

# A Call for Participation in the Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade (RiceBED) Project

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In 2010, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) was held in Nagoya, Japan. At that time, the Government of Japan was instrumental in suggesting the twenty 10-year targets aiming to restore lost biological diversity that were adopted as the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

Ramsar Network Japan suggested a framework to widen the field for their implementation beyond the scope of the Biodiversity Convention, and brought the discussions of the CBD/COP10 to the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted the “United Nations Decade on Biodiversity” (UNDB) to function as such a framework. On the basis of this decision, the “Japan Committee for UNDB” was set up (with its office in the Ministry of Environment). The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Japan Committee (with its office in the Nature Conservation Society of Japan) set up the “Double 20 Campaign,” both to raise awareness and promote achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets on the citizen level. Many citizen’s groups and individuals have joined this campaign, and Ramsar Network Japan has registered the “Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade” (RiceBED) as a “Double 20 Campaign” project. Activities are already under way.

RiceBED’s purpose is to provide a platform for a wide variety of activities that put into practice the contents of the decision and resolution on enhancing rice paddy biodiversity adopted by the Biodiversity and Ramsar Conferences of the Parties, respectively.

To this end, Ramsar Network Japan held a workshop in November, 2012 to draw up an action plan, with participants from local governments and organizations, as well as individuals who have already been engaged in this field, and the “Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Action Plan” was put together.

This Action Plan gives concrete shape to the action necessary to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and international rice paddy resolutions. Activities aiming for completion in 2020 are now being initiated and carried out all over Japan.

We call on all agriculturalists, citizens, corporations and government authorities with an interest in rice paddy biodiversity to join hands with us to carry out this plan to pursue and achieve the goals of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and rice paddy resolution.

RiceBED has been recognized as an authorized cooperative project by the Japan Committee for UNDB, raising expectations for significant results.

*\* With 18 rice paddy related targets, the Action Plan incorporates a comprehensive range of recognized actions. Participants are not expected to attempt to implement the entire plan.*

*Participants are expected to choose the activities they are competent to carry out from the Plan’s list and limit their commitment to carrying out these activities. Participants can sign up for one or more activities, and can add more as they go along.*

*The sum of all the activities that participating groups and individuals have signed up for constitutes the RiceBED project. Thus, at the outset, the number of participants signing up for some activities may be more or less than for others, and some activities may have no participants at all, but our assumption is that participants have their own various skills and histories of experience, and should carry out activities in their particular fields of interest as they see fit.*

*Ramsar Network Japan will perform the work of summarizing the status of participant registration, which it will in turn report to all participants.*

*\* In translating this Action Plan into English, we would like to encourage people in wet rice growing countries to establish their own plans adapted to their own rice paddy farming methods. We also hope that people in other countries without rice paddies might find some insights in their own planning for implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.*

# Using each person's skills

## Let's work together in the Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade to Achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Other International Rice-Paddy Targets

### Aichi Targets

These targets constitute an international promise made by the 193 Contracting Parties to the 2010 Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan, who pledged to “Protect All Living Things.” There are 20 individual targets that all the governments and people in the world including Japan are thereby obliged to achieve by 2020.

### Rice Paddy Targets

see p. 7

These targets were assembled from Aichi Biodiversity Targets relevant to rice paddy biodiversity and also include elements relating to rice paddies as wetland habitat for waterbirds, etc., from “Resolution X.31, Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems,” adopted by the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

### Action Plan

see p. 8-9 for  
an itemized list

The Aichi and Rice Paddy Targets cannot be achieved unless we all work together towards their goals. The Government of Japan has revised its national biodiversity strategy, and we have put together an action plan for citizens and local governments – the “Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade (RiceBED) Action Plan.”

### Let's Work Together

This Action Plan has 18 Rice Paddy Targets and itemizes specific actions relevant to each. Participants from a wide variety of sectors and levels can join, from large corporations and local governments to individual farmers. Our hope is that all participants will bring to bear their own particular skills and resources on activities that will make a difference.



## Ramsar Convention 10th Conference of the Parties (2008)

Ramsar Resolution X.31 "Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems" (the Rice Paddy Resolution) adopted

All Parties' agencies responsible for wetland conservation, agriculture, etc. are encouraged to work together to actively promote:

- enhancement of biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainability of rice paddies,
- improved nutrition, health and well-being of farmers and farming communities, and
- conservation of waterbird populations.

Enhancement of rice-paddy biodiversity attracted attention at this COP, which adopted the "Rice Paddy Resolution." The national governments of Contracting Parties are expected to implement Ramsar Resolutions. Japan has 2.5 million hectares of rice paddies, and so the Japanese government in particular was expected to apply itself to realizing its goals.

