

The International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative

Operational Framework¹

Article 1 – Name and Purpose

1.1 The partnership shall be known as “The International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative” (hereinafter referred to as “IPSI”).

1.2 IPSI shall be a partnership to carry out the activities identified by the *Satoyama* Initiative as described in the Paris Declaration attached hereto.

Article 2 – Membership

2.1 IPSI shall be open to all organisations² committed to promote and support socio-ecological production landscapes³ for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being.

2.2 Application for membership shall be submitted to the IPSI Secretariat (referred to in Article 6), stating the applicant’s intention to become a member organisation (hereinafter “member”) and describing expertise or their activities involving socio-ecological production landscapes. A new member organisation is required to contribute at least one case study report on one or more socio-ecological production landscape(s) after its entry into IPSI, pursuant to Article 2.4, to demonstrate and share its activities in relation to socio-ecological production landscapes. The report shall be submitted in any of English, French or Spanish, and in accordance with the case study guidelines included in the supplementary document to this Operational Framework. When the report is submitted in French or Spanish, a summary in English shall be attached.

2.3 Any application for membership shall be transmitted by the Secretariat to the Steering Committee (referred to in Article 5) at least two weeks prior to the meeting of the Steering Committee.

¹ The draft text was discussed and revised at the Preparatory Meeting on the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative “Working together for promoting socio-ecological production landscapes” held in Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi, Japan from 23 to 24 August 2010.

² The organisations referred to here include (1) national or local governmental organisations, (2) non-governmental or civil society organisations, (3) indigenous or local community organisations, (4) academic, educational and/or research institutes, (5) Industry or private sector organisations, (6) United Nations or other international organisations, and (7) others.

³ The term “socio-ecological production landscapes” refers to dynamic mosaics of habitats and land uses that have been shaped over the years by the interactions between people and nature in ways that maintain biodiversity and provide humans with goods and services needed for their well-being. The term is selected to describe the targeted areas of the *Satoyama* Initiative based on the discussion of Japan Satoyama Satoumi Assessment, and includes seascapes.

2.4 Acceptance of membership to IPSI shall be decided by the Steering Committee based on Article 2.2, 2.3 and criteria set by the Steering Committee (see Article 5.2).

2.5 Membership shall be effective until either the member withdraws its membership of its own accord (see Article 2.6), or when discontinuation of membership is decided at the IPSI Assembly (see Article 4.2), for reasons stated under Article 2.7.

2.6 Any member can choose to withdraw its membership with an advance notification provided in writing to the Secretariat.

2.7 A member may be considered for discontinuation of membership at the IPSI Assembly if the member fails to assume its responsibilities pursuant to Article 9.

2.8 Membership implies the understanding and agreement that participation and endorsement of IPSI activities are carried out at the member's own responsibility and that membership does not express, in any way whatsoever, endorsement by IPSI of the member's activities, except for those described in Article 7.2.

Article 3 – Principles of Engagement

3.1 Member organisations shall share a common commitment to uphold the vision of the *Satoyama* Initiative to realise societies in harmony with nature.

3.2 Members shall assent to the following three-fold approach of the *Satoyama* Initiative namely to:

- Consolidate wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem services and values;
- Integrate traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to promote innovations;
- Explore new forms of co-management systems or evolving frameworks of “commons”⁴ while respecting traditional communal land tenure.

3.3 Members shall also assent to the following five ecological and socioeconomic perspectives according to the approach described under Article 3.2:

- 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 culture;
- Multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration in sustainable and multi-functional management of natural resources and ecosystem services;
- Contributions to sustainable socio-economies including poverty reduction, food security, sustainable livelihood and local community empowerment.

⁴ “Commons” referred to here excludes international/global commons

Article 4 - IPSI Regular Meetings

4.1 Functions of the IPSI Regular Meetings shall be two-fold:

- The IPSI Assembly shall be attended by the heads of members or their nominated alternate representative to review overall activities and take decisions on institutional matters.
- The Public Forum shall be attended by all interested stakeholders (1) to strengthen collaboration and synergies among members as well as between the *Satoyama* Initiative and other relevant initiatives and programmes, and (2) to enhance understanding and raise awareness of the importance of socio-ecological production landscapes.

4.2 Issues related to the Steering Committee's membership (referred to in Article 5) and discontinuation of membership shall be decided upon at the IPSI Assembly.

4.3 The IPSI Assembly shall also receive reports of the Steering Committee and take decisions if sought and deemed necessary by the Steering Committee.

4.4 Reaching decisions at the IPSI Assembly shall be based on consensus in principle. However, in the event of difficulties in deciding a matter based on consensus, voting can be undertaken to make a decision. A two-thirds majority shall be required for matters regarding the IPSI Operational Framework, and a simple majority for all other matters.

4.5 The IPSI Assembly, Public Forum and Steering Committee meetings referred to in Article 5, can be organised back-to-back for cost effectiveness.

Article 5 – Steering Committee

5.1 The Steering Committee shall serve as the executive body acting on behalf of the IPSI. Governance and management functions shall be vested upon the Steering Committee.

5.2 The Steering Committee shall (1) review and provide directions on the operation of IPSI activities, (2) designate focal member(s) for each cluster of activities as provided in Article 7.2, (3) make decisions on its own initiative and/or in response to the request from the Assembly, (4) review and approve membership applications as provided in Article 2.4, (5) provide recommendations for consideration by the Assembly, (6) give guidance to the IPSI Secretariat, and (7) catalyse partnership building and resource mobilisation for IPSI.

