

# IPSI Plan of Action: 2013-2018



SATOYAMA  
INITIATIVE

“Advancing socio-ecological production  
landscapes and seascapes for the benefit of  
biodiversity and human well-being.”

(Paris Declaration on the Satoyama Initiative, 2010)

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## **A. Background**

### **I: The Satoyama Initiative and International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)**

- 1.** Protecting biodiversity entails not only preserving pristine environments, such as wilderness, but also conserving human-influenced natural environments, such as farmlands and secondary forests, that people have developed and maintained sustainably over a long time. These human-influenced natural environments are often inhabited by a variety of species adapted to and relying on them to survive; hence they play an important role in sustaining and enhancing biodiversity. But these landscapes and seascapes – and the sustainable practices and knowledge they represent – are increasingly threatened in many parts of the world, due for example, to urbanization, industrialization, and rapid rural population increase and decrease. Measures are urgently needed to conserve these sustainable types of human-influenced natural environments through broader global recognition of their value.
- 2.** The Satoyama Initiative was proposed to tackle this critical issue, and promotes activities consistent with existing fundamental principles including the ecosystem approach. IPSI was launched at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) in October 2010, and aims to carry out the activities identified by the Satoyama Initiative. The Partnership is open to all organizations committed to promoting and supporting socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being to foster synergies in the implementation of their respective activities. As of September 2013, IPSI has grown to include 155 diverse member organizations with activities in countries around the world and spanning a broad range of different sectors.

## II: Strategic Planning Process

3. While the IPSI Strategy formalized the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the partnership, there was a call from the members for a Plan of Action to be developed to provide a supportive framework for implementation. Following IPSI-3, the Steering Committee (SC) began initial discussions and steps towards drafting such a Plan of Action for eventual review and endorsement by the membership.
4. The 'Regional Workshop on the Satoyama Initiative' held in Kathmandu, Nepal (May 2013) brought together a wide range of stakeholders including both IPSI members and non-members to share the relevance of their own experiences to the Satoyama Initiative. A stated objective of the regional workshop was to contribute to the further preparation of the Plan of Action, and by sharing their experiences and discussions, participants directly supported this process. An SC meeting held directly following the regional workshop provided an opportunity to further consolidate these lessons and reflect them in the Plan of Action.
5. The Plan of Action is envisioned for a five-year timeframe as an action-oriented document subject to regular adjustment and revision, as appropriate. To monitor the effectiveness of the Plan of Action, an interim review will be conducted three years into this timeframe and a second evaluation will be conducted after the fifth year.
6. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets contained within the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020<sup>1</sup> provide an important overarching framework for the Plan of Action. Activities under the Satoyama Initiative contribute to many of the Aichi Biodiversity targets in a variety of ways depending on their individual contexts, with a policy paper<sup>2</sup> identifying contributions the Satoyama Initiative is already making to nine of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Targets 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19). The objectives contained within the IPSI Strategy and the priority areas identified in this Plan of Action will strengthen IPSI's contribution to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

## B. Priority Actions Based on IPSI Strategy

7. The IPSI Strategy, unanimously endorsed by the member organizations at the October 2012 IPSI Assembly (IPSI-3) in Hyderabad, India defines that the **vision** of IPSI is to realize societies in harmony with nature.
8. As defined in the IPSI Strategy, the **mission** of IPSI is to:
  - a. Work together within the partnership and with other networks and/or organizations dealing with socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) for the promotion and support of the concept and practices of SEPLS;
  - b. Maintain or enhance the contribution of SEPLS to the objectives of the Rio Conventions and related agreements, to the achievement of sustainable development goals such as the MDGs and, in general, to livelihoods and human well-being;
  - c. Promote concrete benefits to the environment, livelihoods, and community well-being on the ground.
9. Four strategic objectives are described within the IPSI Strategy, and are listed in a shortened format below, and in their entirety in the following pages:
  - a. **Objective 1:** Increase knowledge and understanding of SEPLS.
  - b. **Objective 2:** Address the direct and underlying causes responsible for the decline or loss of biological and cultural diversity as well as ecological and socio-economic services from SEPLS.
  - c. **Objective 3:** Enhance benefits from SEPLS.
  - d. **Objective 4:** Enhance the human, institutional and sustainable financial capacities for the implementation of the Satoyama Initiative.
10. IPSI's diverse multi-stakeholder membership has positioned it well to be a practical tool and platform for promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. This, in turn, yields a range of beneficial outcomes related to issues such as poverty reduction, enhanced food security, and sustainable development. Four strategic objectives were endorsed within the context of the IPSI Strategy and priority actions are described here as an indicative list of activities to work towards achieving these objectives over the coming five-year period (2013-2018).

