



# Indigenous Approaches to Habitat Protection and Restoration: Experiences in Sato-umi and other Community Initiatives

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## Overview

Part 1. The Sato-umi concept defined as a coastal sea with high biodiversity and high productivity systems under adequate human intervention and its application in Japan.

Part 2. Indigenous knowledge and community based approaches in protection, restoring and managing key habitats

Part 3. Interactive session wrap-up exploring institutionalizing community-based efforts in habitat protection, restoration and management within an ICM framework





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## Major Conclusions

1. The workshop recognized that long term cooperation mechanisms among local communities, scientists, private sector, and local government are necessary to ensure sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.
2. The Sato-umi workshop discussed the need to explore diverse community-based approaches in protecting, restoring and managing key habitats which integrate traditional ecological knowledge, local wisdom and cultural beliefs. Drawing on the knowledge of traditional societies to develop new models of sustainability which combine modern science and traditional ecological knowledge in coastal communities was identified as critical.
3. As coastal communities are faced with increasing habitat degradation and loss, Sato-umi concepts and practices were recognized as providing an opportunity to assess human communities' relations with nature.





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## Recommendations

1. Need to build on existing community based partnerships aimed at empowering local communities and widening partnership participation to include multiple stakeholders from local to national levels.
2. Need to explore institutional frameworks to coastal management which reflect local needs, circumstances and characteristics to ensure diversity in approaches.
3. Successful ICM needs to include a comprehensive management of the material flow from mountain-farm-river to the coastal sea in developing potential models of sustainability that incorporate and build on the rich cultural histories and indigenous knowledge in Asia.

