

Japan's MPA Policies and  
arrangements pertaining to the  
work of NEAMPAN

Naoki Amako

Ministry of the Environment, Japan

# Marine Biodiversity Strategy

- Formulated in March 2011
- It outlines the perspectives to be recognized and the direction of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.
- It clarified the definition of MPAs in Japan, and it indicates that Japan expands its MPAs and improves the management of them by utilizing existing legislation such as natural parks law, and promotes the development of a network of MPAs.

# Background for the formulation of the Strategy

## <Internationally>

**UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)**

**Jakarta Mandate (1995) and all the “marine” CBD COP Decisions that followed**

**Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)**

## <Domestically>

**Basic Act on Ocean Policy (2007)**

**Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (2008)**

**National Biodiversity Strategy 2010 (2010)**

# Definition of MPAs in Japan

- “Marine areas designated and managed by law or other effective means, in consideration of use modalities, aimed at the conservation of marine biodiversity supporting the sound structure and ensuring the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services”
- IUCN’s definition of protected areas was used as reference

# Existing MPAs 1/3

## <Protection of Natural Landscape>

- National Parks, Quasi-National Parks, Prefectural Natural Parks (Natural Parks Law)
- Natural Coastal Protected Zone (Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the *Seto* Inland Sea)

# Existing MPAs 2/3

## <Protection of Natural Environment or Habitat>

- Nature Conservation Area (The Nature Conservation Law)
- Wildlife Protection Area (Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law)
- Natural Habitat Conservation Areas (Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Natural Monument (Law for Protection of Cultural Properties)

# Existing MPAs 3/3

## <Protection and Cultivation of Fishery Resources>

- Protected Water Surface (Fisheries Resource Protection Law)
- Coastal Fishery Resources Development Area, Designated Marine Area (The Law Relating to the Promotion of Marine Fishery Resources Development)
- Marine areas designated by prefectures and fishery associations (Fisheries Law, Fishery Resources Conservation Law, Fishery Cooperative Act)
- Common Fishery Right Area (Fisheries Law)

# Existing MPAs

- Total Area = 8.3 % of territorial waters + EEZ
- Area does matter, but improving the level of management in the existing MPAs is also important
- Challenge for the near future: Expanding the MPAs through the existing legislations to meet the Aichi Target 11



# Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010)

## <Target 11>

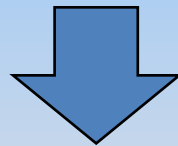
- 10 % of coastal and marine areas are conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (to be achieved by 2020).

## CBD COP7 Decision (2004)

- 10 % of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved (to be achieved by 2010).

