



2021–2022 Executive Training Course for Policy
Makers on The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development

Recovery for biodiversity conservation from COVID– 19 with youth engagement

Jin Tanaka

Branch manager

UNISC International, Japan

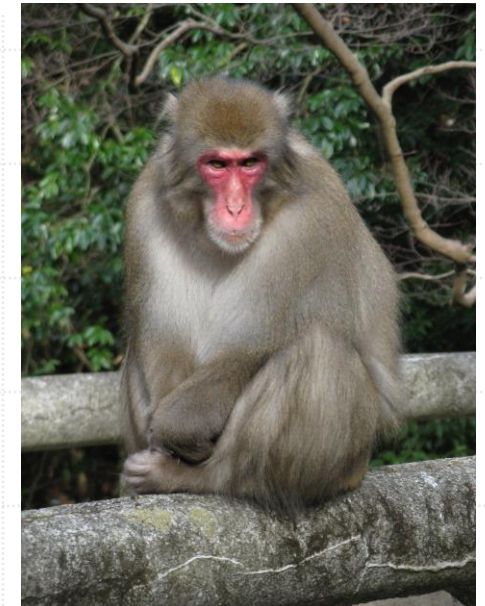
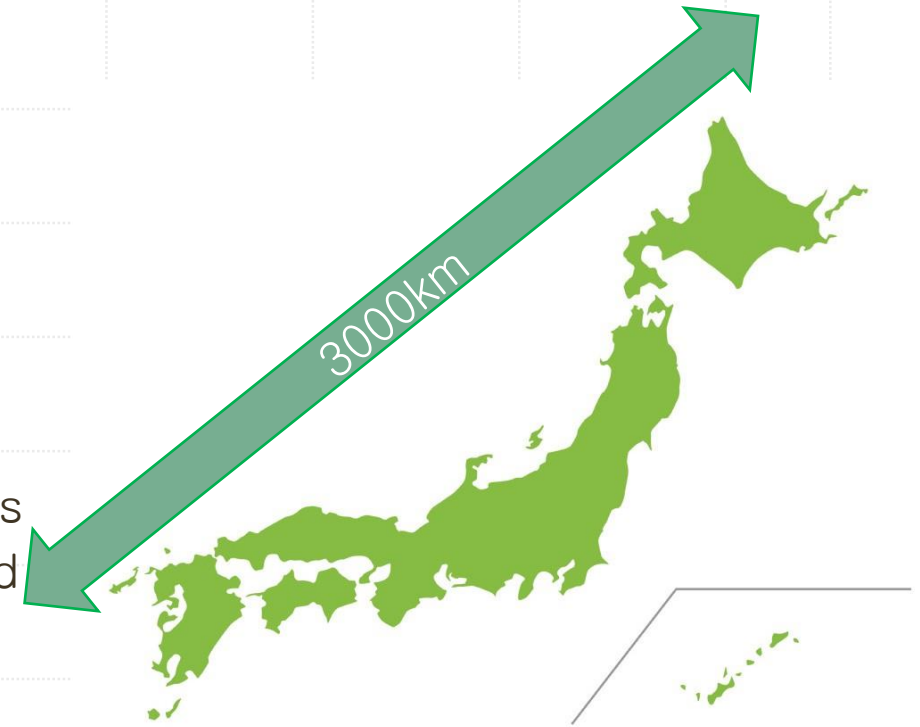
a youth–led non–governmental organization with
Special Consultative Status to the United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Outline

- Biodiversity in Japan
- Destruction of biodiversity by non–native species
- Decline of industries related to biodiversity
- Land degradation due to development and other human activities
- Frequent extreme weather events due to global environmental changes
- Development of Biodiversity Conservation Activities by Youth
- Conclusion

