

Chair's Summary of Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue 2009/10/15-16

- At the G8 environment ministers meeting in Kobe in 2008, the ministers agreed on the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity”. Based on this Call, the Government of Japan announced to the international community its commitment to hold a “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue” to promote information exchange and dialogue among various stakeholders including governments, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), researchers, and international organizations.
- Fulfilling this commitment, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, Aichi-Nagoya COP10 Promotion Committee and Japan Airlines, convened the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue” on 15-16 October 2009 in Kobe City. Various topics were actively discussed by some 300 participants from governments, international organizations, the private sector, NGOs and academia, in preparation for the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be held in Nagoya in 2010.
- Among other issues expected to be discussed at COP10 next year, private sector engagement in the implementation of the CBD and revision of the CBD Strategic Plan (post 2010 target framework) were highlighted and various views from different perspectives were expressed at this meeting.
- At its opening, Mr. Issei Tajima, Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment of the Japanese Government, Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, and Mr. Masaki Mashita, Advisor of the Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, made welcoming remarks.
- In his key note speech, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, provided an overview of plans for COP10, its significance, issues and challenges including the long-term Strategic Plan of the convention and the development of a post-2010 target for biodiversity and ecosystem services. He also expressed his confidence in Japan's leadership as the host country of COP10. Mr. Masaki Suzuki, Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, then introduced Japan's efforts in support of biodiversity and expressed its commitment to COP10.
- The following is a summary of this meeting, which is commended to the Parties of the Convention.

Progress and challenges of the private sector engagement

- In the CBD process, a Decision on private sector engagement (VIII/17) was adopted at COP8 in Curitiba, Brazil in 2006, and another Decision to accelerate private sector engagement (IX/26) was adopted at COP9 in Bonn, Germany last year. These decisions have facilitated the advancement of the private sector's efforts in support of biodiversity conservation.
- In this meeting in Kobe, business associations such as Nippon Keidanren, Shiga Prefectural Business Federation, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), as well as the Governments of Germany and Japan, reported on various declarations, tools, guidelines and their financial support for NGO activities, related to private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation. The presentations were followed by lively discussions.

- As a basis for discussion, panelists shared recognition that we should develop a balance among ethical, scientific, and economic approaches for tackling biodiversity challenges.
- In their presentations, panelists reported on the progress of private sector activities for the conservation of biodiversity, and highlighted the important role of the private sector in promoting the conservation of biodiversity. In addition, they stressed the necessity for collaboration between the private sector and other parts of society. The advancement of private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation was highlighted as one of the successful examples of progress towards the 2010 target.
- Presenters noted that several declarations on private sector engagement have been adopted, and practical guidelines and tools have been developed. In particular, tools for quantitative assessments of biodiversity, including economic assessments, are being developed. It is expected that such tools can enable corporations to take more concrete and voluntary measures in an appropriate fashion. In this regard, it was pointed out that companies tend not to manage what cannot be quantitatively evaluated and measured.
- On the other hand, the importance of cultural ecosystem services, which cannot be easily measured in a quantitative manner, should also be recognized. Among other points, the view was expressed that business should support sustainable lifestyles and values through their local activities, and that efforts should be made to communicate the importance of biodiversity to the public by taking advantage of close relationships between the local community and corporations. This is in line with the concept of “Sanpo-yoshi”*, upheld by Ohmi merchants, a business group that succeeded in the Edo era.

*“Sanpo-yoshi” means good in three ways in direct translation. Merchants in the Ohmi (the old name of Shiga) in Japan believed that benefits for sellers, customers, and society are the key to the success of their businesses.

- Cultural values are diverse all over the world, but environments and cultures in all parts of the world are deeply connected with biodiversity. A challenge for the private sector is how to connect their various local activities with global targets for biodiversity, in collaboration with NGOs and local communities. Participants shared recognition that mechanisms are needed for experiences of good practice to be shared among different communities.
- For the private sector, it is important that examples of practical action and realistic options for biodiversity conservation are communicated in an easy-to-understand manner. Capacity-building, technology transfer and information-sharing are also essential ingredients for biodiversity conservation and it is important for corporations to communicate their experiences and knowledge globally.
- In sum, participants recognized that there are diverse ethical, scientific and economic perspectives on biodiversity conservations, as well as differences in global, regional, and local perspectives. Hence corporations and scientists, together with civil society, should work together to search for solutions to biodiversity challenges.
- Views were expressed that globalization of the economy has weakened the awareness of corporations and consumers that ecosystem services are the basis of our life. In addition, as a result of urbanization, citizens, and above all children, are losing direct contact with nature in their daily lives. It was pointed out that it is important to give children chances to physically experience nature in order to build support for biodiversity, and that we should pay more attention to the relationship between cities

and biodiversity.

