



Summary Report:

Interim Review of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) Plan of Action 2013-2018

Produced by the IPSI Secretariat, 2016



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I. Summary

This report presents the results of an interim review of the effectiveness, status and achievements of the “Plan of Action 2013-2018” of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), including recommendations for future strategic development of the partnership. The review was carried out by the IPSI Secretariat in cooperation with the IPSI Steering Committee and other IPSI partners from 2015 to 2016. Detailed findings from the review may be found in the following pages. Presented here is a summary of major outcomes.

Review of the Plan of Action:

- IPSI members generally find that the Plan of Action is an effective and accurate document, with priority actions and planned measures in line with their goals and activities.
- IPSI members make a wide range of contributions to IPSI’s Strategic Objectives.
- Some problem areas may still need more attention, including membership among underrepresented sectors, synergistic collaboration among members, and integration of traditional knowledge with modern science.
- Some hot-button issues, particularly climate change, are not sufficiently addressed.
- IPSI’s networking and administrative functions have been well developed, although on-the-ground implementation has been developed less.
- Promotional efforts have been effective at building the partnership and growing the number of partners, while less emphasis has been placed on intra-partnership consolidation and cohesion among partners.

Recommendations:

- IPSI should focus on moving from its first phase—emphasizing establishment and growth—toward a second phase—emphasizing consolidation, collaboration and implementation—maximizing the effectiveness of its existing membership and capacities while continuing to welcome promising new member organizations, especially those from underrepresented regions, organization types and areas of activity.
- Reliable long-term funding—up to and beyond 2020—must be secured to continue IPSI’s core functions, recognizing that the single major financial source for these functions, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, intends to contribute for the timeframe of the Aichi Targets, which will end in 2020.
- The science side of the SEPLS concept should be further bolstered, particularly in terms of integrating traditional knowledge and modern science.
- Knowledge products should be pursued to demonstrate the advantage of SEPLS-based approaches within and beyond IPSI, particularly through collaborative research and knowledge generation.
- Diverse and creative funding opportunities should be explored, particularly those that will take advantages of IPSI’s strengths and encourage collaboration for effective, practical action.
- Efforts should continue to be made toward on-the-ground contributions in as broad a range of SEPLS as possible, while also keeping in mind the balance of practical, on-the-ground effectiveness versus administrative and institutional capacities.
- The further expansion of domestic networks for the Satoyama Initiative should be encouraged.
- The PoA should be revised and updated—according to its provision in paragraph 5 that it is “subject to regular adjustment and revision”—as the “IPSI Plan of Action 2013-2020”, incorporating updated priorities and lessons learned through this review process.
- The time up until 2020 should be used to develop the next action plan to reflect the development of the CBD’s post-2020 strategic plan, i.e. after the Aichi Targets.
- Along with development of the next action plan in 2020, consideration should also be given to updating the IPSI Strategy in line with the CBD’s post-2020 strategic plan.

II. Background and Methodology

Background

The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) was launched in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and the IPSI “Plan of Action 2013-2018” (PoA) was developed in 2013 and adopted at the Fourth IPSI Global Conference (IPSI-4) in Fukui, Japan in September of the same year, to provide direction for the implementation of the partnership’s goals. Paragraph 5 of the PoA says that it “is envisioned for a five-year timeframe as an action-oriented document subject to regular adjustment and revision, as appropriate.”

The current review is carried out in accordance with the PoA’s provision that for its five-year timeframe, “To monitor the effectiveness of the PoA, an interim review will be conducted three years into this timeframe and a second will be conducted after the fifth year.” The IPSI Secretariat has carried out this review in collaboration with the IPSI Steering Committee and the rest of the IPSI membership, and the results are presented here.

Methodology

This review is based on data collected from a number of sources:

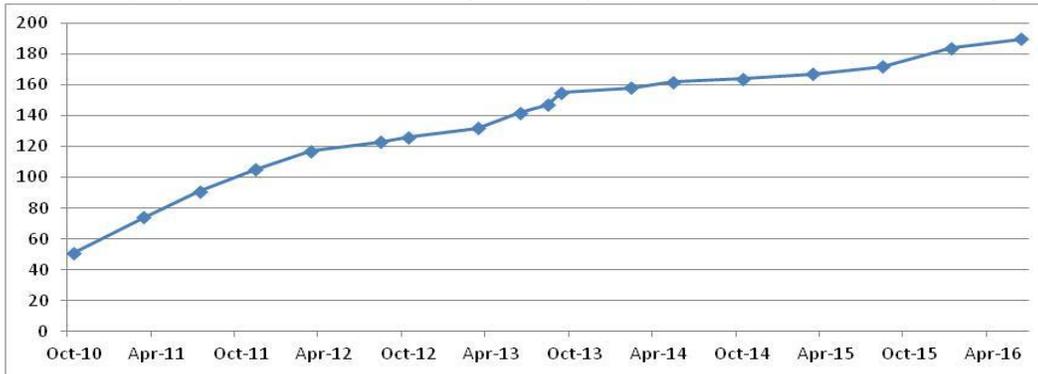
- A questionnaire survey, which was circulated via e-mail to IPSI member organizations between 26 October 2015 and 5 February 2016. 55 organizations responded out of the 172 IPSI members at that time, for a response rate of 32%. Please see Annex I for the blank questionnaire.
- Discussions held at the Public Forum of the Sixth IPSI Global Conference (IPSI-6) held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 12 and 13 January 2016. This Public Forum was aimed to exchange the diverse experiences of IPSI members and relevant stakeholders who are working on SEPLS in Cambodia and around the world; and in particular to review IPSI’s activities toward achieving the Strategic Objectives identified in the IPSI Plan of Action 2013-2018. The participants discussed the current status and future outlook of their activities to address the Priority Actions identified in the PoA.
- An email-based survey of the first 34 officially endorsed IPSI Collaborative Activities, carried out by contacting the lead organizations for completion reports or other updates on progress.
- A comprehensive analytical review of the first 80 case studies submitted to IPSI was undertaken by the IPSI Secretariat and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and completed in 2015. This was a separate process from the interim review, but its findings also provide insight into IPSI’s status and progress.
- Discussions held by the IPSI Steering Committee, particularly at the Tenth Meeting of the IPSI Steering Committee (SC-10) held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 12 January 2016 and via an email-based communication held from 29 May to 10 June 2016.
- A draft of this report was presented to the IPSI Steering Committee at its Eleventh Meeting (SC-11) held in Hyogo, Japan on 12-13 November 2016, and a final round of revisions was made based on discussions held there.

The information collected through the above processes has been compiled and summarized by the IPSI Secretariat in this document, which is intended to provide insight and guidance for the partnership. It is also expected that this review will serve as useful input for the final review to be held at the end of the PoA’s timeframe and inform the strategic direction of the partnership into the future. This document is intended to supplement, not to replace or supersede the PoA, and is intended to be considered together with the PoA.

