**Statement for Agenda Item 3 “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”**  
**SBSTTA 24 Informal Session, 17-26 February 2021**

**United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)**

UNU-IAS, as the think tank of the United Nations, among many other activities conducts research on how to develop harmonious human-nature relationships through sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes, as well as strengthening biocultural diversity, with the purpose of contributing to help make biodiversity policy more effective and inclusive. We serve as Secretariat of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative and also draw on the experience of our 271 members working towards societies in harmony with nature.

Our work indicates that a shift from traditional conservation approaches towards harmonious human-nature relationships is the kind of transformative change needed to ensure biodiversity for the future. Based on our experience, we have some recommendations for the current discussion.

We agree with others about the value of OECMs. Many potential OECM sites have the possibility to generate ecosystem services that enhance human well-being and health. Well-managed landscapes and seascapes, both inside and outside of protected areas, can be a great tool for human-nature linkages and sustainable use toward biodiversity goals. Indicators should include key elements of OECMs.

In Target 2, or wherever protected areas are discussed in the final version, we recommend keeping the wording “integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes” from Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, as integration is one of the important factors that make up effective protective area management, but is often overlooked. Integration is of extreme importance for coastal ecosystems, as many case studies show a lack of land-sea connectivity negatively impacts especially coastal biodiversity.

UNU-IAS welcomes the establishment of the High Ambition Coalition, but as many parties have mentioned, not only achieving the number of 30%, but also management is indispensable. For effective management, all stakeholders, including IPLC, youth, and women, must be included, and a landscape perspective has been proven effective for inclusive management. The monitoring approach should cover the priorities of diverse members of society to ensure buy-in and mainstreaming of biodiversity.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for organizing the sustainable use consultation last July. Discussions at the consultation had many lessons to make the framework stronger by encouraging living in harmony with nature. We look forward to the Secretariat disseminating the workshop report so that all of us can consider the outputs of the consultation.