

SATOYAMA Initiative International Workshop
Tokyo, Japan
March 6, 2009

Chair's Summary

1. Introduction

The *Satoyama* Initiative International Workshop was convened by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan with the participation of representatives from governments, international organizations, academia, NGOs and a wide range of other stakeholders. The Government of Japan announced the *Satoyama* Initiative at the G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting in Kobe, Japan in May 2008. *Satoyama* is an important mosaic that provides various ecosystem services and support human well-being. The *Satoyama* Initiative is intended to develop and propose a model of sustainable management of natural resources by collecting and analyzing knowledge and cases in Japan and other parts of the world concerning natural resource management and sustainable human well-being development in rural communities.

The Workshop was intended

- (i) to exchange information on conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources in *Satoyama* landscape (a Japanese term of “secondary ecosystem¹”) in each country,
- (ii) to identify needs of participating countries and international institutes for implementing the *Satoyama* Initiative,
- (iii) to examine common principles and outline for guidelines, and key elements to be reinforced therein, and
- (iv) to consider characteristics and functions of a voluntary international framework.

The Workshop was opened by Mr. Daizaburo Kuroda, Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ). Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, Director for the Biodiversity Policy Division, MOEJ introduced the objectives and outline of the Workshop. The Workshop was chaired by Dr. Kunio Iwatsuki of the Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo.

Participants delivered case study presentations. Mr. Watanabe presented a set of elements for developing common principles, a guideline of the *Satoyama* Initiative and a concept of establishing an international framework for the *Satoyama*

¹ A better term can be explored to signify what is called here by a term “secondary ecosystem.”

Initiative. Based on the presentations delivered in accordance with the Programme of the Workshop, the participants had intensive discussions on integrated ecosystem management including conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of biological resources. The participants broadly agreed upon the importance of promoting the *Satoyama* Initiative at various levels, and discussed further the ways for operationalizing the *Satoyama* Initiative.

This text is intended to reflect the thrust of discussions and shared views among the participants. The following are the key issues highlighted and shared in the discussions.

2. Key points raised in the discussions

(1) Scope of *Satoyama*

“*Satoyama*” in a Japanese term refers to secondary ecosystems. “*Satoyama* landscape” is the mixed landscapes that consist of agricultural lands, forests, grazing land, wetlands, water reservoirs and rural communities. *Satoyama* landscape pervades largely between cities and in-tact nature (primary or virgin nature). *Satoyama* landscape is significant in terms of biodiversity richness, ecological integrity including its linkages with primary nature, productive activities and social coherence. In *Satoyama* landscape, sustainable use of natural resources has been promoted in a manner harmonious with nature and biodiversity conservation. For these reasons, a concept of *Satoyama* landscape provides a model for sustainable management of natural resources.

(2) Significance of secondary ecosystem

The secondary ecosystems play a significant role in promoting productive activities in a large area such as agriculture, forestry and fishery. In addition, the secondary ecosystems have become an important habitat for wildlife. For these reasons, sustainable management and sustainable use of biological resources in the secondary ecosystems are important in the overall context of promoting sustainable development.

(3) Linkage with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other policy processes

The *Satoyama* Initiative addresses issues related to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources and ecosystem services that are main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The *Satoyama* Initiative will therefore provide impetus to further facilitate the implementation of CBD, and the tools developed under CBD, including the ecosystem approach and the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, can be further built upon for the implementation of the *Satoyama* Initiative. The *Satoyama* Initiative is expected to greatly facilitate CBD implementation particularly in the post 2010 period as a follow-up to the 2010 Biodiversity Target. It is proposed that the progress made on the *Satoyama* Initiative be presented at the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CBD at its 14th session, and at the 10th session of COP/CBD (COP10).

It is also important to link ecosystem management with climate change policy processes, namely climate change mitigation, green house gases emission reductions and adaptation. Reduced emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) also provides a framework that will be mutually supportive to integrated management of secondary ecosystems and sustainable human well-being development.

