

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY: LESSONS FROM PARTICIPATORY LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNDER THE SATOYAMA INITIATIVE

1 Context/Rationale

The exclusion of ecosystem-dependent communities from the management and use of local resources has been one of the drivers of ecosystem degradation around the world, causing illegal logging, poaching, overgrazing, overfishing, etc. In this context, the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) seeks to overcome the loss of biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes by promoting good practices for participatory planning and management. Many cases of community engagement have been identified among the IPSI member organisations, aiming to improve governance, to secure alternative livelihoods, and to ensure environmentally sustainable ways of production at the local level. This Session aimed to showcase some of the opportunities and challenges of participatory ecosystem use, based on the experiences accumulated under the Satoyama Initiative. The Session introduced an example of an innovative, locally-rooted form of marketing, which can act as a bridge between sustainable production and consumption. This was followed by presentations of studies by IPSI partners, as well as a panel discussion on the possibilities and challenges of community engagement for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

2 Objectives

The organisation of this parallel session aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Presenting key challenges in the use of production landscapes and seascapes arising from conflicting interests of diverse stakeholders.
2. Presenting solutions to the key challenges identified in 2-1.
3. Discussing the roles and possibilities of local community and stakeholder participation towards the realisation of sustainable production and consumption.



3 List of Speakers

[Opening Remarks]

Wataru Suzuki Senior Coordinator, International Satoyama Initiative (ISI) Programme,
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

[Keynote Speakers]

Kazuhiko Takeuchi Senior Vice-Rector, United Nations University (UNU) / Director and Professor,
Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) The University of Tokyo

Toru Fukushima President, Fukushima / Unite co., Ltd.

[Moderator]

Alfred Oteng-Yeboah National Chairman, Ghana National Biodiversity Committee

[Speakers]

Kuang-Chung Lee Associate Professor, National Dong-Hwa University

Kaoru Ichikawa Research Fellow, United Nations University Institute for
the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Hijaba Ykhanbai Director of Environment and Development Association "JASIL"

4 Key Messages

Various approaches to engage local communities in the sustainable use of SEPLS and biodiversity developed and adopted within the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative provide a number of valuable lessons.

Communication is particularly important between different stakeholders (e.g. between producers and consumers), and consensus building processes, both within the local communities (e.g. through regularly held community forums) and between the local and scientific community to be able to speak with one voice.

It is also vital to ensure human well-being beyond the generation of material wealth. An effective community engagement contributes to strengthen both the resilience of ecosystems and the "resilience of the human spirit."

5 Summary of Presentation

Kazuhiko Takeuchi pointed out that the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) was launched at CBD COP10, which adopted the Aichi Targets, and that it also shares the Aichi Targets' vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature." The Satoyama Initiative has also taken action toward achieving the second objective of the CBD, which is the "Sustainable use of biodiversity." He emphasised that the creation of new values should be pursued using local natural capital and be based on the approaches for natural resource management developed by local communities.

He also explained the key features and current challenges of the traditional home garden systems in rural areas of Asia (Viet Nam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka), and their potential to enhance resilience. He emphasised that societies are willing to pay a price for preserving the traditional system. He then explained recent initiatives for integrating Traditional and Modern Bio-production Systems and mentioned crop planting to address salination of the Red River near Hanoi as one example for enhancing ecological resilience. He also presented a series of initiatives for reconstruction of disaster-affected areas in Japan that will contribute to building a sustainable society. Examples included "*Fuyumizutambo*," a farming method to fill rice paddies with water in winter, the selling of "*Fukko-ma*" which supports restoration activities to start "*Fuyumizutambo*" in other disaster-affected paddies and the restoration of oyster farming industry. He pointed out that the Louis Vuitton Company has provided financial assistance for these projects. He

stressed the need for effective approaches through participation of various stakeholders and for locals and academia to have one voice to communicate scientific knowledge. Finally he advocated linking local and global efforts toward sustainable societies noting that while the role of local societies is to develop actual models and accumulate experiences, sharing of experiences with global communities is also important. To promote local initiatives it is important to enhance collaboration between local and global commons, and to link local activities with global frameworks, e.g. by labelling through designation or certification.

