**Japan’s View**

In Response to the explanation by Co-Chairs at the First meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework that submission of a view on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would remain open throughout the process, Japan submitted the following complementary view:

**1. Promoting landscape approaches**

* Summary for Policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) pointed out that “Since 1970, trends in agricultural production, fish harvest, bioenergy production and harvest of materials have increased, but 14 of the 18 categories of contributions of nature that were assessed…have declined”. And “the negative trends in biodiversity and ecosystem functions are projected to continue or worsen in many future scenarios in response to indirect drivers such as rapid human population growth, unsustainable production and consumption and associated technological development”. In addition, it mentioned changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms as the direct drivers of change in nature and at the same time, noted that specific actions include multifunctional landscape planning and cross-sectoral integrated management can support the conservation of genetic diversity and the associated agricultural biodiversity with mentioning complementarity and interdependency between feeding humanity and enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of nature. In considering the above, Japan believes that the sustainable agricultural production and the conservation of biodiversity in agricultural lands will be of even greater importance over time.
* Summary for Policymakers of “the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,” stated that “there are limits to adaptation and adaptive capacity for some human and natural systems at global warming of 1.5°C, with associated losses.” And regarding sustainable development, its importance is also pointed out in the context of climate change, such as by referring that it “supports, and often enables, the fundamental societal and systems transitions and transformations that help limit global warming to 1.5°C.”
* For the conservation of biodiversity and the improvement of human well-being, through landscape approaches[[1]](#footnote-2), the Satoyama Initiative[[2]](#footnote-3), which the Ministry of the Environment, Japan with the United Nations University, governments of other countries, academic research institutions, NGOs and international organizations, among others, have been sharing the importance of the sustainable management and use of nature in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), which have been formed and maintained through the influence of human activities, and is achieving a good results including the contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in various parts of the world by maintaining and rebuilding SEPLS, taking into account its own characteristics of nature and culture in each region.
* The outcomes of the Expert Thematic Workshop on Landscape Approaches for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at Kumamoto, Japan in September 2019 organized by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) will be offered as a part of the preparing process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as follows:

1) Landscape approaches, which take account of various values including social, cultural, historical and ethical values, are needed in areas with rich biodiversity for promotion of an innovative and long-term system.

2) Landscape approaches are effective for not only strict area-based conservation, such as protected area, but also “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs[[3]](#footnote-4)), and in addition, can be used for progress assessment of the conservation.

3) Landscape approaches play a role as a mediator between the conservation of biodiversity and other issues including SDGs, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Therefore, it is required to explore synergies of landscape approaches, other conventions and policy processes under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

4) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) should be strengthened by applying landscape approaches under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

* Accordingly, in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, through developing and implementing NBSAPs with applying landscape approaches, it is expected that mainstreaming of biodiversity into agriculture, forestry and fisheries in SEPLS will be further advanced and that effective progress will be made in the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in areas other than primitive protected areas. Furthermore, for the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in areas other than primitive protected areas, Japan believes that it is effective to position those areas as OECMs through certification systems to manage them sustainably and appropriately. In addition, landscape approaches, which manage land and spatial use in integrated manner, can contribute also to the integrated solution of social and economic issues including SDGs, climate change and disaster risk reduction. It is important to incorporate “development of plans and efforts with application of landscape approaches” as one of the targets (activities) correspond to a goal (status) related to “Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity” into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, so that the idea of landscape approaches can be reflected in NBSAPs of each country and be put into action. (In this case, the number of introduction of landscape approaches into NBSAPs could be an indicator.)
* Japan is of the view that promoting the application of “landscape approaches” to global land use will contribute to transformative change and the 2050 Vision, “Living in harmony with nature.”

**2. Promoting Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction**

* As extreme weather, influenced by climate change, is occurring all over the world throughout the year, the Government and local governments in Japan also face a significant economic burden to respond to the aftermath.

Moreover, Japan thinks what is important under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is the idea of solving multiple issues related to society and environment in integrated manner, such as SDGs.

* In this viewpoint, “ecosystem-based approaches”, which aim to achieve co-benefits with biodiversity conservation are quite important within measures for “climate change adaptation” and “disaster risk reduction”.
* In the IPBES regional assessment report for Asia and the Pacific and the IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration, the effectiveness of those approaches was pointed out, and in addition, the IPBES Global Assessment also concluded that nature-based solutions can be cost-effective for meeting the SDGs in cities, which are crucial for global sustainability. Furthermore, it was mentioned that efforts through nature-based solutions include maintaining and designing for ecological connectivity.
* Moreover, the communiqué and the Metz Charter on Biodiversity of G7 Environment Ministers held in this May in France stated that those approaches will be developed, and G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth held at Karuizawa in this June also recognized the effectiveness of the approaches and it is noted that the discussion there could contribute to the consideration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its communiqué.
* While the Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 states that conservation and restoration of ecosystems contributes to climate change adaptation, Japan believes that it is effective to specify “ecosystem-based approaches” as cross-sectoral implementation measure in the means of implementation and enable conditions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, since “ecosystem-based approaches” can also widely contribute to other targets. In addition to that, Japan is of the view that it is effective to specifically include “ecosystem-based approaches” in targets as well, so that the approach can be incorporated into national and local governments’ plans related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk mitigation, development, etc. as well as into each country’s NBSAP.