## I: Increasing Knowledge and Understanding (Strategic Objective One)

**11. Objective 1:** Increase knowledge and understanding of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes that are addressed by the Satoyama Initiative and make information widely accessible that is of relevance to decision-making on their values, history, status and trends including the factors influencing them positively or negatively as well as the traditional and modern knowledge that sustained and continues to sustain them, consistent with existing national legislation and international obligations, in particular Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**12. Current situation within IPSI:** One of the key knowledge management mechanisms under IPSI has been the collection and publishing of case studies on the Satoyama Initiative website. There has, however, been limited strategic or systematic follow-up on the 66 case studies published to date (as of September 2013). A policy report synthesizing lessons from the case studies and their relevance to the green economy agenda was published in 2012 and launched at Rio+20 (Gu and Subramanian, 2012)<sup>3</sup>. Another policy paper based on these case studies and looking at how sustainable use of biodiversity can be mainstreamed into production landscapes and seascapes was published in 2013 (Okayasu and Matsumoto, 2013)<sup>4</sup>. In addition, the Secretariat has continuously sought to raise awareness about SEPLS and the Satoyama Initiative by developing and disseminating informational materials and by delivering presentations at relevant meetings and other events.

### **13. Priority actions:**

- a. Develop a comprehensive communications and knowledge management strategy targeting a range of levels including policy and decision makers, and local stakeholders.
- b. Promote mechanisms for effective knowledge sharing, utilizing the full range of communication materials from organizations working with SEPLS.
- c. Build on and further map SEPLS around the world at local, national, regional and global levels to further enhance knowledge generation and sharing, and communicate lessons and experiences.
- d. Further promote existing studies and analysis on SEPLS and promote similar analysis on different thematic issues.
- e. Support indigenous peoples and local communities to produce case studies and relevant materials to increase the understanding about traditional systems of landscape and seascape management.
- f. Promote a dynamic collaboration between modern science and traditional knowledge systems, considering particularly prior informed consent and other appropriate traditional knowledge safeguards, and collect and use best practices to enhance linkages among cultural diversity, traditional knowledge and management of SEPLS.
- g. Exchange knowledge and lessons learned, including from case studies, member activities and Collaborative Activities, and feed synthesis into relevant policy discussions.
- h. Share information and material on IPSI and the Satoyama Initiative at relevant meetings and other events.

## II: Addressing the Direct and Underlying Causes (Strategic Objective Two)

- 14. Objective 2:** Address the direct and underlying causes responsible for the decline or loss of biological and cultural diversity as well as ecological and socio-economic services from socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), so as to maintain those that are functioning well and/or rebuild, revitalize or restore lost and/or degraded SEPLS.
- 15. Current situation within IPSI:** Although IPSI member organizations are working on SEPLS individually, they have noted the need for enhanced collaboration towards undertaking on-the-ground activities aimed at rebuilding, revitalizing and restoring SEPLS. The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) programme has been established as a Collaborative Activity, and there are also examples of cases in which activities have coalesced into collaborative action under IPSI,, such as Collaborative Activities focusing on the development and testing of indicators and the restoration and revitalization of communities in Japan’s tsunami-affected northeastern region. In addition, although the Japan Satoyama-Satoumi Assessment (JSSA) provides an analysis of the underlying causes of lost and/or degraded SEPLS, corresponding efforts have not been undertaken at the local, national or sub-global level for SEPLS outside of Japan. Currently, there is also no system in place for consolidating information and lessons learned by the various stakeholders, including IPSI members, working with SEPLS around the world. Likewise, there is no mechanism for collecting and analyzing information about underlying causes identified within national and local biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs/LBSAPs).
- 16. Priority actions:**
- a. Fully utilize diversity of IPSI membership to conduct research on identifying the direct and underlying causes that are impacting SEPLS, including through analysis of NBSAPs/LBSAPs and taking into account the direct and indirect drivers of change identified within the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.
  - b. Undertake assessments at various levels of SEPLS, building on the Japan Satoyama-Satoumi Assessment (JSSA)<sup>5</sup>.
  - c. Use solid evidence and scientific arguments through mechanisms such as NBSAPs, national reports, and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to influence national and global processes addressing the direct and underlying causes for the decline or loss of biological and cultural diversity, as well as those aimed at maintaining, restoring, revitalizing or rebuilding SEPLS.
  - d. Facilitate and promote on-the-ground activities to empower local communities to evaluate, assess and manage SEPLS.
  - e. Contribute to rebuilding, adaptation and revitalization of areas in which SEPLS have been lost or degraded due to negative impacts from natural disasters, climate change and other causes, including human activities.