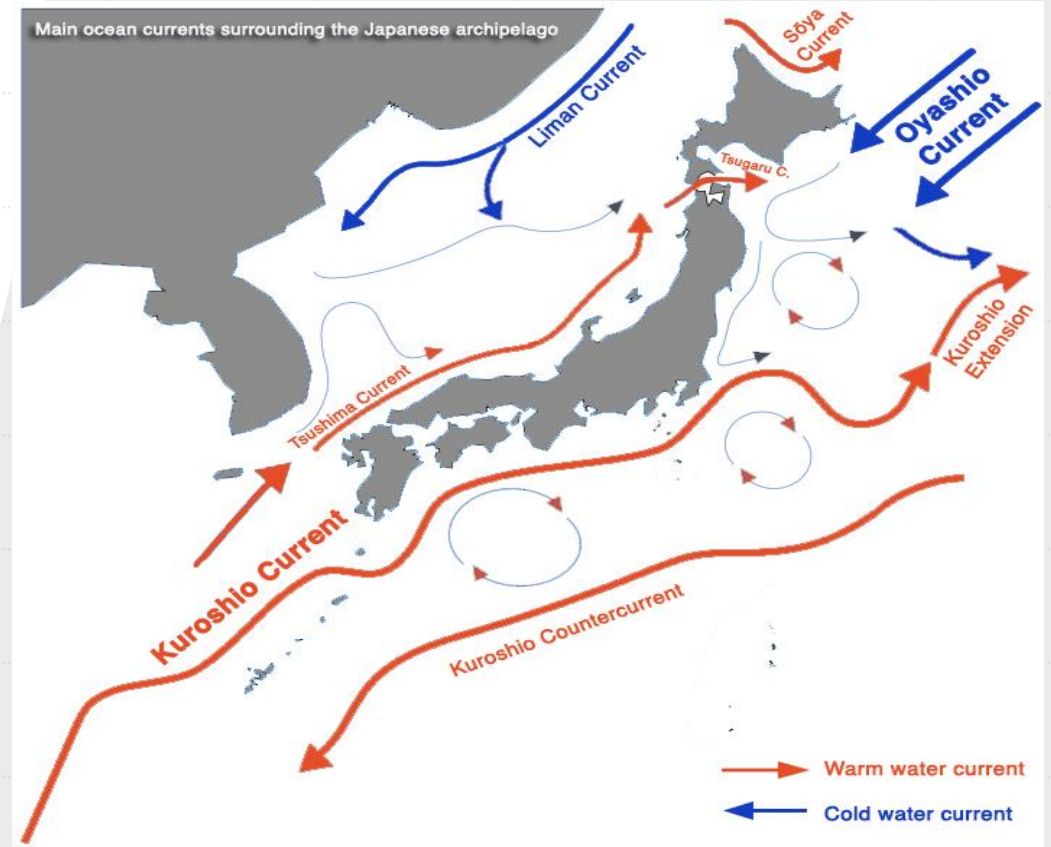
Biodiversity in Japan

- It is estimated that Japan has more than 90,000 species and 300,000 species including those not classified, and has rich biodiversity in a land area of about 38 million hectares.
- In addition, 40% of terrestrial mammals, 60% of reptiles, and 80% of amphibians are endemic to the country, and it is the only developed country with wild monkeys and a natural environment that is home to numerous medium and large wildlife species, including bears and deer.



Biodiversity in Japan

- Forests cover 67% of the total land area, which is by far the largest area among developed countries.
- The confluence of four ocean currents and the influence of monsoons have resulted in an extremely rich marine plankton population and rich marine biodiversity compared to other countries' ocean areas.
- Japan has many national parks, but only about 10% of the country's land area is designated as national parks, falling short of the target of 30%.



