



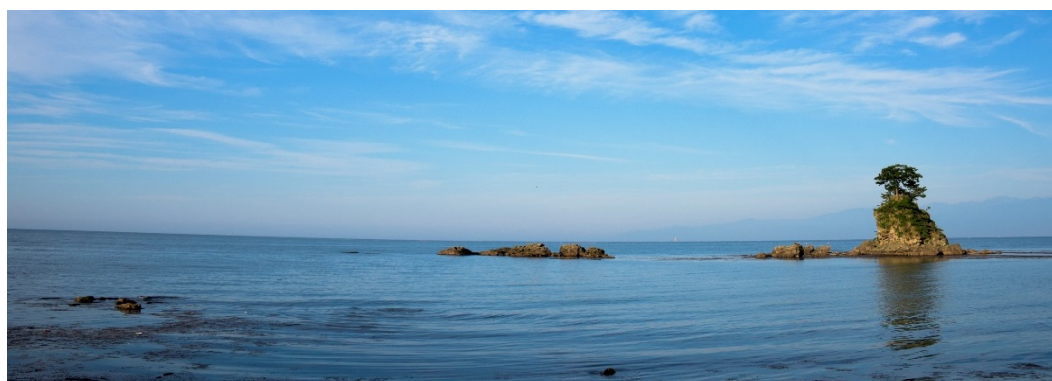
UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

July
2016

Newsletter 7



UNU-IAS **GEOC**

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability GEOC Programme

How UNU-IAS and GEOC Support Mainstreaming Biodiversity

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Global Environmental Outreach Centre (GEOC). GEOC is a joint initiative between the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. Over the past 20 years, GEOC has been taking an active role in raising awareness of global issues among the Japanese public by organizing symposiums, workshops and exhibitions. Through the organization and hosting of those events, GEOC has been playing a key role in encouraging partnerships among various stakeholders to take part in addressing global issues.

As a part of its activities for mainstream biodiversity, UNU-IAS and GEOC contribute to the dissemination of information aiming to enhance the understanding of biological diversity. We will continue our efforts to promote mainstreaming biodiversity to meet the Aichi target by 2020 as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

◇ UNU-IAS Research Project

UNU-IAS contributes to mainstreaming biodiversity through its project, International Satoyama Initiative (ISI). ISI analyses case studies and promotes a model to realize societies in harmony with nature for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being and aims to contribute to Aichi targets, United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and SDGs.

◇ Biodiversity Bookcase

As a part of GEOC's effort to enhance understanding of biodiversity for the future generations, GEOC sets up a public corner "Biodiversity Bookcase –living things and you-." The corner stocks 100 books on biodiversity for children that are officially certified by the Japan Committee for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB-J).

◇ Symposium to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)

As a part of its activities to mainstream biodiversity, UNU-IAS and GEOC organizes a public symposium every year to celebrate the IDB on 22 May. Through the lectures and panel discussions among experts and practitioners, the symposium addresses a wide range of biodiversity challenges. In parallel with the symposium, GEOC organizes an exhibition to introduce biodiversity actions and local projects certified by UNDB-J. Please refer to the back for the details of IDB 2016.



Global Goals, SDGs, were adopted at the UN in 2015. Among 17 targets, Goal 14 and Goal 15 are related to biodiversity. Goal 17 is an overarching goal and calls to revitalize the partnerships to meet SDGs. The deadline for the SDGs is 2030.



GEOC commits to mainstreaming biodiversity as a member of UNDB-J

GEOC Global Environment Outreach Centre

Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC), a joint programme between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and UNU, contributes to improving communications and outreach between stakeholders through establishing partnership in order to realize a sustainable society.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2016

Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihoods

Symposium Summary

◇ About International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)

IDB is the international day proclaimed by the United Nations to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. IDB occurs on 22 May every year to celebrate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May at the Convention on Biological Diversity. Every year, various events are organized around the world to coincide with IDB. The UN also declared 2011-2020 to be the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as the period to intensively tackle biological diversity issues by collaborations with various actors in international communities.



◇ This year's IDB theme

The IDB theme for 2016 is Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihoods. Mainstreaming biodiversity means recognizing the gift of biodiversity that underpins various aspects of our daily economic activities including agriculture, fisheries and tourism and implementing actions to protect biodiversity and sustainable use in our daily life. There's an urgent need to mainstream biodiversity towards a sustainable future in harmony with nature and people.



◇ Symposium Summary IDB in 2016

Every year, UNU-IAS organizes a symposium to promote greater understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues and partnerships. In 2016, UNU-IAS organized the symposium "*Mainstreaming Biodiversity; People and their Livelihoods underpinned by Mori (forests), Sato (the countryside), Kawa (rivers), and Umi (the sea)*" to celebrate IDB, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Global Environmental Outreach Center (GEOC).



At the opening of the symposium, remarks by Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto (Director, UNU-IAS) highlighted the contributions of UNU-IAS towards mainstreaming biodiversity, through the institute's involvement in scientific research projects and partnerships with local communities.

In a keynote speech, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi (Senior Vice-Rector, UNU) presented on national development underpinned by *mori* (forests), *sato* (the countryside), *kawa* (rivers), and *umi* (the sea). He stressed that realizing a sustainable nation in harmony with nature required rebuilding the relationship between people and nature in communities.

The symposium also included a dialogue on sustainable lifestyles, featuring Daisuke Yosumi (CEO, Lake Edge Nomad Inc.), who leads a natural lifestyle in New Zealand, and Arisa Kamada, a model who also works as an ethical fashion planner. Case reports on sustaining biodiversity were also presented, followed by panel discussions. Through these presentations and discussions, the panelists emphasized building a framework to link consumers and producers in harmony with *mori*, *sato*, *kawa* and *umi*. They also stressed the need for consumers to make informed choices with a view to protecting biodiversity. The discussion concluded with a call for all stakeholders to collaborate, and continue to be committed to protecting biodiversity.



Mr. Kenshin Miyamoto, a chef of an Italian Restaurant in Kumamoto, participated in the symposium as a panelist. He supported the registration of Aso grassland to Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). He highlighted maintaining grassland by using local agricultural products, damages to the farmers driven by Kumamoto Earthquake and future reconstructions.

In parallel with the symposium, GEOC organized an exhibition to introduce biodiversity actions and local projects certified by UNDB-J. To view the programme of the symposium, please visit the UNU-IAS website.