
We humbly offer, to the international and domestic bodies involved with biodiversity, the following six proposals to assist the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 (ABT3), viz. reform and repeal of stimulus measures (including subsidies) that negatively affect biodiversity, and the promotion of those that affect it positively.

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Proposals

Proposal 1. Establish a mechanism to distinguish between positive and negative influences on biodiversity.

A committee modelled on the IPCC would be able to review a wide range of research and make reliable assessments of critical topics whose effect on biodiversity has not yet been fully ascertained. Examples include the use of alien plant species for “improving” vegetated areas, agricultural methods which employ systemic pesticides such as neonicotinoids, and the exploitation of semi-natural environments such as *satoyama*.

Proposal 2. Strengthen the powers of bodies which evaluate policies, and apply those powers to ensure progress toward ABT3.

In Japan, there are now bodies such as the autonomous Board of Audit, and the Administrative Evaluation Bureau within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), which make assessments independently of the government organs which undertake projects. The authority and capacity of these bodies should be strengthened so that they can employ the mechanism suggested in Proposal 1 to comprehensively evaluate policies related to biodiversity and the environment.

Proposal 3. Establish a flexible system which is able to modify, combine and eliminate subsidies which affect biodiversity, whether positively or negatively.

A system is required which can make use of the improved powers of Proposal 2;

to modify or eliminate those subsidies which are found to have a negative impact on biodiversity,

to combine subsidies where multiple government bodies overlap, and

to modify, combine or eliminate programs which fail to meet the needs of those who carry out or benefit from them.

Proposal 4. Both national and local government should actively support regional efforts to integrate policies on biodiversity and sustainable use.

Conservation of biodiversity requires effort from regional bodies well-acquainted with

ecological, social and cultural issues. The practical matters of policy integration should be carried out by a regional body representing both basic local government and the inhabitants, while national government should support responsible proposals and efforts made by such regional bodies, and make the internal changes needed to ensure that jurisdictional boundaries within the government do not become an obstruction to the proper application of subsidies.

Proposal 5. Encourage businesses to increase their conservation efforts by creating and operating certification systems to control the requirements for deals and tenders (bids), and for the payment of subsidies.

There is currently no widely accepted system of conservation program certification that can be used as a condition for use of public funds or as an index for business deals. Since this kind of stimulus measure would be strongly in the interest of businesses, certification systems should be expanded and promoted.

Proposal 6. Create and operate a pro-active support system to ensure that subsidies for the conservation of biodiversity are used effectively.

Currently, opportunities for obtaining subsidies for the conservation of biodiversity are increasing, but a more effective consultation service is needed. This private sector service would expand participation and implementation by giving detailed support such as technical advice on improving regional biodiversity and assisting with the paperwork for applications.