

Nagura Amparu

Estuarine Tidal Flat, Mangrove Forest

Geographical Coordinates: 24°23'N, 124°08'E / Altitude: 0m / Area: 157ha / Major Type of Wetland: Estuarine tidal flat, mangrove forest / Designation: Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area, Special Protection Zone of National Park / Municipalities Involved: Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: November 2005 / Ramsar Criteria: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7



Extensive mangroves in the tidal flat

General Overview:

Ishigaki Island is situated 400km southwest of Okinawa Island, in the middle of the Yaeyama Island group, at the most southwestern end of the 3,000km long Japanese Archipelago. It is a subtropical island with an area of 22,200ha and a population of 50,000. The annual average temperature is approximately 24 degrees C with a minimal monthly variation.

Nagura Amparu is a tidal flat with mangrove forests located on the west coast of Ishigaki Island, where the Nagura River flows into Nagura Bay. This estuarine tidal flat stretches 2km from north to south and 1.5km from east to west. This is a typical wetland in the subtropical regions, with tidal flats, mangrove forests, beaches and coastal forests. This type of wetland with a series of diverse subtropical habitats is uncommon and valuable in Japan. This wetland was developed in a basin-like terrain facing the sea. The shallow lagoon and the sandbar on the coast were formed by muddy sediment that have built up over time.

Mangroves and Biodiversity:

Mangroves are found only in specific regions in Japan. Nagura Amparu is one of the prominent mangrove habitats in Japan, featuring Rhizophoraceae species such as *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Lumnitzera racemosa*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, and *Avicennia marina* characterized by their stilt roots and respiratory roots.

The tidal flat is a habitat for a variety of benthos, young fish and crustaceans such as crustaceans such as *Neanthes japonica*



Barred Mudskipper



Uca lactea perplexa

and *Upogebia major*. Shrimps and crabs, in particular, are abundant, including a number of endemic rare species. The species here are also a source of inspiration for locals. For example, some behaviors of crabs are humorously personified in a folk song.

A Stopover Point for Migratory Birds:

Nagura Amparu provides a rich feeding ground and safe environment, Nagura Amparu is an important stopover point for a variety of migratory shorebirds including Black-faced Spoonbill. This wetland is also home to Crested Serpent-eagle.

[Crested Serpent-eagle (*Spilornis cheela perplexus*)] It is an eagle with a body length of approximately 55cm, and about the size of Japanese Buzzard. It is widely found throughout the tropical and subtropical zones of India, Southeast Asia, Taiwan, and the southern Ryukyu Islands. In Japan, it is a resident bird distributed only in Iriomote Island and Ishigaki Is-



View of Nagura Amparu from the east



Crested Serpent-eagle

land, the northernmost habitat of this species. Although it feeds mainly on amphibians and reptiles, it also preys on plenty of crabs found in Nagura Amparu. It is also well known as a top predator in this wetland ecosystem.

Contact Information:

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