

Our Comprehensive Conservation Initiatives for Lake Biwa

~Lessons Learned from the Mother Lake in Japan~



Mother Lake
Goals

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An aerial photograph showing a village with a mix of traditional and modern buildings situated on the shore of a large, dark blue lake. The lake is surrounded by lush green forests and rolling hills. In the background, there are extensive rice fields and a river winding through the landscape. The sky is clear and blue.

Mother Lake

We are entrusted from future generations
to take care of it



Lake Biwa



History & Efforts



Environmental Learning



Local SDGs Model





Lake Biwa





History & Efforts



History — Water Pollution of Lake Biwa

- ✓ In 1960s, dramatic industrialization and urbanization
- ✓ In 1977, large-scale “red tide”* occurred



* Cause: “**Phosphorus**”
contained in fertilizers
and synthetic detergents

- ✓ People were campaigning to stop using synthetic detergents



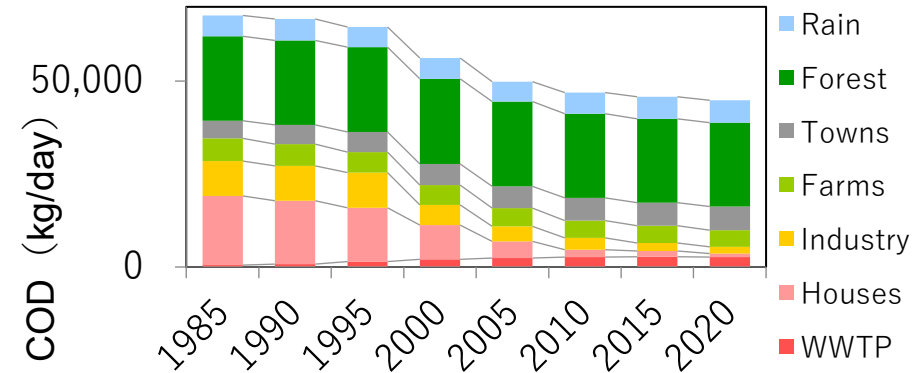
The Soap Movement



History — Citizen's Effort for Lake Biwa

The Soap Movement

- ✓ Lake Biwa Eutrophication Prevention Ordinance (enacted in 1979)
- ✓ Development of wastewater treatment facilities



The continued conservation efforts of organizations and citizens, in the spirit of the Soap Movement to overcome the large-scale freshwater red tide

History — Citizen's Efforts for Lake Biwa

- ✓ Shiga Prefecture has a symbolic day for citizens to show their love for Lake Biwa and conserve the environment.
- ✓ More than 100,000 citizens participate in cleanup activities around Lake Biwa every year.

July 1 “Lake Biwa Day”



**Key Message from
UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE**



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

“Establish symbolic days and years, such as the International Day for **World Lake Day**, to unite global will and commitments for actions to meet urgent water challenges.”

From CO-CHAIR'S KEY MESSAGES in UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue 3: Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment:

**“World Lake Day” for conserving
the lake environment around the world**

Lake Biwa Is a “Mirror” that Reflects Our Way of Life



The mirror (Lake Biwa) can never shine even if we only focus on cleaning it. Those who live around the lake must reconsider our way of life to create a clean lake environment.

Conserving Lake Biwa environment is the same as reconsidering our way of life.

