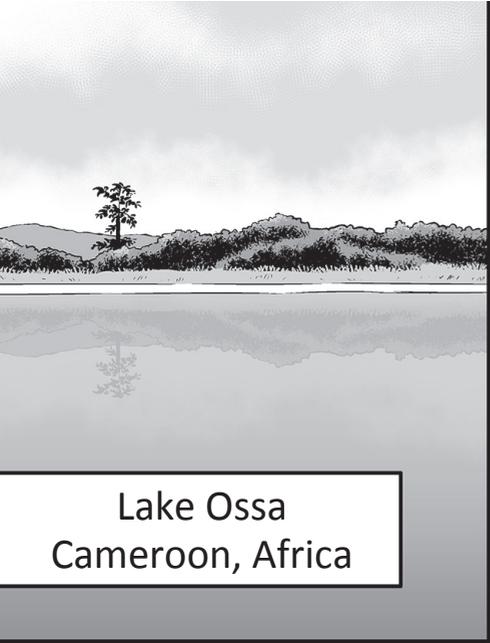


What kind of animal is  
the African manatee?

って

# アフリカマナティー どんな動物?

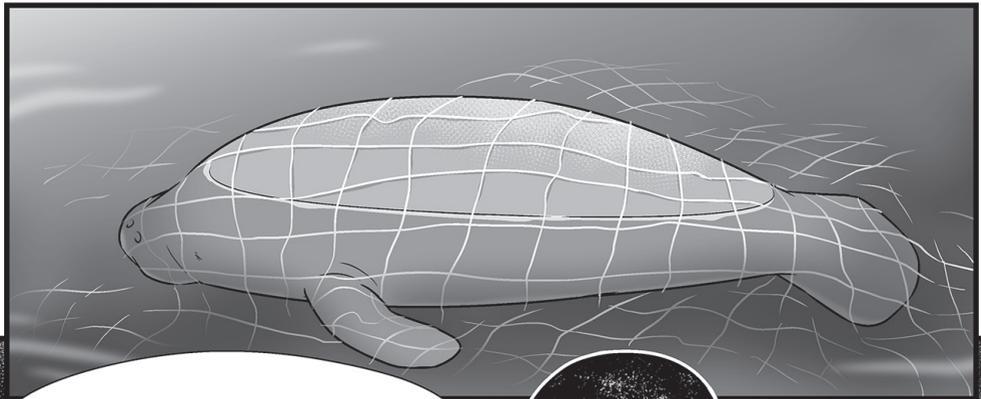




Lake Ossa  
Cameroon, Africa

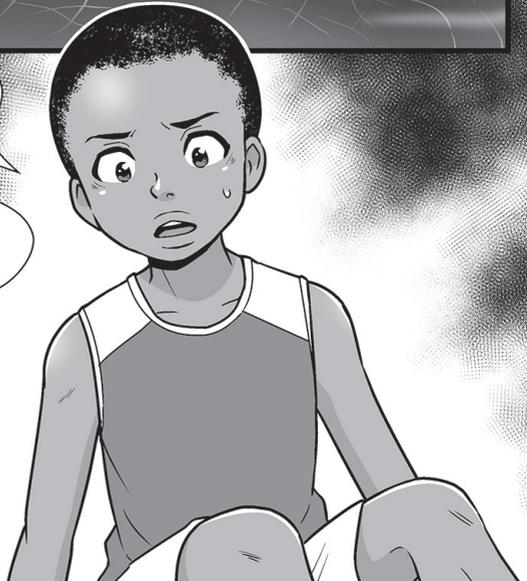


Dad!  
Look over  
there!



It is a baby manatee...!  
It died after getting

entangled in  
the net.