5.3 Decisions at Steering Committee meetings shall be made in principle on the basis of consensus to the extent possible. However, in the event of difficulties in reaching consensus, voting can be done to make decisions, and a simple majority shall be required.

5.4 The Steering Committee shall be composed of at least 8 and not more than 11 representatives from IPSI members selected for a two-year term, which shall be renewable and a representative of the Secretariat (referred to in Article 6).

5.5 The Steering Committee members will be selected from among those IPSI members who express interest in participating in the Steering Committee. The selection shall be made taking into account the balance of organisation types and geographical regions. To maintain the continuity in the work of the Steering Committee, arrangements shall be made to substitute or renew one half of the members in the Steering Committee every year except for the first two years after its inception.

5.6 In the selection of the Steering Committee members by the IPSI Assembly, priority shall be accorded to those members that have (1) substantive activities related to the *Satoyama* Initiative, as well as Collaborative Activities of IPSI, (2) strong links to national/sub-national and regional partnerships, and (3) ability to identify and develop potential windows and mechanisms to finance the implementation of IPSI related projects and activities.

5.7 The Steering Committee shall elect its Chair from its members to serve for a term of two years which shall be renewable once.

5.8 The Steering Committee shall hold at least one face-to-face meeting every year and also interact through e-mails and other means on a regular basis.

Article 6 – Secretariat

6.1 The UNU-IAS shall serve as an interim Secretariat of IPSI until the permanent Secretariat is designated. The permanent Secretariat shall be designated by the Assembly based on the assessment of the institutional capacity for carrying out the required operation as the permanent Secretariat for IPSI. Relocation of the permanent Secretariat to other member may be made upon agreement to do so and upon approval at the IPSI Assembly.

6.2 The Secretariat shall be responsible for (1) undertaking the preparation including documents required for, coordination and arrangement of, the IPSI Regular Meeting and Steering Committee meetings, and any other relevant IPSI-related meetings which the Steering Committee may assign, (2) liaising with IPSI members and other stakeholders in general, (3) facilitating Collaborative Activities as described in Article 7, (4) carrying out awareness raising and public outreach activities, (5) establishing and managing the portal site of IPSI, and (6) facilitating partnership building including mobilising resources for its activities and the activities of IPSI.

6.3 All official communications on behalf of IPSI, its IPSI Regular Meetings and Steering Committee meetings shall be handled by the Secretariat.

6.4 One representative from the Secretariat shall serve as a member of the Steering Committee, according to Article 5.4 above.

Article 7 – Activities

7.1 Members shall acknowledge that a wide range of ongoing or planned activities can provide common grounds with IPSI.

7.2 IPSI Collaborative Activities are the activities that shall be undertaken by more than one IPSI member and constitute an important part of IPSI activities. The IPSI Collaborative Activities shall be developed and implemented with the endorsement of the Steering Committee. This article does not impose any binding limits upon individual members' mandates or activities.

7.3 Clustering will be used to provide a focus of IPSI activities. However, the clusters have inter-linked components and cross-cutting features of the clusters activities shall be appropriately noted and reflected in the cluster reports.

7.4 IPSI will also build on and promote synergies with ongoing and planned activities of the members, important to IPSI objectives and activities. Members shall provide inputs on the activities and lessons learned, and these inputs shall be incorporated in the cluster reports.

Article 8 – Focal members

8.1 A focal member or members shall be designated for each cluster of activities by the Steering Committee based on the assessment of their institutional mandate, competence, resources and comparative institutional advantages, required for effective undertaking of work as the cluster focal member. The matter shall be reported thereafter to the Assembly.

8.2 The focal member shall synthesise, prepare and present annual progress reports on the activities of the cluster for sharing information among IPSI members and review by the Steering Committee.

Article 9 –Members' responsibilities

9.1 Members shall aspire to uphold and promote the vision and the objectives of the *Satoyama* Initiative.

9.2 Members shall submit at least one case study as described in Article 2.2 within six months after joining IPSI.

9.3 Members shall endeavour to ensure that the case study will remain up to date.

9.4 Members shall actively participate in all or part of the activities of IPSI.

9.5 Members shall endeavour to attend meetings of IPSI, which may include internet based conference calls and other electronic correspondence.

Article 10 – Resource Mobilization for IPSI

10.1 Members shall strive to mobilize resources to undertake their activities in the context of IPSI.

10.2 Members shall pursue the financing of their activities under the existing financing mechanisms and programmes while exploring existing and new financing mechanisms.

10.3 Members, Assembly, Steering Committee and Secretariat shall pursue resource mobilisation for supporting IPSI activities and for the participation of IPSI members from developing countries at IPSI meetings.

10.4 The Secretariat shall develop a budget plan to finance IPSI activities.

Article 11 –Acceptance, Entry into force, Amendment and Interpretation

11.1 Acceptance of this Operational Framework shall be expressed when the application for joining IPSI is submitted.

11.2 The present Operational Framework shall take effect on 19 October 2010 and shall remain valid for as long as IPSI exists.

11.3 Amendments to the Operational Framework may be made at the IPSI Assembly (referred to in Article 4).

11.4 Interpretation of any provision of the present Operational Framework shall be a matter for the Steering Committee.