science, *satoyama* landscape and the convention on biological diversity as well as representatives from governments of various countries and international organizations. The meeting was open to the public and more than 120 people attended the meeting. Mr. Masaki Suzuki, Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Professor Takeuchi, Vice Rector of UNU delivered opening remarks underlining the importance of the Meeting in the process that will lead to the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) and beyond in pursuing biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Prof. Takeuchi was appointed as Chair for the Meeting. Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Coordinator, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) was appointed as Rapporteur.

The Meeting was intended to discuss (1) the management mechanism of *satoyama* or a socio-ecological production landscape and its potential in optimizing ecosystem services without loss of biodiversity, and (2) the International *Satoyama* Initiative concept with a view to designing a policy instrument with maximum effectiveness. Based on the introductory presentation by Prof. Takeuchi and the thematic presentations by several speakers in accordance with the Programme, the participants had rich discussions. This Chair's summary aims at reflecting the thrust of discussions and highlighting key issues and shared views that emerged throughout the Meeting.

2. *Satoyama* – A key management approach to conserving ecosystems and biodiversity and improving human well-being

(1) *Satoyama* – multi-functional socio-ecological production landscape

Satoyama, a traditional Japanese socio-ecological production landscape, is one of the exemplars where local residents promote agricultural activities and integrated ecosystem management by producing food and fuel, providing habitats for wildlife and composting wastes. A number of good practices have been known for the case of *satoyama* socio-ecological production landscape management in Japan such as Toyooka City of Hyogo Prefecture and Kamikatsu-cho of Tokushima Prefecture. The *Satoyama* management approach supports the present policy goals of pursuing low-carbon, resource circulating and nature harmonious society. It can also achieve policy goals of tackling food and fuel shortages and reducing poverty in the context of promoting human development.

(2) *Satoyama* and resembling management approaches

Multi-functional land use is practiced in various countries with local terms such as *Pekarangan* (Homegarden) and *Kebun-Talun* system (Agroforestry with shifting cultivation) in Indonesia, *Mauel*

in the Republic of Korea, *Dehesa* (silvopastoralism) in Spain, and *Chitemene* (slash and burn agriculture) in Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique. Agroforestry and communal forests are common features of multifunctional agricultural practices in various parts of the world. A multi-functional land use practice relies on traditional knowledge and requires concerted actions among villagers. Yet, with the various forces of modernization and urbanisation, such practices have been increasingly undermined or abandoned, and many ecosystems face a crisis of losing its integrity.

Satoumi is a comparable term to satoyama in Japanese. *Satoumi* refers to coastal production landscape. While many parts of traditional coastal areas have already been lost in industrialization and land use conversion in Japan, some coastal communities in Japan conduct practices for marine and coastal resource management in the context of sustainable ecosystem management and human well-being improvement. It is also worth considering the incorporation of coastal production landscape management in the satoyama discourse.

(3) The significance of the proposed *Satoyama* Initiative for promoting integrated ecosystem management

The proposed *Satoyama* Initiative aiming at promoting integrated ecosystem management gives a renewed impetus to reassessing the value of traditional land and ecosystem management practices and reviving such practices. A socio-ecological production landscape provides multiple produce and benefits essential for human well-being. To reverse the ongoing trend of ecosystem deterioration and biodiversity loss, multi-faceted measures are required to improve macro-policies, financing mechanisms, community based governance structures and communal collaboration. The *Satoyama* Initiative can support research, information exchange and capacity development for promoting integrated ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and human well-being improvement.

3. Satoyama/Socio-ecological production landscape : its key features and challenges

(1) Ecosystem services and agricultural productivity

Integrated/multi-functional agricultural systems enhance agricultural productivity and resource efficiency to produce food and fuel that are the human livelihood's necessities. At the same time, they support the sound circulation of nutrient and water resources in ecosystems as well as biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources by providing important space for plant species and habitat for wildlife. They also help reducing wind and water erosion of land and maintaining disaster preparedness of ecosystems. The reinvigoration of agriculture production in food importing areas or countries can help optimizing resource use at the national and international levels, and reducing excessive pressures on ecosystems and water resources particularly food exporting countries. Enhanced ecosystem management also help maintaining and expanding carbon sinks that are important factors for tackling climate change.

(2) Socio-cultural benefits

Integrated ecosystem management and multi-functional agriculture provides various socio-cultural benefits. They provide employment, salaries and social security. They also strengthen communal industry and entrepreneurs. They provide equitable benefit sharing with appropriate institutional mechanism to ensure. With the increased revenue for the community, social investments can be made in community infrastructure such as clinics and schools that enhances social well-being. Sustainable ecosystem management and social well-being gives confidence and self-esteem for local people and

communal cohesiveness for local communities. Integrated ecosystem management and multi-functional agriculture provide an important foundation for cultural, religious and spiritual traditions, customs and diversity. Revitalization of rural communities can also help reducing rural-urban migration.

