

Progresses and Challenges from the view of biodiversity conservation after rice paddy resolution (X.31) in Japan

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Implementation of Rice Paddy Resolution

- Designation of Ramsar sites including rice paddies
- The International Partnership for the SATOYAMA Initiative (IPSI)
- “Important SATOCHI-SATOYAMA in Japan”
- “Important Wetlands in Japan”
- Conservation of freshwater fishes
- Awareness Raising



Designation of Ramsar Sites including rice paddies

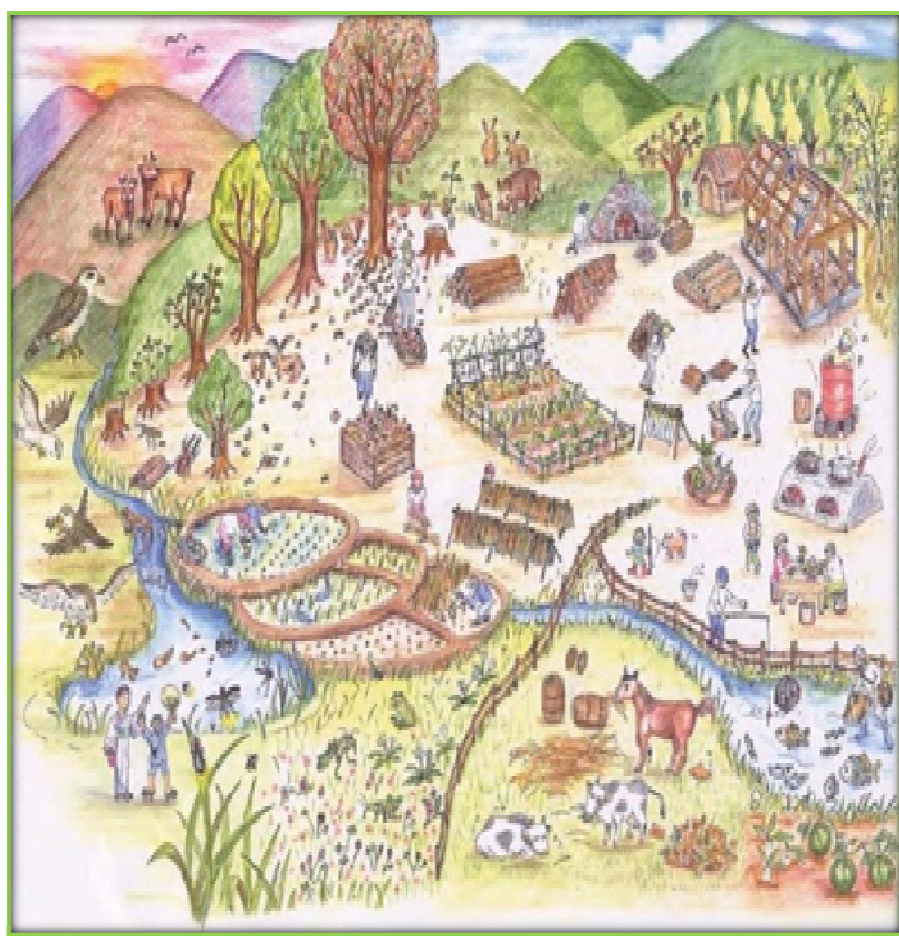
Lower Maruyama River and surrounding rice paddies
Designated in 2012



Among 50 Ramsar Sites in Japan,
21 sites have rice paddies in/around the sites.

➤ Socio-ecological production landscapes

1. Formed and developed through prolonged interaction between humans & ecosystems
2. Mosaics of diverse land uses and ecosystems
3. A bundle of ecosystem services from multifunctional landscape
4. Deeply linked to local culture and knowledge
5. Often found in the rural and peri-urban areas of Japan



Ministry of Environment of Japan.
<http://www.env.go.jp/mail.html>

SATOYAMA Initiative

■ Background

● For conservation of biological diversity

Not only the conservation of primitive areas, but also conservation or Revitalization of human-influenced natural environments such as SATOYAMA, which are formed and maintained through human activities important as well.

● *Such* landscapes can be seen throughout the world

Most of such areas are under threat from increased urbanization, industrialization, and rapid population increase and decrease, or have already lost.



■ **Vision** To promote sustainable use and management of natural resources in human-influenced natural environments through realization of societies in harmony with nature, thereby contributing to the improvement of human well-being and achievement of the objectives of the CBD

International Partnership for the SATOYAMA Initiative (IPSI)

- A global effort to realize “societies in harmony with nature”
- Promotes revitalization and sustainable management of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes around the world



Launched with 51 members including 9 governments



**As of Oct. 2014, 164 members
Secretariat: UNU**



**SATOYAMA
INITIATIVE**

What are the function of IPSI?

