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ECO is currently being published at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan coordinated by the CBD Alliance. The opinions, commentaries, and articles printed in ECO are the sole opinion of the individual authors or organisations, unless otherwise expressed.

SUBMISSIONS: Welcome from all civil society groups. Email to jdempsey@cbdalliance.org

It's about life and life is not a business

Susan Walsh, USC – Canada and Bernrd Beermann

When members of the public in the UK were asked in a recent survey what the word biodiversity meant, the most common answer was “some kind of washing powder”. In response, Kate Rawles of the University of Cumbria states: “Modern societies ... are dangerously close to completely losing touch with the value of other living things”.

The 193 Parties and hundreds of civil society organizations gathered at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity do know what biodiversity means. They understand only too well what is at stake if the dramatic erosion of our planet's biological diversity is not stopped in its tracks, as well as the corresponding loss of resilience that could lead us all over the brink into a world where we are no longer welcome. Within the past century, for example, we have lost an estimated 75% of our plant genetic resources and, over the past decade alone, nearly 60 million hectares of primary forest. We are driving species to extinction at up to 1000 times the natural rate. How will the 1 billion people who depend on fish as their sole or main source of animal protein survive if 80% of examined world marine stocks are exploited or overexploited?

The Japanese Times' special editions on COP 10 put it this way: “In Nagoya, the issue under discussion is not melting glaciers or brutally hot summers that extend long into autumn due to global warming, but life itself.”

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Recipe for success at COP10

Nathalie Rey, Greenpeace

- Take one small planet
- Add a new Strategic Plan - make sure it has 20 strong targets
- Using a new Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, ensure benefits are divided fairly
- Take forestry, fisheries and agriculture sectors, remove rotten sections, leaving only green parts
- Mix in unchopped ancient forests
- Whisk in a global network of protected areas and marine reserves covering 20% (40% marine reserves even better)
- Sieve subsidies, removing perverse ones, and reallocate to biodiversity conservation
- Add large pinch of political will
- Season with sustainable agriculture (GE free)
- Allow global fish stocks to rise
- Sprinkle large amounts of new financial resources and
- Decorate with geo-engineering and synthetic biology moratoriums.

Let [the planet] cool!

Serves: 6-7 billion

It's about life, continued p 1

The challenge is daunting. We face compounding environmental, food, fuel, economic, and climate crises that are converging into a perfect storm of biodiversity loss and social injustice. The conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits of biodiversity are fundamental to addressing these crises. Time and again, however, we see governments agreeing to business as usual, downplaying overconsumption, and searching for newer and better technological solutions with short-term, often counter-productive results.

Governments can and must do better. We call on parties to strengthen the Convention's core principles, particularly the ecosystem approach, the precautionary principle, participation, equity, justice, and an understanding that biodiversity cannot be separated from those humans with values that nurture, defend and sustainably use biodiversity.

We are particularly troubled by trends such as the growing popularity of market mechanisms that carve nature into pieces of valued and not so valued property

and the growing influence of corporate actors who place profit ahead of the integrity of human community and the landscapes we inhabit. The convergence of the Rio Conventions must be preceded by clear evidence that the CBD's values and principles will not be lost in the mix. Unchecked, these trends could well undermine our largest ecosystem – the planet. The commodification of nature is at the heart of biodiversity loss and eroded resilience. The spirit of collaboration in Nagoya must reflect a willingness to respect nature's gifts and complexities.

Civil society organizations here in Nagoya call on the delegates and their capitals to reconnect with Mother Nature and with the multiple values of other living things. If we are to avoid that perfect storm from blasting its way through our ever-fragile planet, we need to tap into that kinder, gentler human in us all.

Voice of the Japanese Youth : Halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020!

