

Challenges on the conservation of a tidal flat where its original ecosystem is disturbed by the urbanization

- From Yatsu-higata tidal flat 20 years after its Ramsar designation -



Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Center
Wetland CEPA Coordinator, Tatsuya Shibahara

Location of Yatsu-higata



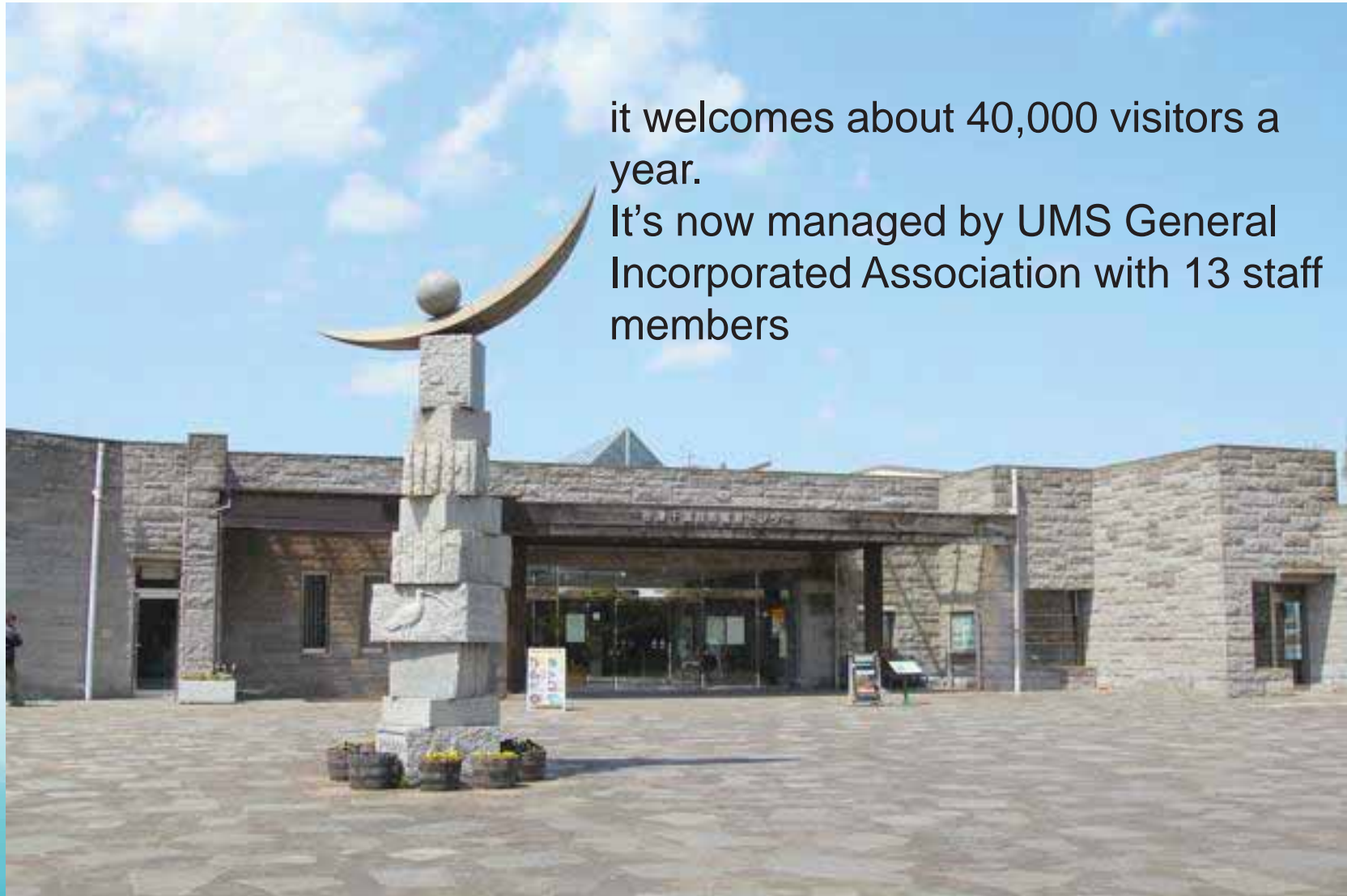
Location of Yatsu-higata



Geographical features



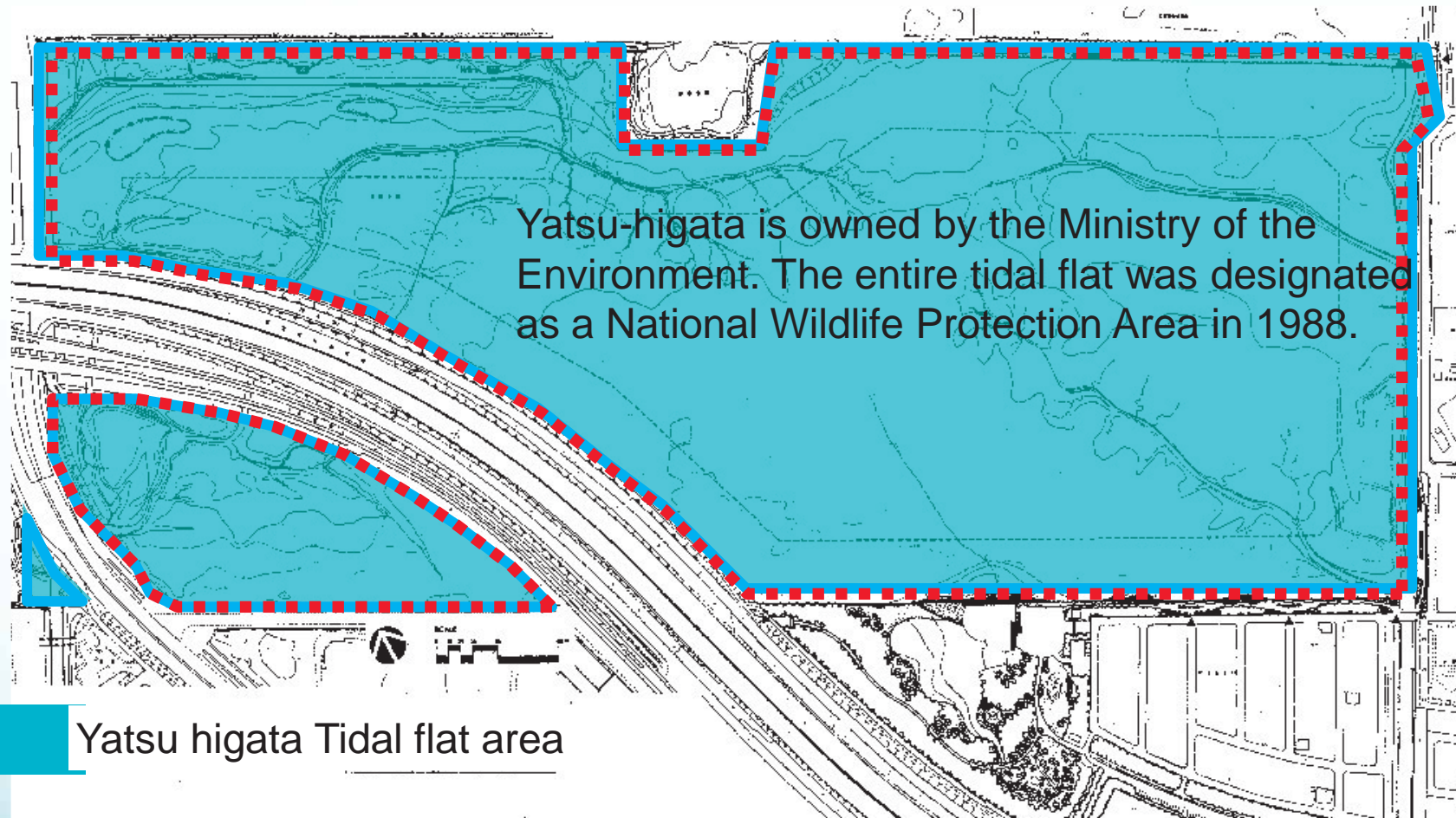
Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Center



