

Submission of views concerning Strategy for resource mobilization from JAPAN

Introduction

With reference to the Notification SCBD/ITS/RS/fb/75381, pursuant to paragraph 8 (b) of Decision X/3, the Government of Japan submits its views on Strategy for resource mobilization. Japan wishes that the following views would contribute to the creation of methodological guideline on indicators and subsequent discussions.

(1) Aggregated financial flows, in the amount and where relevant percentage, of biodiversity-related funding, per annum, for achieving the Convention's three objectives, in a manner that avoids double counting, both in total and in, inter alia, following categories:

(a) Official Development Assistance (ODA);

Rio marker

With regards to the DAC Countries, OECD-DAC provides detailed data of “Rio marker” on Biodiversity-related assistance. Japan considers this data as an efficient method to grasp the financial flow of biodiversity-related ODA.

ODA from non-DAC countries

The ODA contribution from non-DAC countries has increased its importance. Therefore, the amount of ODA from non-DAC countries should be taken into consideration, in discussing financial flow of ODA in biodiversity. The calculation method of Rio marker could be applied to this purpose with necessary changes.

Mainstreaming biological diversity

In order to expand financial flows on biodiversity, it is advisable to mainstream biodiversity in ODA policies of the Party. Therefore, it is desirable that method and specific examples of mainstreaming biodiversity in ODA policies are presented in the guideline.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been providing support to enhance public knowledge and to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation through

environmental education and other methods with a view to “mainstreaming biodiversity”. At the COP 10, JICA organized “the High Level Forum on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation in Nagoya” whose objective was to mainstream biodiversity in process of development assistance.

(b) Domestic budgets at all levels;

It is expected that “domestic budgets” on biodiversity are aggregated at all levels of government, including national, prefectural and municipal levels. However, further efforts are required to aggregate the amount of budget at all levels, since the level of consideration on biodiversity is different at each level of local government. Also, as methods of aggregation of domestic budgets could vary with countries, it should be noted that the simple aggregation of submitted data from each Party is not necessarily useful. Therefore, in order to set the robust baseline, further researches and discussions would be needed.

It is also important to establish and enhance collaboration mechanisms for each municipality in the field of biodiversity. Such initiatives are ongoing in Japan and have been proven effective in grasping financial flows which are increasing steadily in the field of biodiversity.

In November 2009, the “Local Government Conference on Biodiversity 2009” was held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, with the participation of 103 local governments in Japan. As a result of the series of these initiatives, municipalities have identified common areas of concerns and intensified the exchange of information in these areas, which contributed to the mainstreaming of biodiversity related policies.

Japan considers, in light of the complexity in grasping the trend of financial flows on biodiversity at each local level, utilizing existing mechanisms regarding local level initiatives such as ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) could be recommended. It is recommendable that the CBD secretariat requests ICLEI to establish a system (or mechanism) to grasp financial flows on biodiversity in order to gather the information on the trend of related financial flows in local levels.

(c) Private Sector;

Japan considers that categorization, summarization and information gathering related to biodiversity in private sector is required to figure out the aggregated financial flows of private sector comprehensively. Since methods of aggregation of private sector capitals could be vary with countries/organizations, it should be noted that the simple aggregation of submitted data on this indicator from each Party is not necessarily useful,

but further researches and discussions on qualitative level of each case will be needed to set the robust baseline.

Japan considers that information on national experiences or best practices of the private sector will greatly contribute to the implementation of the Convention. In this context, it is recommended for Party to formulate a platform for promotion of private participation at national level or to adopt an initiative toward comprehensive private participation. The Government of Japan formulated “Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement in Biodiversity”. Under this platform, specific initiative named “Private Sector Engagement Initiative on Biodiversity” was adopted from the standpoint to promote the participation of various types of companies including small and medium-sized ones, and information on many such cases and experiences have been accumulated.

(d) Non-governmental organizations, foundations, and academia;

It is advisable that Parties create an agency or a system to collect information or data on NGO, which promotes biodiversity conservation. Regarding NGO activities, in Japan, Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency of Japan (ERCA) is collecting data on NGOs activities in the environmental area. According to its data, among relevant 4,532 organizations, 2,208 (44.30% of the total) are active in the field of environmental education, which can be regarded as contributive to biodiversity; 1,792 (39.54%) are active in nature protection; and 1,220 (26.91%) are active in forest conservation.

As for the number of NGOs and their financial scales in each country, it is necessary to address the scope of data collection as well as the nature of activities.

(e) International financial institutions;

With a view to aggregate financial flows of international financial institutions, Japan recommends the CBD Secretariat to summarize information on related institutions and funds or financial mechanisms managed by those institutions, rather than asking Party to submit their information. It is advisable that the CBD secretariat pursues new contributing opportunities, formulating a guideline which leads each Party to follow and contribute to good practices. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) may be worth mentioning for this purpose as cases that Japan is contributing to biodiversity and related matters through the World Bank.

(f) United Nations organizations, funds and programmes:

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data, funds and programmes from these organizations.

(g) Non-ODA public funding:

It is understood that “non-ODA public funding” means “other official flows (OOF)”, OECD defines OOF as “Transactions by the official sector with countries on the List of Aid Recipients which do not meet the conditions for eligibility as Official Development Assistance or Official Aid, either because they are not primarily aimed at development, or because they have a Grant Element of less than 25 per cent”. Although OOF has attracted attention because its amount and ratio of financial flow from developed to developing countries are increasing, it is often the case that this flow directly reflects industrial or economic interests. For this reason, it is recommended that relevant precedents are reviewed before a guideline on indicator is finalized.