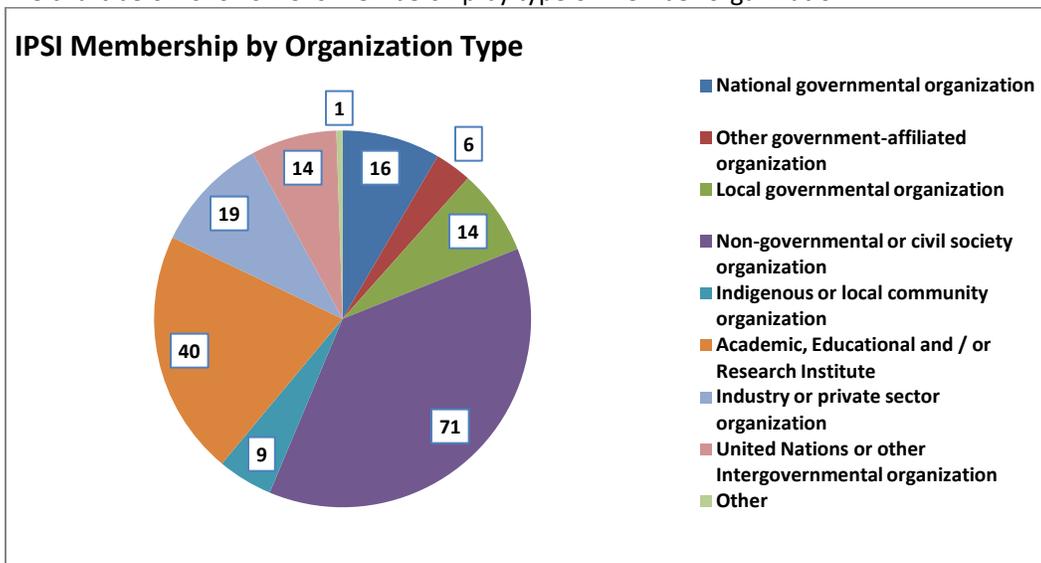
III. IPSI’s Status and Progress

IPSI’s growth

IPSI was established in 2010 with 51 founding member organizations, and has grown steadily since that time, to reach 190 members by July 2016 (the time of writing of this report). The chart below shows IPSI’s growth from 2011 to July 2016.



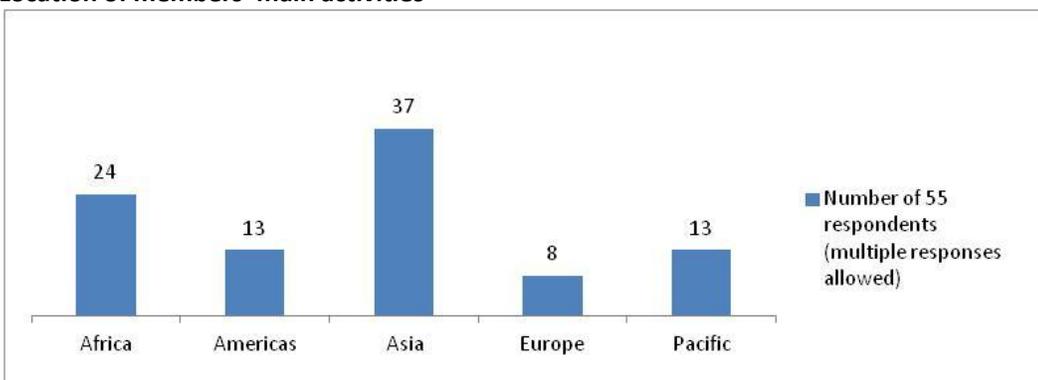
The chart below shows IPSI’s membership by type of member organization.



IPSI member activities

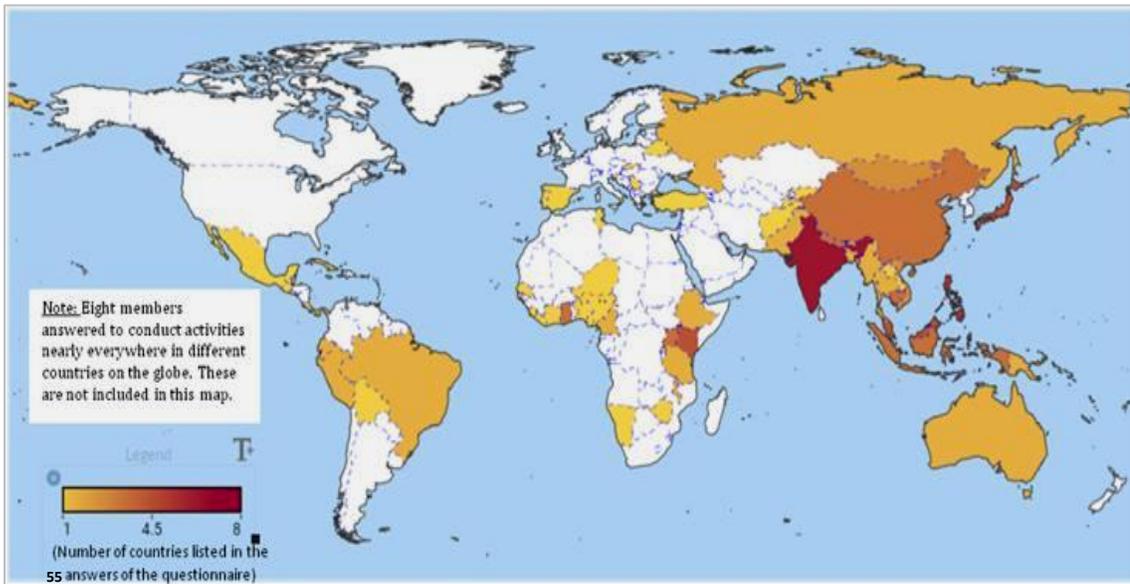
The chart below shows a comparison of the regions that questionnaire respondents identified for their main activities. It reflects the fact that the highest number of both IPSI members in general and questionnaire respondents are active in Asia, followed by Africa, the Americas, the Pacific region and Europe.

Location of members’ main activities



The map below further breaks down this regional information of questionnaire respondents’ replies to show the countries with most active IPSI members. Again, the highest numbers come from India and elsewhere in the Asia region. Outside of Asia, Ghana and Uganda have relatively high numbers. The Middle East, many countries in Africa, Europe and North America show smaller numbers. It is also worth noting that many IPSI members are global-scale organizations with at least some activities all over the world, which may not be shown here.

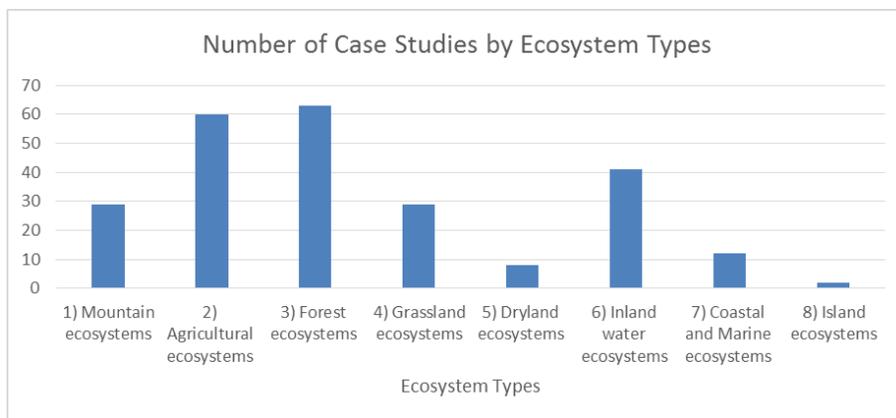
Country of organizations’ main activities



IPSI Case Studies

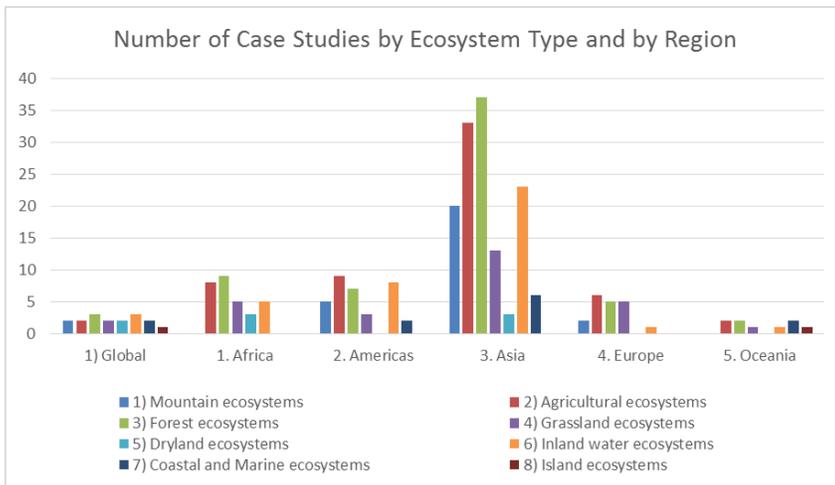
Although not a part of this Interim Review process, IPSI Case Studies also provide some insight into IPSI’s status and progress. The full report of the case study review¹ mentioned under “Methodology” above is available on the IPSI website, and some of the findings are provided below to provide more insight into IPSI’s effectiveness and activities.