### III: Enhancing Benefits (Strategic Objective Three)

**17. Objective 3:** Enhance benefits from socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes including by supporting factors and actions that increase the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services for human well-being.

**18. Current situation within IPSI:** The multi-sectoral nature of IPSI holds the potential for developing and implementing innovative cross-sectoral approaches to enhance the benefits provided by SEPLS; some of the IPSI members have piloted multi-sectoral approaches in several countries. Such efforts, including those that would incorporate a positive interaction with the private sector, could be further replicated and upscaled within IPSI. At the same time, collaborative work on developing and testing indicators of resilience in SEPLS has provided insight emphasizing how social and ecological aspects contribute to resilience.

**19. Priority actions:**

- a. Support indigenous peoples and local communities to govern and manage their resources, and sustain or improve social cohesion and local economies.
- b. Continue building on the existing work with indicators of resilience in SEPLS by additional testing in a broad range of landscapes and seascapes, and further refining of the set of indicators to enhance community empowerment and engagement, In addition, develop linkages with other relevant processes, including among others, the indicator framework under the CBD.
- c. Explore opportunities for certification and branding of products derived from SEPLS, including through potential partnerships with the private sector and the further development of market linkages.
- d. Further promote analysis of multiple benefits related to SEPLS, including their contribution to disaster risk reduction and towards realizing the objectives of the three Rio Conventions, the MDGs, post-2015 development agenda, and other relevant agreements.
- e. Promote adaptive management of SEPLS to increase and enhance the benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities.
- f. Promote benefits for people and biodiversity in SEPLS by using a holistic approach in the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans as well as reducing habitat conversion, over-exploitation, pollution and impact of invasive species.

## IV: Enhancing Capacities (Strategic Objective Four)

**20. Objective 4:** Enhance the human, institutional and sustainable financial capacities for the implementation of the Satoyama Initiative, including in particular to ensure the effectiveness of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative. In the same context, issues relating to socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes and their values are mainstreamed, and appropriate policies effectively implemented.

**21. Current situation within IPSI:** IPSI has made efforts to develop individual and institutional capacities through its global conferences, regional workshop and other forums. It has also identified existing and developed new financial mechanisms to support management of SEPLS. However, IPSI member organizations continue to face a range of challenges in implementing activities in line with the Satoyama Initiative vision of achieving societies in harmony with nature. In many cases, this includes a policy environment that is not fully conducive to efforts towards achieving conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In many cases, human and institutional capacities and financing are still limited, particularly in developing countries, to implement IPSI activities.

### **22. Priority actions:**

- a. Identify and develop potential windows and mechanisms to finance SEPLS-related activities, including through new financing mechanisms.
- b. Facilitate efforts to feed and implement the SEPLS concept into key policy programmes and plans, including NBSAPs/LBSAPs.
- c. Increase awareness of policy and decision-makers on SEPLS and IPSI by promoting education, information dissemination and document production.
- d. Strengthen the institutional capacity of the IPSI Secretariat in the context of a growing membership and the implementation of the Plan of Action.
- e. Organize workshops, seminars and other capacity building activities, including the exchange of experiences among indigenous peoples and local communities based on capacity needs assessment to implement the IPSI Strategy and Plan of Action, to develop human and institutional capacities of IPSI members and other stakeholders, to formulate and implement relevant initiatives, and to generate and mobilize necessary financial resources.

