

A truly enriched society utilizing the natural ecosystems

Roadmap for establishing an enriched society in harmony with nature

The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020 was approved by the Cabinet on September 28, 2012. This National Biodiversity Strategy set out Japan's roadmap for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted at CBD COP 10 - the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Simultaneously the roadmap was also set out to aim for signifying a new paradigm of Living in Harmony with Nature in light of the experience through the Great East Japan Earthquake that taught us there are two opposite sides of nature: a provider of nature's benefits and a

formidable threat.

The National Biodiversity Strategy focuses on the benefits of nature (ecosystem services) to explain the importance of biodiversity through the connection between ecosystem services and people's lives.

The National Biodiversity Strategy consists of three parts. The first part includes five basic strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The second part sets out Japan's main action goals to attain the national targets relevant to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and describes indicators for assessing the levels of achievement. The third part covers specific policies and numerical targets.

Overview of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020

Approved by the Cabinet on September 28, 2012



Japan's National Targets for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Strategic goals	National targets	Aichi Targets
Strategic goal A Address the underlying causes for the loss of biodiversity	A-1 Have a diverse array of actors recognize the importance of biodiversity and reflect this in their respective actions, thereby achieving the "mainstreaming of biodiversity across society" and reducing the fundamental causes of biodiversity loss, by 2020 at the latest.	1 2 3 4
	B-1 Significantly reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats, as well as their degradation and fragmentation, by 2020.	5
	B-2 Engage in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that ensure the conservation of biodiversity in a sustainable manner by 2020.	6 7
	B-3 Maintain the water quality and habitat environments desirable for the conservation of aquatic organisms, increasing biological productivity, and sustainable use while continuing to improve the state of contamination from nitrogen and phosphorous by 2020. When it comes to water areas with a highly closed off nature in particular, promote policies in a comprehensive and prioritized manner.	8
	B-4 By 2020, based upon the results of examinations of the enforcement status for the Invasive Alien Species Act, apportion out appropriate roles to each of the major actors regarding eradication of the invasive alien species and proceed with eradicating them in a systematic manner. In addition, promote countermeasures by examining more effective border control measures.	9
Strategic goal B Advance initiatives geared towards minimizing human-induced pressures that degrade ecosystems and promote their sustainable use.	B-5 Promote initiatives for minimizing human-induced pressures that cause deterioration of ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, tidal flats, islands, alpine and subalpine areas by 2015.	10
	C-1 Appropriately conserve and manage at least 17% of inland areas and inland water areas, and at least 10% of coastal areas and ocean areas, by 2020.	11
	C-2 For species in the greatest danger of going extinct, increase the number of species that will see their rank in the Red List fall by 2020. In addition, maintain the genetic diversity of crops, livestock animals, etc. by 2020.	12 13
Strategic goal C Improve the status of biodiversity by conserving ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity	D1 Enhance benefits received from biodiversity and ecosystem services in Japan and elsewhere through the conservation and restoration of the ecosystems by 2020. With the increased recognition of the importance of the sustainable use of natural resources in "Satouchi-satoyama" areas, a range of approaches are to be carried out.	14
	D-2 Enhance the resilience of ecosystems and their storage of carbon dioxide by restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, and thereby contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2020.	15
	D-3 Ratify the Nagoya Protocol on ABS as early as possible, and implement the domestic measures for the Protocol by 2015 at the latest.	16
Strategic goal D Enhance benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services	E-1 Promote policies related to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its component based on the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan in a comprehensive and systematic manner. Also, provide support to ensure the achievement for Target 17 (e.g. setting out effective and participatory national biodiversity strategies etc.).	17
	E-2 Sanctify traditional knowledge on biodiversity in local communities by 2020. Also, strengthen scientific grounds as well as the connections between science and policy, and mobilize the resources (funds, human resources, technologies, etc.) effectively and efficiently to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 at the latest.	18 19 20

Part 2. Roadmap for the Achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets
 -5 strategic goals - 13 national targets - 48 key action goals - Indicators for measuring achievements of national targets

