

Sendai Eco-DRR Declaration following the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake caused huge damage to the coastal area of northeastern Japan, where the lives, culture and industry of the local people have long been dependent on biodiversity and coastal ecosystems. We believe efforts to recover from this disaster should be done with conservation of both biodiversity and ecosystem services. The building of large sea walls as protective measures is often counter to the environment and the area's natural beauty.

Recently, Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Climatic Change (EbA) have drawn attention worldwide. The aim is to use nature's own ecosystem defenses to protect against future disasters. Eco-DRR and EbA are applicable for many areas in the world, and in general more cost effective and resilient when compared to man-made defenses. They also ensure rich biodiversity and ecosystem services supportive of human life.

In our discussions we reviewed the ecological impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the recovery of both natural resources and human society. And we recognize the effectiveness of Eco-DRR to the recovery of both. We urge all stakeholders with an interest in reducing damage caused by natural disasters to consider Eco-DRR as a secure means of protecting both the beauty of the local environment and its natural ability to protect against future disasters.

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The 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Public Forum

“Wise Use of Coastal Ecosystems for Disaster Risk Reduction: Mainstreaming and Problems” Participants