First, the graph below shows the number of submitted case studies related to each of eight ecosystem types that the submitter identified (more than one type was allowed for each case study).



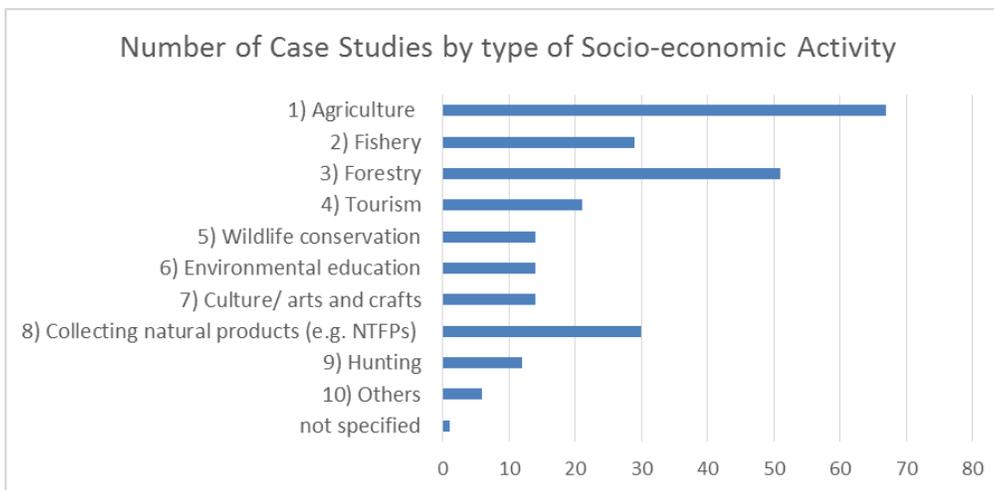
¹ UNU-IAS and IGES (2015) IPSI Case Study Review: a review of 80 case studies under the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI). United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Tokyo.

These findings were also further broken down into regional data according to ecosystem type, as shown below.



The above graph supports the findings of the interim review process that IPSI is most strongly represented in Asia, while some other regions remain underrepresented.

More context for these findings can also be found in the case study review’s analysis of case studies by types of socio-economic activities included, as shown below.

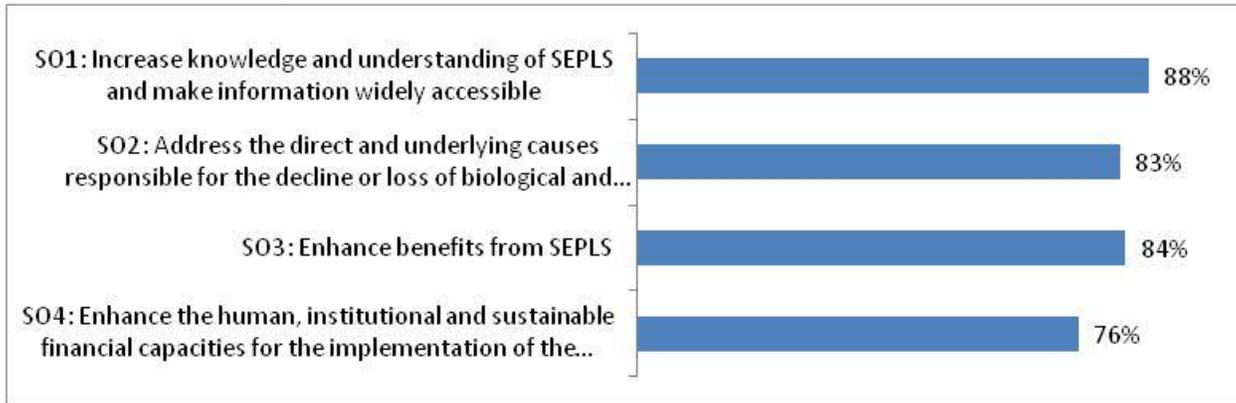


This data indicates that the largest share of IPSI activities take place in agricultural and forested areas, and are similarly oriented toward agriculture, forestry, collection of wild products in those areas, while some areas are represented less such as coastal and marine, island and dryland cases.

Status of IPSI’s Strategic Objectives

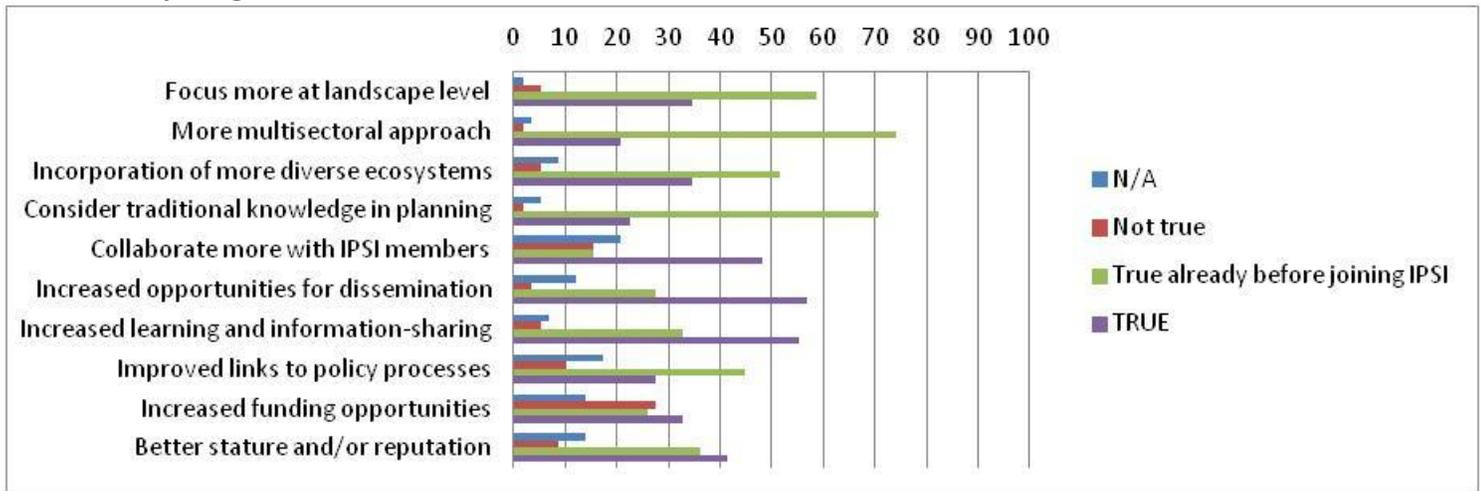
Contributions toward IPSI’s four Strategic Objectives (SOs) as identified in the Plan of Action were investigated in the questionnaire survey by asking whether members make any contribution to the individual Priority Actions under each SO. At least one of the Priority Actions under each SO was contributed to by a large majority of the respondents. The graph below shows the number of respondents who contribute to at least one Priority Action under each SO.

