

SATOYAMA INITIATIVE

Aiming at realizing societies in harmony with nature



Socio-ecological Production Landscapes Fostering Rich Ecosystems

Characteristics of a socio-ecological production landscape

A “socio-ecological production” landscape is a landscape that has formed as a consequence of human habitation and activities such as agriculture and forestry over many years and includes both the bounty of nature and various ecosystem services. Such landscapes may consist of cropland, settlement, forest, or grassland and are located around the world, although their features differ from place to place according to climatic, topological, cultural, and socio-economic conditions. Socio-ecological production landscapes provide basic necessities for human life, including food, fuel, and daily commodities.

For example, cropland includes dry farmland and irrigated rice fields, with different agricultural products grown on each. Cropland and grassland may be maintained and managed by tilling, fertilizing, cropping, harvesting, grazing, or burning,

and create relatively open space with more sunlight, as compared to forests. Croplands are often associated with irrigation reservoirs and channels, which provide habitats for many aquatic species.

Forests can be a source of firewood and charcoal for fuel, timber for building material, foods such as fruits, edible wild plants, mushrooms, and wild animals, and medicinal herbs. Forests around the world show many examples of how people use and manage forest resources in a sustainable fashion instead of making exhaustive use of them. For instance, local people commonly share woodlands, observing self-imposed rules for cutting the trees.

Socio-ecological production landscapes form distinct ecosystems and support various animals and plants, including rare species. Socio-ecological production landscapes are important from the perspective of fostering rich ecosystems.

Crisis of socio-ecological production landscapes

Unfortunately, socio-ecological production landscapes are threatened by modern socio-economic conditions and many have been lost. In some cases, increasing demand for fuel and food and deeply rooted poverty have caused the unsustainable use of natural resources. In other cases, urbanization, industrialization, aging societies, and depopulation have changed the balance between humans and nature, resulting in the deterioration of socio-ecological production landscapes.

This situation makes it difficult for humans to enjoy the various benefits of nature (ecosystem services) in a sustainable manner and may have deleterious effects on human well-being.

Socio-ecological production landscapes of the world

Socio-ecological production landscapes are found throughout the world and identified by various local and regional terms: *muyong*, *uma*, and *payoh* in the Philippines, *mauel* in Korea, *dehesa* in Spain, *terroir* in France and other Mediterranean countries, *chitemene* in Malawi and Zambia, and *satoyama* in Japan. The Japanese word *satoyama* refers to a mountain/forest (*yama*) that is located near an agricultural or mountain village (*sato*).



**Secondary forest
(Western Province, the Solomon Islands)**

Secondary forests grow on land abandoned after shifting cultivation. They include various kinds of trees, and medical plants and building materials are gathered from the forests.



Terraced paddy fields (Bali, Indonesia)

Paddy rice is grown in terraced paddy fields, around which palm trees grow.



**Fields surrounded by secondary forests
(Misiones Province, Argentina)**

Cassava, citrus fruits, and vegetables are grown in fields forming a mosaic landscape.



Fields of beans (Rift Valley Province, Kenya)

The fields have irrigation facilities, and beans and other crops are cultivated every year.



Paddy fields (Louisiana, U.S.A.)

Paddy rice is grown in vast paddy fields, where edible crawfish are also cultivated.



**A common rural landscape
(Bavaria, Germany)**

There are meadows for grazing, vegetable plots, and beech and oak forests managed for timber and wildlife habitat.



Agroforestry (Maluku Islands, Indonesia)

Agroforestry is a land utilization method that combines forestry with agriculture, stock-raising, and fisheries. It is found in various regions but centered in the tropics. Plantings in this photograph include lansat, cloves, and bananas.



**Village, paddy fields, and *satoyama*
(Nanto City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan)**

A village, composed of traditional houses, and paddy fields are surrounded by *satoyama*.



**Socio-ecological production landscapes
and culture**

Familiar landscapes woven by socio-ecological production landscapes have been enjoyed as the subjects of paintings and poems in various regions. Traditional events and festivals in many regions are strongly connected with agriculture and other production activities. [The photo shows a ritual for rain (*Suneori no Amagoi*) in Tsurugashima, Saitama Prefecture, Japan.]

What is the *Satoyama* Initiative?

The *Satoyama* Initiative is an endeavor that hopes to realize societies in harmony with nature, or in other words, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and human well-being on a global scale. To curb the loss of biodiversity that is occurring worldwide, it is crucial not only to protect primitive nature, but also to balance human well-being with biodiversity conservation in socio-ecological production landscapes. To push forward with such endeavors on a global basis, it is necessary to take effective measures and institute policies suited to the special features of each area. These measures and policies should be developed by sharing the value of socio-ecological production landscapes, including the importance of their sustainable use and management, with various countries, and by distilling lessons from past experiences.

