

Nakaikemi-shicchi

Geographical Coordinates: 35°39'N, 136°05'E / Altitude: 45m / Area: 87ha / Major Type of Wetland: / Low moor, rice paddy / Designation: Special Zone of Quasi National Park / Municipalities Involved: Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: July 2012 / Ramsar Criteria: 1, 2, 3



View of Nakaikemi-shicchi from the southeast

General Overview:

The Ramsar Site “Nakaikemi-shicchi” is located at the center of Tsuruga City, facing the Sea of Japan, in the southwestern region of Fukui Prefecture. It is a low moor surrounded by three mountains, Mt. Tezutsuyama, Nakayama and Miyama. The main feature of this wetland is the “sediment-filled valley” which was formed by the accumulation of peat layers in a valley after the river stopped flowing due to past fault movement and crustal deformation. A continuous peat layer approximately 40m deep is found underground, recording changes in climate and vegetation for 50,000 years.

During the Edo period (1603- 1868), the wetland was initially developed for rice cultivation. Water passages exist in every direction, forming a mosaic of rice paddies and water pools. Consequently, a diverse wetland habitat has developed in this area, fostering diverse flora and fauna.

A Repository of Aquatic Life:

The rice paddies in this wetland are extremely deep and muddy due to the thick peat layer. The difficulty in introducing machinery into such deep rice paddies has led to the utilization of traditional rice cultivation methods. As a result, many species are threatened to extinction in the mid-mountainous areas of Japan. In contrast, this wetland still sustains valuable aquatic plants such as *Isoetes japonica*, *Marsilea quadrifolia*, *Natant salvinia* and *Azolla japonica*.

This wetland is home to more than 70 species of dragonflies and damselflies, including *Asiagomphus pryeri* and *Sarasaeschna pryeri*, which account for approximately 40% of the species of dragonflies and damselflies found in Japan. *Scymnus nakaikemensis Sasaji et Kishimoto* is a ladybird found in Nakaikemi-shicchi, which is the only habitat in this prefecture. “Nakaikemi Harmony of Rural Nature and Human Life”

Currently, Nakaikemi-shicchi is referred to “land of interaction between people and nature” and serves as a stronghold for various activities in the nature. This place receives approximately 30,000 visitors annually, most of whom visit during the flower season in spring and autumn. People can obtain information about the area at the visitor center equipped with board walks and information boards. This area is well-suited for events such as nature watching and wildlife monitoring, which are organized for citizens regularly.

Conservation Efforts:

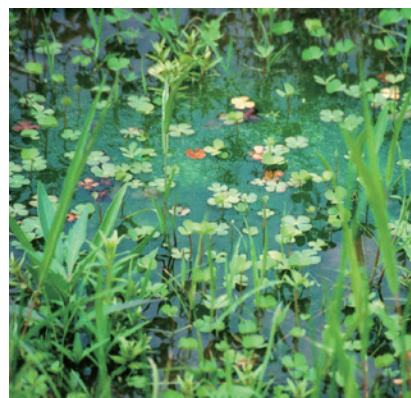
Although human intervention is important to sustain a good habitat condition in this wetland, most of the rice paddies have been abandoned by farmers. Local conservation groups and the local government share responsibility for the work in the rice paddies and engage in such activities as monitoring and removal of alien species, as well as the environmental education for local schools.

Additionally, people conserved the rice

Low Moor, Rice Paddy



Nakaikemi-shicchi in spring



Marsilea quadrifolia



Traditional water passage management

paddies through a traditional method. It is referred to “Ebori” which involves dredging the water passage to remove the plants and mud and improve the flow of water passage. People are simultaneously attempting to pass on these practices to the next generation.

Contact Information:

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