Respondents contributing to SOs



Members were also asked whether they had seen any increased benefits since joining IPSI in a number of areas. The following graph shows, for each proposed benefit, the percentage of respondents who replied that it was true or not true that they had seen the benefit since joining IPSI, or whether it was either true already before they joined IPSI or not applicable.

Benefits since joining IPSI



It can be seen from this graph that IPSI has been most successful for its member organizations in terms of increased opportunities for dissemination, increased learning and information-sharing, collaboration with other members, and for improved stature and/or reputation. The least benefits were seen in terms of taking a more multisectoral approach, greater consideration of traditional knowledge in planning, and improved links to policy processes. These results seem to accord with IPSI’s primary function as a partnership for networking and collaboration.

Priority Actions

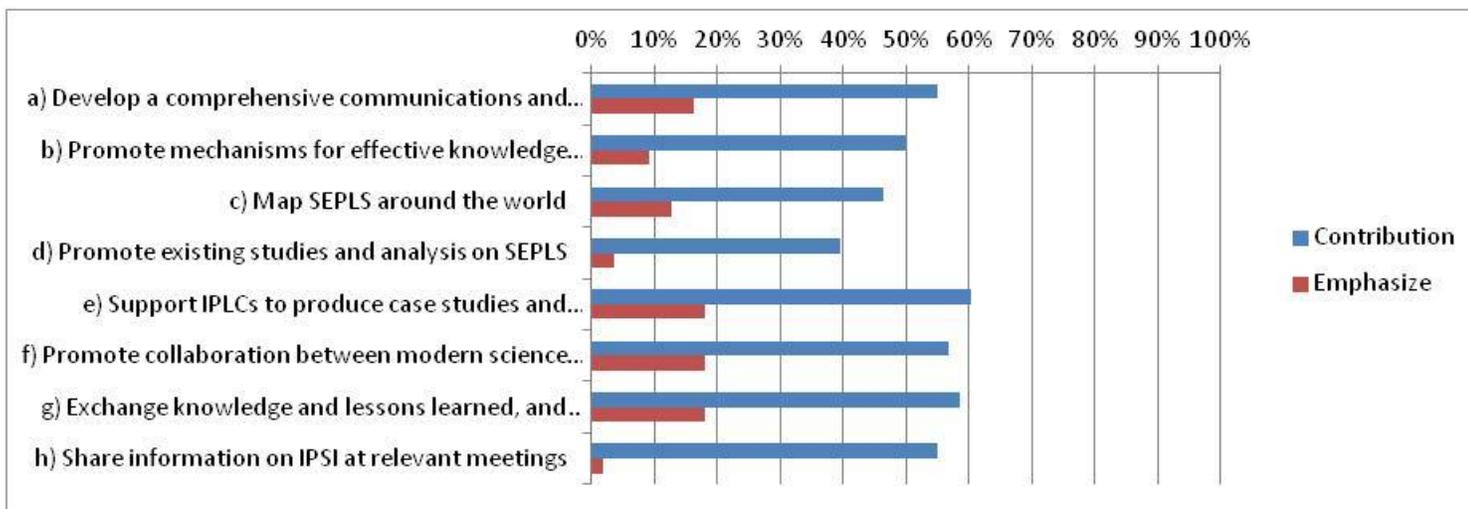
For each of the Priority Actions (PAs) identified under the SOs, questionnaire respondents were asked about:

1. whether their organization makes any contribution to the PA
2. which PAs should be among the top three priorities (under this SO) for IPSI in the future
3. any comments and explanations

The graphs below show respondents' replies to these questions for the PAs under each SO by percentage of respondents, and are followed by analysis and further insights from respondents' comments and discussions held in the working groups at IPSI-6, plus a brief discussion of the current situation within IPSI.

Strategic Objective 1: Increase Knowledge of SEPLS and make Information widely accessible

Questionnaire results:



In general, IPSI members seem to contribute to the PAs of SO 1 about equally, though the most contributions are made to PAs e, g, f, a, h and b. These are generally related to knowledge management issues, especially indigenous and local knowledge (ILK). Relatively few members want IPSI to prioritize PAs b, d and h in the future, which are generally related to promotion of SEPLS issues to outside bodies.

Respondents provided many examples of their contributions, including research and validation of SEPLS-related theories through science, production of case studies and best practices, different communication strategies including from videos to word-of-mouth, networking and also on-the-ground activities and education.

Discussion results:

The Working Group on this SO at IPSI-6 also focused on similar issues, with members suggesting that IPSI should produce an annual flagship report to consolidate members' achievements, including a mechanism to track contributions to the PAs, and also to further the process of translation of IPSI documents to make them more accessible within the partnership. Discussions by the Steering Committee indicated that IPSI should do more to publicize positive outcomes both within and beyond the partnership, especially those related to SDM, in order to attract more diverse funding sources for IPSI activities.

Current situation within IPSI:

As of September 2016, the number of case studies collected and published on the IPSI website has increased to 88, which, while representing a steady increase, is still only close to half of the 190 member organizations. There have, however, been improvements in the follow-up process, noted as a problem in the PoA. An analysis of the first 80 case studies was carried out by UNU-IAS and IGES and completed in 2015 with the publication of a summary report. An annual publication series has also been initiated titled the "Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review", bringing together case studies on a given theme along with synthesis and lessons learned. The publication process includes a workshop for the authors to discuss their cases and share insights and suggestions. The second volume was completed in late 2016. Following the Satoyama Initiative Regional Workshop in Africa in August 2015, IPSI case studies and others from Africa were also collected in a publication titled "SEPLS in Africa" along with a synthesis chapter.

While the number and variety of publications directly and indirectly related to SEPLS produced by the Secretariat and all other IPSI members has increased, the majority of those that come to the attention of the Secretariat and are shared within the partnership are not peer-reviewed academic work, but are for a general audience or of a semi-academic nature like those in the paragraph above. The need for a solid academic basis for SEPLS approaches continues to be of some concern. Many of IPSI's collaborative activities now make an effort to contribute to the knowledge base, notably the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) Project and the "GEF-Satoyama Project" which has knowledge management as one of its core components, but also many others. Based on IPSI's experience to date, the Secretariat has identified the need to emphasize "integrate traditional ecological knowledge and modern science"—a part of the Satoyama Initiative's Three-fold Approach—in expanding the knowledge base in the future.

The Secretariat and individual members continue to make active efforts to disseminate promotional materials and publications like the above at many conferences and meetings, as well as to share knowledge at events including CBD COP and other meetings, IUCN Congresses, and others. Thanks in part to these efforts, members report that the Satoyama Initiative is more well-known than it was in the past, although there are still gaps in understanding even among people involved in closely related fields including parties to the CBD.