Organizing Event



Global Conference



Regional Workshop



Side-events
at related conferences



Others

Information Platform



- To collect and disseminate information from IPSI members globally through IPSI website
- Information can be used as for research and publication
- Provide opportunity to present at broad range of relevant events and meetings

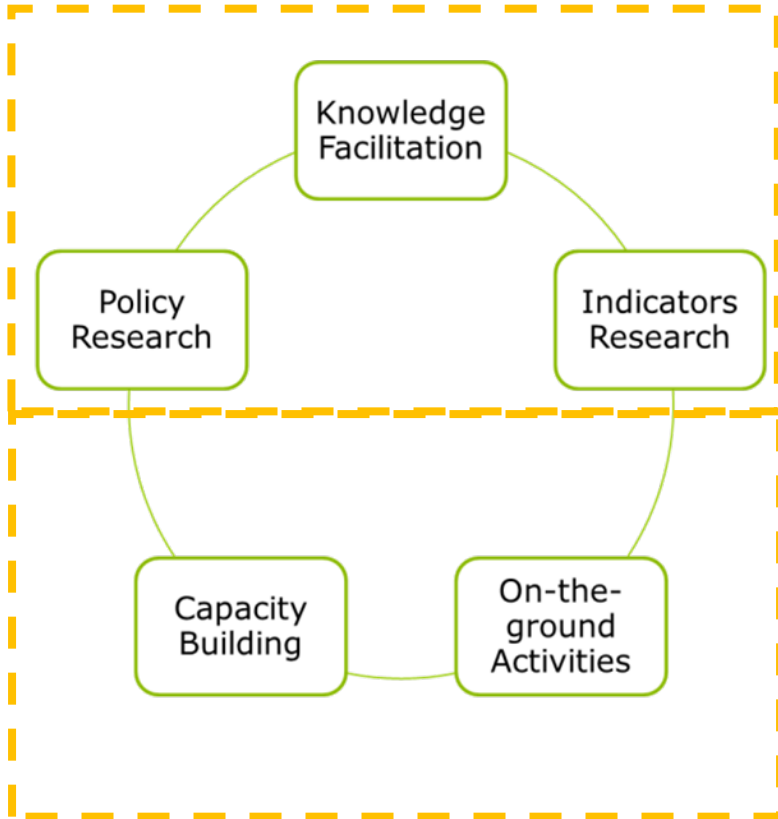
Collaborative Activity



- To strength collaboration and synergy among IPSI member organizations.

What are the activities through IPSI?

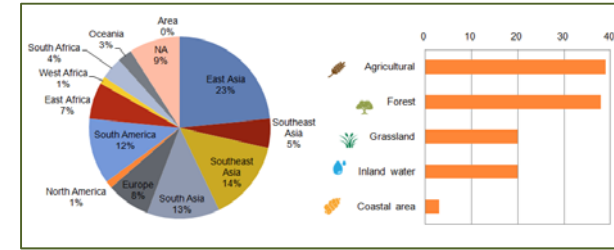
Enhance the understanding & raise awareness of the importance of SEPLS



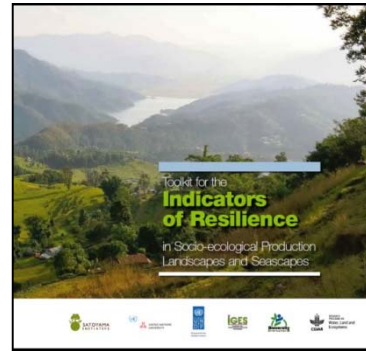
Promote the proper management & sustainable use of SEPLS



Publication



Case study collection & Analysis



Indicator research & development



Resource Mobilization
e.g. Satoyama Development Mechanism

On-the ground activity
e.g. Urato Islands restoration



Selection of important sites

Important SATOCHI-SATOYAMA in Japan *under development*

Important Wetlands in Japan *under update*

- Selection is done in terms of richness of biodiversity.
- Rice paddies are included.
- Understanding of their importance would be facilitated, promoting conservation activities.
- It could affect development plans in a positive way.
- It may contribute to broadening the concept of Ecological Network which connects mountain, rural area, river and sea.



Efforts for the conservation of Freshwater fishes

Highest risk of extinction

- About 400 species of freshwater fishes and brackish water fishes are recorded in Japan.
- 167 species (42 %) are listed as endangered (CR, EN, VU) in national red list (2013).