Part 3. Action Plan on the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Sustainable use of Its Components
 Approximately 700 specific policies and measures with 50 numerical targets are listed in the action plan for the next five years
 (1) Measures and policies for Spatial land planning
 (2) Cross-sectoral and fundamental policies and measures
 (3) Reconstruction and Restoration from the Great East Japan Earthquake

Source: Ministry of the Environment

Source: Ministry of the Environment

Socio-ecological spheres connecting cities and rural areas through ecosystem services

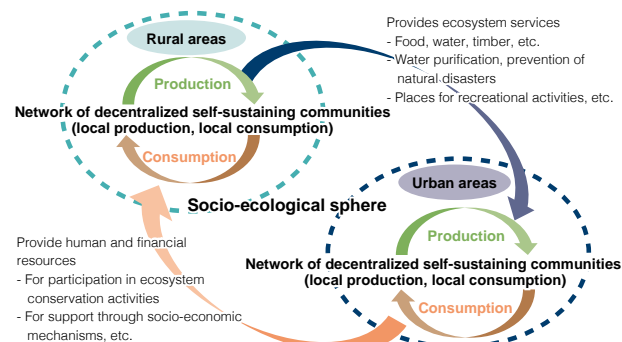
In the National Biodiversity Strategy, a “socio-ecological sphere” is described as a new conceptual structure of a society that cities and rural areas support each other and the people and the regions are linked by their supply and demand relationships for ecosystem services. This is based on collaboration and interaction among the various actors within the sphere and between spheres.

Until now, cities in Japan have been able to benefit from ecosystem services provided by rural producing areas with nothing in return. We have to reconsider such relationships and develop mutually supporting relationships such that those regions having been receiving ecosystem services should provide fund, human resource and relevant information for the conservation and management of the providers’ ecosystems.

One practical initiative that demonstrates this approach can be seen in Sado Island in Niigata prefecture where people aim to coexist with Crested Ibises. They have introduced natural farming methods to cultivate certified rice that foster living creatures. Now, consumers are willing to pay for the certified rice named Toki-to-kurasu-sato (Home Land in accord with Crested Ibis) at a higher cost than normal ones. The difference in price is fed back to the farmers who support the Crested Ibis habitats with natural farming,

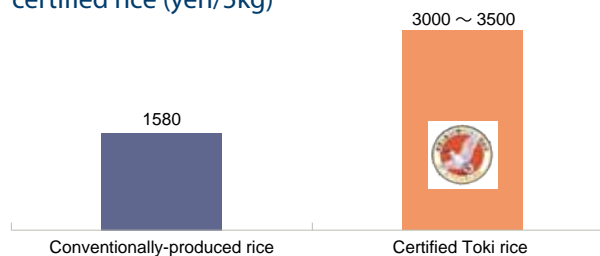
and those farmers also receive the difference as subsidies from the local government.

The Socio-Ecological Sphere



Source: Ministry of the Environment

Retail prices for conventionally-produced and certified rice (yen/5kg)



Source: Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)
<http://www.biodic.go.jp/biodiversity/shiraberu/policy/pes/en/index.html>

Biodiversity to the mainstream

“Mainstreaming Biodiversity” means integrating the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into society with a variety of actors such as national and local governments, business sectors, NPOs and NGOs, and people’s considerations for biodiversity are reflected to their actions to be taken. In Japan, a national committee for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB-J) has been established, and a variety of actors across Japan are now taking part in it. UNDB-J is conducting a number of efforts in collaboration with various actors, such as certifying inter-sectoral projects and implementing PR and educational activities towards mainstreaming biodiversity including “MY Action Declaration” which encourages people to commit their own self-chosen action(s) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

MY Action Declaration - Commitments of 5 actions for biodiversity

Japan Committee for UNDB
"MY Declaration" to conserve Biodiversity

A number of living things interacting with each other... we call this Biodiversity. Feeling connected with nature and living things in daily life is such an important thing for us to realize how much we owe natural resources such as water, air, food, fabric, wood, and medicine that are all produced by harmony among living things. Now, choose what you can do from the following actions and set them as your own "My Declaration" (in accord) to conserve Biodiversity. Let's give out our own "My Declaration" and move into action from today so that we can keep receiving natural blessings of Biodiversity for centuries to come!