The Rice Paddy resolution calls on national governments to promote enhancement of rice paddy biodiversity, ecosystem services and wildlife protection

## Convention on Biological Diversity 10th Conference of the Parties (2010)

Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted

CBD/COP10 adopts Decision X/34 "Agricultural Biodiversity," which invites Parties to fully implement Ramsar Resolution X.31 "Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems" (Ramsar Rice Paddy resolution)

### Summary of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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| 1. Biodiversity awareness                      | 11. Establishment of more protected area                 |
| 2. Integration into all levels of planning     | 12. Endangered species protection                        |
| 3. Adjustment of incentives & subsidies        | 13. Protection of cultivated species' genetic diversity  |
| 4. Sustainable production & consumption        | 14. Ecosystem services safeguarded & restored            |
| 5. Reduction of habitat destruction            | 15. Restoration of degraded ecosystems                   |
| 6. Sustainable harvest of marine organisms     | 16. Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol                |
| 7. Sustainable management of agriculture, etc. | 17. Effective, participatory national strategies & plans |
| 8. Pollution control                           | 18. Respect for traditional knowledge                    |
| 9. Invasive alien species countermeasures      | 19. Improved science & technology on biodiversity        |
| 10. Protection of vulnerable ecosystems        | 20. Mobilization of financial resources                  |



The Ramsar Rice Paddy Resolution and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by CBD/COP10 encouraged Ramsar Network Japan to establish the Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade as a means for implementing these decisions.

In response to the adoption of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UN adopted a resolution to call upon the entire world to protect biological diversity by establishing the "UN Decade on Biodiversity," from 2011 to 2020.

To implement the UN's resolution, the GoJ set up the Japan Committee for UNDB, which includes representatives of government, industry, NGOs and others, and endorses relevant activities and projects.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB, 2010)

Adoption of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets encourages major stakeholders - the UN, national governments, local governments, citizens - to take measures.

Japan Committee for UNDB (2011)

Authority to endorse projects

GoJ, local governments, industry representatives, project administrators, academics, media, NGOs, etc.

Government of Japan (GoJ)

National biodiversity strategy revision

Local governments

Establishment & revision of local biodiversity strategies

Civil Society

Double 20 Campaign (2011)

Japan Committee for IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, IUCN Regional Councillor, Nature Conservation Society of Japan, Ramsar Network Japan, Biodiversity Network Japan, others

Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade (2011) Action Plan (2013)

Ramsar Network Japan

Ramsar Network Japan drew up rice paddy related targets that conform to Aichi Biodiversity Targets and is working with citizens and local governments to implement real activities that enhance biodiversity in rice paddies.

The Japan Committee for IUCN set up the "Double 20 Campaign," which is sending out a wide-ranging call for real projects that will help achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

A variety of other projects.



# Creating the Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Action Plan

## ■■■ Background ■■■

Modernization of rice paddy agriculture in Japan gave priority to profitability, efficiency and other factors that led to habitat degradation that affected many rice paddy dwelling creatures and caused biodiversity loss.

At the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Korea in 2008, rice paddies were recognized not only for their role in producing food, but also in supporting important wetland ecosystems that serve as habitat for many living things and contribute to the conservation of waterbird populations. The Conference adopted Ramsar Resolution X.31 that encourages Parties to actively promote the planning, practices and management in rice paddies needed to enhance rice paddy biodiversity. This is the “Ramsar Rice Paddy Resolution.”

In 2010, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) held in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, adopted a decision that invites its Contracting Parties to fully implement the Ramsar Rice Paddy Resolution.

This same CBD/COP10 in Nagoya also adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which all Contracting Parties have a responsibility to pursue in order to promote biodiversity protection. Together with the Ramsar Rice Paddy resolution, these decisions constitute an international obligation for Contracting Parties to take positive action to enhance rice paddy biodiversity.

## ■■■ Aims ■■■

In September 2010, the Government of Japan revised its national biodiversity strategy and set out to tackle the many issues identified by the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other decisions taken by the 2010 Biodiversity Convention COP. However, solutions to the wide-ranging issues relating to biodiversity cannot be attained by the national government alone; the support and cooperation of citizens are essential.

This is why we have set up the Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade project, which is comprised of the actions being taken by local governments and citizens. These efforts are founded on site-based principles and on the Ramsar Rice Paddy Resolution and the Biodiversity Convention’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Action Plan serves as a template for the rice paddy biodiversity enhancing actions being taken by the many organizations and individuals taking part in the RiceBED project.

## ■■■ Philosophy ■■■

1. Implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Rice Paddy Resolution would significantly answer the purpose of enhancing rice paddy biodiversity, and so this Plan aims to achieve their goals while giving top priority to site-based activities carried out on the local government and citizen levels.
2. As the Aichi Biodiversity Targets encompass the content of the Rice Paddy Resolution, this Plan is designed to conform to the itemized categories of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
3. Rice paddy targets with the purpose of enhancing rice paddy biodiversity have been drawn up with reference to Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
4. Implementation of this project is to be effected by local governments, citizens’ organizations and individuals who agree with its purpose and have some connection with actual rice paddies.
5. The final year for achievement of this project is 2020, the same as for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