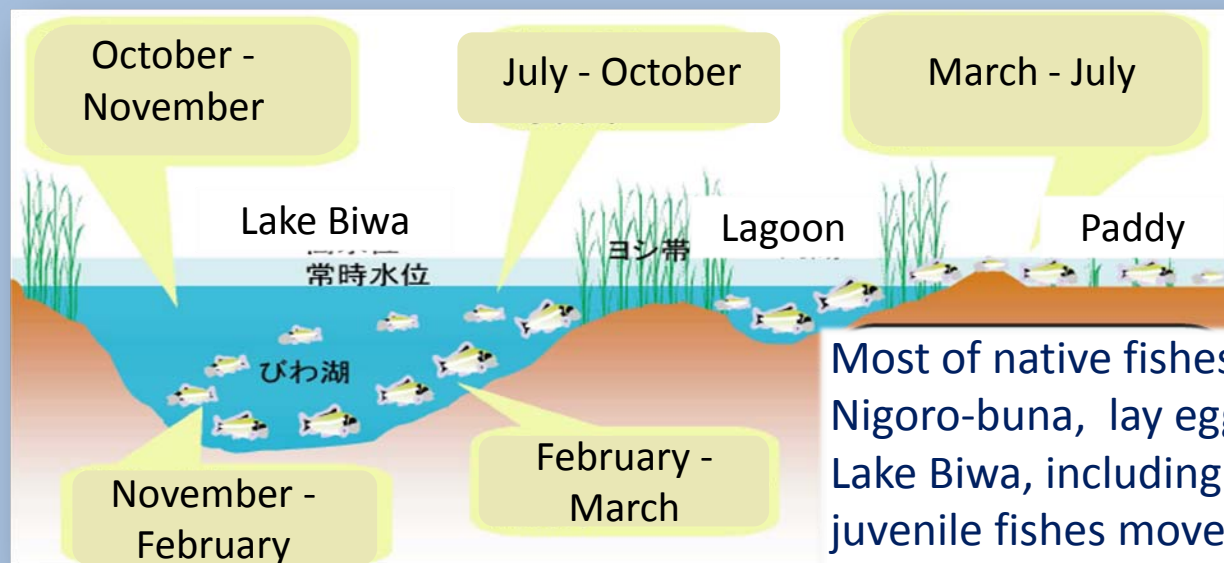
Needs of wildlife corridors

- Freshwater fishes migrate among rivers, channels, rice paddies and ponds.
- Freshwater fishes are vulnerable to the change in land use.



Example: Making paddy fields into fishes' cradles

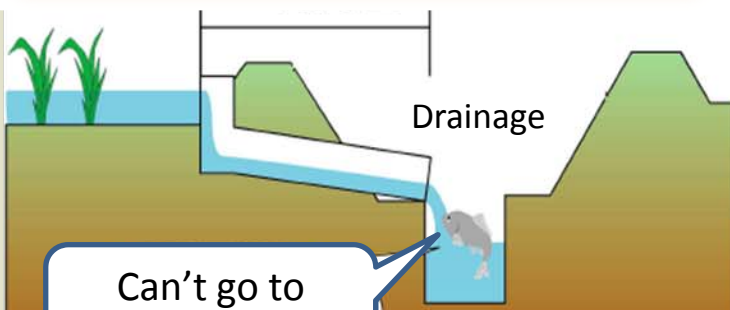
Restore flow for fishes between Lake Biwa and paddy field



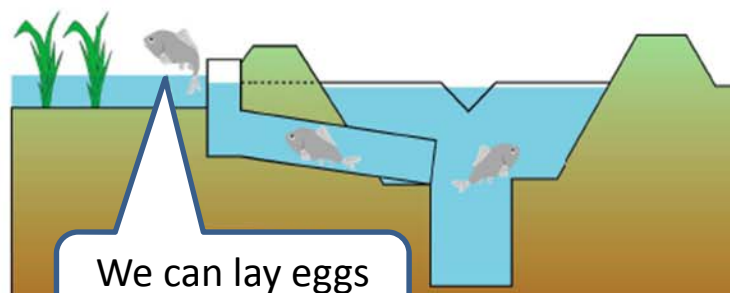
Old shore of Lake Biwa

Most of native fishes of Lake Biwa, such as Nigoro-buna, lay eggs around the shore of Lake Biwa, including rice paddies. Those juvenile fishes move into the lake from the shore, when grow up to some level.

Segmented habitats by paddy modernization



Restore linkages between Lake Biwa and paddy field



Efforts for the conservation of Freshwater fishes

Consideration for the conservation

- Expert Committee was established last year.
- The Committee has discussed about the challenges, direction and technical measures for the conservation.
- Guidance from the Committee will be finalized by next March.
- The guidance will promote conservation activities by various actors such as national and local governments, NGOs, farmers, and researches.

Rice paddy resolution has positively affected domestic policy.

We still face several challenges.

How can we go forward further?

Thank you very much
for your kind attention