

Chapter 4-15

Basic Environmental Ordinance, Mother Lake 21 Plan (2nd Term Revised Version)

Abstract

The Shiga Prefecture Basic Environmental Ordinance sets out the basic direction of the prefecture's environmental policies and was enacted in 1996 with the aim of realizing a healthy, high-quality environment.

Lake Biwa presents a wide diversity of valuable benefits including its rich ecosystem and as a place for the formation of water resources and culture. With the aim of passing down a healthy Lake Biwa to future generations, the Shiga Prefectural Government formulated the Mother Lake 21 Plan in the year 2000.

Keywords: Basic Environmental Ordinance, Mother Lake 21 Plan, Comprehensive conservation of Lake Biwa

1. The Shiga Prefecture Basic Environmental Ordinance

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the ordinance is to set the basic direction of environmental policies in Shiga Prefecture and identifies the basic principles and the roles of prefectural residents, businesses and the prefectural government pertaining to environmental conservation. The ordinance also sets out measures relating to environmental conservation and aims to promote the comprehensive and systematic implementation of measures to conserve the environment.

1.2 Overview

This ordinance sets out three basic principles; "maintaining the delicate balance of ecosystems," "rights and obligations relating to the environment" and "the conservation of the global environment" and establishes regulations pertaining to matters such as the formulation of comprehensive environmental planning. In addition, the ordinance also seeks to deepen understanding and improve awareness of environmental conservation by prefectural residents and businesses on a wide scale, and, to enhance motivation to participate in environmental conservation activities. It has established "Lake Biwa Day" on July 1.

2. Mother Lake 21 Plan

2.1 Overview

The Lake Biwa Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Mother Lake 21 Plan) is a policy intended to ensure that the handing down of a healthy Lake Biwa to future generations based on the concept of a vision of the "Ideal Lake Biwa in or around 2050."

The new Mother Lake 21 Plan formulated in the year 2000 was established because the period of the 1st plan reached its final phase in 2010.

As its subtitle aimed at the coexistence between lake Biwa and human beings "Reviving our Mother Lake by bringing together people's hopes for sustainable life" indicates, the new plan (2nd term revised version) uses various "links" as keywords.

2.2 Aims of the Plan

- 1) Basic principle: Coexistence of Lake Biwa and people
- 2) Ideal: Vision of coexistence between Lake Biwa and human beings amidst vital activities
- 3) Basic policies: (1) Sense of belonging, (2) Coexistence, (3) Sharing
- 4) Plan period: FY1999 - FY2020
1st term: FY1999 - FY2010
2nd term: FY2011 - FY2020

2.3 The Two Cornerstones of the 2nd Term Plan Period

The 2nd Term Revised Version sets out the “Conservation and Revitalization of the Lake Biwa basin’s ecosystem” and “Restoration of the connection between our lives and the lake” as directions for new undertakings.

Under the “Conservation and Revitalization of the Lake Biwa basin’s ecosystem,” the Lake Biwa basin is divided into three zones; “within the lake,” “lakefront area” and “catchment area” with goals and indexes set and implemented together with the “linkage” between the three.

Under the “Restoration of the connection between our lives and the lake,” the activities are divided into three steps, “Individual/Family”, “Occupation” and “Local community” with goals and indexes set and implemented together with the “linkage” between the three.

2.4 Assessment of the 2nd Term Plan Period

To assess the status of progress of the plan, from the perspective of the comprehensive conservation of Lake Biwa, “Outcome indexes” that show the factors such as environmental and social statuses and “Output indexes” that show the status of progress of activities are set. These indexes are used to implement the progress management of the plan based on multi-tiered goal-achievement levels. The balanced improvement of the numerical values of the indexes and checks to ensure that there are no signs of the appearance of unanticipated damage can be thought of as a process of regular health checks of the Lake Biwa basin ecosystem and our lives.

(Environmental Policy Division /
Lake Biwa Policy Division,
Shiga Prefectural Government)

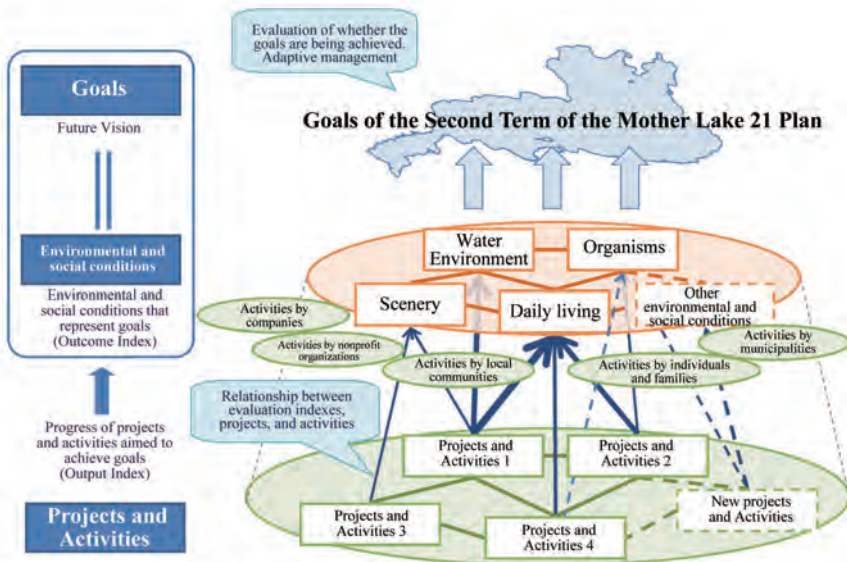


Fig. 4-15-1 Relationship between evaluation indexes, projects, and activities