Findings and future recommendations:

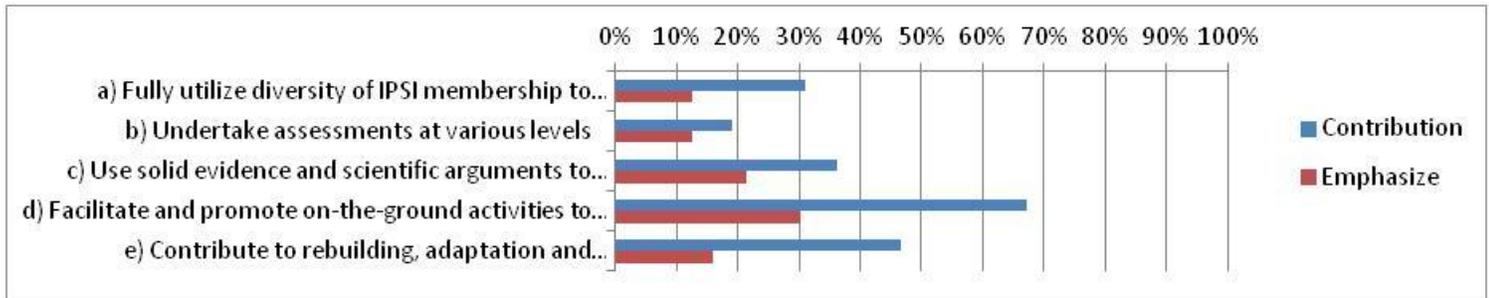
Findings for this SO seem to show that members are more focused on management of the knowledge base related to SEPLS, and less so on wider promotion, and therefore are in agreement with other sections of this review in saying that IPSI is moving into a second phase of implementation and consolidation, building on its first phase of establishment and expansion.

The following points stand out from discussions of SO 1:

- All of the PAs should be promoted, as they are interconnected and complementary.
- ILK held by communities helps to understand local perceptions. There is a great risk of losing traditional knowledge.
- While generating a huge body of information is critical, it is also important to translate lessons into policy to influence real-world actions.
- Outcomes already produced should be communicated and publicized more actively in order to make IPSI attractive to diverse potential funders.
- IPSI may be ready to begin to shift from expansion of a broad member base toward consolidation and implementation among the membership it already has, in order to function effectively as a partnership.

Strategic Objective 2: Address the direct and underlying causes responsible for the decline or loss of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services from SEPLS

Questionnaire results:



For SO 2, the PAs can be broadly categorized as those related to research (a, b and c) and those related to on-the-ground activities (d and e). There seems to be a preference, especially in terms of contribution, toward those related to on-the-ground activities, with facilitation on-the-ground also being the most desired area for future emphasis. It should be noted that a few respondents also indicated that all PA should be emphasized equally in future due to their interconnectedness.

Discussion results:

IPSI-6 discussions highlighted the importance of combining traditional knowledge and modern science within the research side, and pointed out that an ecosystem-based clustering within IPSI may be the most effective approach for knowledge sharing and collaboration. A web-based information clearing-house was proposed as a mechanism for information sharing. In terms of on-the-ground activities, training workshops and sharing of product-marketing strategies were proposed as concrete measures. Participants also noted the cross-cutting nature between SO 2 and SO 3, and once again noted the need to strengthen collaboration between members, including support by the IPSI Secretariat for collaborative activities.

Discussions by the Steering Committee also highlighted the need to emphasize or consider underlying causes that have not been included as much in IPSI materials to date, including climate change, urbanization, rural abandonment and a loss of connection between urban dwellers and the landscapes that provide ecosystem services needed for their well-being, and policy-engagement issues. It was pointed out that there is a need for effective assessment of activities and progress made, particularly in regions with low intra-regional communication such as Africa.

Current situation within IPSI:

At the time of this review, the COMDEKS Project is nearing the end of its two-phase project period, having produced landscape strategies and provided funding for selected projects in 20 countries. Following this good example, other IPSI collaborative activities and individual member projects have put resources into effective on-the-ground projects. IPSI events are considered to be opportunities to share good practices and concrete plans and for consolidation of the diverse activities of IPSI members.

Collection and consolidation of the information and lessons learned held by all members continues to be a challenge despite the Secretariat's efforts to serve as a clearing house and the production of knowledge products discussed under Strategic Objective 1. A major coordinated effort to assess SEPLS at local, national and global levels continues to be raised periodically but remains beyond current capacities, although efforts are now beginning to analyze SEPLS-related policy issues in NBSAPs, partly in response to the need identified in the PoA.

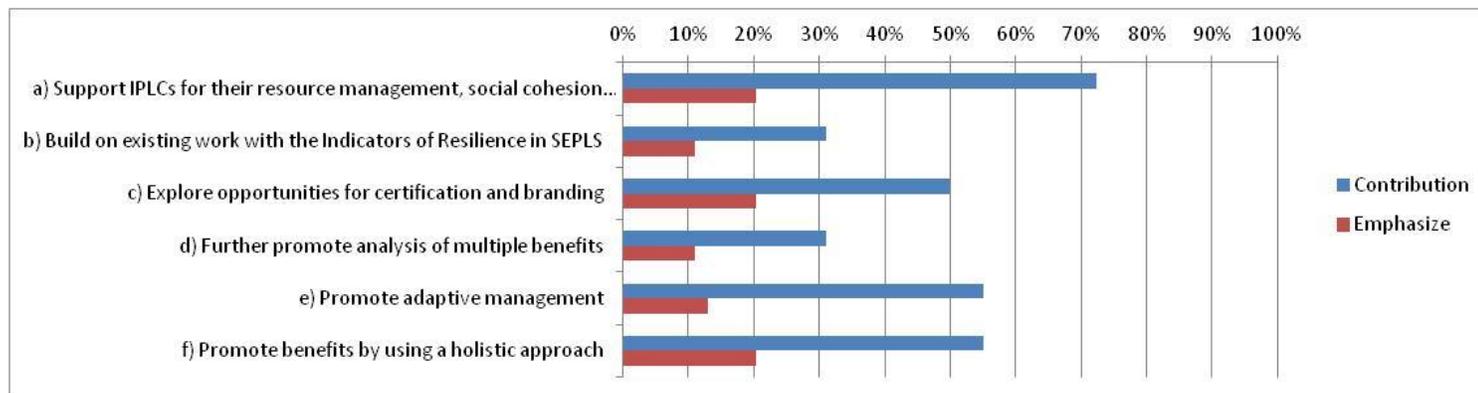
Findings and future recommendations:

Key points raised from the review of SO 2 include:

- Empowerment of local communities is the core issue because vulnerabilities at the community level are the root cause for most of the issues related to poverty, hunger and loss of biodiversity.
- IPSI should contribute to facilitate and promote on-the-ground activities to empower local communities to evaluate, assess, and manage SEPLS.
- There is a great need for primary data from the field to make decision-making more practical and action-oriented, so building the scientific basis for a SEPLS approach should be a key priority in the future.

Strategic Objective 3: Enhance benefits from SEPLS

Questionnaire results:



Questionnaire respondents' contributions to the relatively specific PAs for SO 3 show that a high percentage of respondents are involved in supporting IPLCs—reflecting recent trends in conservation—and somewhat fewer are concerned with the Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS and analysis of multiple benefits. It seems possible that these latter were not familiar to many respondents. Responses for emphasis in the future follow mostly the same trend, with a holistic approach and support for IPLCs fairly high, and certification and branding also a popular choice for the future, a concept that has come up before in IPSI discussions. It seems that the more popular PAs seem to enhance benefits directly, while the others emphasize a more analytical, managerial approach. This observation seems to be consistent throughout the questionnaire results.

Discussion results:

Discussions at IPSI-6 emphasized the need to consider climate change in priority actions, as well as to identify further sources of funding. Certification and branding were discussed again as positive directions in the present and future, and analysis and enhancement of value chains were particularly highlighted. Overall, the importance of linking conservation with livelihood benefits was mentioned as a key factor.

Current situation within IPSI:

In the course of this review, many IPSI members reported on their activities that enhance benefits from SEPLS. Examples receiving seed funding from SDM include production and marketing of fruit products in Uganda, tea in Chinese Taipei and medicinal wood products in India. Several of these activities have been reported on at IPSI events, and also featured in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review, the second volume of which has the theme “mainstreaming concepts and approaches of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes into policy and decision-making”.