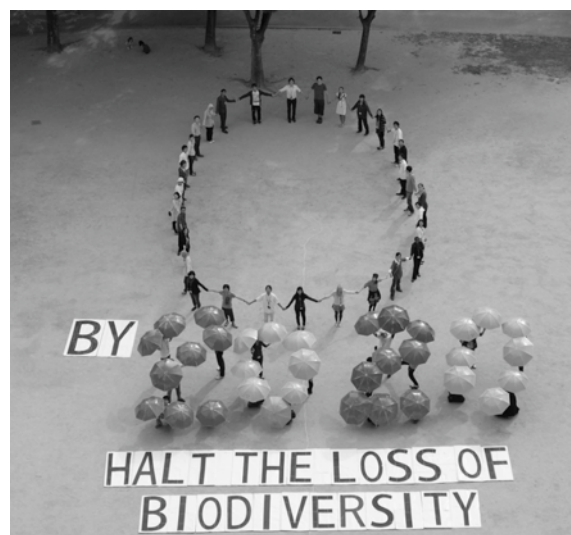
Hiroataka Matsui, Junichi Imai - Biodiversity on the Brink

Biodiversity on the Brink campaign is a project conducted by **Japanese youth NGOs**. Nearly 80 Japanese youth have been undertaking various efforts in support of a target that is time bound and reads: "to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020."

The current wording, "to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss", does not include any numerical goals and is too ambiguous. But yet the dangers of irreversible changes to the ecosystem are increasing on a daily basis. If this goes on, the future of youth is literally *on the Brink*. Biodiversity is requisite for our existence and the loss of biodiversity that is being debated now is not something that is going vaguely affect us in the far future, but is an urgent issue that determines the lives of youth who is going to carry on living in the ages to come.

The brackets over the whole post 2010 Target should be removed. Moreover, the target should be time-bound, using the time frame "by 2020" as written in option 2 of the mission statement. As the host country, the Japanese government is expected to lead the discussions with

strong leadership to make a valid agreement for a better future.



Biodiversity on the Brink along with world youth gathered prior to the beginning of COP10 to deliver the message of "Halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020". The "zero" represents the message of to "halt" the loss of biodiversity.

GREENPEACE CLOUD PROJECTION TO PROMOTE OCEAN PROTECTION AT NAGOYA CASTLE

WHEN: Tuesday, 19 October 2010, 17.00-21.00

WHERE: Nagoya Castle (a 10 minute walk from the Shiyakusho subway stop- takes about 30 minutes from the conference centre)

Indigenous Peoples gather for Cop 10

Indigenous delegates from every region of the world have come to Nagoya to be heard at the COP10 negotiations.

Indigenous Peoples continue to be among the most marginalized, discriminated and exploited peoples despite living in some of the worlds most biodiverse regions.

Indigenous delegates under the umbrella of the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity (IIFB) have been deliberating and working out strategies for negotiating at the COP 10 during the past three days of preparatory meetings.

The IIFB is a collection of representatives from indigenous communities and governments, indigenous non-governmental organizations, indigenous scholars and activists who organize around the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other important international environmental meetings to help coordinate indigenous strategies at these meetings, provide consultation to the government parties, and influence the interpretations of government obligations to recognize and respect indigenous rights to the knowledge and resources.

The IIFB was officially acknowledged to be a formal advisory body to the CBD in COP5 in Nairobi, a step that has enhanced the presence and voices of indigenous

peoples in the CBD and related processes. Since this groundbreaking step at COP5, subsequent COPs of the CBD have seen active and effective work by Indigenous peoples and indigenous organizations, as have a range of sub-processes regarding the implementation of Article 8(j), Access and Benefit Sharing, and others. This participation of Indigenous Peoples in this international process is often not reflected at the national level.

In this time the status of Indigenous Peoples has been recognized with the passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by United Nations General Assembly in September 2007, the impact of this has yet to be fully realized within the context of the CBD. In addition, in some countries there are still many Indigenous Peoples who are still struggling for their rights, and demanding for their recognition as Indigenous Peoples.

This Declaration affirms the existence and establishment of the universal human rights standards for the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Implementation of decisions under the Convention on Biological Diversity must be consistent with the rights enshrined in this Declaration.