# 10 % of what?

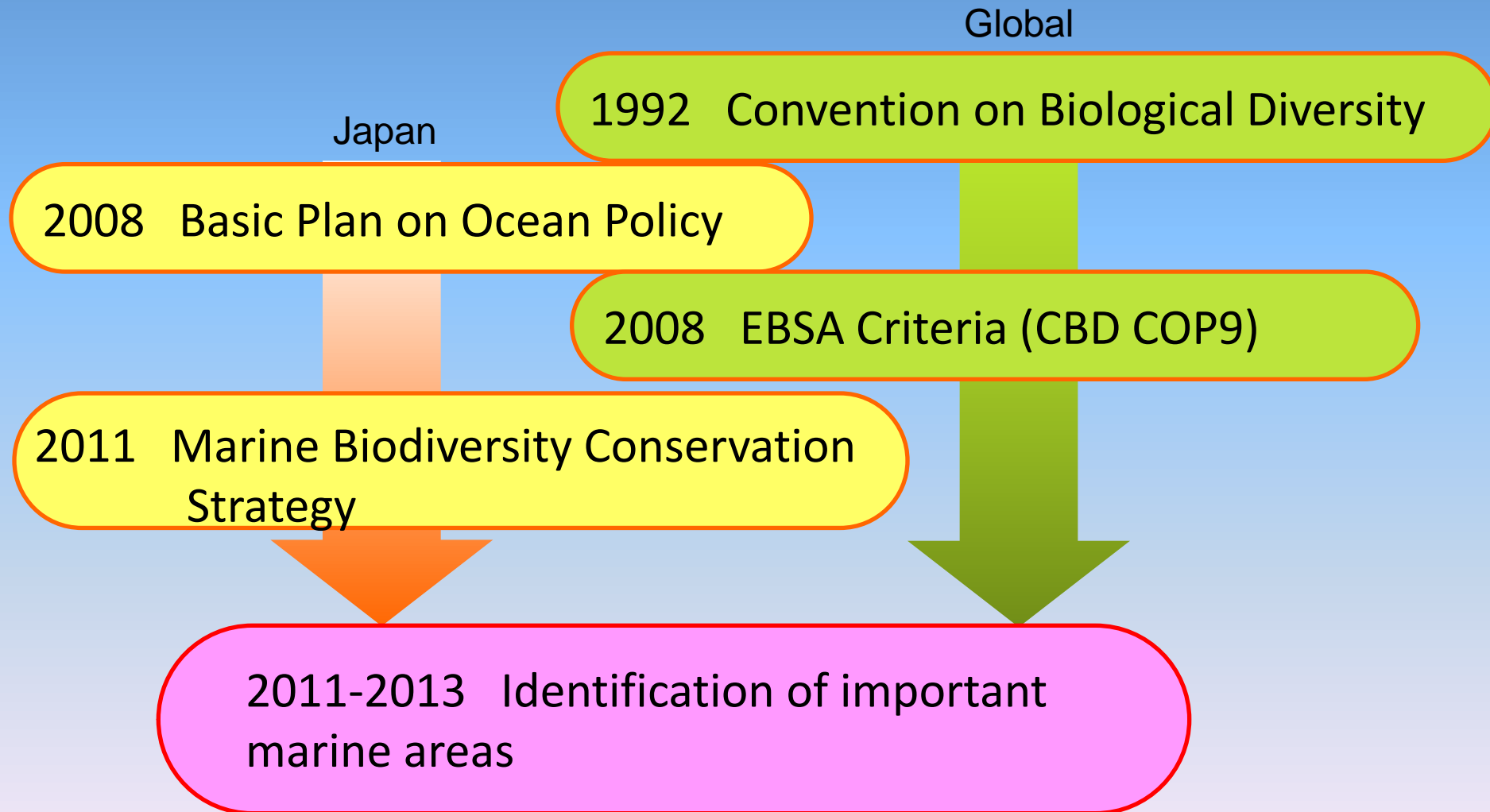
- 10 % of coastal and marine areas  
[under the jurisdiction of all Parties as a whole]  
or [including areas beyond national jurisdiction]
- NOT 10 % of each Party's territorial waters and  
EEZ



However, it effectively serves as a guide for the Parties.

# Selection of important marine areas

(FY 2011-2013)



# Criteria

	EBSA Criteria (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IX/20)
1	Uniqueness or rarity
2	Special importance for life-history stages of species
3	Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
4	Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery
5	Biological productivity
6	Biological diversity
7	Naturalness
	<b>Additional criterion</b>
8	Representativeness or Typicality Area containing representative or typical feature of ecosystem and/or biotic community of Japan

# GIS data applied in each criteria

## Biological data

Distribution data

Marine Mammals

Birds

Turtles/Sea snakes

Fish

Cnidaria/Mollusca/Others

Deep Sea Corals

Chemosynthetic community

Red List Species

IBA, Marine IBA

National monument

etc.

