

# State of feeding damage caused by goats

## Environmental issues overwhelming the uninhabited islands

Goats were first introduced on Uotsuri Island when a Japanese private political organization brought a pair (one male and one female) over from Yonaguni Island in 1978. In a field survey of the island conducted in 1979, the presence of four goats was confirmed, and it was found that 24 species of plants had been eaten by the goats. The number of goats on the island today has been estimated at 300 or 500, and the feeding damage is worsening, particularly along the coasts and the southern slopes. This feeding damage is a serious problem, with impact extending to the deterioration of invaluable flora and fauna, changes to ecosystems, and deterioration of topographical features.



An adult goat and kid walking over the rocky areas on the eastern side of the island.

Photography: Haruo Ogi

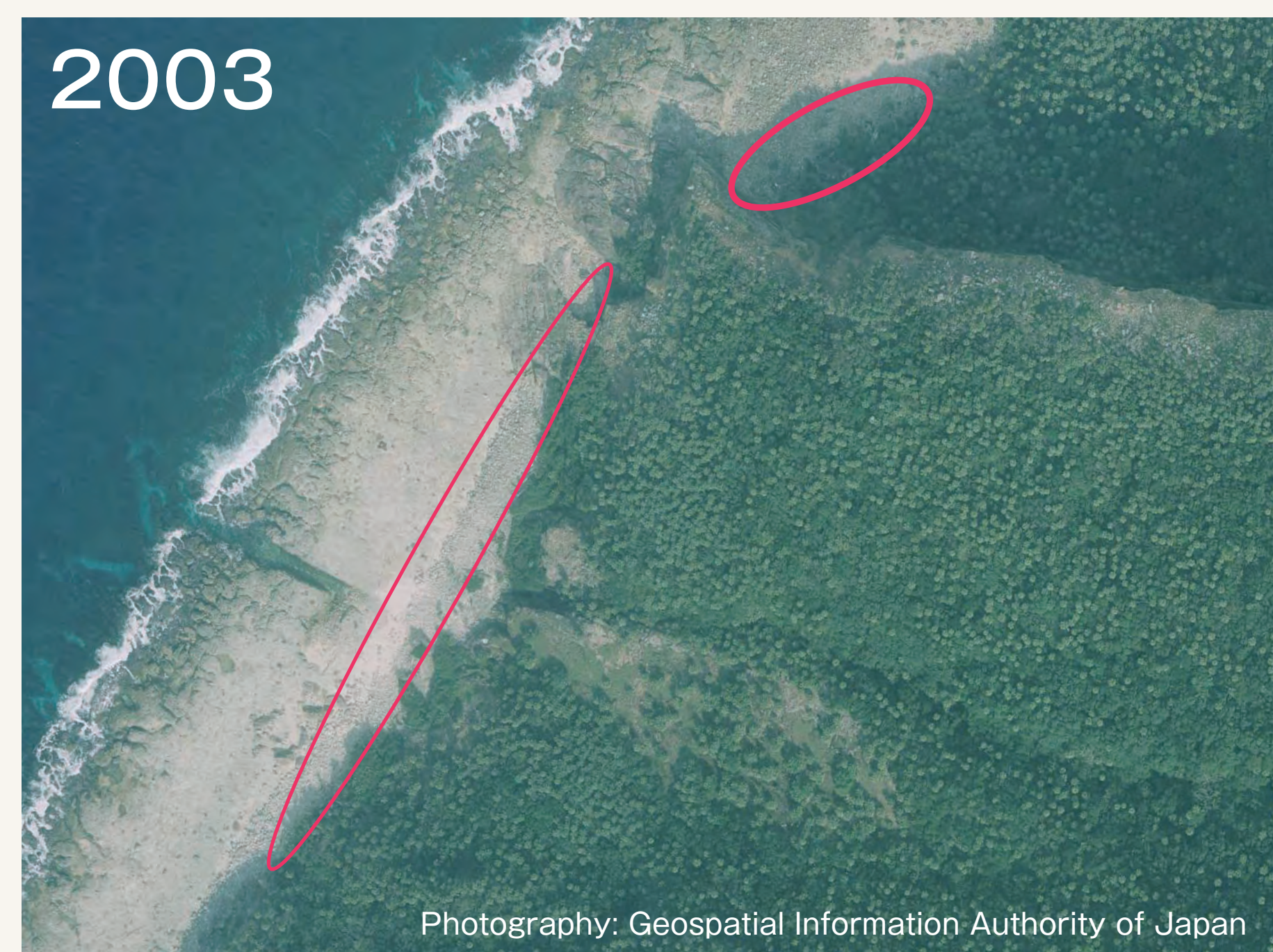


Photography: Yoshihiko Yamada



Photography: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

Changes around the inlet on the western side of the island. It is evident that the grasslands, which were visible over the top of the elevated coral reef in 1978, had completely disappeared by 2003.



Photography: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan



Feeding damage to plants, observed during the survey conducted in 1979 (rhapiolepis umbellata)

Photography: Yoshima Niino



● Barren areas

Barren areas as indicated by an analysis of satellite images. The surface area of the barren land has increased over the past 30 years and is reported to cover approximately 8% of the whole of Uotsuri Island.