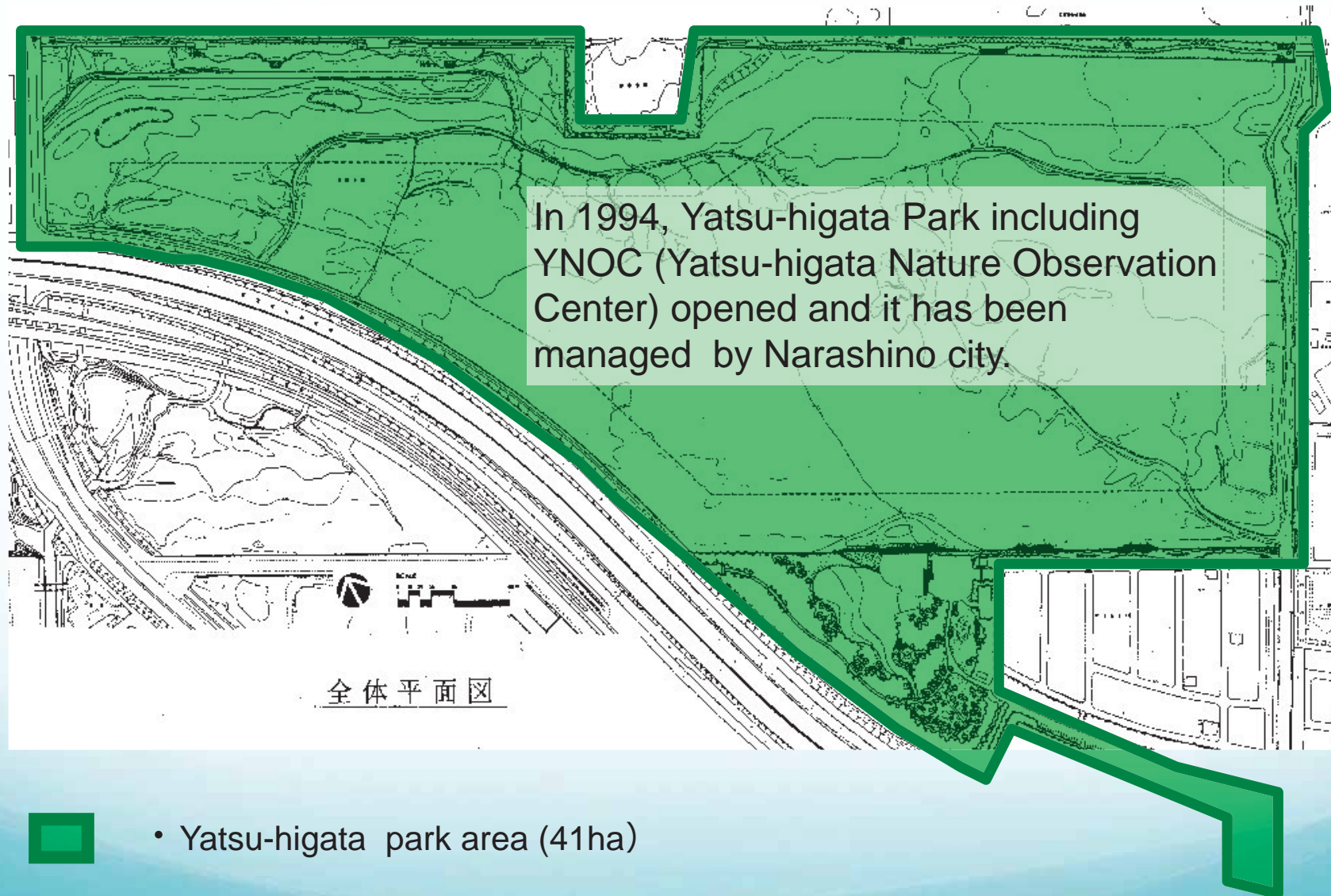
it welcomes about 40,000 visitors a year.

