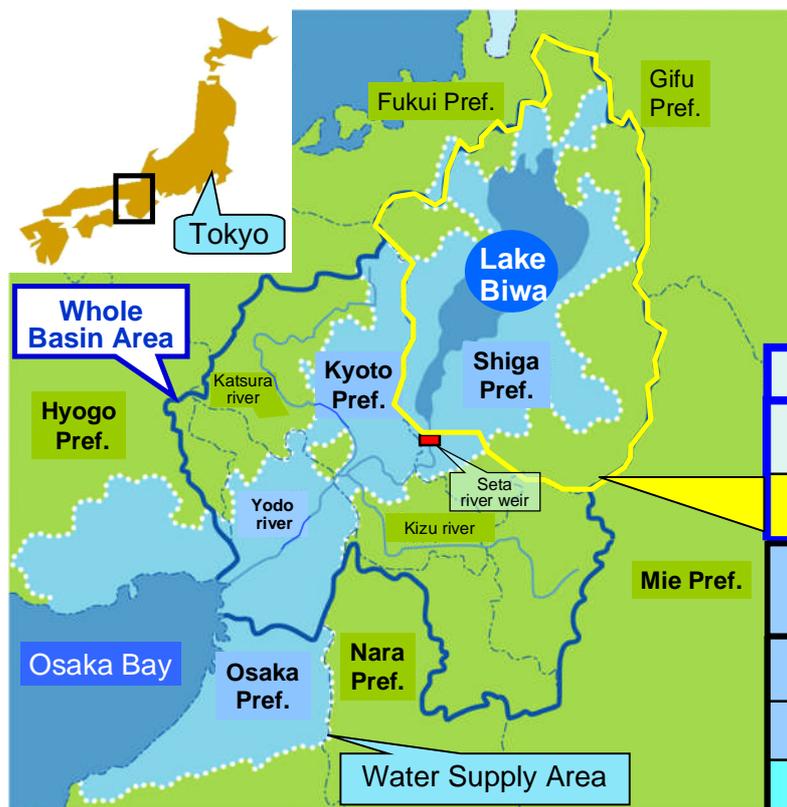


「Aiming at Integrated Basin Management in the Lake Biwa - Yodo River Basin toward the Future」

River Basin Policy Bureau, Shiga Prefectural Government, JAPAN

Overview of Lake- Biwa Yodo-River Basin



The Yodo River originates in Lake Biwa and flows through the Osaka Plain into Osaka Bay. The Yodo River Basin constitutes an area of approximately 8,240km², and has a population of some 11 million, covering six prefectures. Lake Biwa is the largest and oldest freshwater lake in Japan, and serves for such purposes as water source, flood retention receptor, diverse ecosystem habitat, etc. Historically, the Biwa- Yodo Basin has had serious upstream – downstream conflicts of interest regarding flood control and drought management, with the resulting environmental concerns in recent years.

Basin Area			
Biwa-Yodo Basin Total		8,240 Km ²	
Lake Biwa Basin		3,848 Km ²	
Water supplied population from Lake Biwa (persons) (2008)			
Shiga	1,148,702	Osaka	8,817,876
Kyoto	1,811,645	Hyogo	2,757,285
total	14,535,508		



The past and current approach of Basin Management in the Lake Biwa



The Seta River Weir for effective management of flood control and water usage (LBCDP)



Restoration of lake's original landscape and ecosystem by reed colonies (ML21)

The Lake Biwa Comprehensive Development Project (LBCDP), a major national public works project involving water resources development, flood control and environmental conservation, was implemented over the period of 25 years (1972-1997). After the LBCDP was completed, Lake Biwa is confronted with various environmental and ecosystem challenges. As a result, a long-term plan for the purpose of lake water quality conservation and ecosystem restoration called the Mother Lake 21 Plan (2000-) implemented by Shiga Prefecture.