Destruction of biodiversity by non-native species

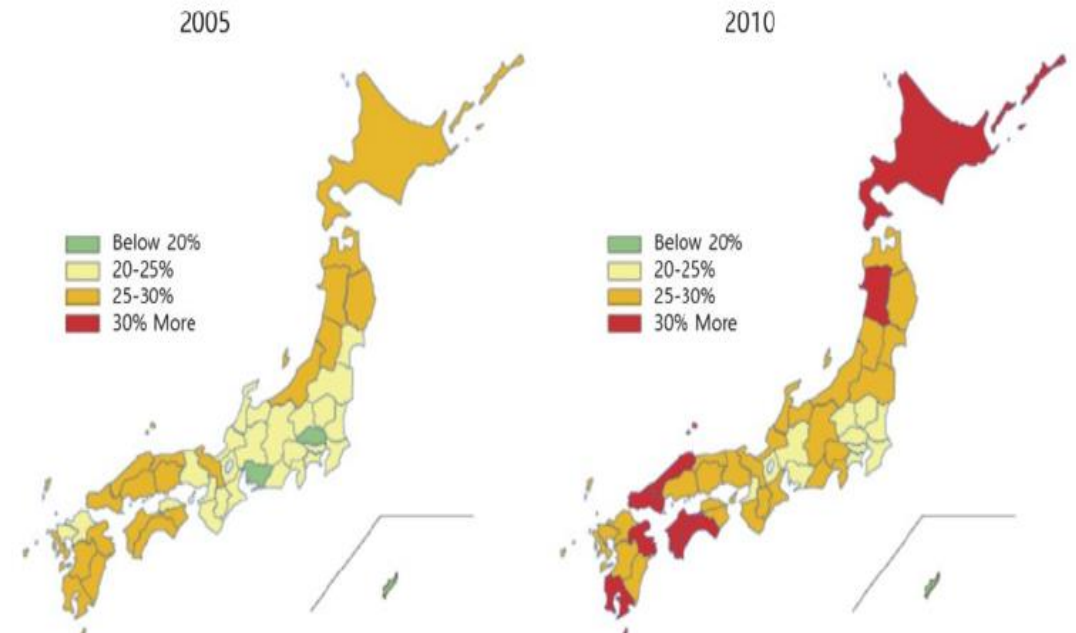
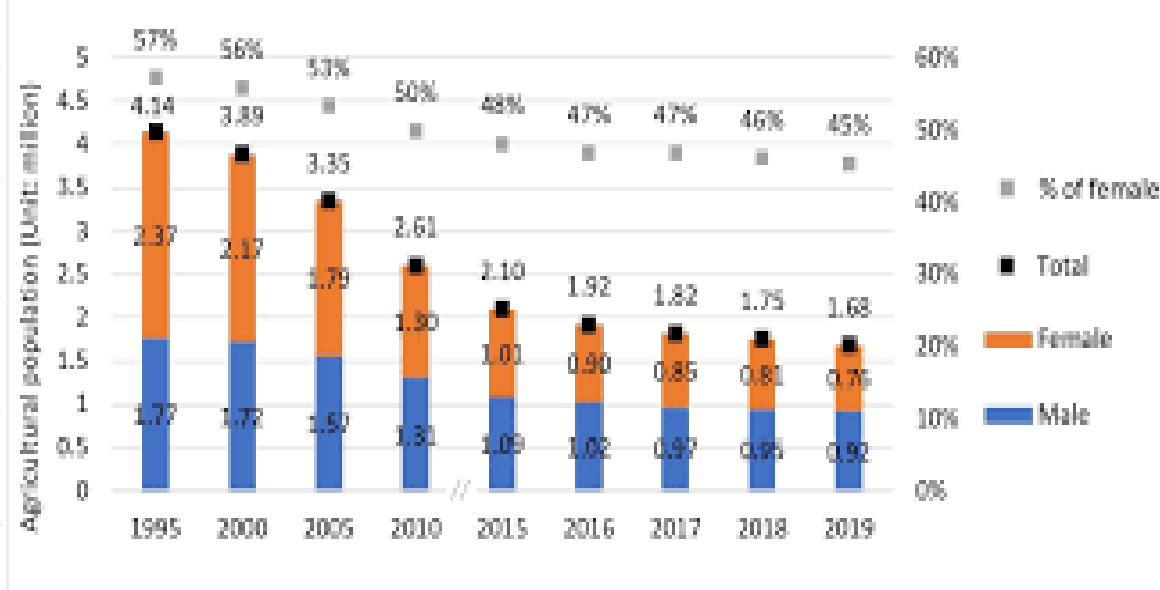
- The release of non-native species such as raccoons in the 1990s has led to the destruction of biodiversity throughout Japan by non-native species that have become wild.
- The genetic disturbance of raccoons and other species, as well as the destruction of native species by taking away the habitat of native species, are frequent occurrences.



