

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



Black-faced Spoonbill



Pacific Golden Plover

General Overview:

Manko is an estuarine 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 the tidal flow and a large tidal flat emerges at low tide.

There is a small reed bed and an extensive mangrove forest along the western bank. In accordance with the increasing sediment inflow from upstream rivers, some of the mangrove plants like *Candela candle* have expanded rapidly. As they took over the stopover and foraging site for waterbirds, a conservation project was carried out to ensure the water inflow by several interventions such as trimming a part of the mangrove forest.

Important Habitat for Waterfowl:

Rich in fish and benthos including crab and nereidae, typical species of brackish water tidal flats, the site is an important staging area for waterfowl. Most of them are shorebirds such as the Pacific Golden Plover, Dunlin, and 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 lake is quite popular among locals as a place for recreation along with the parks and gardens around it. Two bridges cross over the tidal flat with heavy traffic at all times. However, the bridges allow people to watch the species in the tidal flat close up. In addition, the Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center was established by the Ministry of the Environment as a focal point for activities such as conservation, monitoring and environmental education.

[Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*] It is a water bird with a long spatulate black bill, a black face and a white body. The body length is 74cm. It catches crustaceans in the mud by inserting its bill vertically into the water and swinging its head. It breeds in the northeastern part of China and the northwestern part of the Korean Peninsula, of which somewhat more than ten of individuals visit Manko in winter. The entire population in the world is estimated to be only slightly over one thousand.

Contact Information:

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