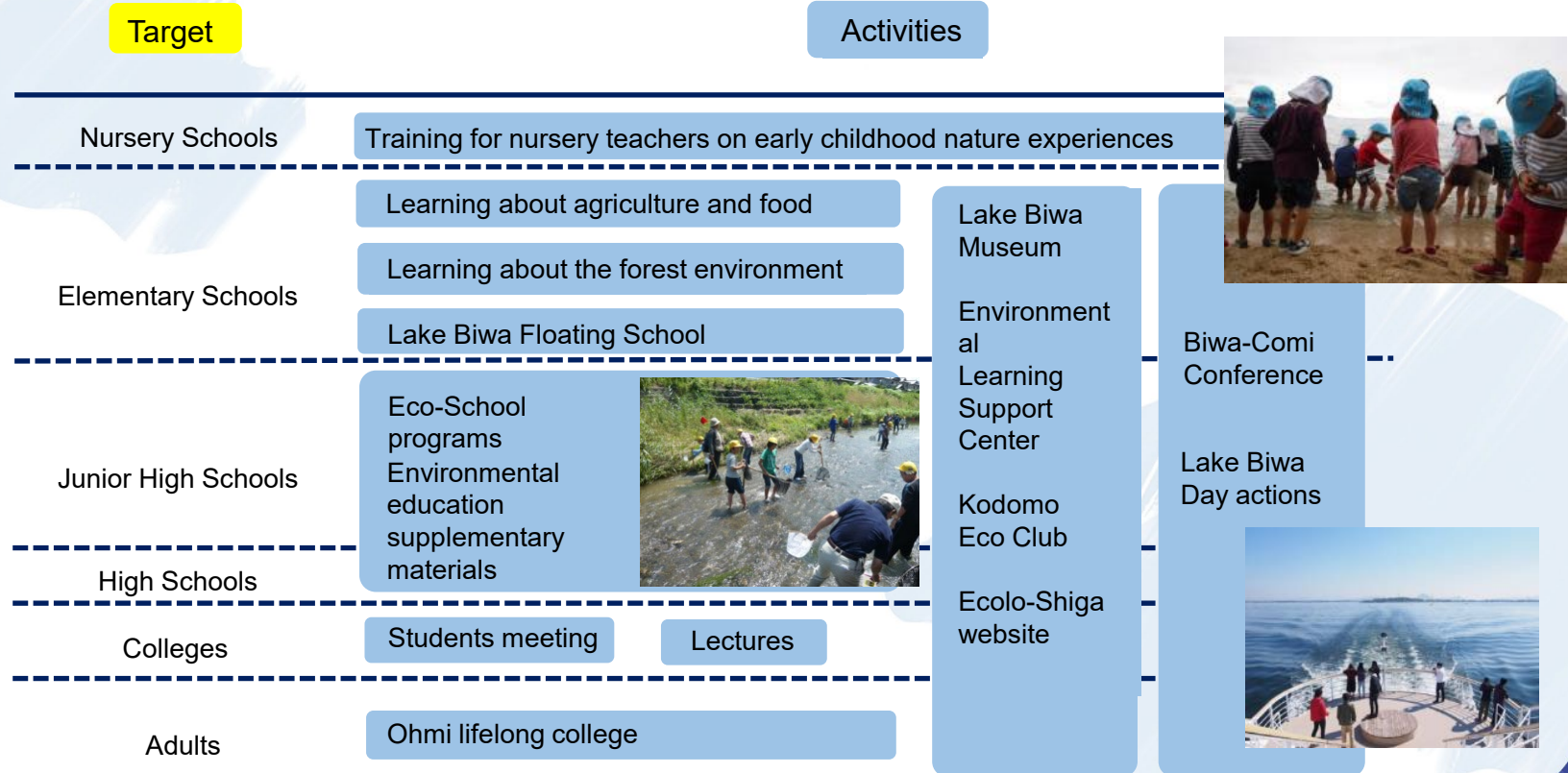


Environmental Learning



Environmental Learning Framework

Overview of Comprehensive Environmental Learning Activities in Shiga



The Unique Environmental Learning Program — the “Uminoko” Boat

- ✓ The Uminoko is an educational boat run by Lake Biwa Floating School.
(Science 1983)
- ✓ All 5th grade elementary school students in the Shiga prefecture aboard.
(about 14,000 students/year)
- ✓ Intensive 2-day learning program
- ✓ Several schools join aboard and interact with each other (about 150 students/voyage)
- ✓ Over 40 years, more than 610,000 students have boarded the ship





Local SDGs Model

Local SDGs Model – Mother Lake Goals (MLGs)



Mother Lake Goals

Lake Biwa, Shiga, Japan

Key concept: Change starts with you and me.

- ✓ MLGs are a local version of the SDGs based on Lake Biwa.
- ✓ Lake Biwa is depicted in the center of the logo, with the colors of the 13 goals arranged around it.
- ✓ The circle represents planet earth, as well as Shiga prefecture that encompasses the lake.

Mother Lake Goals (MLGs) – Developed with the Citizens



MLGs based on 10 years of “Promises to Lake Biwa” by over 2,000 people

Mother Lake Goals (MLGs) – Developed with the Citizens



Mother Lake Goals

Lake Biwa, Shiga, Japan

✓ 13 goals, by 2030

✓ More applicable and achievable on a local scale.