There are other international conventions that are relevant to the *Satoyama* Initiative such as the Ramsar Convention and other multilateral agreements for wildlife conservation.

(4) Integrated secondary ecosystem management and sustainable human well-being development in Asia

Integrated secondary ecosystem management and sustainable human well-being development similar to *Satoyama* landscape management are also common in many of Asian countries.

In Sri Lanka, secondary ecosystem management and sustainable human well-being development are promoted around water tanks or water reservoirs. In addition, home garden is another method to promote sustainable use of natural resources such as timber, crop/vegetable, medicinal and herbal plant cultivation. Home garden method provides ecosystem services essential to sustainable human well-being and plays a significant role in promoting biodiversity conservation, soil management, preventing sedimentation and maintaining water storage capacity.

In the Republic of Korea, *Maeul*, a Korean term that refers to secondary ecosystem, is promoted to address the nexus of rural landscape and biodiversity. The ecosystem referred to by *Maeul* often consists rice paddy land, forests, pond, stream and wind-break stone wall or forests. In some cases, fishery is also addressed. *Maeul* also provides a platform to undertake education for sustainable development. Green school farm, a programme promoted by a NGO is to enable school children of schools in urban areas to understand secondary ecosystem management in rural areas.

In Thailand, several methods are practiced to promote sustainable management of secondary ecosystem. Such methods include watershed forest management, zero-waste integrated organic farming and community forests. These methods are important in promoting agriculture production through mixed cropping, water management, and education for sustainable development.

In the Philippines, *Muyong/Pinugo* is the term that refers to the traditionally inherited property of ecosystems and wildlife. In such areas, agroforestry is promoted as a method for secondary ecosystem management and sustainable human well-being development. Ifgao, a town in Borneo Island in the North of the Philippines is one of the areas where such agroforestry has been practiced. Local villagers promote crop and timber cultivation, flora and fauna and rice terrace landscape conservation as well as eco-tourism and education for sustainable development.

In China, secondary ecosystem management is widely practiced including wetland. 36 sites were designated as Ramsar sites including inland and coastal wetlands in the light of their ecological importance and established management mechanisms. Mai Po, an area in Shenzhen and adjacent to Hong Kong in the southern part of China is one of the coastal wetland registered under the Ramsar Convention. Mai Po wetland is managed through various conservation measures through drainage management. At the same time, it provides an important basis for human well-being of local people as Mai Po wetland is used for shrimp cultivation, recreation and education. Wetland conservation movements are expected to complement the *Satoyama* Initiative to the great extent.

In Cambodia, coastal ecosystem and mangrove area are an important basis for local people's human well-being. Mangrove was greatly reduced to meet the demand for shrimp cultivation and fuel wood. In the process of restoring impaired mangrove, community stakeholders were involved in mangrove seedling plantation and conservation. Through mangrove restoration activities, ecosystem services are also being regained to provide habitat for raising shrimps, fish and other sea water fish stock and animal as well as space for people's recreation.

In the Indonesia's diverse ecosystems, integrated secondary ecosystem management is practiced in a way particular to respective ecosystems and communities. Local people know best the way to live based on the natural endowment of various ecosystems. The people's practice is supported by embedded culture and philosophy. Bali is one of the region that promote integrated secondary ecosystem management and human well-being improvement through an integrated approach that combines ecosystems, human well-being, culture and philosophy.

- (5) Key factors for promoting sustainable secondary ecosystem management and human well-being development

Valuation of ecosystem services

Ecosystem functions and services must be properly assessed and valued in order to ensure that appropriate support shall be given to ecosystem conservation activities.

Linking ecosystem management with human well-being improvement

To ensure long-term involvement of local people in secondary ecosystem management and sustainable use of biological resources, it is important to promote activities for ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in an integrated manner that supports the development of sustainable human well-being for local people.

Awareness raising and education

Many of good practices demonstrate that the awareness raising and education of local stakeholders are a key foundation for successfully promoting sustainable ecosystem management and human well-being development.