**3. Consideration for biodiversity in economic activities**

* Japan is of the view that it is effective to place 1) creation of sustainable supply chain (utilizing biodiversity-friendly products including certificated products in each phase of production, procurement and consumption) and 2) promotion of environmentally friendly business activities by a business (including promotion of ESG finance as a result of the promotion) in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as some effective measures, so that consideration for biodiversity can be incorporated into economic activities.

**[1) Create sustainable supply chain]**

* Regarding the Aichi Biodiversity Target 4, “Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption,” its progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was assessed as “poor” in the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of IPBES.
* As the IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration published in March 2018 pointed out that a primary factor of a delay in addressing biodiversity issues (i.e., delay of sustainable consumption and production) globally is disconnection between production sites and consumption sites, supply chain is expanding beyond national boundaries with its growing complexity due to the expansion of foreign trade. Such an expansion has then made the negative impacts on biodiversity in production sites (land of origin) for natural resources, such as agricultural, forestry and fishery products, invisible to consumer and investors.
* From this viewpoint, Japan thinks that it is effective to place construction of biodiversity-friendly sustainable supply chain in targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and thereby we could make contribution to SDG 12 as well as the conservation of biodiversity.

* Notable examples of the efforts are developing a course of action to procure of raw materials by a business and procuring and purchasing biodiversity-friendly products including certified products by companies and consumers. Through developing a course of action for procurement which takes account of biodiversity and procuring commodity with labels to certify that they meet the standards for biodiversity, sustainable supply chain that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity can be constructed. Moreover, for communicable target setting that can lead consumers to buy certified products, Japan is of the view that it is effective to incorporate promoting a course of action for procurement by a business and raising awareness of and promoting biodiversity-friendly products including certification scheme and certified products for biodiversity into targets and goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
* Furthermore, taking palm oil as an example, when a business uses certified palm oil, we can understand that capital from such private sources appropriately flows into the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity (oil production without deforestation) in a country of origin. Accordingly, purchase of biodiversity-friendly products by private sector can be seen as one of “payments for ecosystem services (PES)”, and in addition, it is also effective as a part of resource mobilization from private sectors.

**[2) Promote biodiversity-friendly business by private sector]**

* Mainstreaming business which gives consideration to biodiversity and invigorating its flow of capital from private sources as well as one from public source is required for the conservation of biodiversity.
* For mainstreaming biodiversity-friendly economic activities, at the first onset, it is required for each business to make efforts for biodiversity as its proper business operation.
* Specifically, it is needed for a business 1) to grasp risk related to the loss of biodiversity and opportunity and to develop an organizational strategy, 2) to organize risk management measures and set indicators and targets, 3) to establish governance for risk and opportunity. Through those efforts, a business can take business opportunities, such as attracting ethical consumers as well as managing downside risk.
* Public disclosure of each company’s consideration for biodiversity in its organizational strategy and governance (ex. Positioning of biodiversity-friendly activities in medium-term management plan, status of supervision of a corporate board) will lead constructive interactions on biodiversity-friendly activities between the business and investors and financial institutions. It could also lead ESG investors to invest and lend to the business, which will contribute to the expansion of ESG investment. Accordingly, we believe that it is effective to incorporate promotion of development of biodiversity-friendly organizational strategies and governance together with voluntary public disclosure into targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

**4. Promotion of global efforts against unintentional introduction of invasive alien species through logistics activities**

* Invasion of alien species was mentioned as one of the direct drivers of change in nature with the five largest global impacts in the IPBES global assessment report. In addition to that, trade was stated as one of the indirect drivers of change, which have an effect on the direct drivers.
* There are lots of reports on the risk from unintentional migration of alien species including insects through containers and machines etc. In Japan, the introduction of red imported fire ants has been reported repeatedly since June 2017 as well.
* Through responding to the introduction of red imported fire ants, we have strongly recognized that the issue of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species through logistics activities is a global issue, in which each country around the world can be a victimizer as well as a victim. We have felt that such an issue will directly affect activities of private sectors as well.
* While the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 also includes identifying, prioritizing and controlling invasive alien species and pathways, global logistics will be expanding and increasing further. Hence, Japan believes that it is effective to share information and experience among countries concerned and the enhancement of cooperation with international organizations related to trade and logistics for the issues of alien species in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as its targets, means of implementation and enable conditions, in order to address the issues of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species through global logistics activities.
* Furthermore, as Japan, China and Republic of Korea have been strengthening information and experience sharing and yielded some good results, the three countries can offer those experiences as good practices.

1. Landscape approaches: any approach based on consideration of a landscape as meaning a geographical area as a holistic unit with all of its natural habitats, land-uses, human settlements, and stakeholders [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The Satoyama Initiative: Based on the idea of landscape approaches, it promotes the conservation of regions where natural resources have been utilized and people have obtained benefit from rich natural environment (human-influenced natural environments), such as “Satoyama and Satoumi” in Japan, and aims to realize a societies in harmony with nature. The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) aiming to promote and accelerate activities of the Satoyama Initiative was established, when the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10) was held, and now has 258 members including government organizations, NGOs, groups of indigenous peoples, academic research institutions, private sector and international organizations from 21 countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. OECMs: A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values. It is provided along with systems of protected areas in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)