



Case Study 5

Kamoike Rice Paddy Club (Ishikawa Prefecture)

Registered Participant Name:

Friends of the Kamoike Observation Centre

Type of organization: Citizens' group

Relevant Aichi Targets (Rice Paddy Targets) : 1, 7 (1,7)

"Wise Use dating from the Edo Period" (Edo Period 1603-1868)"

The particular relationship between local people and Katano-Kamoike, known for its importance as a waterbird wintering site, began in 1678 when the then-deep pond was mostly drained through a tunnel flowing into the Japan Sea, and rice agriculture initiated.

A type of duck hunting (*saka-ami-ryo*, traditional hunting casting a net against flying ducks from on top of a slope) began about 10 years later. After the rice harvest, the pond is filled to a higher level and other hunting methods banned from the area, creating a safe daytime roost for the birds, which are caught in nets as they fly over the pine woods around the pond on their way to feed in nearby fields at night. This stealth/ambush type hunting was endorsed by the local feudal lord as a training discipline for *samurai* warriors during the peaceful Edo Period.

The cycle of rice irrigation in summer and duck hunting in winter was sustained by local people for 340 years, but national rice reduction policy led to gradual attrition of local paddies and harvests in the area ceased in 1999.

Feeling the loss of Kamoike's historical wise use regime, the Friends of Kamoike Observatory Centre and Observatory rangers called on local citizens in 1996 to form the "Kamoike Rice Paddy Club." In 1998 Kaga City constructed a rice paddy in front of the Centre and rice agriculture events have since served the goals of environmental education and waterbird habitat protection.

To enhance the rice paddy feeding sites used by the overwintering ducks, the Friends and Observation Centre rangers requested rice farmers in the area to practice winter-flooding. The rice grown in these paddies is marketed as "Kaga Duck Rice- Tomoe," as the Baikal Teal, called "Tomoe-gamo" in Japanese, is one of the rarer species here. Surveys were carried out to determine where Baikal Teal feed, and further ways to enhance both agriculture and environmental protection are planned.

The role of agriculture here has changed over time, but we hope to continue this Japanese-style wise use regime to maintain a link to whatever the situation will be 300 years from now.



Case Study 3 rice harvesting



Case Study 4 events for watching living things in rice paddies



Case Study 5 rice planting in winter-flooded paddies