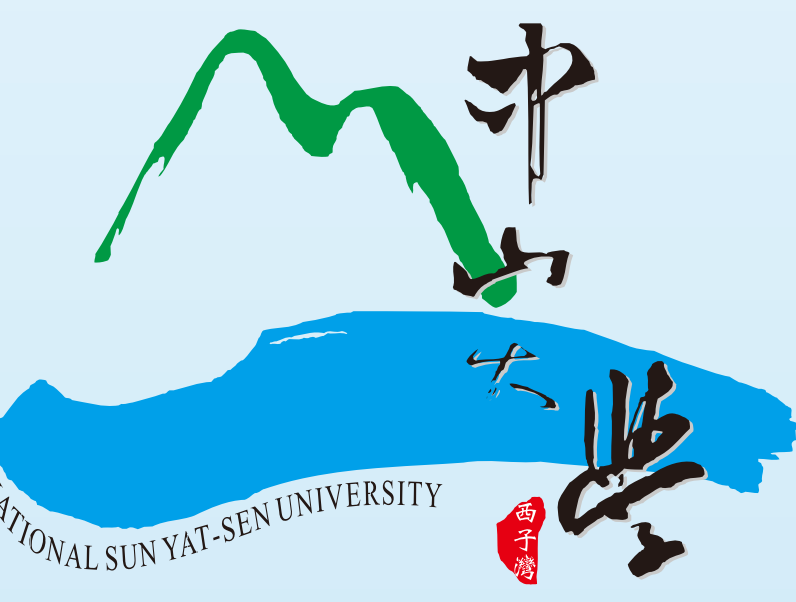


# Marine Protected Area Management: Enhancing Effectiveness through Stakeholder Participation in Taiwan and Japan