## C. Mechanisms to Implement Priority Actions

23. The broad multi-stakeholder composition of IPSI brings together organizations working in a diverse range of landscapes and seascapes, and with cross-sectoral activities. The inclusive nature of IPSI and its strategy fosters collaboration across these areas, and provides a platform for effectively sharing best practices and lessons learned. At the same time, several mechanisms are available to aid the implementation of the priority actions of the four strategic objectives of the IPSI Strategy. The mechanisms contained within this section only constitute a partial list of those that can be utilized to achieve the priority actions described in the previous section, and this list is by no means comprehensive or exclusive.
24. Implementation of the priority actions described within this document will primarily be led by IPSI member organizations, as appropriate, and in line with the strategy, capacity, and expertise of individual member organizations. IPSI members may also act as catalysts for establishing new synergies both within IPSI, and with other relevant initiatives, programmes and networks to undertake activities towards implementing the Plan of Action, taking into account the priority actions described within it.

### I: Building the Partnership

25. **Overall strategic direction:** Further build and strategically expand the IPSI membership to enhance balance in terms of regional and organizational representation; simultaneously increase the quality of member engagement by fostering broader collaboration and dialogue within the partnership, including across thematic and sectoral areas.
26. **Current situation:** IPSI is a multi-stakeholder platform open to all organizations committed to maintaining and rebuilding SEPLS. Currently, there are significant regional and organizational imbalances within the IPSI membership. For more details, see the Annex on page 13, “IPSI membership according to region and organizational type (as of September 2013)”. In addition, IPSI continues to have very limited representation in terms of organizations working with seascapes, wetlands and pastoral systems.
27. **Planned measures:**
  - a. Increase the number of member organizations, especially within under-represented categories.
  - b. Translate IPSI publications, promotional materials and other documents into additional UN languages, particularly French and Spanish.
  - c. Prepare and share promotional package and materials that are readily available with potential partners.
  - d. Encourage organizations working with pastoral landscapes, inland wetland landscapes and seascapes to join IPSI.
  - e. Organize side events to promote and raise awareness about SEPLS and the Satoyama Initiative during relevant international events.
  - f. Encourage enhanced participation by IPSI members towards promoting activities aimed at contributing to implementation of the Plan of Action 2013-2018.

## II: Promoting Collaborative Activities

- 28. Overall strategic direction:** Strengthen and enhance Collaborative Activities and their implementation, reporting, and dissemination of best practices and achievements.
- 29. Current situation:** As of September 2013, 29 Collaborative Activities have been endorsed by the Steering Committee. There is limited funding for these activities, and the incentives for working on them are unclear. These activities have spanned all five cluster areas<sup>6</sup>, and to date, outcomes of this collaboration have included, among other things, joint scientific publications, the production of videos, the organizing of a joint meeting, and community development activities.
- 30. Planned measures:**
- a. Review and further elaborate the Collaborative Activity mechanism to clarify the steps towards the development, proposal and financing of the activities as well as paths to further strengthening existing collaboration.
  - b. Review previously endorsed Collaborative Activities to assess how they are contributing to the achievement of the strategic objectives, and provide suggestions on how to address gaps in their implementation.
  - c. Encourage and support IPSI members in the identification, development and implementation of Collaborative Activities in a more synergistic manner.
  - d. Drawing on the Collaborative Activities, document and share relevant achievements and lessons learned regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with the CBD and other relevant processes.
  - e. Operationalize the Satoyama Development Mechanism as one of the means to support Collaborative Activities.

### III: Collaboration with Relevant International Agreements, Initiatives, Programmes and Networks

- 31. Overall strategic direction:** Enhance synergistic collaboration with relevant initiatives, programmes and networks that are undertaking activities that complement those of IPSI and its member organizations.
- 32. Current situation:** The importance of the Satoyama Initiative collaborating with other initiatives and programmes working on SEPLS-related matters has been recognized (Box 1). To raise awareness about the Satoyama Initiative and to seek synergies, the IPSI Secretariat has taken part in organizing activities to encourage collaboration, including the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as actively participating in and contributing to events organized by parties listed here, such as the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress, 2013 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) International Forum, and multiple events organized by UNESCO.
- 33. Planned measures:**
- a. Develop, maintain and expand a list of networks and other relevant initiatives and programmes working on issues related to SEPLS, including through knowledge sharing.
  - b. Establish collaboration with key networks, initiatives and programmes working on issues related to SEPLS.
  - c. Strengthen collaboration with CBD and establish collaboration with Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other relevant processes, including through reporting IPSI's progress in accordance with the items on their respective agendas.
  - d. Enhance collaboration with other relevant initiatives, programmes and networks, including those dealing with climate change and sustainable land and water management issues.
  - e. Invite IPSI members and relevant stakeholders at local, national, regional and global level to consider implementing this Plan of Action, including through the mainstreaming and harmonization of the proposed priority actions with relevant plans or appropriate processes.

