

Expert Thematic Workshop on Landscape Approaches for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Date: 3–6 September 2019 (Back-to-back with the Eighth IPSI Global Conference scheduled on 2–3 September.)

Venue: Kumamoto, Japan

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

In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), and the Kumamoto Prefectural Government

Introduction and mandate

In 2018, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision 14/34 “Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹”, which requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate implementation of the process. Decision 14/34 also decided that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be accompanied by an inspirational and motivating 2030 mission as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision “Living in harmony with nature”.

Additionally, Decision 14/34 goes further and urges:

- *Parties and invites other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, United Nations organizations and programmes, other multilateral environmental agreements, subnational governments, cities and local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, women’s groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and other stakeholders, to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation; and*
- *Parties, according to their capabilities, and encourages other Governments and all relevant organizations and stakeholders in a position to do so to provide timely financial contributions and other support to the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including by offering to host global, regional, sectoral, or thematic consultations on this issue.*²

In response to this decision, UNU-IAS, with support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and the Kumamoto Prefectural Government, will hold an expert thematic workshop on landscape approaches to biodiversity conservation, in order to explore the potential of landscape approaches in terrestrial and coastal landscapes and as a contribution towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf>

² For more details, please refer to CBD Decision 14/34: “Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf>

Background

The most recent Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services produced by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) identified that for terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, land-use change has had the largest relative negative impact on nature since the 1970s and that in marine ecosystems, sea-use change is also the cause of large and widespread impact on the world's oceans.³

UNU-IAS's extensive work with the Satoyama Initiative has provided a strong basis for the idea that landscapes and seascapes are highly influenced by humans' production activities – for example, customary places with sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries practices – can be multipurpose and contribute to both production, human well-being, identity and culture. Such areas can be managed well for biodiversity conservation through sustainable use, contributing towards the objectives of the CBD. Diverse examples of traditional agricultural heritage systems are recognized and promoted by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, under the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) programme. Furthermore, the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity⁴ has provided evidence that the diversity of both human cultures and biodiversity is intimately linked and mutually dependent, meaning that some cultures have co-evolved with biodiversity as their diverse cultures are place-based.

Given that conversion of natural lands and waters to agriculture and aquaculture is a leading cause of biodiversity loss, mainstreaming biodiversity into production sectors has never been so important as it is today. Evidence shows that integrated landscape- and seascape-based approaches can build diverse sustainable, productive and resilient systems that can contribute to conservation, provide ecosystem services and increase human well-being, as opposed to fragmented approaches that are based on single economic sectors, single-species conservation, strictly protected areas, or other measure.

The expert thematic workshop on landscape and seascape approaches for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is planned from 3–6 September 2019 in Kumamoto, Japan. This will include a field visit to nearby Aso, a GIAHS site, and the Minamata coastal area. The workshop is scheduled back-to-back with the Eighth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI-8) and will include participants of IPSI-8 as well as invited experts from CBD Parties and related organizations to ensure geographical, gender, representation and a wide array of perspectives.

Purpose

The purpose of the expert thematic workshop is to bring together policymakers, IPLCs, relevant stakeholders and experts to consolidate lessons learned from landscape and seascape approaches, in the context of CBD, and to produce concrete recommendations as inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in order to achieve the Convention's vision of living in harmony with Nature by 2050.

Plan of the Workshop

Date: 3-6 September 2019

Venue: Kumamoto, Japan

³ <https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-summary-policymakers-pdf>

⁴ Between the Convention on Biodiversity and UNESCO

Organizers: United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS); in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and the Kumamoto Prefectural Government and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

Language: English only (English-Japanese translation for the Public Forum)

Thematic Streams / Working Group themes:

- Session 1: State and trends of landscape and seascape management
 - Coastal management
 - Degradation and restoration
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Cultural landscapes – nature and culture and the links between biological and cultural diversity
 - Area-based conservation (protected areas and OECMs)
- Session 2: Enabling environment
 - Sustainable agriculture
 - Scientific assessment
 - Links to SDGs and related policy frameworks
 - Sustainable economic systems for landscapes and seascapes
 - Gender
- Session 3: Implementation
 - Resource mobilization and capacity building
 - Communications and CEPA
 - Monitoring/Reporting/Evaluation
 - NBSAPs and national-level policy
 - Mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors

Draft Organization of Work

Day 1 Opening plenary (afternoon session)

Background presentations, including the process and scope of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework based on the COP-14 decisions, scientific information from IPBES, explanation of various issues, etc.

- Purpose of the regional and thematic consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Initial remarks and expectations from OEWG co-chairs, workshop co-chairs, local hosts, etc.
- Key findings and implications of the IPBES Global Assessment
- Introduction and explanation of the NBSAP research project report and guidance (for participants to review when they have time)
- Explanation of the structure, format, and organization of work of the workshop, including working groups
- Explanation of the planned outcomes and ongoing process after the workshop

A reception will be held in the evening.

Day 2

Morning

Thematic Stream 1:

The discussion will be conducted in working groups by themes (see themes under “Session 1: State and trends of landscape and seascape management” above). Each group will consider a sub-theme related to landscape and seascape. A background document and guiding questions will be prepared for each

group including basic background information, relevant decisions and policies, and some draft idea recommendations for participants to consider and refine.

Lunchtime session

A lunchtime session will be held on the NBSAP research project, introducing the guidance document and seeking discussion and inputs from participants.

Afternoon

Joint IPSI-8 / Expert Thematic Workshop Public Forum

An event will be held, open to the general public, to publicize the work of IPSI and the CBD towards the post-2020 framework, including general discussion of landscape and seascape approaches and involving coastal issues.

Draft programme:

- Remarks by hosting organizations
- Keynote presentations
- Panel:
 - Representatives of local landscapes and seascapes
 - International panelists

Day 3

Morning

Plenary:

- Brief “catch of the day” and explanation of the schedule

Thematic Stream 2:

- A second session of working groups will be held, using the same procedure as the previous day’s working group session (see themes under “Session 2: Enabling environment” above). This session will focus mainly on issues related to creating an enabling environment in which landscape and seascape approaches can be most effective.

Afternoon

Thematic Stream 3:

- A third session of working groups will be held (see themes under “Session 3: Implementation” above). This one will focus mainly on implementation.

Plenary:

- Brief report-back from groups
- Explanation of the follow-up process
- Closing statements, comments etc.

Day 4

For the last day, a field visit will be held to visit landscapes and seascapes in the area.

Follow-up process

Because there will be no detailed reporting back or summing-up during the workshop itself, the follow-up process will be critical. Notes and draft recommendations from each group will be collected and compiled by UNU-IAS, and brought together into a draft document, which will then be sent out to all participants for feedback, changes, and additions. After the feedback process, the finalized report will be submitted to the CBD.