

Amamo2023 Declaration

On November 17-19, 2023, diverse stakeholders from Japan and abroad working for the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, including eelgrass beds, gathered in Tokyo, Japan to exchange information. During the meeting, we exchanged information on guidelines, policies, and specific activities for the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems and discussed ways to work toward future social change.

As a result, our global and marine environment is facing the crisis of climate change due to global warming and biodiversity loss due to the effects of degradation of natural ecosystems, and we need to take action now. We declare that we will act to the best of our ability based on the following guidelines for action.

Setting coping policy; Both climate change and biodiversity loss must be addressed in a balanced manner. To do so, 1) based on scientific research and knowledge, we will take a variety of initiatives to consider Blue Carbon ecosystems as Blue Natural Capital, 2) promote actions using Nature Based Solutions and Blue Carbon Credit/Market and 3) promote actions to advance the Blue Economy.

Considering; The efforts must be promoted in collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders. In doing so, we need to consider, 1) international (global) goals and guidelines such as the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Declaration and the wise use described in the Ramsar Convention with local value creation 2) by cooperation and respect to all right holders, 3) with respect for traditional/indigenous wisdom and local culture, 4) with in a way that community interests are prioritized, 5) with a transparent and accountable process, and 6) with a long-term perspective of transgenerational investment in the future, rather than short-term gains or losses.

Using essential elements; There are essential elements in promoting such efforts. We believe that, we should provide 1) awareness and education based on scientific evidence, 2) with enjoyment and trying new approaches, 3) keep transparency and disclosure of information, 4) understand the current situation through thorough research and surveys including collecting, analyzing and evaluating various types of data in depth, 5) use the latest technology (e.g., environmental DNA analysis), 6) aim to co-produce including co-design and co-manage with stakeholders, 7) accelerate the involvement of the private sector, including businesses, through natural capital credit mechanisms, etc. to secure economic resources, and 8) work in international collaboration to get better achievements in realizing the future vision.

Through Amamo2023, we recognize the importance of clarifying issues and building consensus regarding the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, including eelgrass beds. We reaffirm the importance of the fishermen's determination, the power of continuity, sustained citizens' collaboration, governance by the government, corporate commitments, elementary school students' enthusiasm, high school students' spirit of inquiry, eyes to see the truth, expansion to the youth, the desire to communicate difficult but important matters, and science communication that is appropriate to the situation.

Now, we ourselves need to take action for the future with the policies, considerations, and necessary elements indicated above as our common vision. Not only through our own activities, but also by educating and encouraging a wide range of stakeholders, we will build a functional socio-environmental network, advance our understanding of dynamic environmental systems, and evaluate the environment while taking adaptive action for social transformation.

All participants of Amamo2023