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**The Satoyama Initiative -Advancing Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes  
for  
the Benefit of Biodiversity and Human Well-being-**

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In order to significantly slow down the rate of biodiversity loss at a global level, it is important to focus not only on wilderness areas, but also on human-influenced natural environments or biocultural landscapes, where human activities have been taking place compatible with biodiversity conservation.

Satoyama landscapes are such areas in Japan. “Satoyama” refers to diverse land uses often consisting of secondary forests, agricultural lands including rice paddies, irrigation ponds etc., adjacent to rural settlements in Japan. Such landscapes (socio-ecological production landscapes) have provided various ecosystem services to human beings. Such landscapes formed through harmonized human-nature relationships are widely found all over the world, although they differ from place to place according to the climatic, topological, cultural and socio-economic conditions, and with different terms.

However, these landscapes are threatened or lost under modern socio-economic conditions. Increasing demand for fuel and food accompanied by population increase and economic growth, and deeply-rooted poverty, have caused inappropriate utilization of natural resources, while large monoculture, ageing population in societies, and depopulation of rural areas have changed human-nature relationships in these areas , resulting in the deterioration of socio-ecological production landscapes.

The Satoyama Initiative aims to maintain or rebuild positive human-nature relationships in certain socio-ecological production landscapes for enhancing biodiversity conservation and human well-being with the vision “realizing societies in harmony with nature”. UNU-IAS and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan have jointly initiated the Satoyama Initiative and plan to launch the International Partnership for the Initiative at CBD COP 10.

The Initiative could be considered as a tool for the implementation of the proposed post-2010 Strategic Plan of the CBD and has the potential to address food, water and fuel shortages, and a number of global environmental problems, including prevailing socio-economic issues and climate change. It may also contribute to the realization of

policy goals linked to the advancement of humankind, such as the Millennium Development Goals.