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SATOYAMA GOVERNORS' SUMMIT

Towards sustainable use of *satoyama/satoumi* landscapes and regional revitalization

Satoyama and *satoumi* landscapes are socio-ecological systems in Japan which have been shaped by centuries of interaction between locally-specific activities and lifestyles and a rich natural environment. At the same time, they represent irreplaceable cultural landscapes, intimately linked with the identity of the Japanese people, and important regional assets that need to be safeguarded for future generations.

However, *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes are now facing a crisis. During the last decades, widespread use of fossil fuel and chemical fertilizer has led to under-management of *satoyama*'s secondary forests. The decline of agriculture, forestry and fisheries has had negative impacts on the sustainable use of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes.

A further challenge to the adequate management of these areas is the diminishing labor force, as a result of the ageing and depopulation processes affecting the Japanese countryside. As Japan's population decline continues, the threats to *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes are expected to increase.

On the other hand, movements aimed at building a new society are rapidly gaining momentum. Japan's 21st Century Environmental Nation Strategy, endorsed by the Cabinet in 2007, proposes a vision of sustainability that integrates three dimensions: a low-carbon society, a material-cycle society and a society in harmony with nature.

The transition to a sustainable society requires a careful balance between improved resource and energy efficiency, the development of new forms of renewable energy, progress on the three principles of reducing, reusing and recycling (3R), along with the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources.

By promoting the restoration and sustainable use of the rich biological resources that *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes possess, agriculture, forestry and fisheries have the potential to contribute not only to the realization of a society in harmony with nature, but also of a low-carbon and a material-cycle society.

To address the issues of population decrease and ageing, it is necessary to develop new regional-level management mechanisms that engage local governments, the private sector, NGOs/NPOs, urban residents and other actors in the sustainable use of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes.

In addition, broad promotion of the values of these landscapes within Japan and overseas, coupled with the development of ecotourism and 'green' and 'blue' tourism that take advantage of their touristic resources and with improved acceptance of long-term residents, can play a core role in regional revitalization.

It is also important to establish effective partnerships with initiatives focusing on the conservation and restoration of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes and of other secondary nature landscapes in Japan and around the world, and to share relevant experience and knowledge, as emphasized by the SATOYAMA Initiative, a global effort led by the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

The SATOYAMA Initiative collaborates with partners in Japan and worldwide, sharing approaches that draw on the values and wisdom associated with a diversity of ecosystem services, integrating traditional knowledge with modern science and exploring new forms of co-management, with the aim to build societies where humans and nature can coexist.

Developing of networks for sharing information and experiences and disseminating advanced initiatives through meaningful cooperation among regional policy makers both within Japan and worldwide is important for sustainable use of *satoyama/satoumi* landscapes and regional revitalization. Co-operation with International Partnership of SATOYAMA Initiative, which was launched on 19th October and a forum on cities and biodiversity, which will be established in conjunction with the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/ COP11) to be held in India in 2012 as an activity of CBD Cities and Biodiversity initiative, will be effective for this purpose.

The formulation of a long-term strategy for the revitalization of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes proposed at the Satoyama Governors' Summit is expected to gain recognition, both within Japan and globally, as an approach that can make a major contribution to building a sustainable society and to local community development.

Reference:

1. Importance of regional-level efforts for the implementation of CBD
 - The promotion of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use requires the concern and active participation of a variety of stakeholders, including national governments, in regional-level activities.
 - While national legislation and initiatives are essential for establishing the general framework for the implementation of CBD at national level, it is at the local level that many resource use decisions are taken and where ideas on balancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with human wellbeing are confronted with a variety of place-specific realities.
 - Thus, local government efforts aiming to balance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources are extremely important in order to meet the CBD objectives.
 - Japanese prefectures, which correspond in size to river and lake watersheds, can be regarded as the smallest units for planning the conservation of terrestrial habitats for mammals and birds. At the same time, they represent the intermediate level that bridges between local and global dimensions of biological and cultural diversity. Therefore, prefectures are important units for the implementation of biodiversity conservation policy through partnerships between national and local governments, the civil society and the private sector.
 - The need of a greater focus on local level action has been emphasized in discussions on the revised Strategic Plan of the Convention to be adopted at COP 10 for the post-2010 period.
2. *Satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes and biodiversity
 - While the creation of protected areas is crucial to preserving biodiversity in primary nature, with agricultural land and other human-dominated ecosystems accounting for an increasingly larger area of the Earth's surface, biodiversity loss cannot be halted without addressing issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in secondary nature.
 - In this context, it is important to conserve biodiversity in the secondary nature of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes and to promote agriculture, forestry and fisheries that sustain it.
 - Japan's *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes take multiple forms, according to the various landforms and climates characteristic of each region. The diversity of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes encompasses both their biological diversity and the traditional knowledge and local culture that they have nurtured. At the local level, it is essential to ensure that the generic concepts of '*satoyama*' and '*satoumi*' are translated into locally-specific conservation and use practices.
 - As illustrated by the shores and lagoons of Lake Biwa, *satoumi* landscapes are characterized by links between forests, rivers and standing bodies of water which provide diversified habitat space for biodiversity.
3. Highlights of biodiversity-relevant *satoyama* and *satoumi* policies of Japanese prefectures

(1) Linking research findings to policy making and implementation

- The design and implementation of policies based on the latest scientific findings are essential to ensuring efficient management of biodiversity.
- Innovative tendencies at prefectural government level include concerted efforts to link research findings to policy formulation, as seen in the case of Ishikawa Prefecture, which uses knowledge acquired through its participation in the Sub-Global Assessment of *Satoyama* and *Satoumi* in Japan (Japan SGA) and related research findings in the design of regional strategies and future policies.
- Providing assistance and incentives to research applicable to the formulation and implementation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use policies represents an important component of local government activities.

(2) Cross-sectoral policy integration and coordination

- Cross-sectoral approaches, which are vital to biodiversity conservation in *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes, require a high level of commitment and political will to engage traditionally separate departments into integrated processes of policy design and implementation. Such integrative cross-sectoral approaches are emerging among Japanese prefectural governments, where environment, forestry, agriculture and water management departments work together to integrate biodiversity conservation goals into their policies.

(3) Representative initiatives at prefectural level

- In Aichi Prefecture, various initiatives have been carried out since the formulation in 2009 of the *Aichi Environment Conservation Strategy*. These have included several projects aiming to integrate ecosystem conservation with regional development. The possibility of establishing an ecosystem network using compensatory mitigation is also being explored through a model project. A map of suitable habitats for indicator species (the *Aichi Biodiversity Potential Map*) has been produced to outline the grand design of biodiversity conservation at prefectural level and to support the establishment of this ecosystem network.
- Ishikawa Prefecture is now in the process of formulating its *Biodiversity Strategy Vision* (tentative title), which aims to enhance biodiversity in the prefecture through the adequate use and conservation of *satoyama* and *satoumi* landscapes, while promoting a more sustainable relationship between humans and the natural environment which can be bequeathed to future generations. Upcoming measures will focus on new forms of *satoyama/satoumi* landscape development through multi-stakeholder participation.
- Shiga Prefecture is implementing a project that seeks to convert rice fields and other forms of land use around Biwa Lake into a cradle for fish and other living organisms. The project also aims to restore ecological links between rice fields and the lake and to contribute to the revitalization of agricultural activities in the region through the branding of rice products, approaching biodiversity conservation from a human wellbeing perspective.
- In recognition of the need for a society-wide approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, Shizuoka Prefecture has been engaging in initiatives to protect

the emblematic natural environment of Mt. Fuji through educational programs for mountain climbers and measures aimed to reduce the environmental load of mountain tourism, such as waste management, provision of toilet facilities, assistance to awareness raising activities led by NPOs and other environmental conservation groups, forestation activities.

- Hyogo Prefecture is implementing its New Forest Development Program, which aims to conserve and enhance the public benefits of forest ecosystems. For *satoyama* areas, a forest management system which favors diverse plant growth, referred to as the Diverse Summer-Green Forest System, is being applied. Projects focusing on the revitalization of Seto Inland Sea as a fertile and beautiful *satoumi* area are also under way.