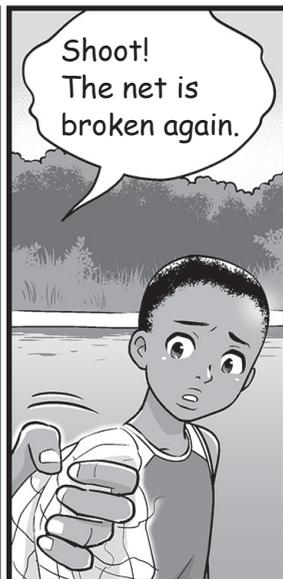




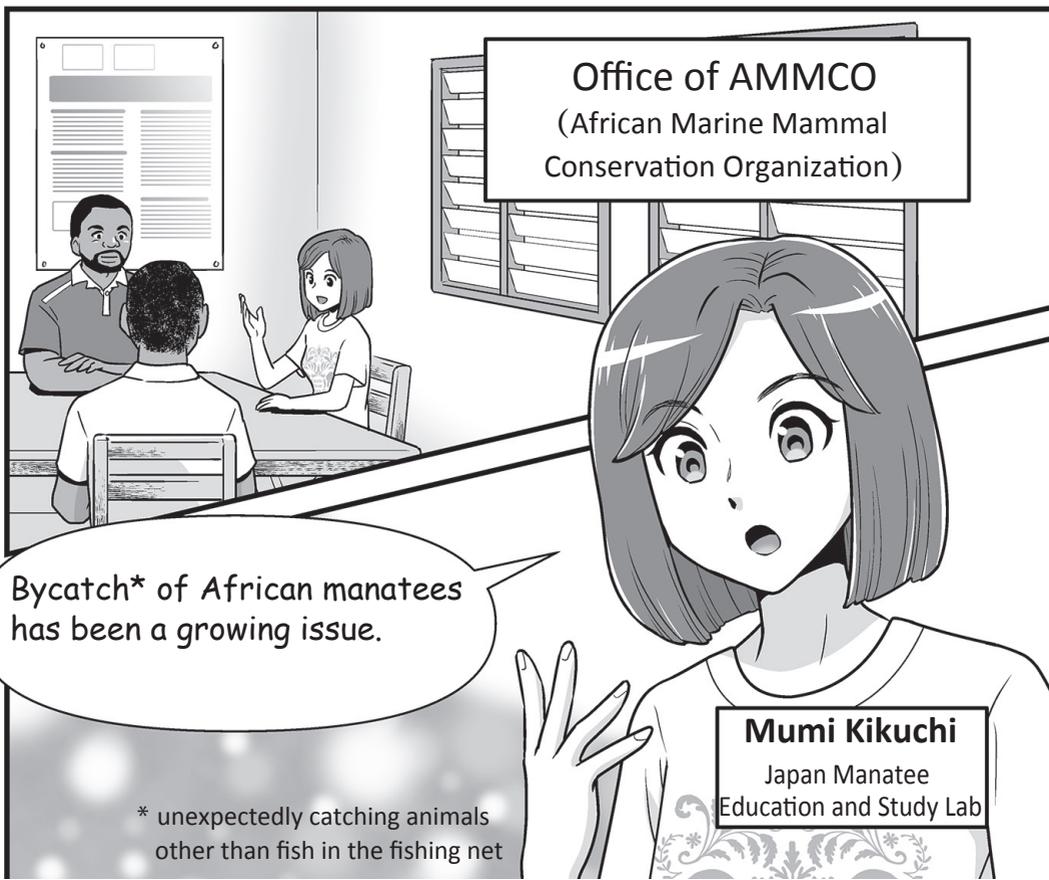
I feel so sad...  
Teacher told us  
that the population  
of manatees has  
been decreasing.



Don't be sorry for it!  
It came here to steal  
the fish anyway!



Shoot!  
The net is  
broken again.



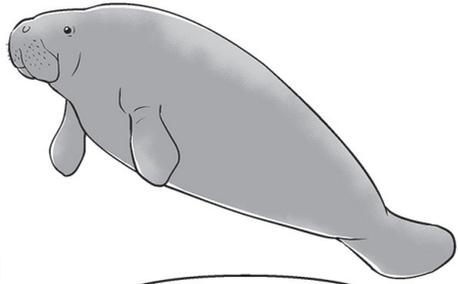
Office of AMMCO  
(African Marine Mammal  
Conservation Organization)

Bycatch\* of African manatees  
has been a growing issue.

\* unexpectedly catching animals  
other than fish in the fishing net

**Mumi Kikuchi**  
Japan Manatee  
Education and Study Lab

Many people hunt manatees to get rid of them.



Some people also misbelieve that the manatees break the nets to eat fish.

**Aristide**

Chief Officer of AMMCO

A lot of money is spent every year repairing broken nets.

**12%**  
Repair costs for damaged nets

A fisherman's annual income

また  
やられた~!!