## Physical data

Bathymetry

Chlorophyll a concentration

Distribution of canyons

Front and upwelling current

Ocean current

Sea Ice

Sand bank

Seamount Locations

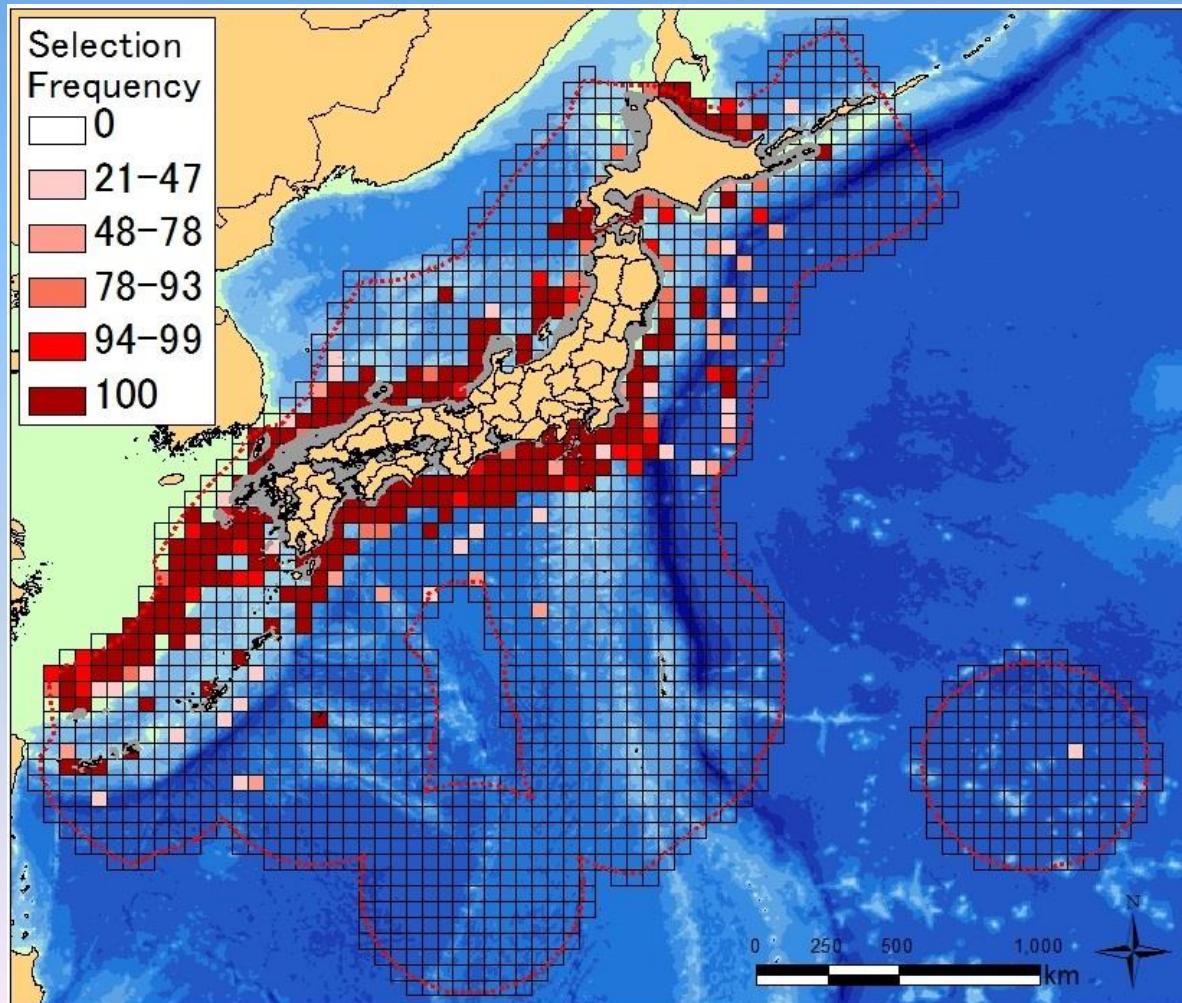
Trench

Hydrothermal vents and seeps

etc.

# Sample result of analysis

MARXAN solution in open ocean (epipelagic open ocean)



# ICRI East Asia MPA Network

- ICRI = International Coral Reef Initiative
- Series of ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops (Japan 2008, Vietnam 2009, 2010 Thailand, 2011 Cambodia, 2012 Korea, 2013 Singapore)
- Formulation of “ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010”
- Coral Reef MPA Database on Reefbase
- Coral reef habitat mapping
- Capacity building workshops (MEE, database)