
Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 Ideas on Promotion Measures from Local Viewpoint

Japan Wildlife Conservation Society NPO Research Report by JWCS Aichi Target 3 Committee

1. Governance and Policy

Example of Biodiversity Related Domestic and Foreign Environmental Taxes, Charges and Incentives

Methods such as environmental taxes, charges and subsidies (incentives) have been proposed for issues ranging from pollution to manmade climate change. Local government is taking the lead in the biodiversity field, especially with introduction of a forest ecotax. It is important to present arguments about a mix of policies other than taxation (direct regulations, institutional changes, and offset systems).

Although manmade climate change taxes are a top-down approach, renewable energy uses a bottom-up wholesale purchase system. Since subsidies are paid for infrastructure, although such infrastructure may not be managed sometimes, a wholesale purchase system produces income from power generation. In regions with declining population where villages are the traditional foundation, income from the sale of electricity can be invested in local revitalization. In the biodiversity field, there are some regions using the profits from small-scale hydropower projects for forest maintenance.

Local Government Employees and Subsidies

A limited Internet survey was conducted on individual opinions of local government employees.

With the current subsidy system, it was suggested that although work on assuring biodiversity can be achieved using subsidies, it would be impossible for the subsidy requirements to cope with regional diversity and different circumstances. Additionally, there were many responses about issues concerning personnel training for administrative officers and citizens' participation.

Is unification of regional biodiversity policies encouraged?

"The aquatic environment" was cited as an example of progress between agencies responsible for the environment, agriculture, and rivers but on-site integration of agricultural and environmental policies is described as inadequate. In addition, the Sato-umi Creation (里海創生事業) Group of Shima City, Mie Prefecture, held a meeting between the various main stakeholders using connections of the Sato-umi Promotion Office (里海推進室) to promote basic local government establishment of "ecosystem

management" and "integrated coastal management".

Chiba Fieldwork Report — Coastal Work and Resident Participation

Associate Professor Seino Satoko of Kyushu University explained that it is known sandbars form where sand collects at the bottom of surfing locations and that beaches with plovers are known to have bait, noting the importance of attracting the interest of local residents who observe the sea from day-to-day. The person responsible for Chiba Prefecture said since there are links between monitoring and consensus building, consideration of the effect on fisheries and the ecosystem made powerful common sense with the current positioning of the Seashore Act.

Shima and Toba Fieldwork Report — Initiative between Toba City *Asari* (Short-Necked Clam) Study Group and Shima City

Shima City Sato-umi Creation (里海創生) Basic Plan (Shima City Coastal General Management Plan) FY2012 ~ 2015

Tidal marshes at three city localities are being regenerated to increase marshlands but there are difficulties with reclassification of old land that has been classified as fallow land to "agricultural land".

Discarded oyster shells in Toba City have been processed and natural seeding of *asari* short-necked clams is under way. Stocking of spat from other areas is attracting attention due to fear of invasive alien species.

2. Examples of Work in Each Field

Incentives Related to Biodiversity Loss in Upland Agriculture

Upland agricultural village maintenance (agricultural land improvement), such as land reclamation, irrigation and drainage, farm road maintenance, agricultural land disaster prevention, etc., is performed using subsidies from national, prefectural, and local governments. It could be said that organisms living and growing in paddy fields today are more or less influenced by the subsidy "business". Villages like Yatsuda in Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture, are maintained through receipt of measures such as the Chiba Prefectural Village Regulations, Grants for Upland Regions, Grants for Agricultural Environmental Conservation, etc., as promotion measures.

Subsidies for Problem of Invasive Species

Assistance was examined from the viewpoint of preventing invasive species in the field of environmental conservation by non-governmental organizations such as NPOs. There were found to be few assistance systems in fields other than for countermeasures to invasive species. Among these, the most common was for tree planting. Invasive

herbaceous plants and bivalves are being used as water purifiers. There have been cases of planting ornamentals to help promote local tourism and village economies, as well as transport of saplings raised elsewhere to disaster stricken regions for use in plantings as sea and tidal defenses.

Fishing Industry Subsidies

Effective subsidies for fishery management and studies to prevent overfishing require active public disclosure of information about the resource recovery effectiveness as well as accounting transparency in terms of cost effectiveness. In Japan, where the numbers of fishermen and fish landings are in continuous decline, there are issues about whether ineffective subsidies for infrastructure adjustment are promoting overfishing. Instead of preventing overfishing by changing from expanding production to resource management matching the trend to conserving biodiversity, which can be traced back to postwar fishery management policies, it is important to rebuild the subsidy system based on the concept of biodiversity, including organisms other than targeted fisheries, as well as creating a society in harmony with nature.

3. Recovery and Development

Iwate and Miyagi Fieldwork Report

Two main trends seem to be occurring related to the Great East Japan Earthquake recovery effort. In particular, with respect to how the fisheries of the Sanriku region of the Tohoku coast can be revived, rather than pursuing rebuilding based on the importance of local traditions, there seems to be a trend towards modern commercialization and global development that ignores local community-based traditions and relationships.

Okinawa Fieldwork Report

Scientific findings were adopted in the construction the high-tide countermeasures on the shoreline of Kayou in Nago City, Okinawa, and sites were agreed with local inhabitants. There is talk of a change from a subsidy to an Okinawa Promotional Lump Sum Grant, increasing the prefectural influence. On the other hand, a local citizens' group has pointed out a mistake in the environmental assessment of the landfill at the Awase Tidelands and the failure in transplanting the seagrass beds. Moreover, the Naha District Court has handed down a ruling that the economic rationale has not been made for expenditure of public funds on Stage 1 of the Awase Tidelands landfill. Nevertheless, work is pushing forward.

(Translation : Robert Hancock)

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4. Future prospects

A society in harmony with nature

～ With the aim of Satoyama - Satoumi Renaissance (Koyu Furusawa)

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