It's now managed by UMS General Incorporated Association with 13 staff members

Legal system of preservation

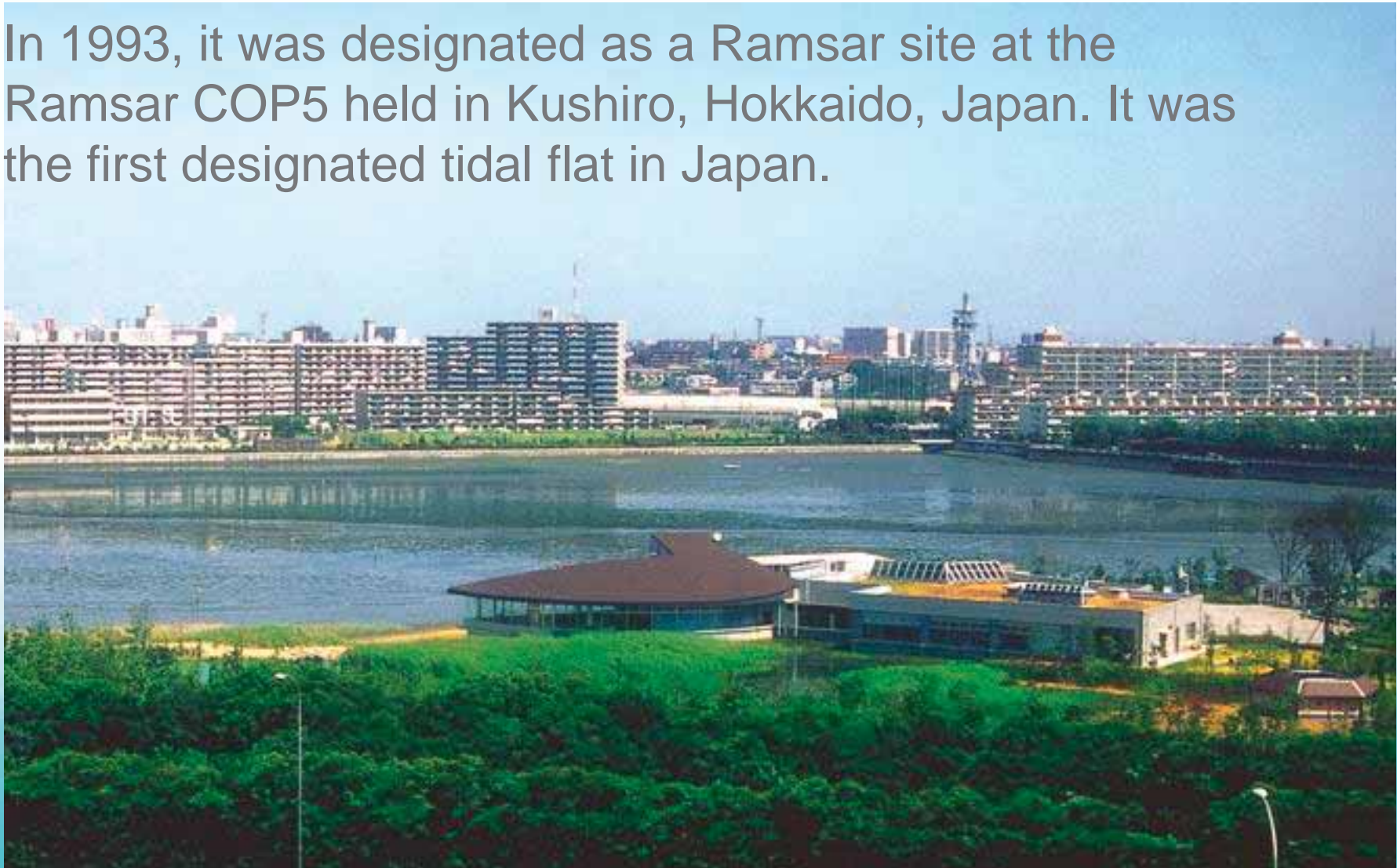


Legal system of preservation



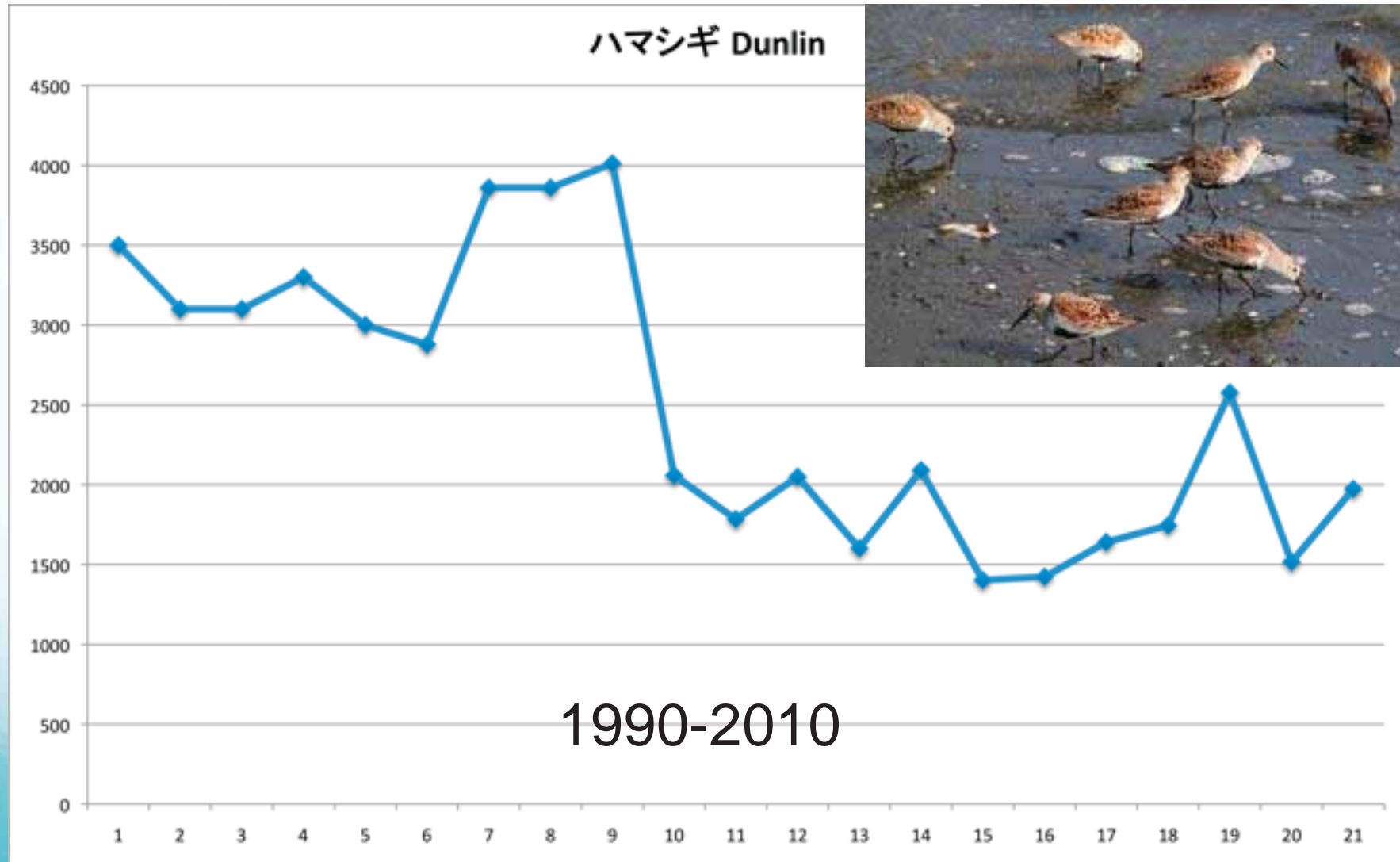
Ramsar site Yatsu-Higata

- In 1993, it was designated as a Ramsar site at the Ramsar COP5 held in Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan. It was the first designated tidal flat in Japan.