Toru Fukushima made the guest presentation on “Local community-based supermarket business”. There should be a place to enable ideas, and a supermarket can be that place. Fukushima is anchoring the production environment around the local supermarket through mutually agreed farming methods and merchandising. These measures can contribute to reducing many unnecessary losses. Fukushima agrees with many ideas suggested by producers and customers but there tends to be disagreement on specifics. He provided the example of strawberries from Ibaraki Prefecture. They are freshly picked in the morning and arrive at the supermarket by around 10 or 11 am. Some are a bit damaged but they will be turned into jam or dried, so there is no loss. According to legal regulations in Japan there are different categories that need to be followed strictly. Supermarket staff hold Product Review Meetings, at which they receive information from producers and farmers, to understand their situation better. He also illustrated other products directly obtained from local producers, such as sea bream, Sasashigure rice and “farm-fresh” rice. He explained that farming styles in Japan are on a very small scale, and that despite discussions to enlarge the scale of farming under the TPP agreement, farmers prefer to remain small scale. He stated that consumers should understand what the farmers are doing and why. In the traditional supermarkets engaging consumers in such a way has never been done earlier. Farmers contracted by Fukushima do not use fertiliser, and levels of nitrate are measured regularly. It was explained that organic products only account for less than 1%, but that some restaurants advertise they use organic products. He concluded that it is vital to have the right place for communication and that is the supermarket.

Kuang-Chung Lee presented Tailoring Satoyama initiative concepts to national and local context: A Case Study of a Rice Paddy Cultural Landscape conservation in an Indigenous Community of Taiwan. He first presented the challenges of community engagement for sustainable use of biodiversity. These include how to tailor the Satoyama concepts to fit within the national planning system and how to put them into practice. He then presented how these challenges have been largely addressed by a series of measures. Institutional arrangements and resources allocation are important jobs for the government to promote Satoyama Initiative. The establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform at local level is important to promote community empowerment and develop a good practice. It is very important to enhance dialogue between the government and the community in a participatory process. In many cases, a facilitator is helpful to enhance the dialogue. The research aims to explore opportunities and constraints of the government-facilitator-community interaction. Focusing on the case study, he introduced the study area, a socio-ecological production landscape which is a combination of mosaics composed of nature forests, secondary forest, rice paddies, village, pond, orchards, nature stream, and irrigation ditches. In Taiwan, the amendment of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Law in 2005 assigned a new item cultural landscape. It provides a new institutional opportunity for a landscape approach which values the interaction between local people and the land.

In the case study area, in 2011 local people established a local management board for the cultural landscape with the involvement of a range of other major stakeholders. In March 2012, Chihalaay was the cultural landscape designation plan proposed by local management board was officially approved by the Authority in a review meeting. With the designation of Chihalaay as a cultural landscape a new type of protected area under the Satoyama Initiative was born in Taiwan. Since then, new tasks needed

to be discussed in the following three forums, including: transferring local Codes of Conduct onto the official Cultural Landscape Management Principles, deciding the core areas of the cultural landscape, and drafting together a 5-year mid-term Cihalaay Cultural Landscape Management Plan. The mid-term cultural landscape management plan was worked out in light of the three-fold approach of Satoyama Initiative. He concluded that the cultural landscape has entered into its implementation and monitoring stage. It is very important to continue the regular stakeholder forums, in this case twice a year, to review the progress.

Kaoru Ichikawa presented on “Promoting Engagement of Local Communities: Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)”. She defined SEPLS as dynamic mosaics of habitats and land uses, that allow for a harmonious interaction between people and nature. They support biodiversity while providing humans with the goods and services needed for their well-being and are deeply linked to local culture and knowledge. She also elaborated on the resilience of SEPLS, explaining that SEPLS are subject to various changes and shocks, and that livelihoods of local communities are affected by such changes, but that SEPLS may recover from such impacts without catastrophic damage. Well-managed SEPLS have persisted for a long time but now are facing various challenges and it was argued that strengthening the resilience of SEPLS will contribute to the well-being of local communities. A joint project has been carried out as a Collaborative Activity under IPSI, developing a set of 20 indicators to measure resilience of SEPLS at the local level. The indicators measure different aspects entailed by and essential for sustaining resilient landscapes and provide a framework to discuss both current conditions and potential areas for improvement. Using the indicators enables local communities and other users to understand resilience of the SEPLS, support development and implementation of resilience-strengthening strategies, as well as enhance communication among stakeholders. Moreover, it can empower communities in decision-making processes and adaptive management. The indicators have been applied/tested by Bioversity International and UNDP (COMDEKS) in a range of countries globally. The indicators are undergoing a revision based on these experiences, and a tool kit has been developed for practical application of the indicators and to promote the widespread use of the indicators.

Ykhanbai Hijaba presented the use of “Indicators of Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in pastoral ecosystems of Mongolia,” and explained that pastoral landscapes provide livelihoods for 175,000 herder families. However, he pointed out that increasing challenges for a sustainable use of pastoral landscapes include policy and legal issues (lack of tenure rights), commercial pressures (e.g. mining) and climate change. He then presented the preliminary results of the use of the IPSI Indicators of Resilience in Mongolia. One of the main objectives of the study has been to field test the improved set of indicators for resilience of SEPL in pastoral agricultural systems in selected sites and communities. The methodology has included literature review, participatory field testing (considering gender balance), questionnaire surveys, scoring, consensus building and statistical analysis. The concept of SEPL in pastoral agriculture is dynamic, and changing over time, due to climate variations and human made pressures. The main finding is that the draft framework of resilience indicators is a useful instrument, both for diagnostic purposes and monitoring/evaluation purposes, but that it may need some specificity on a number of indicators (and related questions) to deal adequately with the Mongolian socio-ecological conditions, such as seasonal difference of landscape. Other outcomes include that women and men herders have quite different views on the scoring under each indicator, and that more attention needs to be paid to the policy and legal environment of the managed landscape.