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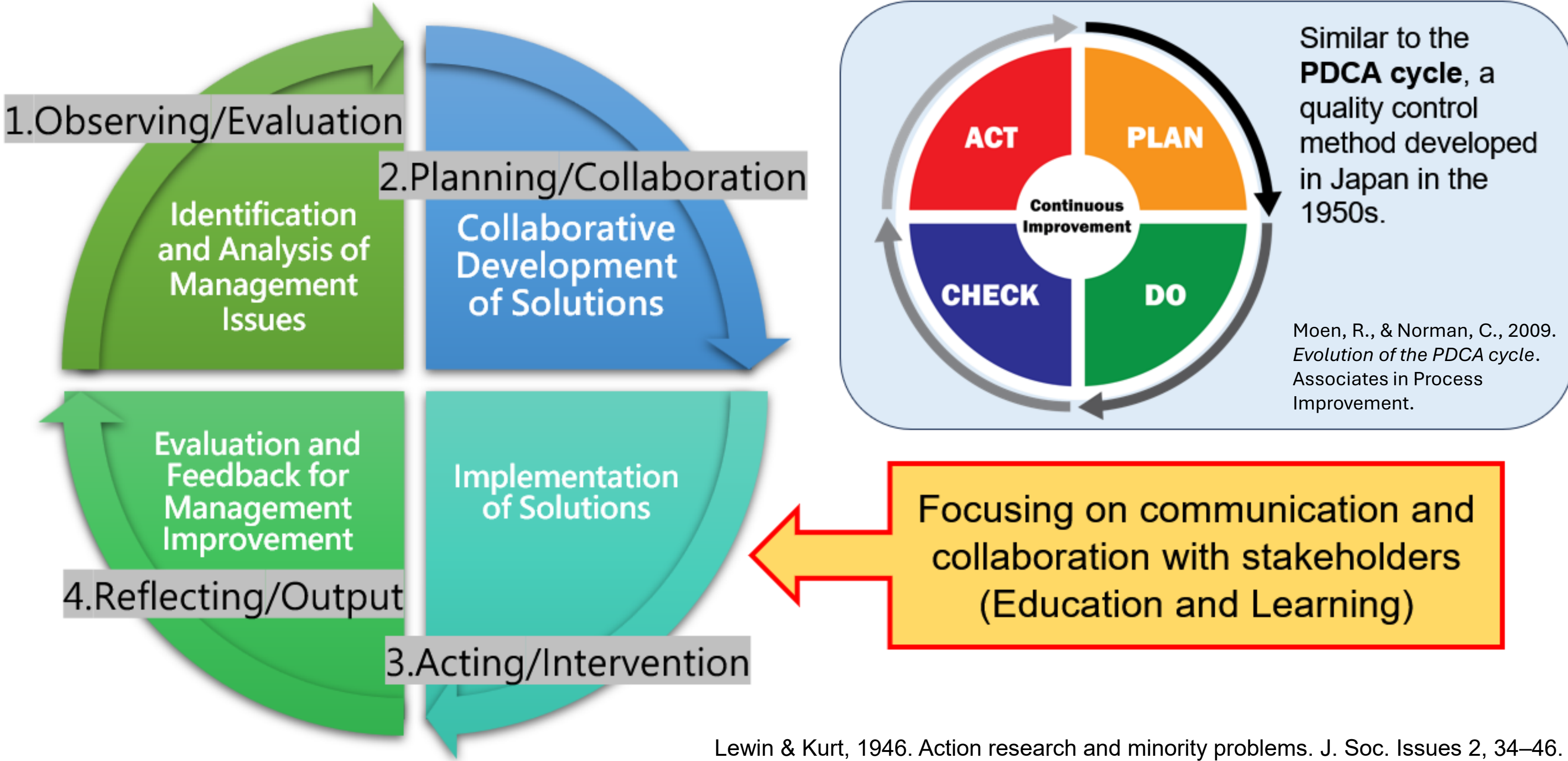
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## Background