For more information please see:
<http://iifb.indigenouportal.com>

Text Suggestions from the IIFB

In the document 'Updating and revision of the Strategic Plan for the post – 2010 period', the IIFB welcomes paragraph 3(a) about enabling participation, however, call for the addition of paragraph 3. bis as follows:

3 bis: Urges Parties to implement the revised strategic plan in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



SIDE EVENT

Top 10 for COP 10

Monday 18 October 2010

13:15 to 14:45

Where? Nagoya Gakuin University (3 min walk)

Description: In preparation for COP10, many civil society groups working around the CBD, facilitated by the CBD Alliance, joined together to identify 10 critical issues for COP 10. Lunch will be served

To download briefing go to www.cbdalliance.org

Japanese Civil Society Speaks out!

Signature Campaign: COP10/MOP5 CSO Declaration

In preparing for the COP, we, Japan Civil Network for the Convention on Biological Diversity, JCN CBD, have lobbied our government to propose a draft decision of UN Decade for Biological Diversity. It is to mobilise all the functions and agencies of the United Nations and all the sectors of the world to work to mainstream biodiversity and implement the new Strategic Plan for the period of 10 years. The Government of Japan proposed the draft decision at the WGRI-3 in Nairobi in May.

At the same time, we have also called NGOs to pledge for their commitment to halt the biodiversity loss for the coming decade as NGO Initiative for the UN Decade of Biodiversity. It is an initiative that NGOs are ready to take their role of conservation of biodiversity during the Decade.

On the basis of these, at the beginning of the COP10, we would like to invite civil society not only inside the conference room of the COP10 negotiation but also those people wishing to conserve the biodiversity to express their will in the form of signing the declaration below. It is to move the delegates and high-level segments of the Parties to adopt an ambitious new Strategic Plan, which is to be called Aichi-Nagoya Strategic Plan, for the conservation of biodiversity.

Signatures are being collected at the NGO Room (Room 234), exhibition booths and side events.

Period of campaign: 18 - 26 October 2010.

Collecting points: NGO Room, Room 234 on the third floor of Building 2

Deadline to receive signatures: 19:00 26 October 2010 (before High Level Segment Meeting on 27 October)

We invite the signature of as many CSO people as possible.

DECLARATION

We, Civil Society Organizations participating in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) and the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (MOP5) in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 11-29 October 2010, call for the Parties to adopt an ambitious new Strategic Plan that includes the following:

1. An ambitious target to halt biodiversity loss as soon as possible;
2. The mainstreaming of biodiversity at global, national, and local levels; the integration of biodiversity into the domestic legal system of each Party; and the implementation of multi-sectoral, integrated policies for biodiversity;
3. Cooperation across national boundaries to address the funding and human resources needs necessary to achieve

implementation fulfilling the mandates;

4. The effective and meaningful participation of all actors involved in biodiversity issues, including Indigenous and Local Communities, women, and children; and

5. The sharing and exchanging of experiences, acknowledging the value and necessity of passing traditional wisdom for protecting biodiversity onto future generations

We declare our commitment to take action ourselves to achieve the targets.

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“Message of the Day”

“What is the future you want to see in 2020?” By asking people to make origami and write their vision for 2020, “Let’s Origami COP10 Project” aims to inform people about the importance of achieving real progress by 2020.

“Biodiversity is Life. Biodiversity is Our Life”. As the slogan of the International Year of Biodiversity stands, biodiversity is related to every life and we shall all be able to find linkages between our life and biodiversity from the messages. The “Message of the Day” will deliver messages from the Origami Project to COP10, in order to bring “spirit” into the negotiation.

“Let’s Origami COP10 Project” is operated by Japan Committee for IUCN (International Union for Conservation of the Nature) and is an official program of the Life on Earth Committee of Ministry of Environment, Japan. <http://www.cop10-origami.com/en/>

“What is your vision for 2020?”



Makiko Imai, Let's Origami COP10 Project

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