- 1 Eat** I enjoy locally produced food in season.
- 2 Feel** I consume with nature and feel it with all my senses by enjoying outdoors, the zoo, and the botanical garden, etc.
- 3 Communicate** I express my feelings for beauty in nature with photos, paintings, writings, etc.
- 4 Join** I join the local activities across my country to maintain the connections among nature, people and cultures.
- 5 Choose** I choose green products when I buy things.

Source: CEPA JAPAN

In the business sector, there have been numerous approaches taken in establishing inter-sectoral partnerships and installing certification systems for biodiversity-conscious products.

In the local public sector, local governments are generating regional biodiversity strategies as local versions of the National Biodiversity Strategy. Also, they are establishing councils with neighboring local governments in order for plan-making to secure the bioregional links among forests, rural villages, rivers and the sea. In addition, they are promoting plans for revitalization of local economy through cooperation with tourism sector, etc.

To make the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services clearer to the nation, Japan is attempting to estimate the economic values of them. In 2012, we conducted a survey on how much people would be willing to pay both for designating Amami Islands into a national park and nationwide

measures to prevent feeding damage by deer. The results showed the total amount of the willingness went to about JPY 170 billion per year respectively.

Examples of certification system marks



Japan Biodiversity Fund and Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund

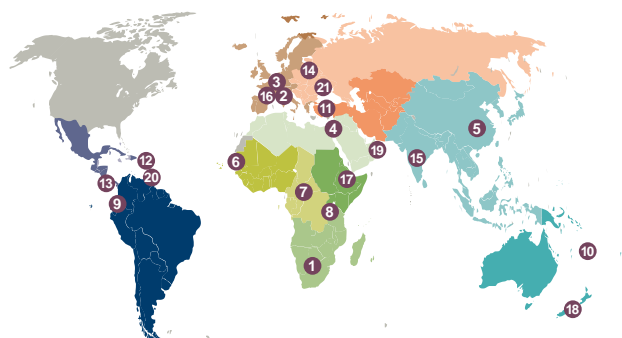
To facilitate international efforts towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Japan established the Japan Biodiversity Fund to support capacity building in developing countries, and contributed a total of 5 billion yen to this fund in FY 2010 and FY 2011.

This fund is used to hold regional capacity building workshops around the world to support developing countries in formulating and revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). It also supports scientific and technical activities for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) identification at regional scale and regional workshops on incorporating the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into NBSAPs. In addition, the fund supports developing countries in initiatives related to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, business & biodiversity, poverty reduction &

development, and provides funding for the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS), which is a joint project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund was established to facilitate the early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol, with Japan contributing 1 billion yen in 2011. The fund supports the development of domestic ABS (access and benefit-sharing) frameworks for access to genetic resources and sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, transfer of technology for conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, private sector engagement, and enabling activities for ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. It has currently approved four projects.

Workshops organised by the Japan Biodiversity Fund



- 1 March 2011 Botswana
- 2 June-July 2011 Switzerland
- 3 April 2011 Germany
- 4 May 2011 Lebanon
- 5 May 2011 China
- 6 May 2011 Senegal
- 7 June 2011 Congo
- 8 June 2011 Rwanda
- 9 July 2011 Ecuador
- 10 October 2011 Fiji
- 11 October 2011 Turkey
- 12 October 2011 Grenada
- 13 November-December 2011 Costa Rica
- 14 December 2011 Belarus
- 15 December 2011 India
- 16 January 2012 France
- 17 May 2012 Ethiopia
- 18 August 2012 New Zealand
- 19 August 2012 Oman
- 20 September 2012 Trinidad and Tobago
- 21 September 2012 Republic of Moldova

Source: CBD Secretariat, compiled by Ministry of Environment