- To explore how stakeholder participation can improve management effectiveness in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) governance in Japan
- The Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) examines how well MPAs achieve their ecological, social, and governance objectives<sup>1</sup>. While MPAs are essential conservation tools, their effectiveness largely depends on meaningful stakeholder participation** throughout the processes of planning, evaluation, and adaptive management<sup>2</sup>
- A systematic review of 281 global MEE studies (1994–2023) revealed that **only 12.7% engaged stakeholders beyond evaluation stages**, indicating a gap in translating assessments into actions<sup>3</sup>
- Action research** in Taiwan demonstrated how collaboration among stakeholders can lead to significant governance improvements<sup>2</sup>

## Action Research



## Successful Case Study in Taiwan

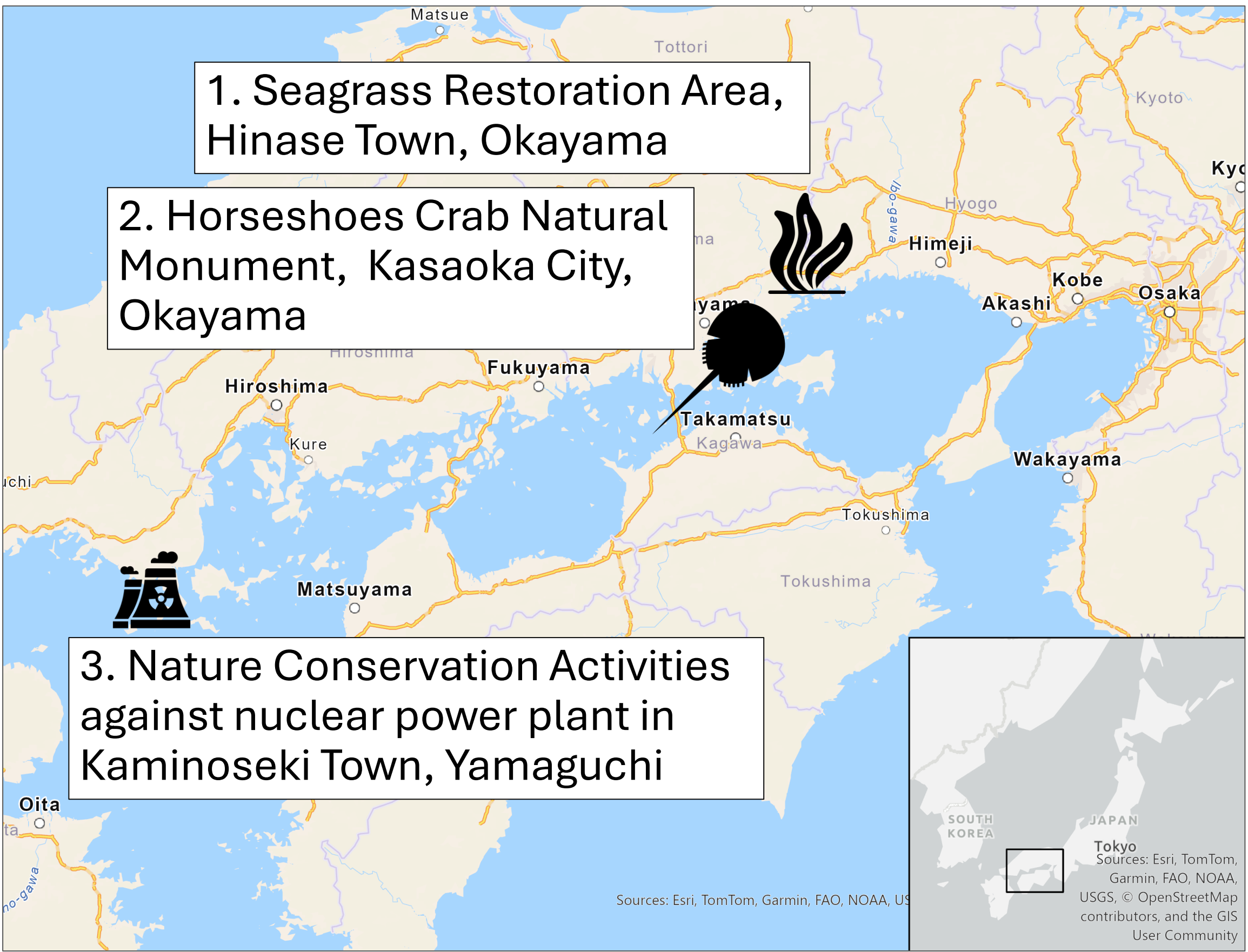
Local collaboration turned evaluation results into tangible conservation outcomes.<sup>2)</sup>