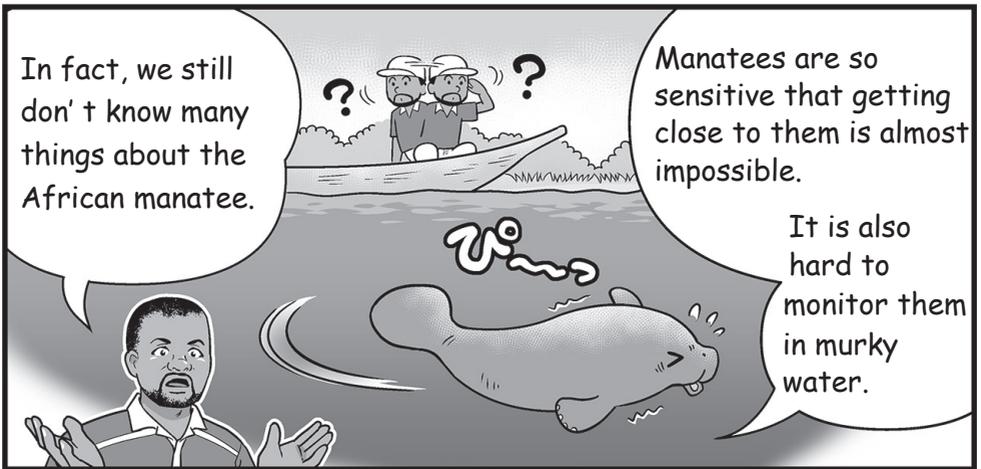
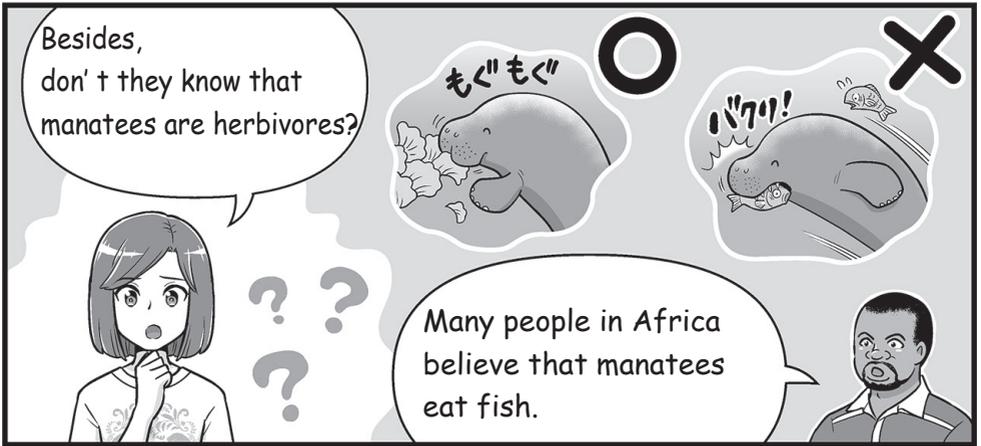
Ugh,  
that's a pain...



Some people hunt manatees to eat them and to get rid of the problems caused by them.

But the African manatee is a protected species under the law.

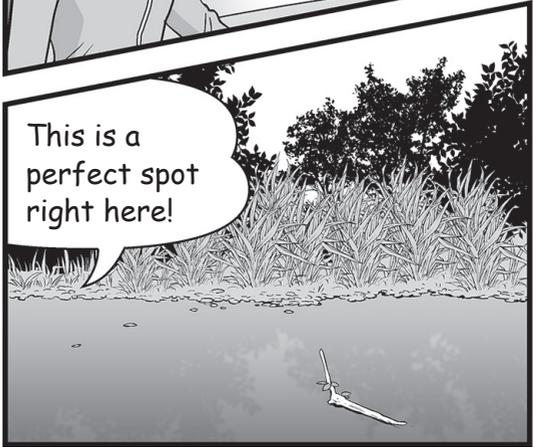
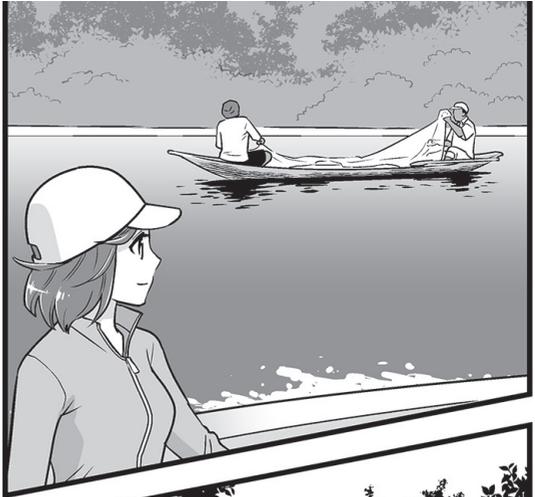






Monitoring them  
by their sound!