To this end, it is indispensable to understand the diverse ecological services essential to human well-being and to consolidate wisdom to ensure a stable supply of these services. It is also crucial to consider how to take advantage of traditional knowledge for the sustainable use of ecological services by integrating traditional knowledge with modern science.

Three-fold approach and five perspectives

Consequently, to realize societies in harmony with nature, this initiative uses the following three-fold approach:

- Consolidate wisdom on a stable supply of diverse ecosystem services
- Integrate traditional ecological knowledge with modern science
- Exploring new forms of co-management system or “new” commons while respecting traditional communal land tenure

Furthermore, the following five perspectives will be important when putting the *Satoyama* Initiative into practice in different areas:

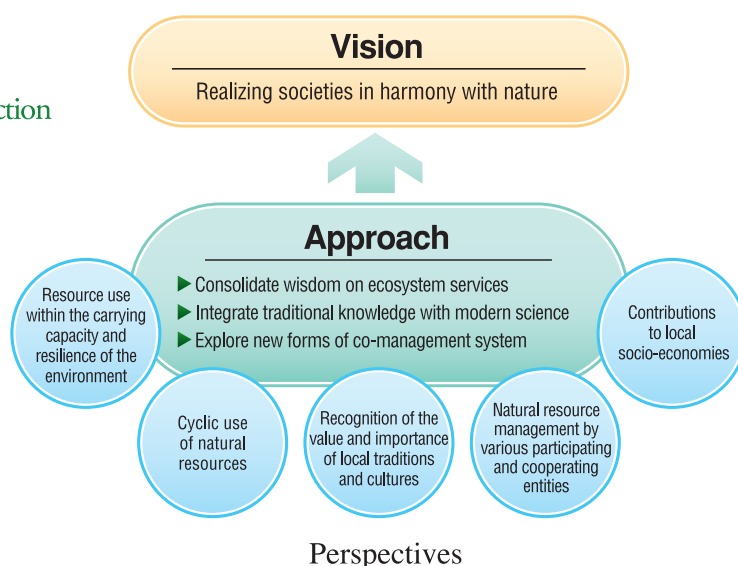
- Resource use within the carrying capacity and resilience of the environment
- Cyclic use of natural resources
- Recognition of the value and importance of local traditions and cultures
- Natural resource management by various participating and cooperating entities
- Contributions to local socio-economies

Expected effects of promoting the *Satoyama* Initiative

By conserving and advancing socio-ecological production landscapes, and the systems being employed in those landscapes, the *Satoyama* Initiative promotes:

- The conservation of biodiversity, which contributes to curbing the rate of biodiversity loss at a global level.
- Human well-being through stable food production and the effective utilization of fuel resources, such as firewood and charcoal, while increasing income through pluralistic land use that combines a variety of species and production practices.
- Benefits arising from the use of genetic resources by valuing local traditional knowledge and culture.

Conceptual Outline of the *Satoyama* Initiative (draft)



The International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative

A platform for advancing the *Satoyama* Initiative

To “realize societies in harmony with nature,” which is the vision of the *Satoyama* Initiative, preparations have been made for establishing the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative.

Composed of national and local governments, international organizations, civil and nongovernmental organizations, private companies, and research organizations, among others, this partnership is intended to function as a platform for various activities, such as information sharing and discussion of concrete, effective actions in the field. The Japanese government and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) will play a major role in facilitating partnership, developing a common strategy, and implementing activities, such as training and organizational and budgetary arrangements, to promote projects on the ground. The International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative is expected to be launched at the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10).

Proposed activities of the partnership

- Collect, analyze, and distill lessons from case studies and disseminate them via a searchable online database
- Encourage broad, effective research, including how to integrate results in policy and decision making
- Work with donor organizations on directing greater resources toward and effective implementation of related projects
- Enhance the capabilities of stakeholders involved in maintaining or rebuilding socio-ecological production landscapes
- Encourage and expand networks among interested parties to promote information sharing and understanding of the *Satoyama* Initiative goals and activities.



Conceptual diagram of the partnership

Operation and enhancement of the Internet website

We set up an Internet website in October 2009 to accumulate and share information on the *Satoyama* Initiative, including case studies on the use and management of natural resources in socio-ecological production landscapes. The website also contains interviews with experts and the schedules and results of relevant meetings, and is equipped with a function to exchange opinions. We will enhance and expand these functions, including links to relevant organizations. Regarding the collection and analysis of examples, we will encourage relevant countries, organizations, and others to provide examples. The UNU-IAS will also strive to accumulate knowledge by gathering and analyzing examples.