(3) Policy challenges

The deterioration of integrated ecosystem management and multi-functional agricultural systems is caused due to the insufficient valuation of ecosystem services provided through such ecosystem management systems. To revive and strengthen such management systems, it is important to undertake:

- (i) Mapping the stocks and flows of ecosystem services, and their values,
- (ii) Clarifying key trade-offs and synergies in integrated ecosystem and multi-functional agricultural systems; there is a need to clarify short-term and long-term cost and benefits of supporting integrated ecosystem management and multi-functional agriculture practices,
- (iii) Strengthening the understanding of the linkages among biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services, societal needs and adaptability taking into account specific conditions of local communities and countries,
- (iv) Developing management plans that are proactive and conducive to maximizing ecosystem service delivery, and
- (v) Developing policy options to remove barriers or redesign drivers for people to support integrated ecosystem and multi-functional agriculture activities; better valuation of ecosystem services and internalization of externalities associated with natural resource use and land use conversion and equitable benefit sharing must be pursued.

4. The suggested key components for the *Satoyama* Initiative

The proposed *Satoyama* Initiative aims at the threefold vision namely (1) Amalgamation of wisdom related to sustainable use, re-use and recycling inclusive, of natural resources as the foundation for harmonious co-existence between nature and human society, (2) Integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern science,(3) Creating a "new commons".

The vision needs to cover the policy goals of tackling food and fuel crisis, reducing poverty and human development particularly in developing countries. A notion of creating new commons is worth highlighting.

It is proposed that the *Satoyama* Initiative shall be based on the following five perspectives:

- (1) Understanding the features of the landscape and assessing the carrying capacity and resilience of the natural environment,
- (2) Integrating local traditional ecological knowledge and modern science,
- (3) Planning for the purpose of optimizing ecosystem services,

- (4) Wide range of stakeholders' participation in use/management of land and natural resources, and
- (5) Contributions to local communities' well-being

The *Satoyama* Initiative has a great deal of potential to bolster efforts for facilitating policy development, catalyzing community actions and strengthening international cooperation towards promoting sustainable ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and human well-being improvement. The Initiative must demonstrate its additional values as a new policy initiative. In the process of preparing for the CBD/COP10 and launching renewed policy measures such as the post 2010 Biodiversity Target, the Initiative is expected to provide a further impetus. To further substantiate the *Satoyama* Initiative, the following aspects need to be taken into due account:

- (i) Examining commonalities of various schemes and approaches to integrated ecosystem management and multi-functional agriculture across the world; their strength and shortcomings also need to be clarified,
- (ii) Demonstrating that integrated socio-ecological production landscape management can also help tackling impending food and fuel crisis, reducing poverty and promoting human development particularly in developing countries.
- (iii) Developing models of natural resource management and human well-being improvement by forging social capacity to achieve sustainable development; management approaches must be conducive to producing food and fuel, raising income, enhancing human well-being and protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity,
- (iv) Promoting good practice analysis on integrated ecosystem management and multifunctional agriculture; payment for ecosystem services and other incentive measures are key instruments and require further examination on their merits and underlying challenges. Ecotourism for farm house visits and rare wildlife observation has proven a certain level of potentials,
- (v) Considering the merit of applying effective schemes and approaches to managing ecosystems in the light of climate, ecosystem and socio-economic changes at the various levels,
- (vi) Developing benchmarks and targets for facilitating the implementation of the Initiative,
- (vii) Promoting concerted actions and partnership building for integrated management of socio-ecological production landscape at the various levels

5. Steps forward

(1) Key perspectives

It is important to collect information in a more balanced and global perspectives on socio-ecological production landscape management. Ecosystem production functions need to be assessed from various viewpoints to consider not just ecological aspects, but also socio-economic aspects. The relation between ecosystem services and human well-being needs to be a central theme for analysis.

It is also deemed as useful to develop and apply scenario methods to the planning of the *Satoyama*

Initiative, and to explore modalities for integrating the Initiative into the Biodiversity Target for the post 2010 and long-term timeframes. In such scenario assessment, socio-economic aspects of respective countries or regions need to be properly taken into account.

Cross-cutting perspectives are also important as socio-ecological production landscape involve various aspects of human activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishery, water resource management and energy development. In this context, inter-agency collaboration among line ministries of the government remains to be important.

It is also important to go beyond environmental communities in order to form a wider partnership platform for supporting the *Satoyama* Initiative including NGOs, private sector, local governments, educational and research institutes, and international organisations. The naming of the Initiative also needs to be the one that attracts a wide range of support at the international level.

It is important to solicit support and partnership with a wide range of partners, donor countries and financing organizations.

(2) Future processes

Based on the result of this Meeting, the Second Preparatory Meeting on the International *Satoyama* Initiative with a focus on Asia is planned to take place in Malaysia in October 2009. There can be the Third Preparatory Meeting with a focus on the regions other than Asia where possible in January 2010. Additional preparatory meetings may be planned as required. When resources permit, it is advised to consider holding an Africa specific regional meeting preferably prior to the SBSTTA 14. It is also advised to consider holding a regional meeting on Latin America and the Caribbean where the payment for ecosystem services is extensively practiced.

The following timeline for advancing the *Satoyama* Initiative was welcomed. The concept of the *Satoyama* Initiative will be introduced at the COP Bureau Meeting in September 2009. Further discussions will be conducted at the COP/SBSTTA Joint Bureau Meeting in November 2009, and COP Bureau meeting in March 2010. It is also proposed that the *Satoyama* Initiative will be introduced and discussed at the SBSTTA 14 to be held in May, 2010. The Initiative will be further refined subsequently. Actions will be taken on the *Satoyama* Initiative at the COP10 in Nagoya in October 2010 and partnership will be launched.