6 Summary of Discussion

In the discussion, the Chair raised a series of questions, which had been collected from the audience through a questionnaire. First, the Chair acknowledged that the presentations highlighted a range of efforts made to reach sustainable management of socio-ecological production landscapes, but he asked the panelists to explain if there have been any pressures, and how did they have deal with these.

Kuang-Chung Lee explained that Taiwan shares similar problems as Japan and other Asian countries. Rural areas face ageing population and declining production. Communities want to change the situation but they do not have the time and resources. A facilitator between the farmers and the government would be necessary, to mobilise the resources from the government and also to have the public to support the community. He explained that half of the production in the surveyed landscape is from conventional farming, as income from organic farming is not enough. The challenge therefore is how to make more farmers produce organic products.

Ykhanbai Hijaba stressed that the main challenge in the Mongolian pastoral landscapes is how to allocate the grasslands to herders, as it is currently owned and managed by the government. Secondly, mining activities create increasing pressures. His project currently is facilitating the development of a partnership with local communities. Government land use planning processes need to consider if mining creates negative impacts on communities.

Kaoru Ichikawa said that there are many pressures in the various SEPLS, and they are shared in many areas. These include increasing challenges from globalisation, such as dependence on products that have been produced in other places. She highlighted the importance of the concept of living in harmony with nature and seeking local solutions through international partnership.

Toru Fukushima said that communication can address obstacles and be enhanced through interaction and financial resources. Producers and consumers can be united by common awareness. One major event is not enough, rather, it is important to maintain communication on a daily basis. He agreed that a continuous consultation process is very important.

The specific question the Chair transmitted from the audience to Kuang-Chung Lee was on the impact to be expected from the Satoyama approach in Taiwan. The response was that it is necessary to achieve a balance between economic development and nature conservation. People are struggling with this, as is the government. In the past, some favoured conservation, others looked to development. In this situation, the rural areas were abandoned and ignored by the public and NGOs. At COP10 he learned about the Satoyama Initiative and considered it a good framework to be introduced in Taiwan. Local communities and the public like the concept of Satoyama and it is important to demonstrate that the Satoyama approach works. Taiwan has an opportunity from the new legal category of "cultural landscape". The future of the Satoyama approach in Taiwan is good, but it is important to build a national network for the Satoyama Initiative to share knowledge and learn from each other.

The Chair mentioned that there appears to be a huge gap between local and global commons, and asked if the initiatives under his case study can contribute to closing this gap. Ykhanbai Hijaba recognised that there is a gap in Mongolia, but that local and international initiatives can close the gap. It is important to consider how to develop a plan and implement it. Traditional, modern knowledge need to be considered in a post 2015 agenda. Another response stressed the need to accumulate good practices and experiences from the local level. If there are many examples, this can be powerful to change the policy at higher levels and bridge the gap between local and global levels.

There was a question from a customer of Fukushima Supermarket who was in the audience related to the fact that Mr. Fukushima is a business man and is concerned with profit. The customer agreed that wealth and happiness should come together. However, there are challenges, such as small supermarkets being replaced by large ones and the issue of subsidies. The Chair asked if there was an opportunity to leverage the products with subsidies and the connection with the Satoyama concept. Mr. Fukushima responded that he sees the Satoyama concept positively. For the last 50 or 100 years, most focus has been on economic growth, but this is now being reviewed. Profits are a precondition of business. Money is good but this is something that should come after the communication and activities to promote sustainability. There is a need to see how to implement projects in certain locations and families and individuals need to be considered. In some towns, supermarkets and other enterprises are having difficulties if they are built on the same paradigm, regardless of their size. It seems that the paradigm is changing, now the focus is less on material wealth. Lifestyles and values are also changing. As business people it is important to make profit but there is a great deal of pressure to fulfill their task, so basically communication is the key. Businessmen do not have much knowledge on how to promote sustainability and there are not many opportunities to present and discuss their initiatives, so participation in an event such as this Parallel Session is an important opportunity.

The Chair provided the wrap up of the Session. He took up earlier remarks that more than generating material wealth, there is a need to ensure human well-being. An effective community engagement contributes to strengthen both the resilience of ecosystems and the “resilience of the human spirit.”