What a great idea!  
Let's do it!



This is a  
perfect spot  
right here!



There is something  
that I want you  
to look at.

Oh my goodness!  
So many  
floating plants!

It's like a  
big green carpet  
on the water!!



This is non-  
native species,  
*Salvinia molesta*..

How did it  
end up here?

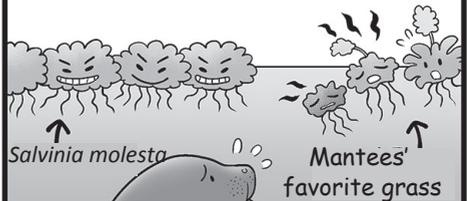


I have  
no idea.

But it was so  
quick to spread  
out and  
cover a **half of**  
the lake.



Removing them completely is  
impossible because they grow  
so fast even from the smallest  
remaining root.



The manatees have less food  
to eat now because the  
*Salvinia molesta* is killing the  
plants that the manatees  
like to eat.

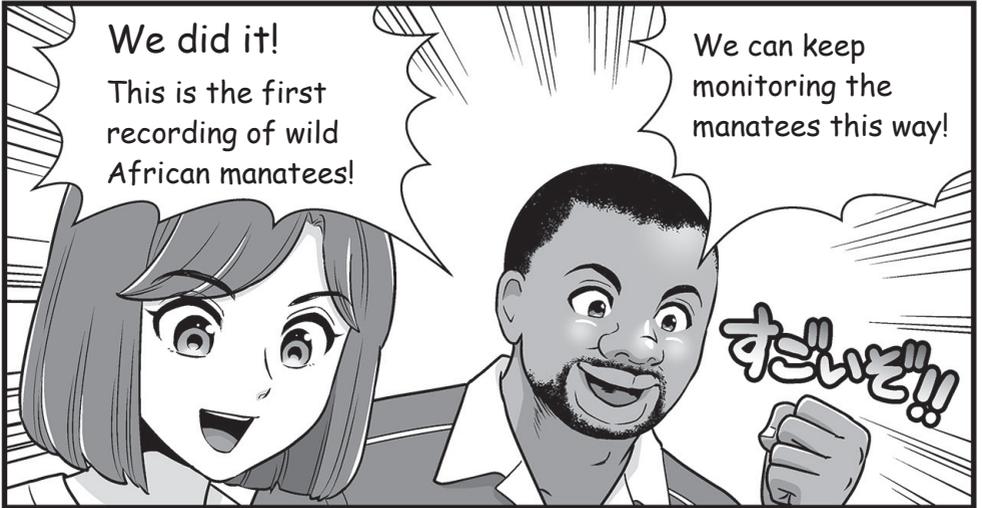


**3 days later:**  
Checking the audio from  
the recorder



**We did it!**  
This is the first  
recording of wild  
African manatees!

We can keep  
monitoring the  
manatees this way!



Look at this!

I got some feedback  
from the children  
about the workshop.

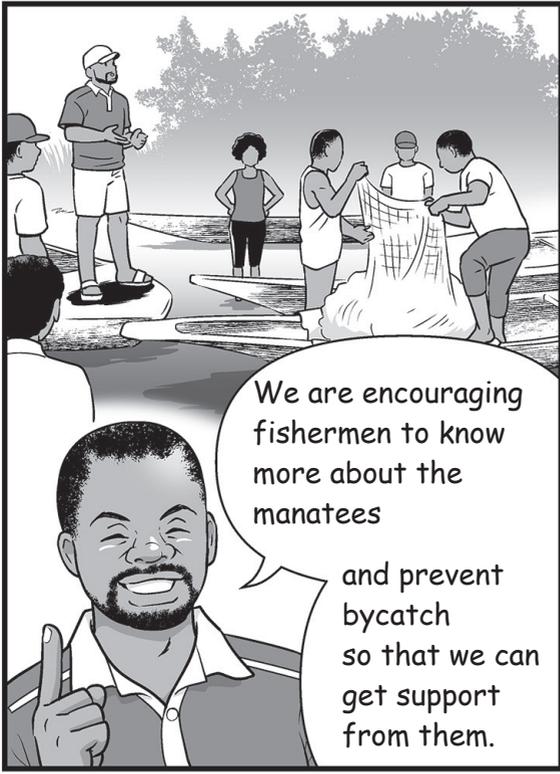
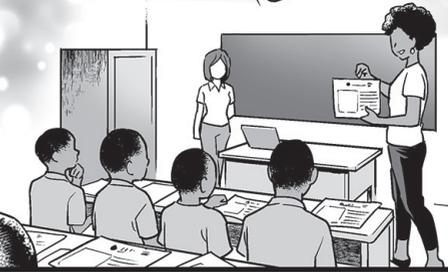
**Rowina**  
Teacher of the  
education program





More and more of them are saying that they care for the manatees.