Although not mentioned highly in the questionnaire results, the development and application of the “Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS” and their “Toolkit” through IPSI collaborative activities have been a key factor not only in COMDEKS but in helping many communities to understand and address challenges facing their SEPLS. The Indicators have now been used in more than 30 countries and translated into several languages, and are an integral part of the “GEF-Satoyama Project” following on the model learned from COMDEKS. A need for the future will be a central web-based location for information about the Indicators and their application worldwide. This would be an integral part of IPSI's role as a kind of clearing house for SEPLS-related knowledge.

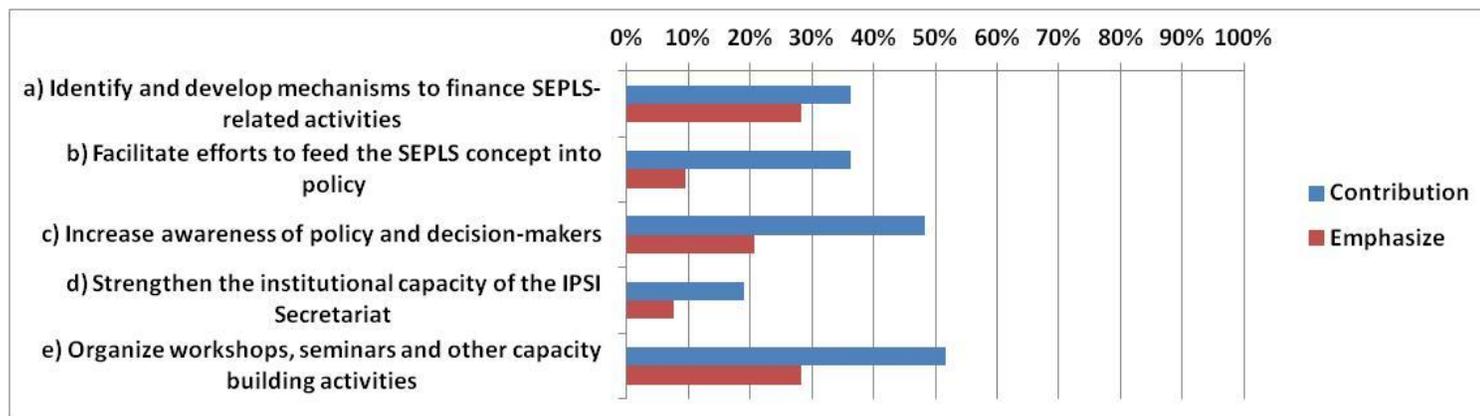
Findings and future recommendations:

Some key points coming out of SO 3 were:

- SEPLS approaches are adaptive and holistic, and bottom-up approaches and participatory conservation and development are effective bases for actions.
- Both researchers and the general public need to be made aware of benefits from SEPLS.
- Creating market linkages and tangible economic benefits from sustainable production in SEPLS are increasingly important. This could be a topic for a future Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review.
- Branding and certification are ideas that have come up repeatedly among IPSI members.
- The Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS have been used in key IPSI on-the-ground activities, but are still not as widely known or used among the rest of the IPSI membership.
- Conservation must be linked to livelihood benefits.

Strategic Objective 4: Enhance the human, institutional and sustainable financial capacities for the implementation of the Satoyama Initiative

Questionnaire results:



Responses to the PAs of SO 4 seem to show two preferences: PA that include supporting administrative bodies are seen as less attractive to emphasize in future compared to those that involve direct implementation; and policy integration is relatively undervalued for emphasis among IPSI members. This seems to follow findings from the other SOs, which show that IPSI members are ready for direct, on-the-ground implementation of the SEPLS concept, rather than emphasizing institution building for the next phase of IPSI's development.

Discussion results:

Similar to the questionnaire results, discussions at IPSI-6 emphasized that for institutional capacity-building, IPSI should focus on grass-roots and community institutions, because integrating SEPLS concepts into policy will also require local efforts promoting SEPLS and implementing respective measures on-the-ground. Participants in IPSI-6 also suggested that needs analysis should be carried out to identify target groups for capacity-building efforts, looking for synergies to increase effects and save scarce funding. These discussions also emphasized contributions to policy more than the questionnaire responses would seem to indicate, especially using IPSI channels to cooperate with governments.

Discussions by the Steering Committee particularly emphasized the need for diversification of funding for IPSI's core activities including supporting the IPSI Secretariat at UNU-IAS. Funding is currently provided only from one source, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and has been tied to the Aichi Targets process, meaning that after the timeframe of the Aichi Targets ends in 2020, it may become more difficult to secure this funding. It was pointed out that for this issue, "forewarned is forearmed", and that efforts should begin sooner rather than later to find reliable long-term funding.

The Steering Committee also spoke positively about the development of domestic networks for the Satoyama Initiative, currently established in Japan, Chinese Taipei and Uganda, and suggested that this process should be further encouraged in more countries.

Current situation within IPSI:

IPSI continues to hold Global Conferences, Regional Workshops and other events regularly for networking and capacity building. To streamline the functions of IPSI itself, its founding "Operational Framework" was updated into an "IPSI Charter" and "IPSI Operational Guidelines", approved at IPSI-5 in October 2014. The Secretariat has also been working actively on developing documentation related to its functioning, including Case Study and Collaborative Activity guidelines and the publication of the "IPSI Handbook", which brings together all strategic documents in one booklet. Outside of the partnership itself, capacity has been improved through the establishment of networks for the Satoyama Initiative in Japan and Uganda, and plans to establish one in Chinese Taipei in the near future.

Three funding mechanisms have been developed as IPSI collaborative activities to date: the COMDEKS Project, the Satoyama Development Mechanism (SDM) and the "GEF-Satoyama Project". In addition to its funding component, the GEF-Satoyama Project includes training and capacity-building as a major component and has carried out training workshops to train facilitators in the "Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS". COMDEKS and SDM have also both supported projects with the specific goal of building local capacities. Funding and capacity building remain challenges and priorities for IPSI, and efforts continue to both increase resources and make the most of those available. Funding for the IPSI Secretariat and its core work is still

provided from only one source, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and therefore diversification here is also desirable to avoid any instability in future budgeting cycles.

Findings and future recommendations:

A few overall lessons coming from the review of SO 4:

- IPSI members would like to see workshops related to SEPLS and other capacity-building efforts, with an emphasis on direct benefits to members.
- Funding is, as always, a big concern for many members, so synergies and effective pathways for allocation should be pursued.
- In particular, it is vital to pursue reliable, long-term funding for IPSI's core activities up to and beyond 2020.