Decline of industries related to biodiversity

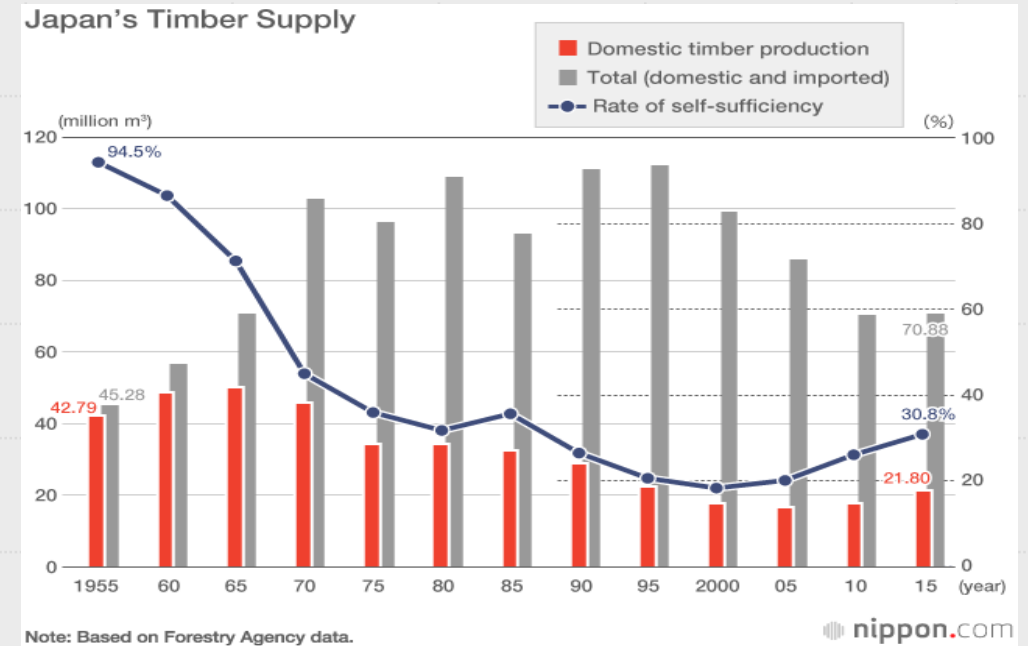
- The decline of local industries due to COVID-19 has resulted in a state of decline in industries such as agriculture and forestry, which are related to biodiversity.
- The population engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries is declining due to the low birthrate and aging population, and the population of industries has halved compared to 20 years ago.