- The role of business' customers and their ability to influence corporate activities was also highlighted, as well as the power of NGOs and governments to affect the behaviors of consumers, in particular, children and women.
- It was acknowledged that there exist, in various countries and regions, complex biodiversity and ecosystem services, and cultures based on them; and that diverse stakeholders are making efforts to implement various commitments to biodiversity. In addition, an understanding was reached among participants that we should launch an integrated platform to enhance dialogues among different sectors such as private, public, and government sectors, continuously and actively.
- Risks and opportunities for business and biodiversity were discussed, following presentations on business practices related to biodiversity in various business sectors, such as industries with a large "footprint" on biodiversity, those that depend on biodiversity for essential inputs to production, financial service providers, and entrepreneurs developing new biodiversity business models.
- Business activities influence as well as depend on biodiversity, creating risks and opportunities that are increasingly seen as significant for corporate strategies. Some sectors have greater responsibilities for biodiversity loss than others; however, all business sectors are affected by the fact that societal interest in biodiversity is mounting, while they also face increasing constraints on access to natural resources.
- Measurement, valuation and disclosure of biodiversity impacts are important first steps for corporations, which need to review their corporate governance and investment strategies based on those results. In addition, it is important for business to test new tools and approaches such as GIS/mapping tools, supply chain management, biodiversity offsets for direct impacts, among others, while at the same time, continuing to develop and implement cost-effective tools such as recycling, energy efficiency, reduction in CO₂ emissions, sustainable forest management, etc.
- Biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration offer growing business opportunities. There is a need to, review experiences at an international level regarding the application to biodiversity of "no net loss" or "net positive impacts". Other biodiversity business opportunities include the potential to reduce water supply and treatment costs through watershed protection; enhancing reputation/brand through certification and labeling schemes; and developing new products and markets (e.g. biotech, bio-mimicry, REDD).
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into business is being achieved through voluntary corporate actions as well as market-oriented enabling policy and regulation, development of new biodiversity business tools, financing instruments and communication. In this context, it is important to consider including various sectors such as financial and business services, which advise, fund and manage risks for private sector projects.
- Integrating biodiversity into business can also contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development more generally. Where appropriate, governments can facilitate pro-poor biodiversity business by establishing innovative finance and incentive mechanisms, such as payment for ecosystem services, at local, national, and international levels.
- Participants shared a recognition that private sector participation is also important in the provision and management of information on biodiversity. In addition, it was pointed out that any international commitments for biodiversity, including a CBD Strategic Plan to be

adopted at COP10, should be clear and measurable for the private sector. It is highly difficult to measure biodiversity itself at this stage, but it is possible to evaluate some components of biodiversity, for instance endangered species or the extent and health of different eco-systems.

- Participants shared a view that the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 will offer a unique opportunity to communicate the essential role of biodiversity conservation in sustainable development.

Revision of the CBD Strategic Plan (post 2010 target framework)

- An Evaluation of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target, which calls for a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and a revision of the CBD Strategic Plan, are expected to be discussed at COP10.
- In this meeting, the current 2010 target was assessed and possible options for the post 2010 target framework were discussed. IUCN outlined 4 options for the post 2010 target framework and Government of Japan introduced their draft proposal on post 2010 targets. Initial findings from The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) study were also presented. Views from civil society organizations in Japan on the post-2010 target were expressed and potential indicators for monitoring and target settings, such as the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, were also described.
- It was noted that the 2010 target is unlikely to be achieved. Challenges and weakness of the 2010 target were highlighted, notably that the 2010 Biodiversity Target was: too abstract and unclear; difficult to quantitatively evaluate, lacking a clear baseline or effective means of implementation. Learning from the experience of the 2010 target, it was suggested that the post 2010 target should be challenging but realistic, achievable and measurable on a scientific basis. The post 2010 target should offer a framework which can be used to evaluate positive effort, and as such a target for all stakeholders.
- In the development and implementation of a new Strategic Plan, the engagement of several sectors and stakeholders, including government, NGOs, the private sector, citizens, and researchers, is indispensable. The new CBD Strategic Plan should be a living document, regularly reviewed and updated as new information and technology become available.
- It was pointed out that we should continue to emphasize the close and complex relationship between biodiversity and climate change. Biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being are all part of the same equation and need to be considered together.
- The on-going study of the TEEB initiated by the G8 environment ministers, will be the most comprehensive compilation of economic information relevant to a wide range of audiences interested in the improved management of biodiversity and ecosystems. TEEB is expected to contribute significantly to policy dialogues in support of the CBD.
- Various stakeholders including IUCN, the Government of Japan and United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) are contributing to the on-going process of preparing a new Strategic Plan for the CBD, for consideration and adoption at Nagoya COP10. Participants welcomed the draft proposal from the Japanese Government for a post 2010 target and praised their suggestion of concrete targets and methods to achieve them. SCBD noted that the process for developing a new strategic plan will continue for several months, on a global scale.