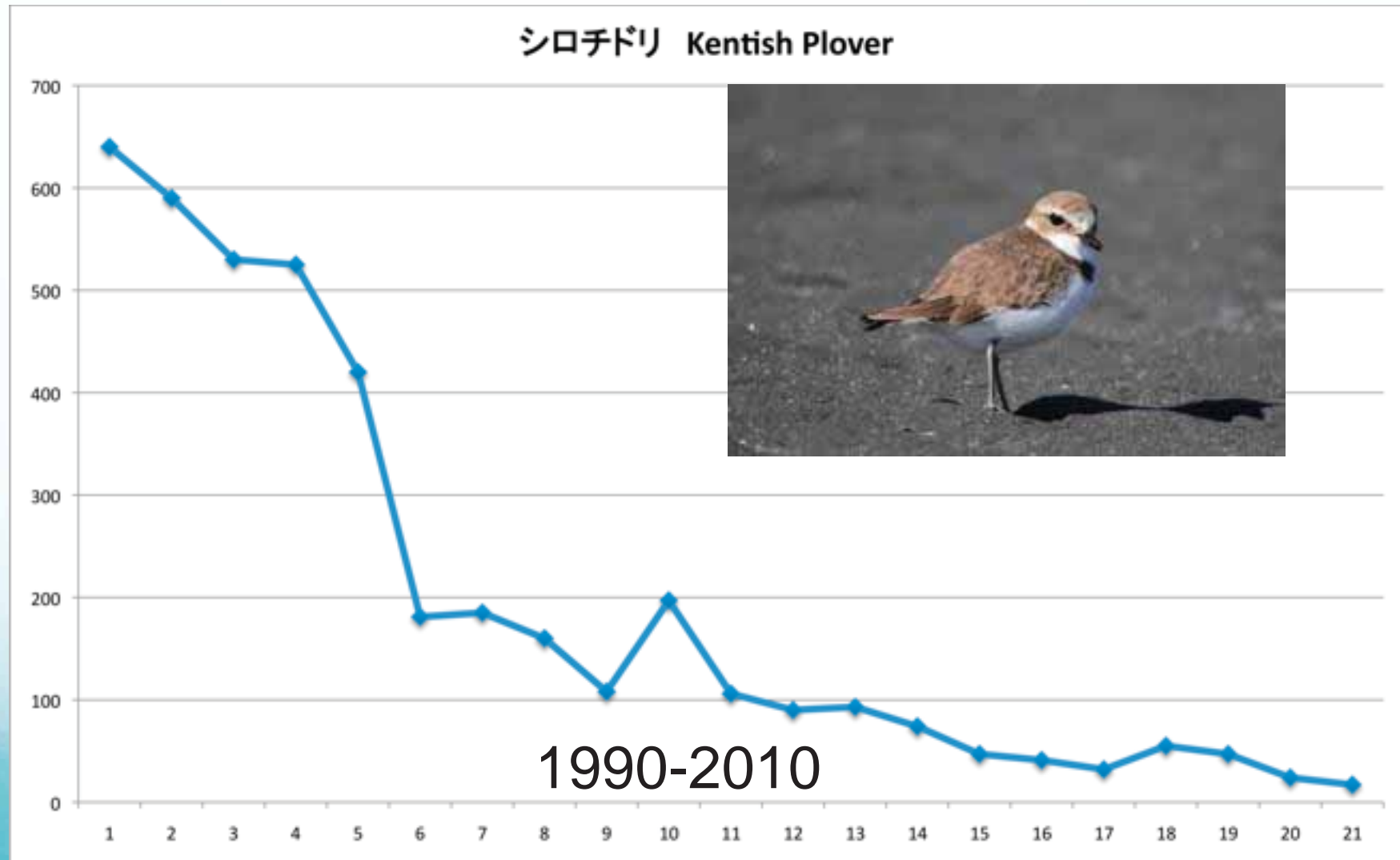
What is going on?

Changes in the nature



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What is going on? Changes in the nature



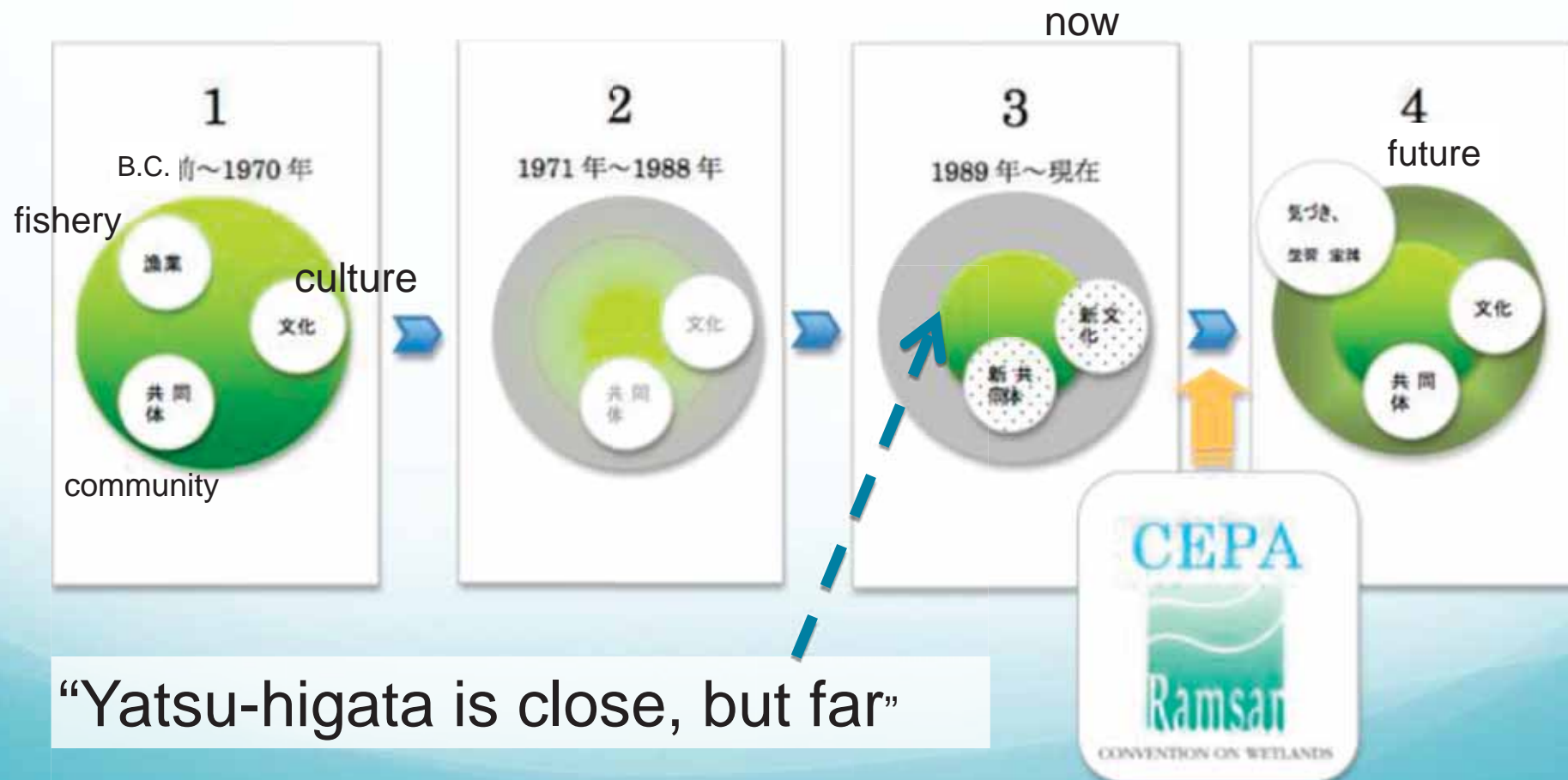
Overgrowth Sea lettuce,
issue of smell and the death of Benthos