Wonderful!



We are encouraging fishermen to know more about the manatees and prevent bycatch so that we can get support from them.



Bycatch, poaching, changing habitat and *Salvinia molesta*. Many problems are facing the African Manatees.

Having accurate knowledge is essential for everything to live in harmony.

**Workshop**  
for environmental education, Japan

... and that's  
how we try to protect  
the African manatee.

Any  
questions?



Ok,  
go ahead!

Well,  
what would happen  
if manatees become  
extinct?

Good question!  
Does anybody know  
the answer?

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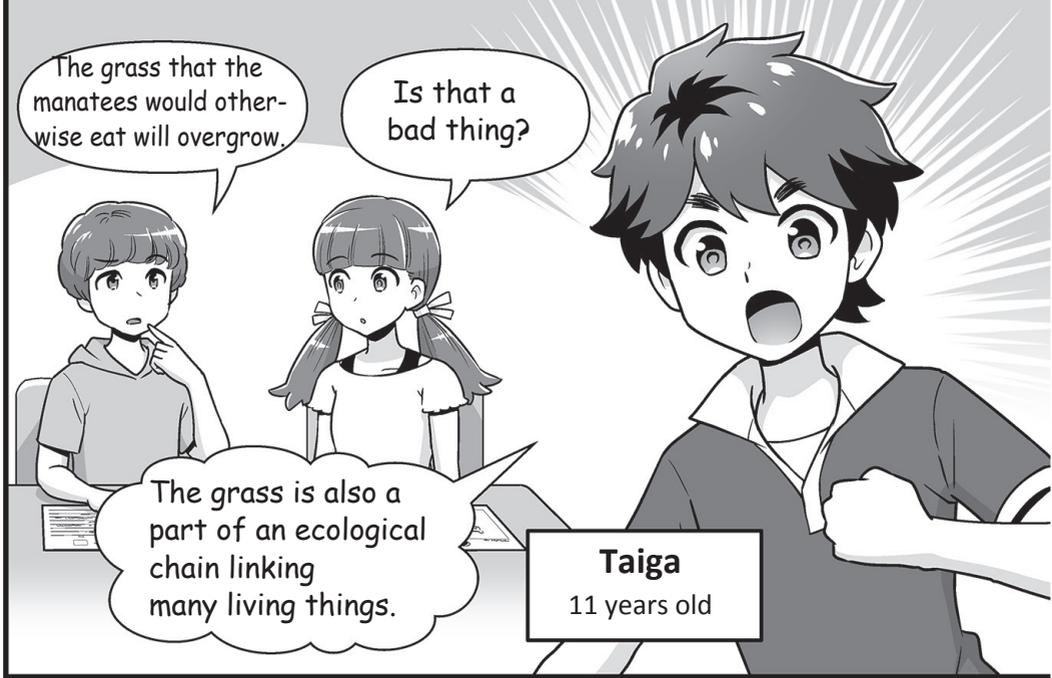
ざわ

I've never  
thought about  
that before.

What do you  
think?