- Participants shared a view that strengthening dialogue and the interface between science and policy-makers is essential, and that, in this context, the proposed Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has many merits.
- The Civil society can play a productive role in supporting governmental efforts to contribute to the CBD's new Strategic Plan. In particular, the involvement of citizens and NGOs in practical activities for biodiversity conservation was recognized as important.
- Some indicators for the CBD's new Strategic Plan are being developed on the basis of solid data; while other indicators have only weak statistical support. Far more work is needed to strengthen both data and indicators, and to make them more relevant. Indicators should ideally be developed along with a post-2010 vision, goal and targets. As part of this process, the parties are encouraged to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans no later than 2010 (COP11).
- In addition, financial mechanisms such as the GEF, the role of Protected Areas (PA) and local government, the *SATOYAMA* initiative proposed by the Government of Japan, the scientific monitoring systems, and a science-policy interface such as IPBES were introduced and discussed as means to help implement and achieve a post-2010 target.
- To implement the post 2010 target and in particular, to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in developing countries, the role of existing bilateral and multilateral assistance organizations such as the GEF, World Bank, Regional Development Banks and other International Organizations, was highlighted. Related to this, the negotiation process for the 5th replenishment of the GEF was discussed. However, it is necessary to expand the framework of assistance from the private sector and civil society as well as to discuss the implementation of new finance and incentive mechanisms such as REDD+ and a Green Development Mechanism. In this context, the magnitude of the financial challenge of holding biodiversity loss was highlighted.
- Moreover, it is important to promote capacity building, human resource development, and technical assistance, while also strengthening monitoring and enforcement. Since the role of the private sector in biodiversity conservation is increasing, partnerships among governments, corporations and NGOs are becoming more significant. Transfer of technology and experience of south-south cooperation in climate change could offer useful lessons.
- It was pointed out that PAs have significance not only for poverty reduction but also for cultural and social sustainability. In this regard, participants shared a view that it is essential to improve the management of existing PAs, while also expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The importance of PAs in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, and the need to analyze the social and economic costs and benefit of PAs was also highlighted. It was noted that civil society also plays an important role in developing and expanding PAs on the ground.
- Participants highlighted the need for International targets for Marine biodiversity conservation to be developed and implemented.
- Participants focused on appropriate management and assessment of MPAs, integrated responses to Climate Change and other marine conservation actions. Particular attention should be given to marine and freshwater biodiversity in the Post 2010 strategy.

- It is important to conserve and promote sustainable use of biodiversity both inside and outside PAs. The *SATOYAMA* initiative could contribute internationally as an example or tool to support implementation of the post 2010 targets. In this connection, the establishment of a “*SATOYAMA* International Partnership” was suggested, to promote information sharing and discussion on natural resource management, while also facilitating the collection and analysis of examples from around the world. The approaches of PAs and *SATOYAMA* or similar initiatives would need to be guided by sound scientific data on biodiversity and socio-economic impacts.
- To develop effective biodiversity conservation plans, it is important to build international network and to promote the collection and application of scientific data. Furthermore, it is essential to integrate different types of data to use them more effectively. In this regard, it is necessary to expand scientific monitoring systems in cooperation with companies, citizens and NGOs, and to strengthen human resource development. Participants agreed that it is important to build a strong science-policy interface, through mechanisms such as IPBES.

Closing

- It was agreed that the outcomes from this two-day event shall be communicated widely through various processes and events leading up to COP10 next year, and also on the websites of relevant organizations. It is also essential to continue to discuss the major issues highlighted in the meeting.
- Finally, all participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, SCBD, IUCN, Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, Aichi-Nagoya COP10 Promotion Committee, Japan Airlines and others who supported this event.