



生きものも人間も幸せになる
仕組みをつくらう。
生物多様性条約
市民ネットワーク

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A Formal Appeal to President Obama and Members of the US Senate - Please Help America Finally Ratify the UN Convention on Biological Diversity -

October 11, 2010

Dear President Obama and respected members of the United States Senate,

Whereas biodiversity signifies the entire web of life, embracing all species and ecosystems on the planet, and its health is now endangered to such a degree that scientists now call our era the Sixth Great Extinction Event in the history of the world;

Whereas the current extinction rate is more than 1,000 times higher than the average rate over the past 60 million years and nearly 17,000 of the world's 45,000 assessed species are now facing imminent demise;

Whereas vulnerable subsets of biodiversity are vital to modern medical and agronomic research as well as the diet and livelihood of tens of millions of the poor in the developing world;

Whereas in recognition of this crisis, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was born out of the 1992 Rio Summit to help protect all life on Earth and now has 193 national signatories;

Whereas the only non-signatory states today are Andorra, the Vatican and the United States;

Whereas the collapse of the '09 Copenhagen COP15 climate negotiations poses a further threat to biodiversity as global warming is becoming the most dangerous cause of extinction on the planet;

Whereas the disappointing March '10 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting in Doha, Qatar also failed to protect critically vulnerable species;

Whereas these successive malfunctions of key UN environmental conferences have increased the biodiversity emergency and demonstrated the need for stronger global commitment, cooperation and leadership to which the United States could greatly contribute;

Whereas the United States routinely sends a substantial observer delegation to all CBD COP meetings now, there would be little added expense to attend these conferences as an officially recognized voting party;

Whereas President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors initiative on April 17, 2010 in recognition of the myriad environmental challenges now facing humanity and the biosphere;

Whereas President Obama has greatly increased international respect for the United States with his emphasis on multilateral approaches to global challenges and his pledge that America is prepared to play an active and positive role in all future multiparty problem-solving;

Whereas US CBD ratification would send a powerful and encouraging message to the world that the American people also recognize the ecological crises we now face and are prepared to work with international community to help resolve them;

Whereas US President Bill Clinton already signed the Convention on Biological Diversity on June 4, 1993, and all that remains is ratification by the US Senate;

Whereas there now seems to be little substantial controversy surrounding the terms or goals of this critical treaty, its ratification seems assured of strong bipartisan support as an internationally important environmental achievement.

We, the Japan Civil Network for the Convention on Biological Diversity, on behalf of our nationwide membership therefore respectfully urge the Obama administration and current members of the US Senate to swiftly seize this opportunity and ratify the CBD.

[This appeal was unanimously approved and adopted by the full Steering Committee of the *Japan Civil Network for the Convention on Biological Diversity* in Nagoya and Tokyo, Japan.]

Reference contacts

Co-chair TAKAYAMA Susumu

Co-chair YOSHIDA Masahito

About the Signatories

The [Japan Civil Network for the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) is the official government recognized Japanese civil society coalition for the United Nations' 10th Conference of Parties to the CBD in Nagoya this October. It comprises over 100 organizations representing several hundred thousand members in total and includes among others the following:

Japan Forum for Biodiversity	Japan Family Farmers Movement
Japan Wetlands Action Network	Japan Network for the Environment & Pollution Prevention
Nature Conservation Society of Japan	Japan Butterfly Conservation Society
OISCA International	Ecosystem Conservation Society-Japan (ECO-J)
Earthwatch Institute (Japan)	Biodiversity Network Japan
Global Environmental Forum	Association of Tsukinowa
Citizens Environmental Foundation Tokai	Dolphin & Whale Action Network (IKAN)
World Wildlife Fund Japan	Harinko Network
Wild Bird Society of Japan	Community-Based Development Initiatives Center
Japan Field Biologists Network for Environmental Studies	NPO Omotehama Network
Fujimae Ramsar Society	Civil Organization against the Shitara Dam
Friends of the Earth Japan	NO! GMO Campaign
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation	Everyday Is Earthday
Conservation International	Atochiba-Net
Good News Japan (GNJ)	Nissin Nature Observation Club
Wildlife Management Office, Inc (WMO)	Yamazakigawa Greenmap
Aichi Environmental Counselors Association	RCE Chubu
Greenpeace Japan	Ise-Mikawa Bioregions Network
Conference of Aichi Nature Instructors	Nature Conservation Society of Tokyo
Okinawa Citizens' Network for Biodiversity	Nagoya Higashiyama
Save the Dugong Campaign Center (SDCC)	Amita Institute for Sustainable Economies
Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima	Coral Network
Environmental Partnership Council (EPC)	International Center for Environmental Management of Coastal Seas
Seikatsu Club Consumers Cooperative Union	Wildlife Community Institute
Association for Nature Restoration & Conservation	Earthvillage Network
Nagoya NGO Center	No-GM Association Aichi
Japan Education for Sustainable Development Council	Kusunokishizenkan
Shikoku Network for Biological Diversity Conservation	Isumigunsi Nature Preservation Association
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	CSO Peace Seed
Japan Environmental Action Network	All Life in a Viable Environment (ALIVE)
Yakushima Biodiversity Conservation Conference	Forest Meditation Association
Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund	Aisis Japan (NPO Volunteer Group)
ASEED JAPAN	Earthday Toyama
Japan Wildlife Conservation Society	Japan Sustainability Academy
Kiko (Climate) Network	Forest and Village Foundation
Network of People & Seeds for the Future	Kenju no Kai
Biodiversity Information Center	Moriyama Japanese Squirrel Conservation Society
Nakatsu Waterfront Conservation Association	Chunichi Newspapers
	Green TV Japan