Location: Qimei Conservation Zone, Penghu County, Taiwan



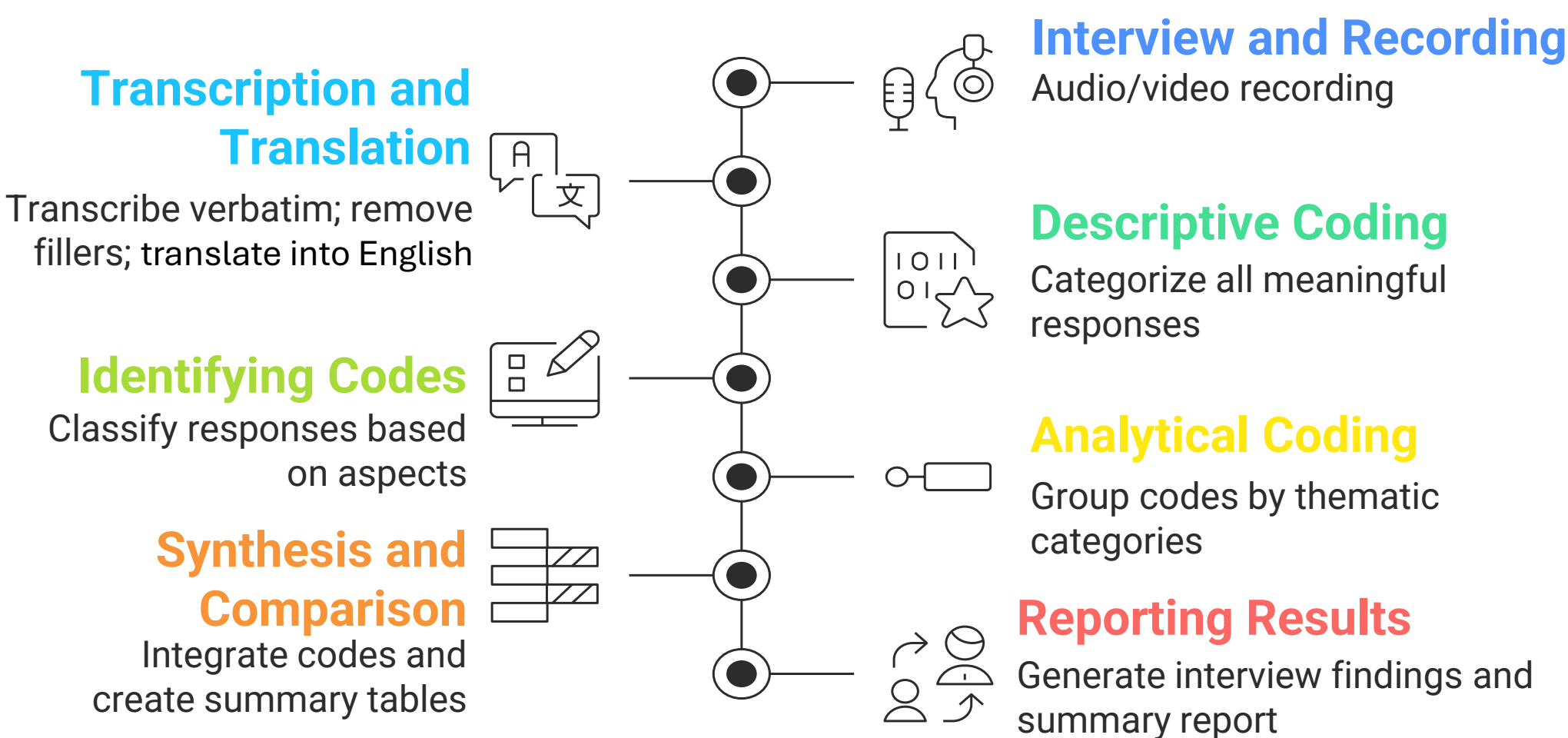
## Ongoing Case Studies in Japan

Focuses on three coastal community case studies in Japan to examine participatory MPA governance.



## Materials & Methods

Semi-structured and focus group interviews were conducted and analyzed<sup>4</sup>), supported by literature reviews and on-site visits.



Enabling factors were synthesized through cross-analysis of stakeholder interviews and insights from a prior systematic review on MPA effectiveness evaluation<sup>3</sup>.

## Conclusion

- Stakeholder participation is central to effective MPA governance. Comparative insights from three Japanese cases highlight that:
- Local leadership and program continuity** (e.g., satoumi councils, museum-led programs) anchor long-term community-based management.
  - Citizen science, youth education, and intergenerational engagement** foster lasting stewardship and ecological awareness.
  - Cross-sector collaboration** among fishers, NGOs, municipalities, and scientists bridges capacity gaps and enhances co-management effectiveness.
  - Place-based identity and grassroots mobilization** play a vital role in sustaining momentum and ensuring social legitimacy of conservation efforts.

## Stakeholder Roles and Enabling Factors for Effective Management

Enabling Factors			
Collaboration	Hinase <sup>5,6)</sup>	Kasaoka <sup>7,8)</sup>	Kaminoseki <sup>9,10)</sup>
Citizen Involvement	Seeding & Education Participation	Strengthen roles in conservation events	Expand citizen science & eco-education
Program Leadership	Fisher-led satoumi council	City & museum-led program	Grassroots leadership & NGO support
Long-term Engagement	Youth engagement & visible seagrass recovery	Long-term school and fisher participation	Strong public mobilization and local identity

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