

Manko

Estuarine Tidal Flat, Mangrove Swamp

Geographical Coordinates: 26°11'N, 127°41'E / Altitude: -0.5m / Area: 58ha / Major Type of Wetland: Estuarine tidal flat, mangrove swamp / Designation: Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area / Municipalities Involved: Tomigusuku City and Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: May 1999 / Ramsar Criteria: 2 / EAAFP Flyway Network Site



Aerial view of Manko from the east

General Overview:

Manko is a tidal flat formed at the confluence of the Kokuba River that flows through Naha City and the Noha River that flows through Tomigusuku City in the southern part of Okinawa Island. Although located 3km inland from the coast, it is greatly affected by tidal flow, while a large tidal flat emerges at low tide.

There are small reed beds and extensive mangrove forests along the western bank. In accordance with the increasing sediment inflow from upstream rivers, some mangrove plants such as *Kandelia obovata* have expanded rapidly. As these plants have taken over the stopover and foraging site for waterbirds, a conservation project was carried out to ensure water inflow via several interventions such as trimming of the mangrove forest.

Important Habitat for Waterfowl:

Rich in fish and benthos including crab and Nereididae, typical species in brackish water tidal flats, the site is an important staging area for waterfowl. Most of these waterfowl are shorebirds such as Pacific Golden Plover, Dunlin, and Eurasian Curlew, including some rare species such as Black-faced Spoonbill and Saunders's Gull.

Recreation Site for Locals:

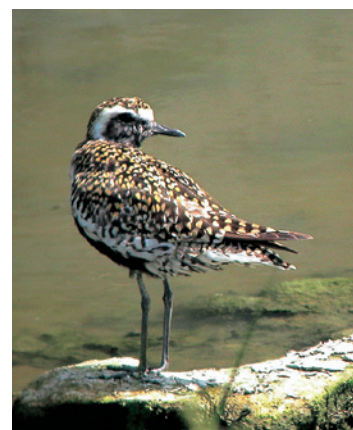
Manko is located close to the heart of Naha City and it has been functioning as a part of an important port for a long time. The flat is quite popular among locals as a place for recreation along with the parks and gardens that surround it. Two bridges cross over the tidal flat and receive heavy traffic at all times. However, the bridges allow people to watch the species in the tidal flat more closely. In addition, the Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center on the shore is working as a focal point for activities such as conservation, monitoring and environmental education.

[Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)]

The body length is 74cm. The face is black from the flat bill to the eyes, while the body is mostly white. They catch and eat fish, frogs, insects, crustaceans, and others in the mud while waving their bill from side to side. It breeds in the northeastern part of China and the northwestern part of the Korean Peninsula, while several of them visit Manko every year. Though they are one of the endangered species, however, their numbers have been increasing due to conservation efforts. As of January 2022, approximately 6,000 individuals are



Black-faced Spoonbill



Pacific Golden Plover

said to be living in East Asia.

Contact Information:

Tomigusuku City Office

<http://www.city.tomigusuku.okinawa.jp/>

Naha City Office

<http://www.city.naha.okinawa.jp/>