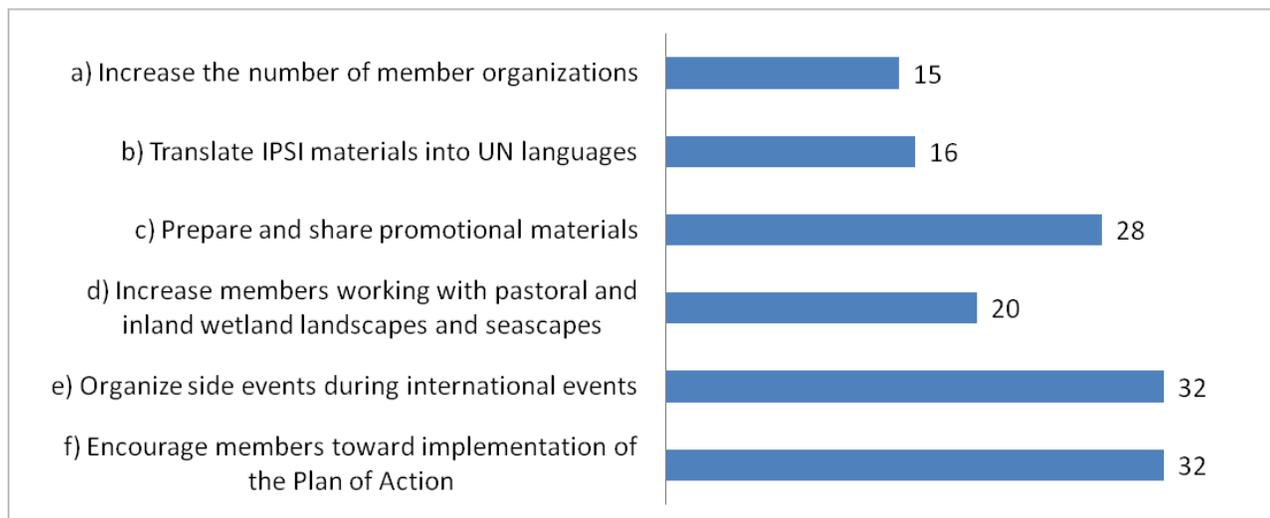
IV. Planned Measures in the Plan of Action

The questionnaire survey also asked IPSI members about the three “Mechanisms to Implement Priority Actions” and the “Planned Measures” listed for each mechanism, asking each respondent to choose up to three Planned Measures they consider most important.

The graphs below show the number of the 55 questionnaire respondents who chose each Planned Measure as one of their top three priorities, followed by analysis and observations including from discussions at IPSI-6 and others, plus a brief discussion of the current situation within IPSI.

Mechanism I: Building the Partnership

Questionnaire results:



Again, the results from Mechanism I show that increasing the number of member organizations is seen as less important compared to practical implementation, although it is noted in a number of comments that increasing numbers in under-represented categories should still be a priority.

Current situation within IPSI:

Efforts have been made to address the imbalances noted in the PoA, with active efforts to attract more members in Africa and Latin America and those working with seascapes, while there are still few members specifically related to wetlands and pastoral systems. Outreach activities such as IPSI Global Conferences and Regional Workshops or promotions and side events at other conferences have resulted in a steady increase in target regions, and could be considered specifically for other underrepresented organization types.

Membership overall continues to increase both in numbers and in general capacity of individual members, while the lack of any mechanism for what to do about inactive members means there are many long-time members who have had no contact with the partnership for years. The question has been raised of how the partnership can effectively maintain an active membership on an ongoing basis in the future. Results from the various components of this review suggest that efforts to encourage closer cooperation and integration within the existing membership may be more welcome than further expansion of the partnership, especially in areas that are already well represented.

Findings and future recommendations:

The review points toward connecting existing members for synergies, joint activities and funding opportunities, and improving the capacity of members to act, i.e., to focus on the membership’s efficiency and effectiveness. Some practical measures come out of the review, including that dissemination of promotional materials and side events at international events are considered effective, while it is noted that some types of measures are more expensive than others, so emphasis should be placed on those that are most efficient and easily implemented. Interestingly, translation of IPSI materials into UN languages other than English was not a major priority either in the questionnaire survey or at IPSI-6.

Mechanism II: Promoting Collaborative Activities (CA)

Questionnaire results:



For the most part, the Planned Measures for Mechanism II are valued nearly all relatively high. Only “review previously endorsed CA”, is considered less important, with respondents commenting that IPSI should not intervene with CAs too much, rather focusing on positively facilitating them and capitalizing on the networking power of the partnership. Similar to other results of the review, this seems to show that members prefer an emphasis on concrete actions rather than bureaucracy and institutional workings.

Current situation within IPSI:

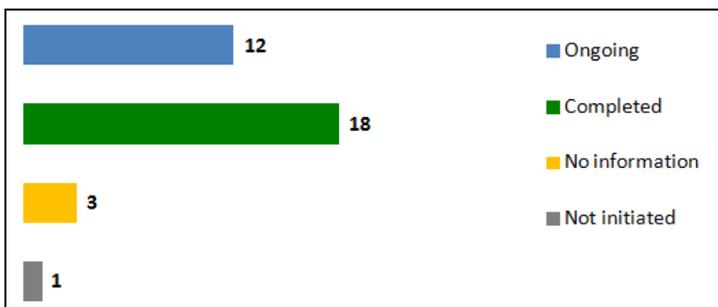
New Collaborative Activity increases beyond the 29 endorsed by 2013 were slow in the two years following, but at the time of this review, new applications have recently increased, due possibly to the development of new guidelines, proposal and reporting documentation, with 34 endorsed to date. In terms of dissemination, several activities have produced knowledge products, including yearly SDM booklets, two in-depth publications from the COMDEKS Project, the “Toolkit” and brochure related to the “Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS”, the “Kikigaki” oral history textbook, and several videos. The endorsement process to date has been very inclusive and encouraging, but the issue has recently been raised of what degree of development, progress, feasibility etc. should be required before endorsement.

Status of IPSI Collaborative Activities

As of the time of writing in August 2016, 34 IPSI Collaborative Activities (CAs) have been endorsed. A simple email survey was conducted as part of this review by contacting the contact point for each CA and asking for any updated information. More than half of the endorsed CAs have been successfully completed, another third are still ongoing, and one proposed CA has not been initiated. A few CAs have not provided any updated information at all, and efforts are ongoing to look into their status. The CAs that were not initiated or for which no information is available were mostly among those proposed at the very beginning of IPSI, while more recent CAs have been evaluated more closely and generally show better planning, organization and implementation.

In general, it is considered that the mechanism for IPSI CAs has been a useful tool to implement IPSI’s goals. Comments received during the review, however, indicate that members would like more instructions, guidance and support from the IPSI Secretariat on implementing CAs.

This graph shows the current status of the IPSI CAs:



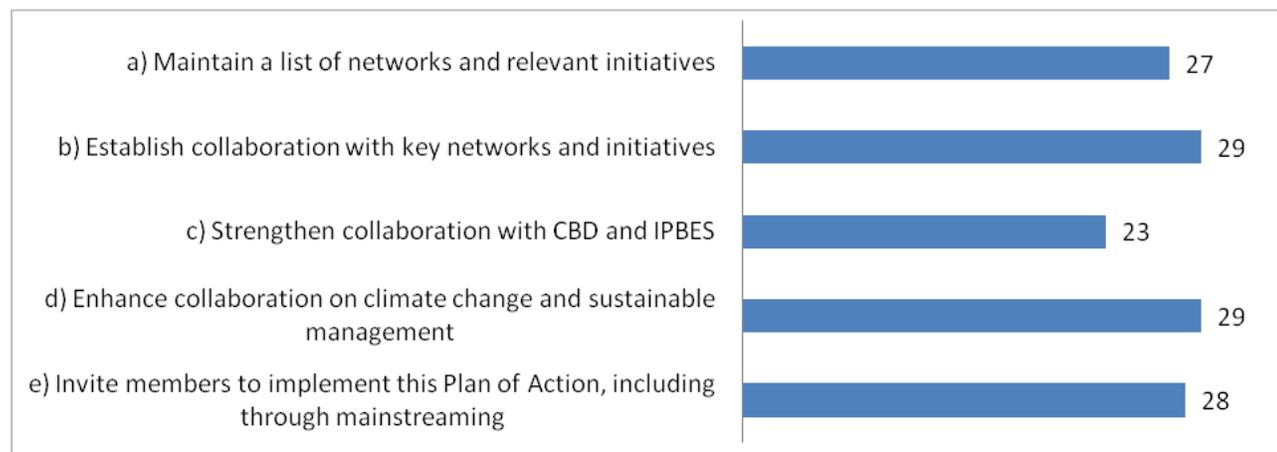
Findings and future recommendations:

Regarding CAs, some members noted that a mechanism to clarify the steps towards the development and proposal of CAs would be helpful and could help to strengthen collaboration. It was also suggested that larger IPSI members should be encouraged to contact smaller IPSI members working in the same landscape. In this light, it was suggested that IPSI could place greater emphasis at the regional level in addition to the global level, and continue organizing regional meetings.