**Mana**

11 years old

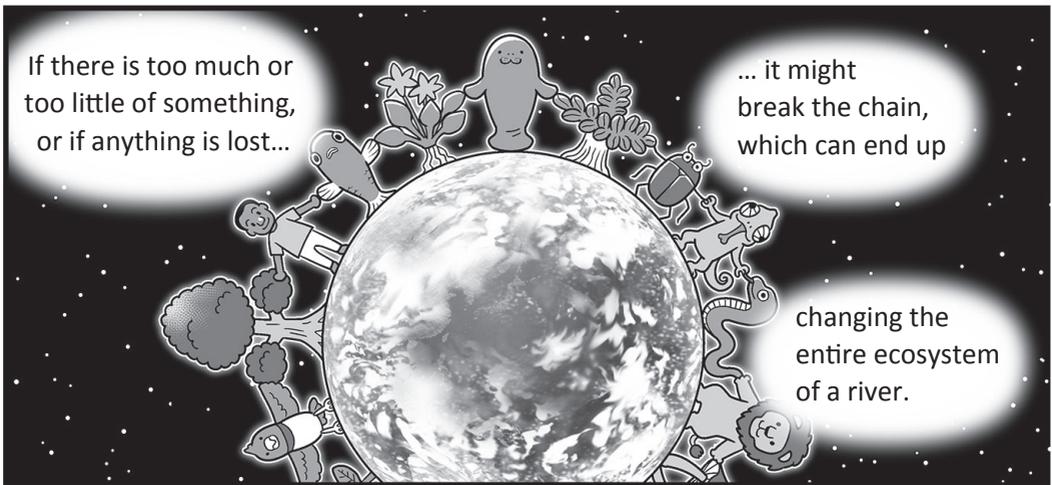


The grass that the manatees would otherwise eat will overgrow.

Is that a bad thing?

The grass is also a part of an ecological chain linking many living things.

**Taiga**  
11 years old



If there is too much or too little of something, or if anything is lost...

... it might break the chain, which can end up

changing the entire ecosystem of a river.

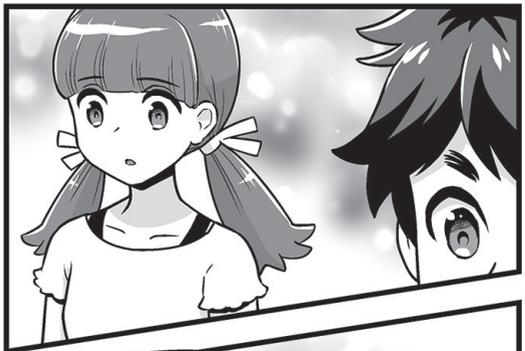
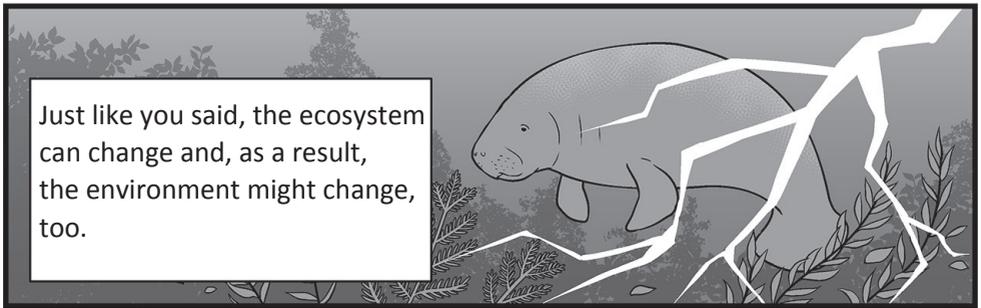


You are smart!

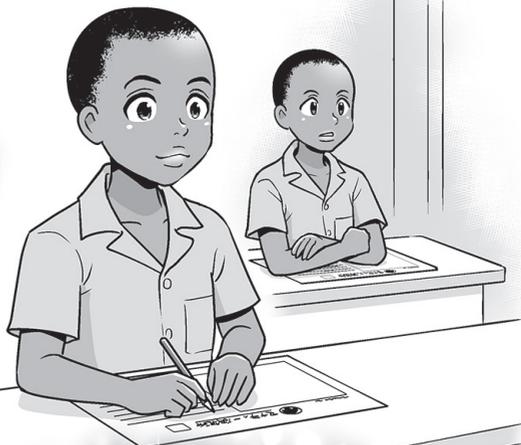
I've studied it.



So, what would happen if manatees become extinct? The answer is...



Unfortunately,  
there is no quick solution  
to all these problems.



What you can do now is  
to tell people about what  
you've learned today.



自由研究



Let's get together  
and think about  
what we can do.

Scan this code to find out  
more about manatees!



マナティー研究所

Japan Manatee Education and Study Lab.





# マナatee研究所

Japan Manatee Education and Study Lab.

The Japan Manatee Education and Study Lab (**JAMES**) is an academic institution established by the only manatee researcher in Japan with the support of her colleagues. Manatees are large aquatic mammals whose ecology is filled with mystery. Because they live in shallow waters and are close to humans, they are impacted by poaching and environmental pollution and are on the verge of extinction.

Through our research efforts, we aim to better understand the ecology of manatees and make them known to as many people as possible. Additionally, we hope to bring our knowledge and experience to develop and implement environmental education programs that teach others to **know, think, talk, and take action**.



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**WEB** <https://www.manateelab.jp/en>

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**MITSUBA**

Art by Mayura Kusumi

Produce by Japan Manatee Education and Study Lab (JAMES)