Changes in the nature: other facts

- Mud flowing out
- Blue tide flowing into Yatsu-higata from Tokyo Bay



People's involvement/ changes in awareness



From protection to conservation

- Conservation project on National Wildlife Protection Area (MoE) since 2010: to tackle the bad smell and to recover the feeding environment for shorebirds.
- Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Center has enriched events for visitors since 2007.
- Future plan: 1) set up guidelines
- 2) plan events where participants can go into the tidal flat for observation, research, and clean-up

CEPA activities at YNOC- Events

- 20th anniversary of Yatsu-higata's Ramsar designation: 'Yatsu-higata Day' with locals in organising committee.
- Symposium on imagining the future of Yatsu-higata with the local people
- Performance by surrounding Yatsu-higata with people and handkerchieves with messages
- Talk about sea lettuce issue
- Purpose: Giving citizens an opportunity to think about their relationship with Yatsu-higata, and how they can protect it. Those are CEPA activities to promote conservation of Yatsu-higata.



CEPA to boost the value of wetlands

- Initial aim to preserve Yatsu-higata: to keep as a habitat for waterfowl = Ramasar designation
- Additional aim: a place for study and capacity building. We can train citizens who realises sustainable society.
- We might be able to show the value of Yatsu-higata not only in the local community but in urban area and even in other Asian countries.



CEPA to obtain local people's support

- Reason for need to boost up the social value of Yatsu-higata: necessity to be taken care for recovery and preservation of its function as a tidal flat.
- ← Need financial support from the government and the local government.
- Support from the locals is essential.
- ← Need to show what Yatsu-higata can contribute to the local community.



To create the new/additional value of tidal flat

- The value of the tidal flat affects the level of people's involvement.
- When the the problem of Yatsu-higata changes from protection to conservation, how would the local residents get involved in conservation of Yatsu-higata?
- It would be one of our issues from now on. There is a hint in the 'wise use' of sea lettuce.



Rebuilding of the relationship between people and tidal flat

- We used sea lettuce as manure in 1950s, but not now. If we utilise sea lettuce, now just left decayed, as manure, people can grow tasty vegetables in their garden or community gardens.



CEPA for & by Younger generation

From learning to participation through CEPA activities



Yatsu-higata Ramsar 20th anniversary

- We will organise CEPA actions at YNOC
- ← for the conservation of Yatsu-higata,
- for realising the co-existence of the tidal flat and the locals, living in harmony with full of lives.
- Thank you very much!!