In Steering Committee discussions, it was suggested that the IPSI Secretariat should continue and where necessary increase its efforts to actively foster CAs by bringing members together, promoting capacity-building and funding mechanisms including SDM, and communicating outcomes of successful CA activities actively within and beyond the IPSI network, particularly by using contributions to reaching the SDGs as a means of communicating successes to outsiders.

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

Questionnaire results:



The Planned Measures for Mechanism III were generally considered about equally important by respondents, seeming to indicate that collaboration in general is a valued priority for IPSI, over a broad range of areas and institutions. The CBD and IPBES are not as strongly singled out for future collaboration, possibly due to IPSI's already strong connection to both of them, and several others are mentioned in comments, including: UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme, and also GIAHS; various researchers' work on "Social-Ecological Systems" (SES); UN and other international organizations; and the ICCA Consortium.

Current situation within IPSI:

IPSI and its members have continued to seek collaboration and organize events along with major processes including CBD COP, SBSTTA and SBI, IUCN's World Parks and World Conservation Congresses and others. New cooperation has also begun with other initiatives including the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on biocultural diversity and UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme. Individual members and Secretariat staff have been actively working with IPBES and GIAHS in various capacities. The Secretariat continues to consider how to ensure that full advantage is taken of these collaborations and that IPSI is not working at cross-purposes with other initiatives.

Findings and future recommendations:

Discussions throughout the review process reflected members' enthusiasm for collaboration and IPSI's CA mechanism, with a strong emphasis on the need for identifying funding opportunities. Mainstreaming SEPLS concepts not only in policy but also in donor organizations was identified as a key priority, both within and beyond IPSI partners. Similarly, the need to share experiences and enhance awareness within and beyond the partnership was proposed as a method to achieve this. The possibility of some kind of "IPSI mega-projects", which has been raised in discussions before, was raised again, including the point that such projects would need to include large collective fundraising efforts.

V. Conclusions

Overall findings:

The interim review process summarized here provided a great deal of information and insight into the effectiveness of the PoA itself and also the progress of IPSI in general over its first several years of existence. IPSI members' responses and contributions to the review were extremely diverse, and spanned a wide variety of opinions, activities and lessons learned. For this reason, the findings of the review are difficult to fully encapsulate. Still, some major points stand out as outcomes of the process.

First, the questionnaire survey showed that IPSI members generally find that **the PoA is a well-made document and is generally in line with their priorities and goals for the partnership**. This is evidenced by the very large number of positive responses to questions about whether the members contribute to the PoA's Priority Actions, and the many examples of such contributions. This was backed up in Steering Committee discussions and at IPSI-6, with participants mostly emphasizing further implementation of the PoA, rather than points of dissatisfaction with the document.

From expansion to consolidation and implementation:

Next, where IPSI-6 and Steering Committee discussions pointed out areas for improvement, they mostly related to **implementation of the PoA as it is, rather than changes needed to the text**. This indicates a desire for a shift in emphasis in IPSI's activities, rather than complete changes in activities. Some areas that were pointed out for more emphasis were: seeking greater representation in the IPSI membership by underrepresented groups, such as indigenous organizations and those related to wetlands and marine seascapes; promotion of more, deeper and more effective synergies and collaborations between existing IPSI members; and bolstering the evidence-based scientific basis for the SEPLS concept in order to enable more persuasive arguments in policymaking and mainstreaming purposes. One notable point that came up as not sufficiently addressed in the PoA was the issue of climate change. It was also suggested that IPSI should consider clear targets and monitoring guidelines to guide its future strategic development.

Perhaps most importantly, the overall message of the review in both the questionnaire survey and discussions was that IPSI is now well-established and has grown to a sufficient size to be effective, and that its members prefer a **greater emphasis on consolidation and implementation rather than efforts to grow and advertise the partnership** much further. This was clear from questionnaire respondents' preferences for Priority Actions and Planned Measures that would further practical implementation over those related to awareness-raising and administration, and also from members' desire to see the IPSI Collaborative Activity mechanism clarified and bolstered.

Recommendations—knowledge management, funding diversification, broad-based contributions:

Putting together the results of the questionnaire survey and discussions at IPSI-6 and subsequent Steering Committee meetings points to some **possible future directions** for the strategic development of IPSI:

- IPSI should focus on moving from its first phase—emphasizing establishment and growth—toward a second phase—emphasizing consolidation, collaboration and implementation—maximizing the effectiveness of its existing membership and capacities while continuing to welcome promising new member organizations, especially those from underrepresented regions, organization types and areas of activity.
- Reliable long-term funding—up to and beyond 2020—must be secured to continue IPSI's core functions, recognizing that the single major financial source for these functions, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, intends to contribute through the timeframe of the Aichi Targets, which were produced to be achieved by 2020.
- The science side of the SEPLS concept should be further bolstered, particularly in terms of integrating traditional knowledge and modern science.
- Knowledge products should be pursued to demonstrate the advantage of SEPLS-based approaches within and beyond IPSI, particularly through collaborative research and knowledge generation.
- Diverse and creative funding opportunities should be explored, particularly those that will take advantages of IPSI's strengths and encourage collaboration for effective, practical action.
- Efforts should continue to be made toward on-the-ground contributions in as broad a range of SEPLS as possible, while also keeping in mind the balance of practical, on-the-ground effectiveness versus administrative and institutional capacities.
- The further expansion of domestic networks for the Satoyama Initiative should be encouraged.

Strategic development in line with the CBD's post-2020 strategic plan:

One purpose of this review process was to provide some guidance for IPSI's strategic development after the timeframe of this PoA, including the final review of the PoA that is also called for. During the process, it was pointed out that one of IPSI's major reasons for being has been to facilitate the achievement of the CBD's Aichi Targets, which have their own timeframe ending in 2020, at which point they will be replaced with a new plan, also incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in 2015.

For this reason, the years from the time of this review until 2020 will be of vital importance to IPSI's future strategic direction. Based on this timeframe and the results of this review, in order to move forward in an effective manner, the IPSI Steering Committee and Secretariat recommend that:

- The PoA should be revised and updated—according to its provision in paragraph 5 that it is “subject to regular adjustment and revision”—as the “IPSI Plan of Action 2013-2020”, incorporating updated priorities and lessons learned through this review process.
- The time up until 2020 should be used to develop the next action plan to reflect the development of the CBD's post-2020 strategic plan, i.e. after the Aichi Targets.
- Along with development of the next action plan in 2020, consideration should also be given to updating the IPSI Strategy in line with the CBD's post-2020 strategic plan.

Acknowledgements:

The IPSI Secretariat would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the interim review process, especially those who submitted responses to the questionnaire survey and those who actively engaged in discussions at IPSI-6 and in Steering Committee discussions. The IPSI Secretariat also thanks the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, for its continued financial support of the Secretariat and its operations.

Annex: Diagram of proposed IPSI strategic development

IPSI Strategic Development