Figure 1. Japan's Agricultural Population* by Gender

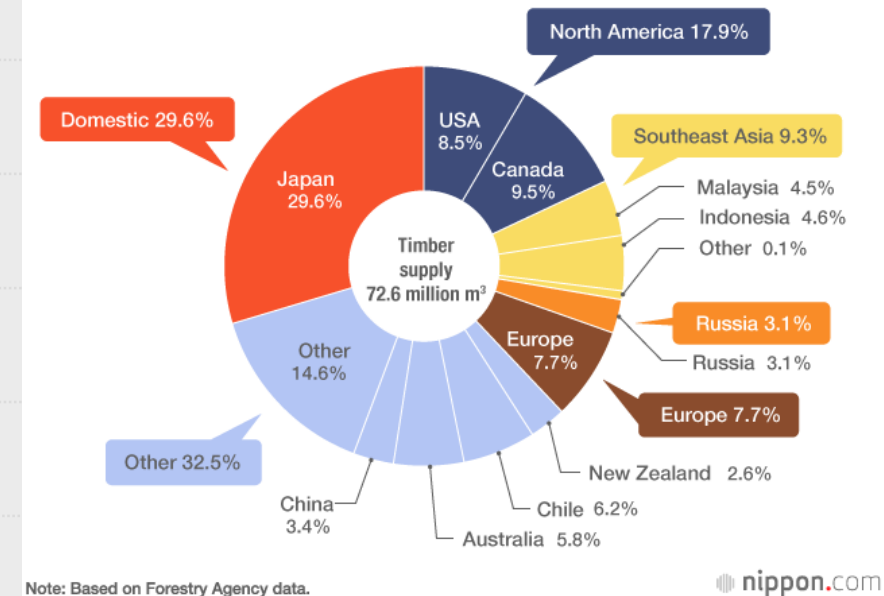


Land degradation due to development and other human activities

- The decline of local industries due to COVID-19 has resulted in a state of decline in industries such as agriculture and forestry, which are related to biodiversity.
- The population engaged in agriculture, forestry is declining due to the low birthrate and aging population, and the population of industries has halved compared to fifty years ago. In addition, the average age of the population is now over 60 years old, and the industry as a whole is aging.



Japan's Timber Market (2014)



Frequent extreme weather events from global environmental changes

Increasing average temperatures due to global warming are shrinking the habitats of corals and endemic species.

In Japan, 20~30% of plants and animals are at risk of extinction. This is due to the fact that the four seasons have disappeared due to rising temperatures and changes in vegetation, resulting in wild fluctuations in temperature.

It causes significant damage every year as a cause of biodiversity loss, landslides, and flooding.



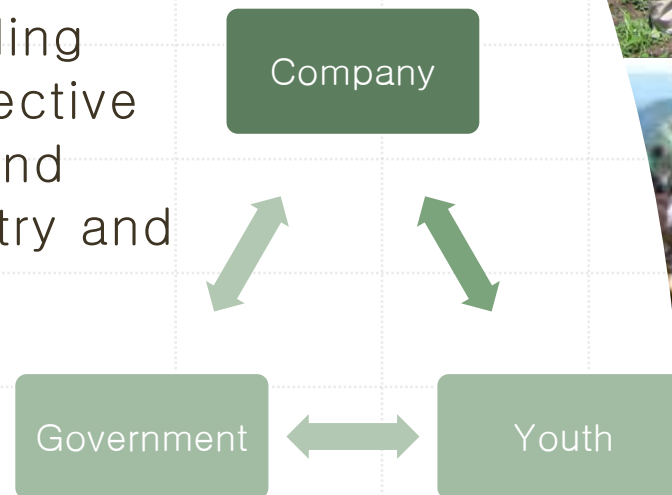
Development of Biodiversity Conservation Activities by Youth

- He has presented his opinions to the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry on the implementation of biodiversity conservation in relation to climate change issues, energy transition, and water resource conservation.
- It has been developing activities such as presenting its views directly to decision makers at international conferences such as UNFCCC COP 26, UNCCD COP 14, UN ECOSOC Youth Forum, and Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development.
- Youth organizations and civil society groups are organizing international conferences for biodiversity conservation online.



Development of Biodiversity Conservation Activities by Youth

- Youth groups have been working together to help with tree planting and thinning in mountains and forests owned by companies and the government to ensure that they receive the best care.
- Youth and citizen groups are building partnerships that utilize their respective positions to increase green jobs and secure career steps through forestry and agricultural experience.



Conclusion

- Japan have a wide variety of biodiversity, much of which is endemic to the country. However, there are 3,600 endangered species, for which further action is needed.
- The ecosystem is out of balance due to a lack of care and due to a decrease in habitat areas caused by development and overexploitation, and a declining and aging industrial population in agriculture and forestry, which are related to biodiversity conservation.

Conclusion

- Ecosystems are being disturbed by the introduction of non-native species, and destruction of genetic and species diversity is occurring frequently throughout Japan.
- While species diversity is decreasing due to abnormal weather conditions caused by global environmental changes, youth and citizen groups are presenting policy proposals and opinions, and collaborating with government agencies to present counterproposals based on scientific evidence and disseminate opinions at international conferences.

Thank you for attention.