

# Waterbird and Wetland Center

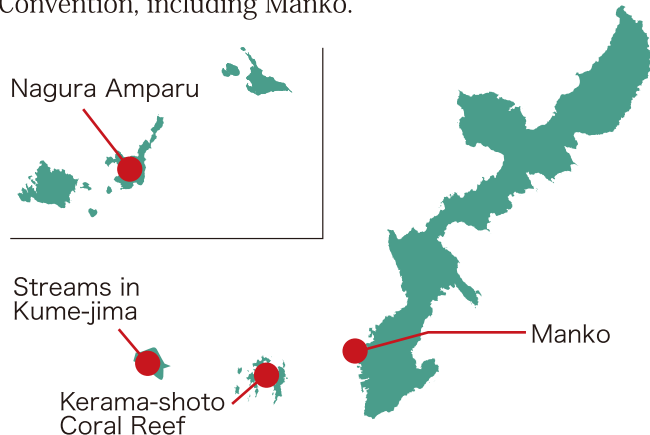
## About the Ramsar Convention

The official name of the treaty is "The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat." It is named after the town of Ramsar in Iran, which is where the treaty was adopted in 1971. The aim of the treaty is not only to protect waterbirds, but the general conservation of wetland areas. Its defining feature is the concept of "wise use". Essentially, the Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for happiness, something that everyone wants, in which people and wildlife are able to enjoy life waterside areas.

## Ramsar Sites in Okinawa

Manko was registered as a wetland of international importance in May 1999 under the Ramsar Convention. The reasons for its registration were that it is an important relay point for sandpipers and plovers, which are nationally well-known, and because it is an important habitat for many waterbirds, etc. Manko became the 11th wetland in Japan and the first in Okinawa to be registered under the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance.

As of March, 2012, in Okinawa prefecture, there are four wetlands registered under the Ramsar Convention, including Manko.



7 minutes by car from Naha Bus terminal  
15 minutes by car from Naha Airport  
15 minutes walk from Onoyama-kouen Station



## Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center

982 Aza-Tomigusuku, Tomigusuku City, Okinawa  
901-0241

TEL(098)840-5121 FAX(098)840-5118

Homepage: [http://www.geocities.jp/manko\\_mizudori/](http://www.geocities.jp/manko_mizudori/)

- Open: 9am-5pm daily ● Entrance fee: Free
- Closed: Mondays (next day when holiday) and New Year (Dec 29-Jan 3), Irei no Hi (Jun 23)
- ※ Please contact us in advance for groups of 15 or more people

Ramsar Convention registration wetland

# Manko

Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center



環境省 那覇自然環境事務所  
Ministry of the Environment Naha Nature Conservation Office

Welcome to Manko and the Manko

## About Manko



Photo taken by U.S. military in 1945.

Photo taken in 2009.

Manko was once full of water, much like a lake. Although it was called "Taiko (=big lake)" during the Ryukyu Dynasty, it is said that a Chinese emissary named it Manko when he visited the area during the mid 17th century. It is said that the lake's magnificent sight was greatly admired by Commodore Matthew Perry, famous for his "Black Ship," as well as Chinese emissary.

During the mid 1950s, Manko was a playground for kids as well as a place where fisheries activities took place. A sudden increase in the development of tideland, caused by landfill projects, etc. from the mid 1960s onward, has made Manko look the way that it does today. While the magnificent sight that Commodore Perry and the envoys admired no longer exists, a vast tideland, which stretches out up to 47 hectares (roughly 116 acres), can be seen at low tide.

If you look carefully in the tideland and mangrove forest, you will be surprised to find many creatures. The birds prey on young fish, crabs, sandworms, etc. living in the tideland. Manko, which is abundant with young fish and benthic organisms that become food resources, is an important landing spot for waterbirds and is also a relay point for migrating birds. Birds arriving at Manko include large herons such as grey herons and great egrets; sandpipers and plovers such as pacific golden plovers, grey-tailed tattlers, and greenshanks; as well as unusual birds such as black-faced spoonbills and saunders' gulls.



Manko is an urban oasis for Waterbirds and other aquatic animals.

# Why not discover more about these creatures at the Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center?

Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center- a place that brings together waterbirds, wetlands, and people

Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center was built and opened to the public in May 2003 as a place that brings together waterbirds, wetlands, and people are able to come together. We provide our visitors with information about the natural environment of Manko through exhibits and nature observation tours, etc.



## Board Walk

The Board Walk is the best place to observe the animals living in the mangrove and other areas.



*Cerithidea rhizophorarum*



Fiddler crab



Mudskipper



Great Egret  
September to May  
(of following year)



Curlew  
October to April  
(of following year)



Redshank  
September to May  
(of following year)



Osprey  
September to June  
(of following year)



Black-faced Spoonbill  
November to April  
(of following year)



Grey-tailed Tattler  
July to May  
(of following year)



Saunders' Gull  
November to February  
(of following year)



Pacific Golden Plover  
August to May  
(of following year)



Grey Heron  
September to May  
(of following year)

## Permanent Exhibit Room

In the permanent exhibit room, we provide all kinds of information on Manko through a large live TV screen where the birds that live in the mudflat can be observed, while in the Center, touch panel screens provide information about the animals and dioramas present a display of the ecosystem of Manko, etc.



## Observatory Room



There are telescopes (20-60x magnification) in the observatory room. You can enjoy an enlarged, panorama view of Manko through the telescope.