

Abstracts of some recent reports and monographs

The Japan Biodiversity Fund -Supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity

Outcomes Aichi Targets Newsletter, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011

It is not enough to ratify multilateral agreements if we do not implement them. Capacity building is necessary to ensure that obligations are implemented.” Those words were spoken by Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Minister of Environment Wildlife and Tourism at the Regional Workshop for Southern Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), held in Kasane, Botswana, in March 2011. The first in a series of regional NBSAP capacity building workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, it was made possible by the Japan Biodiversity Fund established by the Presidency of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10).

Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Additional Lead Author) 2014

The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) provides a mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This technical study, prepared over a two year period, represents the detailed scientific foundation on the basis of which GBO-4 has been prepared. It analyses the latest biodiversity information from a wide spectrum of sources and provides scientifically rigorous information on our progress towards the attainment of each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as reviewing, through statistical extrapolations and scenarios, the likelihood of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets if current trends continue. On the basis of these lines of evidence the technical study recommends key actions for each target that would enable their achievement by 2020.

CBD Technical Series No. 78: Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An assessment of biodiversity trends, policy scenarios and key actions Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Additional Lead Author) 2014

Published almost at the halfway point of the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, this fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) provides a timely report on progress towards meeting the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and potential actions to accelerate that

progress, on prospects for achieving the 2050 Vision for “Living in Harmony with Nature”, and on the importance of biodiversity in meeting broader goals for sustainable human development during this century.

Local implementation of the SDGs as a global agenda NETT 105 p27-31 2019

The goal is essentially a sustainable society where ‘no one is left behind’ and where ‘economy, society and environment are in harmony’, and this requires ‘transformation’ of the world, not just the achievement of 17 individual SDGs. We need to start by identifying what is being ‘left behind’ around us in order to link local action with global issues. In this paper, the necessary efforts to achieve the SDGs in Hokkaido and universities are introduced and the remaining challenges are highlighted.

The Significance of Designating Akkeshi-Kiritappu-Konbumori Quasi-National Park

Nature of Hokkaido 60, p40-47 2022

On March 30, 2021, the Akkeshi-Kiritappu Konbu-mori National Park was designated as Japan's 58th national park. This new designation follows the Central Alps National Park (2020) and the Shokanbetsu-Temmari-Yakeshiri National Park (1990) in Hokkaido. Originally designated as a "prefectural" nature park in 1955, the Akkeshi-Kiritappu area has now been expanded to include adjacent regions such as the Bekambeushi Wetland and surrounding sea areas, bringing the total area to 41,487 hectares (including the marine zone).

The park is a precious and globally significant natural area, as it includes two Ramsar Convention Wetlands, making it an exceptional and valuable ecological asset. Additionally, a 966-hectare area has been designated as a "Special Protection Area," the most stringent level of regulation within Japan's natural park system. This achievement is the result of persistent local efforts toward national park designation, which began in the 1980s, but it took 40 years for the designation to be realized.

From the perspective of protecting the region's precious natural resources, including internationally recognized wetlands, the significance of this national park designation is clear. Looking ahead, it is important to consider the responsibilities and actions required to ensure the ongoing protection and management of these vital ecosystems for future generations.

How can we protect wetlands in Hokkaido? : Expectations toward the Hokkaido

Biodiversity Conservation Plan

Japan Wetland Society, Wetland Research vol.13, p1-3 (Co-

author) 2023

At the 14th Annual Meeting of the Japan Wetlands Society (2022), a special session titled "How Can We Protect Hokkaido's Wetlands? – Expectations for the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan" was held in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment Hokkaido Environmental Partnership Office (EPO Hokkaido), the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Activity Support Center (HoBiCC), Hokkaido, the Japan Wetlands Society Hokkaido Wetland Consortium Section, and the 14th Conference Organizing Committee.

This feature article summarizes the reports presented by Yoshinaka, Yabe, and Suzuki, and includes comments from Masayuki Takada (Hosei University) and Koji Ohata (Wild Bird Society of Japan), who participated in the discussions during the session. Finally, the article outlines the key expectations for the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan, which were raised through the special session. These expectations emphasize the importance of strengthening efforts to protect Hokkaido's wetlands and integrating them into the broader biodiversity conservation framework.

Convention on Biological Diversity and the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan

Japan Wetland Society, Wetland Research vol.13, p5-8 2023

In December 2022, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP15) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which sets global goals for biodiversity. Following this, Japan's National Biodiversity Strategy was revised and approved by the Cabinet on March 31, 2023, as the National Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030. The Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan can be considered a prefectural version of this national strategy.

With the global mission of "putting biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030," and the protection of Hokkaido's wetlands in mind, it is important to reflect on the goals and roles of the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan. What should this plan look like in order to contribute to the global goal of biodiversity recovery? Furthermore, what roles should Hokkaido and each of us individually play in achieving these goals? These are the questions that need to be raised and discussed moving forward.

Expectations toward the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan: Lessons from the Special Session

Japan Wetland Society, Wetland Research vol.13, p31-33 (co-author) 2023

Hokkaido is a treasure trove of natural wetlands, with many of these ecosystems still preserved today. Wetlands are closely linked to the economy and daily life of Hokkaido's residents through industries such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism. However, the true value of wetlands has not been fully recognized, and their loss and degradation continue to be significant issues.

To address this, the Hokkaido Wetland Consortium has worked to raise awareness about the value of wetlands and promote their integration into mainstream policies. Following the Hokkaido Wetland Forum 2020 titled "Shitchi Switch," a special session was held under the theme "How Can We Protect Hokkaido's Wetlands? - Expectations for the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan." Based on the outcomes of these discussions, this paper organizes four key expectations for the Hokkaido Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

The four expectations aim to enhance wetland protection efforts and integrate biodiversity conservation into the broader environmental framework, ensuring the long-term preservation of Hokkaido's unique wetlands.