Satoyama Initiative Website <http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/>



Home page of the “*Satoyama* Initiative Website”

Progress to date and Future Plan in Relation to the *Satoyama* Initiative

The *Satoyama* Initiative was first introduced in 2007. Since then, a series of international meetings has been held to discuss the concept of the *Satoyama* Initiative with participation of wide-ranging concerned parties from around the world. The present concept of the Initiative has been developed and built through such international discussions.

We will continue our discussions of the *Satoyama* Initiative in the international arena to further refine

it, and will propose the Initiative at COP10 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in October 2010, to call for understanding of and participation in the Initiative among the diverse parties concerned. In parallel with such efforts, we will push forward with preparations for establishing the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative, aimed at effective promotion of the Initiative, with a view toward official inauguration at COP10.

March 6, 2009 Tokyo, Japan

Satoyama Initiative International Workshop

Discussing the basic concept of the *Satoyama* Initiative and the direction of international development.

July 25, 2009 Tokyo, Japan

Expert Meeting on the *Satoyama* Initiative

Discussing the potential of socio-ecological production landscapes to contribute to biodiversity conservation and human well-being and important perspectives in promoting specific endeavors.

October 1-2, 2009
Penang, Malaysia

Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the *Satoyama* Initiative Concept

With regard to the use and management of ecosystem services in socio-ecological production landscapes in the Asia-Pacific region, discussing how to proceed with the *Satoyama* Initiative in this region, while organizing common points and differences.

January 29-30, 2010
Paris, France

Global Workshop on the *Satoyama* Initiative

Discussing specific details of the *Satoyama* Initiative and international development measures through partnership, with participation of concerned parties from around the world Adopting the "Paris Declaration on the *Satoyama* Initiative."

May 10-21, 2010
Nairobi, Kenya

SBSTTA14

Discussing the effect of the *Satoyama* Initiative in the context of sustainable use of biodiversity and how to push forward with the Initiative and extensively publicize it through side events.

Aug 23-24, 2010 Fujiyoshida,
Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan

Preparatory meeting on the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative

Discussing the roles, operating methods, and activities of the Partnership

October 18-29, 2010
Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

COP10

Proposing the *Satoyama* Initiative and establishing the International Partnership

After COP10

First general meeting of the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative

Future Development

Contribution to realizing societies in harmony with nature on a global scale

PARIS DECLARATION ON THE “SATOYAMA INITIATIVE”

The “Global Workshop on the *Satoyama* Initiative,” held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from January 29–30, 2010, adopted the “Paris Declaration on the *Satoyama* Initiative.”

THE “SATOYAMA INITIATIVE” FOR THE BENEFIT OF BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN WELL-BEING (Excerpted from the Annex to the Paris Declaration on the “*Satoyama* Initiative”)

Overall description and objectives

- Overall objective of *Satoyama* Initiative 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Specific goals/activities

- 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,
 - (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

- 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.
- 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 *Satoyama* Partnership, 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.



SATOYAMA INITIATIVE

Aiming at realizing societies in harmony with nature

Published by: Nature Conservation Bureau, the Ministry of the Environment,
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975
Compiled by: PREC Institute Inc. / Japan Wildlife Research Center
Cooperation: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies

 **Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan**

1	2	3	10	11	12
4	5	6	13	14	15
7	8	9	16	17	18

1. Harvesting grapes (Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan)
2. Tohoku salamander
3. Rice terrace (Bali, Indonesia)
4. Japanese tree frog
5. A turnip field being harvested
6. "Norihibi," the cultivation of seaweed (Shima, Mie Prefecture, Japan)
7. Improvement of bamboo forests by local residents (Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan)
8. Grazing in the Lake District (England)
9. Paddy fields and children (Echizen, Fukui Prefecture, Japan)
10. Terraced paddy fields and a settlement (Takayanagi-cho, Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, Japan)
11. Secondary forests of Konara oak (Japan)
12. Terraced paddy fields and red spider lilies (Asuka-mura, Takaichi-gun, Nara Prefecture)
13. Person carrying firewood (Thailand)
14. Cabbage fields (Tsumagoi-mura, Agatsuma-gun, Gunma Prefecture)
15. Japanese thistle and bumblebees
16. Terraced paddy fields and children (Yunnan Province, China)
17. Farmer and cattle (Germany)
18. Paddy fields of taro (Kauai Island, Hawaii)