1
Make the water clear



2
Restore bountiful seafood resources



3
Maintain biodiversity



4
Create a beautiful waterfront and lake bottom



5
Conserve forests serving as rich water sources



6
Create a healthy relationship between forest, river, community, lake, and sea



7
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to save Lake Biwa and the environment



8
Create a community resilient to climate change and natural disasters



9
Utilize local resources in agriculture and industry



10
Turn the local community and lake area into a place to learn



11
Encourage more people to enjoy and love Lake Biwa



12
Teach the next generation how to live in harmony with water



13
Work together to achieve our goals

Mother Lake Goals (MLGs) – Developed with the Citizens



Mother Lake
Goals

Lake Biwa, Shiga, Japan



SDGs



MLGs



individual action

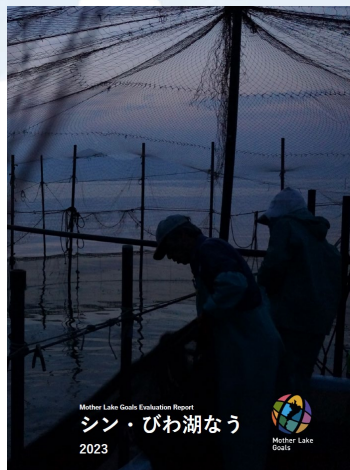
MLGs serve as a “bridge” between individual action and the SDGs, which are designed for global application.

Think Globally, Act Locally

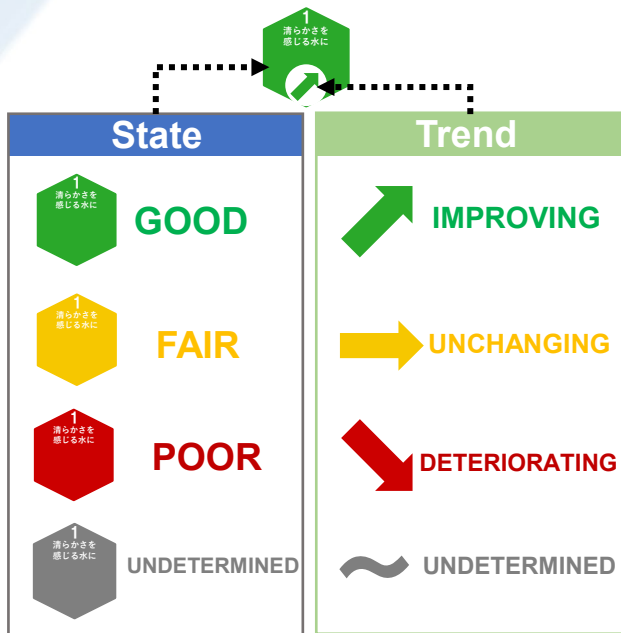
Mother Lake Goals (MLGs) – Evaluation Report

- ✓ Each goal are established and evaluated from an academic perspective.
- ✓ Evaluations will be conducted from the two standpoints of “What is the current state?” and “What is the trend so far?”

Evaluation Report 2023



Evaluation Method of Goals



Evaluation Result 2023



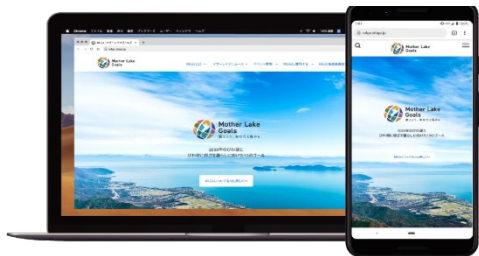
Mother Lake Goals (MLGs) – Evaluation Report



Mother Lake Goals

Lake Biwa, Shiga, Japan

If you want to know more...



MLGs official website 「MLGs WEB」
<https://mlgs.shiga.jp>



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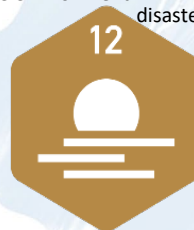
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Message from Lake Biwa



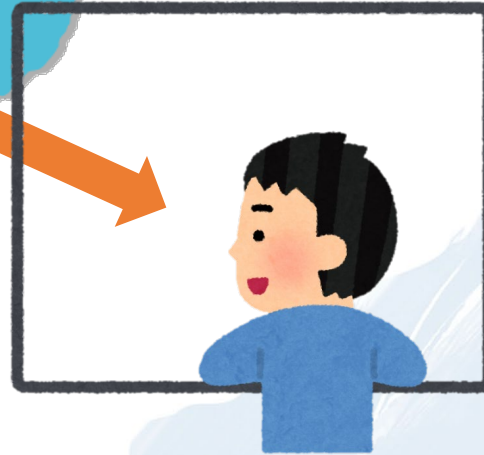
Lake Biwa Is a “Window” to Look at the Global Environment



Global environment



Lake Biwa



Conserving Lake Biwa is the same as
conserving the global environment



Mainstreaming lakes



Mother Lake
Goals



Our Friends

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Mother Lake
Goals

**Thank you
for your attention**