Viewpoint of basin management toward the future

The present challenges



Waterweed Increase in Southern Lake Biwa since the hardest drought in 1994



Disruption of Ecosystems by increase of non-native species such as black bass and bluegill

These projects successfully ameliorated the core part of the upstream-downstream conflicts.

However, many serious and complicated problems still remain for the Biwa - Yodo Basin.

For example, the river and lake ecosystems have been disrupted by the invasion of non-native species of fauna and flora.

The new basin management framework, based on an integrated viewpoint would require a broad societal consensus, beyond the prefectural boundary and administrative responsibility.



Viewpoint of basin management

In 2010, Shiga Prefectural Government established an advisory committee, consisting of experts from the variety fields to elaborate on the framework.

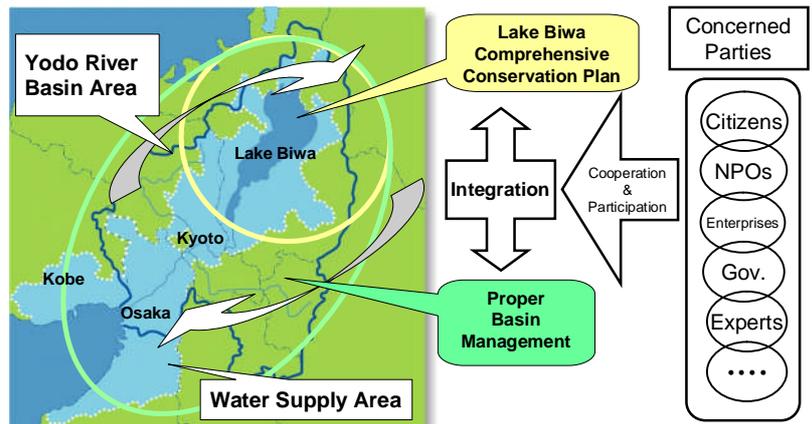
The result of elaboration was made public in the form of a report entitled, "Aiming at Integrated Basin Management in the Lake Biwa - Yodo River Basin toward the Future (in Japanese)" in March, 2011.

The proposed framework is composed of following three major thematic views, i.e.

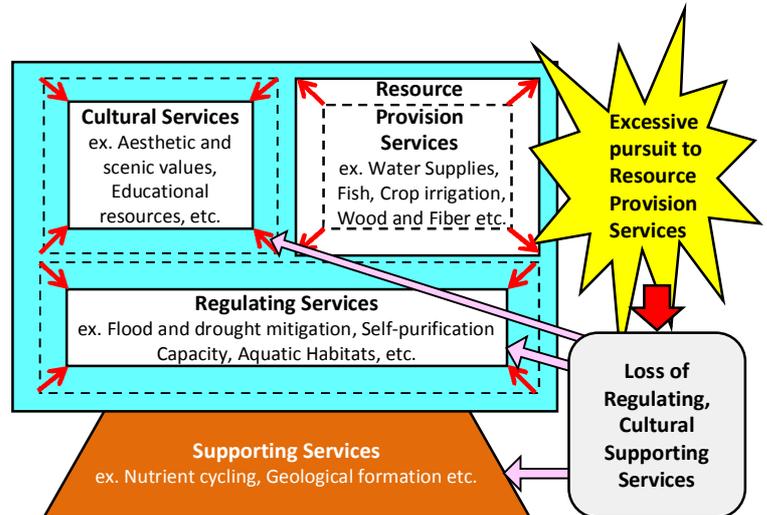
a) the need for maintenance and improvement of the basin ecosystem service for greater societal engagements.

b) the need for basin management from the viewpoint of sustainable "Relationship" among issues, entities and phenomena.

c) the need for enhancement of basin governance involving lentic (hydro-static, with historical and ecosystem connotation) and lotic (hydro-dynamic, with historical and ecosystem connotation) water systems consisting of the entire Lake Biwa, Yodo River and the Osaka Bay region.



The Lake Biwa comprehensive conservation plan should take into account the entire Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin.



Ecosystem service of Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin

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