#### **Box 1: CBD COP Decision Texts Emphasizing IPSI's Collaboration with other relevant Initiatives, Programs and Networks**

*"The Conference of the Parties recognizes and supports further discussion [...] to promote synergy of the Satoyama Initiative with other initiatives or activities including the Man and the Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Model Forest Network and other initiatives that include community-conserved areas [...]" (CBD COP10 Decision X/32)*

*"Recalling its decision X/32, recognizes the contribution that the Satoyama Initiative is working to make in creating synergies among the various existing regional and global initiatives on human-influenced natural environments, including the Man and the Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Model Forest Network and other initiatives that include community conservation areas developed and managed by indigenous and local communities [...]" [CBD COP11 Decision XI/25]*

## D. Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation

- 34. Monitoring:** A simple reporting and monitoring mechanism will be developed to evaluate the progress and impacts of IPSI member activities in line with the actions described in the Plan of Action, and their overall contribution to achieving the four strategic objectives.
- 35. Reporting:** Based on reporting from IPSI members as well as activities by the Secretariat, annual reports will be prepared, published and disseminated to describe the Partnership's progress towards achieving the four strategic objectives in line with the Plan of Action.
- 36. Evaluation:** An interim review will be conducted three years into this timeframe, and a second evaluation will be conducted after the fifth year to determine the effectiveness of the Plan of Action. Lessons from the evaluation can feed into further development of the Plan of Action.
- 37.** Additional monitoring mechanisms, including indicator development will be explored as necessary.

# Annex

## IPSI Membership according to region and organizational type (as of September 2013)

### Organizational Representation:

Type of Organization	#
National Governmental Organizations	16
Other Government-Affiliated Organizations	5
Local Governmental Organizations	13
Non-governmental or Civil Society Organizations	52
Indigenous or Local Community Organizations	9
Academic, Educational and / or Research Institutes	28
Industry or Private Sector Organizations	17
UN, Intergovernmental Organizations and other	15

### Geographical Representation (of head offices)<sup>7</sup>

By CBD Region	
Africa	24
Asia/Pacific	85
CEE	4
GRULAC	10
WEOG	18
International Organizations	14

By Continent	
Africa	24
Asia/Pacific	86
Europe	16
North America	5
South + Central America	10
International Organizations	14

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

<sup>2</sup> Okayasu, S. and Matsumoto, I. (2013) Contributions of the Satoyama Initiative to Mainstreaming Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Seascapes. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. Hayama, Japan.

<sup>3</sup> Gu, H. and Subramanian, S. (2012) Socio-ecological Production Landscapes: Relevance to the Green Economy Agenda. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies. Yokohama, Japan. See also: Belair C., Ichikawa K., Wong B.Y. L., and Mulongoy K.J. (Editors) (2010). Sustainable use of biological diversity in socio-ecological production landscapes. Background to the 'Satoyama Initiative for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being.' Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal. Technical Series no. 52, 184 pages; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and OSLO consortium (2013). *Valuing the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands*. Technical Series No.71. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, 94 pages.

<sup>4</sup> (see Endnote 2).

<sup>5</sup> The Japan Satoyama-Satoumi Assessment (JSSA) looked at interactions between humans and terrestrial-aquatic ecosystems (*satoyama*) and marine-coastal ecosystems (*satoumi*) in Japan, using the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework for sub-global assessments (<http://bit.ly/15julxq>)

<sup>6</sup> IPSI Activity Cluster: (1) Knowledge Facilitation; (2) Policy Research; (3) Research for Indicators; (4) Capacity Building; (5) On-the-ground Activities

<sup>7</sup> Acronyms within the CBD regional chart are as follows: Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC); Central and Eastern Europe Group (CEE); Western European and Others Group (WEOG)