

Aligning Global and Regional Environmental Policies for Integration

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1. Introduction

Despite the existence of numerous international environmental policies considering sustainability, some of these policies lack the necessary depth to have a significant impact on our daily lives. This study therefore aims to explore how international environmental policies affect local initiatives and to devise strategies to make international environmental policies more palpable in local communities. Specifically, the study will delve into the dynamic interactions between international environmental policies on biodiversity, and local environmental policies in Hachioji. The overarching aim of the study is to contribute to ongoing efforts aimed at raising global awareness and understanding of the key environmental issues at hand.

2. The agenda for local governments in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The framework has delineated 23 global targets that necessitate immediate attention within the decade leading up to 2030. Furthermore, the outcomes of these endeavours are poised to make substantial contributions toward the attainment of goal-oriented benchmarks set for 2050. The strategies employed to fulfill these targets must be tailored to the unique national circumstances, priorities, and socioeconomic conditions of each participating nation. As countries make preparations for implementation, it is imperative that they learn from the shortcomings of the preceding Strategic Plan for 2011-2020, which regrettably

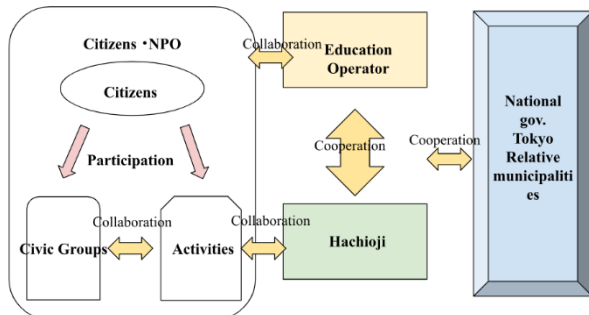
fell short of achieving any of its 20 Aichi Targets. One essential requirement is the establishment of a more unifying global vision for the betterment of our planet, characterised by transformative measures that challenge the prevailing status quo. Target 14 underscores the necessity to 'ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its manifold values into policies, regulations, planning, and developmental processes, as well as strategies for poverty eradication, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments, and, where applicable, national accounting.' This imperative essentially calls for local municipalities to assume responsibility for the preservation of biodiversity.

3. The status quo of environmental policy on biodiversity in Hachioji

Engaging the public and effectively conveying the message represents one of the most formidable challenges. During the early stages of biodiversity conservation efforts, this challenge was acknowledged, prompting the development of strategies for bringing together, collaborating, and fostering communication among various professional groups, NGOs, media, and other stakeholders.

Hachioji government has actively participated in environmental projects and introduced a local initiative named 'Midori no Kihon Keikaku' (The Basic Plan for Nature). The report elucidates the means to promote a collaborative system involving all stakeholders (refer to

Figure 1). Whilst this plan establishes numerous cooperative relationships, it does not delve deeply into the intricacies of how these entities should collaborate with each other (refer to Figure 1).



(Figure 1: Promotion system of social mechanism around Hachioji)

In this plan, there are many cooperative relationships, and each can interact with. However, it does not represent how to cooperate with each other in depth.

4. The proposal for the integration of international agendas and local initiatives

The integration of international policy and local experience will be influenced by the success or failure of unique, locally oriented-projects. Despite Hachioji's 61% green cover and its satoyama, its environmental policy does not appear to be keeping pace with other international initiatives. At least in Hachioji's master plan, there is no mention of 'international' in terms of environmental projects. In the case of Hachioji, the challenge is to draw out the multifunctionality of the greenery that has been secured so far. On a global level, there are many organisations working on conservation and biodiversity, such as the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI). Indeed, many examples are shared in the network, allowing people to find out what can be adapted to their own region and share activities. Such collaborations also have a positive impact on local communities in terms of management and creative ideas.

5. Conclusion

When it comes to finding a practical, workable, and effective approach to environmental conservation, the invaluable insights provided by local perspectives should be considered. Simultaneously, it's essential to remember the adage, 'Think globally, act locally.' Whilst international organisations invest significant effort in creating global policies and organising international conferences, these endeavours are futile if they fail to have a meaningful impact on our day-to-day lives. We've had a problematic track record with the Aichi goals, and we should strive not to repeat past mistakes. Overcoming policy barriers that hinder meaningful local participation requires a more comprehensive understanding of political capital, which is the ability of people to express their concerns and have their voices heard.

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