(h) South-South cooperation initiatives:

Given that some developing countries have enough economic potential to give aid and actually implement bilateral ODA to other developing countries, it is desirable for developing countries to grasp the financial flows on South-South cooperation initiatives and submit related data to the CBD Secretariat. At the same time, from our experiences, Japan considers that, when the cooperation is formed as a triangular cooperation, close cooperation between donor and recipient countries is necessary.

Japan has implemented a project “Bornean Biodiversity & Ecosystems Conservation Programme (BBEC),” which assisted the local government and university of the State of Saba in developing a mechanism for systematically and sustainably conserving biodiversity and related ecosystem in Borneo.

In 2002, for BBEC project, JICA invited 18 officials engaged in the nature and biodiversity conservation, from Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania and Malaysia, to the State of Saba, and conducted a training course at the Institute of Tropical and Biological Conservation. In 2010, in cooperation with the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, JICA also conducted a third country training course, Aggregated Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation, for officials from 6 countries. This way, JICA has been implementing the triangular cooperation with a long-term vision.

It shows that the involvement of donor side contributes to both recipient countries and countries where projects are conducted.

(i) Technical cooperation;

It seems that the indicators for “technical cooperation” could be overlapping with the indicator of (9) below. It is recommended that the classification method to avoid overlaps should be elaborated.

(2) Number of countries that have:

(a) Assessed values of biodiversity, in accordance with the Convention;

“Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) Partnership” launched by the World Bank plans to develop tools required for integration of economic values of ecosystems into the system for national economic accounting, thereby contributing to the assessment of biodiversity values in developing countries. Government of Japan is a member of this partnership and plans to advance efforts including experimental value assessment and integration into national accounting.

(b) Identified and reported funding needs, gaps and priorities;

It is desirable that the CBD Secretariat collects and publicizes information belonging to countries that identifies and reports funding needs, gaps and priorities, since such information can be a guidance for countries which have not reported them.

(c) Developed national financial plans for biodiversity;

Government of Japan aggregates budgets for conservation of natural environments and promotion of close contact with nature. For the FY2011, a total of eight ministries and agencies have secured a sum of 144.7 billion yen as their budgets for conservation of biodiversity, improvement of forests, water-area resources evaluation, etc.

(d) Been provided with the necessary funding and capacity building to undertake the above activities;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.

(3) Amount of domestic financial support, per annum, in respect of those domestic activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention;

This indicator may overlap with others like “Domestic budgets at all levels”. It is recommended to elaborate what this indicator means in a manner avoiding overlaps

with other indicators.

(4) Amount of funding provided through the Global Environmental Facility and allocated to biodiversity focal area;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.

(5) Level of CBD and Parties' support to other financial institutions that promote replication and scaling-up of relevant successful financial mechanisms and instruments;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.

(6) Number of international financing institutions, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, and the development agencies that report to the Development Assistance Committee of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), with biodiversity and associated ecosystem services as a cross-cutting policy;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.

(7) Number of Parties that integrate considerations on biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in development plans, strategies and budgets;

This indicator should grasp the number of Parties which integrate consideration on biodiversity into the national biodiversity strategy.

The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2010 aims to restore ecosystem in our country over the next 100 years, in consideration of the time required to rehabilitate natural environment.

(8) Number of South-South cooperation initiatives conducted by developing country Parties and those that may be supported by other Parties and relevant partners, as a complement to necessary North-South cooperation;

Developing countries are assumed to show information on south-south cooperation in accordance with the 1 (h) above. Other information could be submitted by developing countries or other appropriate bodies including the CBD secretariat.

(9) Amount and number of South-South and North-South technical cooperation and capacity-building initiatives that support biodiversity;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data on technical cooperation implemented

by secretariat itself like National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) Capacity-building Workshops and such data are useful to be presented. If this indicator intends to collect information on all amount and number of South-South and North-South technical cooperation among Parties, however, it overlaps with other indicators like (1) (h) South-South cooperation initiatives and (1) (i) technical cooperation. When such overlaps are expected, differences between these indicators should be explained.

(10) Number of global initiatives that heighten awareness on the need for resource mobilization for biodiversity;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.

(11) Amount of financial resources from all sources from developed countries to developing countries to contribute to achieving the Convention's objectives;

This indicator may overlap with others like, at least, aggregated financial flow of ODA, Non-ODA public funding (1) (g). It is recommended to redefine in the manner avoiding overlaps.

(12) Amount of financial resources from all sources from developed countries to developing countries towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

This indicator may overlap with others like, at least, aggregated financial flow of ODA (1) (a), Non-ODA public funding (1) (g). It is recommended to redefine in the manner avoiding overlaps appropriately.

(13) Resources mobilized from the removal, reform or phase-out of incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, which could be used for the promotion of positive incentives, including but not limited to innovative financial mechanisms, that are consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other international obligations, taking into account national social and economic conditions;

While OECD has already developed a way to check harmful subsidies, it is advisable that more usable and favorable method be elaborated for the indicator of resources mobilization. Japan notes that it is important to turn harmful subsidies to appropriate ones, thereby contributing to the expenditures for the achievement of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and this requires a way to define harmful subsidies and the guidelines to make such subsidies into proper ones.

(14) Number of initiatives, and respective amounts, supplementary to the financial mechanism established under Article 21, that engage Parties and relevant organizations in new and innovative financial mechanisms, which consider intrinsic values and all other values of biodiversity, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.

(15) Number of access and benefit-sharing initiatives and mechanisms, consistent with the Convention and, when in effect, with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization, including awareness-raising, that enhance resource mobilization;

The CBD secretariat would be able to collect data.