

# 2016 ISHIKAWA DECLARATION ON BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



 **Linking Biological  
and Cultural Diversity**  
UNESCO-SCBD Programme



## 2016 ISHIKAWA DECLARATION

## ON BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY

We, the participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, held in Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, an area with rich biocultural diversity in its *satoyama-satoumi* landscapes and seascapes, from 27 to 29 October 2016,

1. *Welcome* and *fully endorse* the conclusions and recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity as presented in the Annex of this Declaration in view of enhancing urban and rural communities towards maximizing the vitality of local creativity based on the use of local biocultural resources for present and future generations;
2. *Recognize* the contribution of biological and cultural diversity to our health and well-being as well as to building resilient and sustainable societies;
3. *Recognize* further the critical role that biocultural diversity plays in achieving sustainable development and in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
4. *Welcome* the outcomes of the youth session of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, which was held on 28 October 2016 with the objective of providing an opportunity for youth to acquire knowledge, a sense of value and a positive outlook;
5. *Acknowledge* the importance of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity in advancing our understanding of Biocultural Diversity as the complex interplay between biodiversity and cultural diversity, and its vital impacts on economic, political, environmental, social and cultural sustainability;
6. *Commit* to further exploring and implementing integrated approaches to conservation, sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from Nature, through strengthening the resilience of local biocultural diversity, including by enhancing and supporting local and traditional knowledge systems, technologies and cultural practices;
7. *Commit* to promoting diverse, local, sustainable and culturally appropriate development through dialogue, mutual exchange and learning, and especially through the local implementation of international designation systems such as FAO GIAHS, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks, UNESCO World Heritage sites and others;
8. *Recognize* the importance of enhancing mechanisms for learning opportunities, that build the capacity of human resources, to incorporate biocultural approaches in sustainable development strategies and policies in the Asian region;
9. *Invite* international and regional organizations, national and local authorities to establish or further develop and support platforms for dialogue, where citizens, indigenous and local communities, municipalities, business entities and researchers, can build networks and foster exchanges and partnership, towards better policy development regarding biocultural diversity and urban-rural linkages; and
10. *Welcome*, in this regard the partnership between Ishikawa Prefecture and the United Nations University to create a local platform model that can contribute to global agendas regarding practical experiences with local implementation;
11. *Commit* to disseminate locally, nationally and globally the outcomes of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, including at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13);
12. *Encourage* further elaboration and dissemination of the cases, policies and concepts presented at the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, including Ishikawa Prefecture's efforts towards conservation and utilization of *satoyama-satoumi* landscapes and seascapes, through mutual learning platforms such as the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative and the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity;
13. *Invite* the United Nations Member States, in partnership with the United Nations University, Secretariats of the CBD and UNESCO, to consider and support these and similar initiatives in other regions.

## Annex

*The First Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity recommends the following actions, at relevant levels (international, regional, national and/or local levels) to strengthen the links between biological and cultural diversity for a sustainable future living in harmony with Nature*

### Education, Capacity Development and Knowledge Sharing

- Educate and develop capacity at all levels for sustainable and equitable use of biological and cultural resources;
- Promote participatory and experiential learning, across generations, youth to youth and peer to peer, to promote the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge<sup>1</sup>;
- Preserve, restore and encourage the use of local and traditional languages and “mother tongue”, especially in early childhood education;
- Integrate where appropriate, diverse knowledge systems with the prior, informed consent of knowledge holders;
- Learn from indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities living sustainable lifestyles, including by e.g. incorporating traditional knowledge and local culture in curricula;
- Support and develop cultural, educational and recreational initiatives for the promotion and conservation of biocultural diversity;
- Promote innovative ways of raising public awareness of the value of traditional knowledge and culture;
- Promote mutual learning opportunities from and between international designation systems such as Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, -World Heritage Sites and others to improve implementation.

### Traditional Knowledge

- Take action to respect, protect and promote traditional knowledge, including knowledge for traditional medicine, food security, nutrition, health and well-being related to plants, animals, soil fertility and pest control, as well as for spiritual and cultural fulfillment;
- Use traditional and local calendars to reconnect with Nature and the seasons to promote understanding of cultural, cultivation and life-cycles.

### Belief Systems and Cultural Values

- Recognize and promote diverse belief systems and cultural and spiritual values<sup>2</sup> and their significance for conservation, environmental stewardship, care for Nature and all living things.

### Economy and Local Livelihoods

- Support local and traditional production systems that sustainably use biological and cultural resources by creating economic incentives and opportunities through e.g. unique product labeling, payment for ecosystem services, as well as grants and subsidies for small-scale farmers;
- Mainstream biocultural diversity into economic development across all sectors;
- Provide start-up funds and support for local sustainable tourism in its many forms<sup>3</sup> for local economies.

### Governance and Institutions

- In support of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) develop Local Participatory Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs) to encourage local empowerment and responsibility;
- Implement international designation systems such as Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, World Heritage Sites and others to integrate conservation and sustainable development with natural values and cultural values;
- Respect customary laws of indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities relevant for conservation and sustainable use and cultural transmission;
- Recognize land/sea/water tenure, rights and collective commons, especially for indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities;
- Improve information systems and the knowledge-base for policy and decision-making by disaggregating data, including through initiatives such as community-based monitoring and information systems;
- Encourage local participatory inventories of biological and cultural resources by indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities, where they wish to do so;
- Address root causes of loss of biocultural diversity, including declining rural populations and unsustainable use of biodiversity;
- Develop and implement participatory, holistic and integrated land- and seascape level approaches for planning and implementation of culturally appropriate development and conservation strategies that do not fragment ecosystems or disrupt ecosystem services.

### Partnerships and Networks

- Encourage cross-sector collaborations for mainstreaming biological and cultural diversity, including by engaging the private sector;
- Recognizing the important role of local authorities in coordinating across sectors and levels;
- Promote multi stake- and rights holder partnerships and community-based approaches that empower indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities to protect and promote their biocultural heritage;
- Support networks that contribute to mutual learning, capacity development and collaborations, such as community exchanges, South-South and regional cooperation.

### Land Use/Management

- Recognize and support the stewards and custodians of biocultural diversity, including indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities;
- Encourage and fund botanical, cultural and community gardens, especially in urban areas;
- Restore degraded land- and seascapes including abandoned farm lands, and provide practical incentives for people to return to and revitalize rural landscapes, inland waters and seascapes.

<sup>1</sup>Also referred to as indigenous and local knowledge.

<sup>2</sup>Such as those embodied in sacred places.

<sup>3</sup>Sometimes referred to as eco, educational, experiential or cultural tourism.