

What is The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands?

The main aims of The Ramsar Convention are conservation and wise use of wetland areas. It has taken many years for this treaty to be established.



Conservation and Restoration

Wetlands function not only as important habitats for waterbirds, but also as a vital ecosystem that supports the natural environment of humankind.

We ask everyone to work together to conserve and restore all kinds of wetlands.

Wise Use

In order to promote a more balanced and sustainable relationship between the lifestyle of local people and industries, we advocate the 'wise use' of wetlands, whereby the ecosystem is maintained, and these blessings of nature can be utilized in a sustainable way.

Exchange and Learning

As part of The Ramsar Convention, a resolution was passed regarding activities relating to communication and information exchange, education and public awareness to encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands.

The Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties



Contracting Parties

170

Wetland Sites

2,337

Contracting Parties

Non-Contracting Parties

Total Area

252,051,740 hectares

(As of January 2019)

*Some small countries or areas may not be visible on this simplified map.



Long ago...

Many civilizations flourished alongside rivers and waterways.



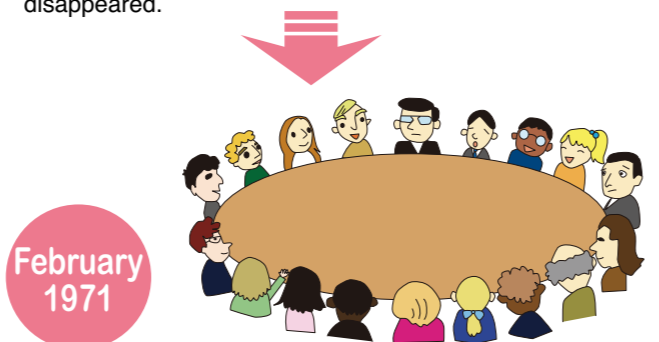
Since the Industrial Revolution

Waterways were gradually dammed up and houses and factories took over the riverbanks.



Then...

Rivers became polluted and many species of aquatic life disappeared.



February 1971

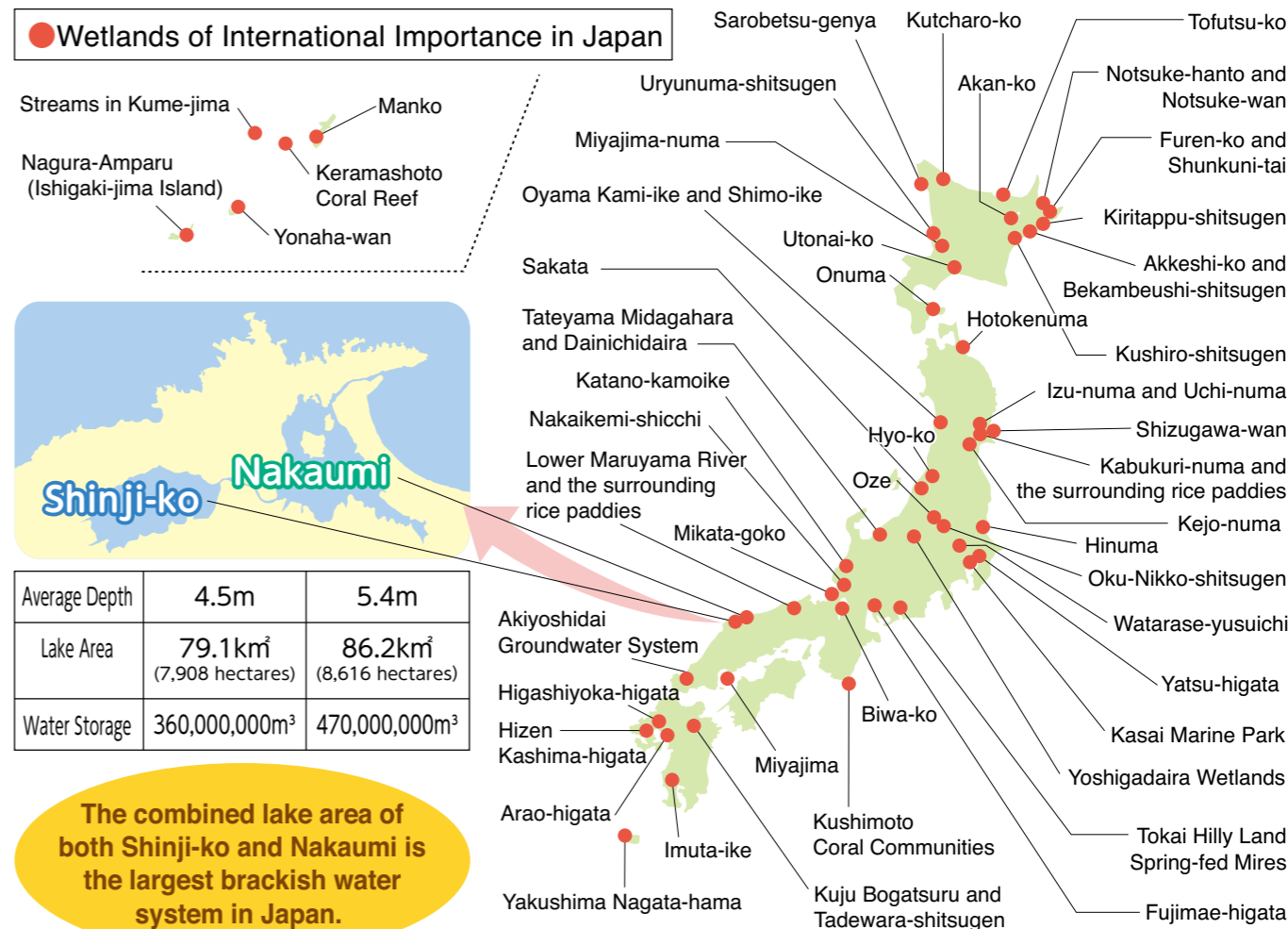
Representatives from 18 countries met in Ramsar, an Iranian city on the banks of the Caspian Sea where a convention on the international importance of wetlands as a habitat for waterbirds was formally adopted.

This became known as the 'The Ramsar Convention.' Japan became a contracting party to the convention in 1980.

Shinji-ko and Nakaumi: Inclusion into The Ramsar Convention

The 9th Ramsar Convention (COP9) was held in Uganda, Africa on 8 November 2005. At this meeting, both Shinji-ko and Nakaumi were internationally recognized as valuable sites and were included into the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

It is essential that we take pride in these two lakes and conserve the natural resources of these wetlands for future generations.



Kushiro-shitsugen (Kushiro Marshland) became the first site in Japan to be listed under The Ramsar Convention in 1980.

Every year, more and more places are added to this list.

There are currently 52 wetlands listed throughout Japan (as of March 2019).

1 Key Point

What is a wetland?

The Ramsar Convention accepts all wetland areas, including places that are manmade, waterways that may dry up from time to time and lakes that have no flowing water. They also allow coastal areas where the sea level is no more than 6m deep, meaning that almost all waterways can be considered as wetlands.

So is this!