Stakeholder participation

In addition, in many of the good practice, stakeholders are strategically involved in planning, implementing and monitoring activities for ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

Benefit sharing and incentive provision

To mobilize the local stakeholders' support, it is important to provide incentives for local stakeholders to change their practice and support activities for ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

Inter-agency collaboration

As ecosystem management and human well-being improvement involve not only environmental protection, but also agriculture, forestry and water management as well as finance and planning. For such a reason, increased collaboration among line ministries involved in natural resource management is required at the local and national levels.

Synergies with other policies and initiatives

CBD is one central international policy process where the *Satoyama* Initiative can find a common ground for synergistic policy implementation. Other policy processes where the Initiative may have a common ground include, UNFCCC, the Ramsar Convention and other multilateral agreements for wildlife conservation. Fair trade initiatives also provide incentives for local communities to promote sustainable natural resource management and human well-being improvement.

3. Key elements for the *Satoyama* Initiative

The participants shared the views on the importance in promoting sustainable management of secondary ecosystems that are the main focus of the *Satoyama* Initiative. In order to operationalize the *Satoyama* Initiative, the following aspects are deemed as important for future work.

Common principles and guideline

To establish common principles and guideline for the *Satoyama* Initiative, a number of elements were suggested as follows:

- (i) Refinement of the *Satoyama* concept for a wide range of stakeholders to easily understand and practice,
- (ii) Comprehensive approach to consider the integrity of ecosystems based on the continuum of secondary ecosystems, in-tact ecosystem and urban areas, and based on local level perspectives as well as global viewpoints,
- (iii) Ecosystem based land use planning,
- (iv) Mainstreaming of the assessment on ecosystem carrying capacity and resilience in the use of biological resources,
- (v) Dynamic and adaptive approach to transform ecosystem management based on the changing socio-economic requirements and conditions,

- (vi) Promotion of multi-stakeholder participation in decision-making,
- (vii) Establishment of optimal balance between human well-being development and ecosystem conservation,
- (viii) Respect, by global society, of nature, history and philosophy that are shared and inherited by local communities,
- (ix) Analysis of management and governance framework and structure for secondary ecosystems particularly commonly used landscape (“commons²”), and
- (x) Development and dissemination of key messages and lessons arising from good practice and past experiences for promoting effective secondary ecosystem management and developing sustainable human well-being development

Establishment of an international framework for the *Satoyama* Initiative

In order to undertake case studies and promote international cooperation in the context of implementing the *Satoyama* Initiative, the following approach is proposed:

- (i) To convene regional or international consultation meetings in Asia and other regions to further clarify and elaborate on the concept, objectives and proposed activities for the *Satoyama* Initiative. At such meetings, case studies should be shared on secondary ecosystem management. The United Nations University is proposed as one of the leading institutions in this process,
- (ii) To promote the participation of governments, experts, international organizations and NGOs in such consultation processes,
- (iii) To develop a good practice database on sustainable secondary ecosystem management and human well-being development,
- (iv) To establish an international network and/or forum to promote international cooperation for sustainable management of biological resources with an emphasis on secondary ecosystem and human well-being improvement.

4. Steps forward

The participants agreed that the Government of Japan will share the outcome of this *Satoyama* Initiative International Workshop widely and present it at the relevant regional and international fora.

² It is important to develop a new approach to the management of commons building upon the past work concerning the management of commons.

It was also agreed that the dialogue shall be continued on integrated ecosystem management and human well-being development with an emphasis on secondary ecosystem in the context of the *Satoyama* Initiative.

It was also proposed to facilitate the *Satoyama* Initiative in a way to mutually support other relevant policies and processes such as CBD and post-2010 Biodiversity Target development. The CBD/COP10 in Nagoya in October 2010 will be a first milestone event in this respect and future work should be facilitated continuously in the process that will move from COP10 and lead to the COP11 and beyond.