

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

##### 4-3) Natural Parks

##### 4-3-1) Designation of Natural Parks : National, Quasi-national and Prefectural Natural Parks

###### a) Category

Legal basis of National Parks is the Natural Parks Law. The Law aims to conserve scenic areas and their ecosystems, to promote their utilisation, and to contribute to the health, recreation and environmental education of the people. In compliance with this law, natural parks are categorised following 3 parks.

###### 1) National Parks

The place of greatest and national-level natural scenic beauty and ecosystems, worthy of the names of the national scenic and out-standing ecosystem's sites in Japan.

###### 2) Quasi-national Parks

The place of great natural scenic beauty at the district-level and next to the National Parks.

###### 3) Prefectural Natural Parks

The places of prefectural-level importance and designated by the prefectural governors concerned.

###### b) Designation

###### 1) National Park

Designated by the Director General of the Environment Agency after conferring with related governmental agencies and consulting with the Nature Conservation Council. 28 parks, 2.05million hectares (ca. 5.4% of the area of the country).

###### 2) Quasi-national Park

Designated by the Director General of the Environment Agency by proposal of the Governor of the Prefecture concerned after conferring with related governmental agencies and consulting with the Nature Conservation Council. 55 parks, 1.34 million hectares (ca. 3.6% of the area of the country).

###### 3) Prefectural Natural Parks

Designated by the prefectural governments in accordance with the prefectural ordinance. 306 parks, 1.95 million hectares (ca. 5.2% of the total area of the country).

###### c) Guideline on Selection of Natural Parks

###### 1) Landscape

###### National Parks

Typical scenic beauty in Japan. Scenic beauty judged superb by international standards.

### Quasi-national Parks

Level of scenic beauty comparable to that for National Parks.

### Prefectural Natural Parks

Typical scenic beauty in each prefecture

## 2) Criteria of Landscape

### National Parks

#### . Scale of Landscape

Magnificent scenic beauty covering an enormous area (in principle, 30,000ha or more: 10,000ha or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts).

#### . Natural Grade

In principle, must have a wilderness with an area of 2,000ha or more as the central scenic beauty and also meet the following conditions:

- No possibility of an ecosystem or a few ecosystem being changed by development activities or occupancy by humans;
- Scientific, educational or recreational importance of the species of animals and plants.
- Great natural scenic beauty;

In principle, the total length of the coastline must be 20km or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts.

#### . Degree of Variety

Must consist of two or more scenic elements and also have scenery full of variety.

### Quasi-national Parks

#### . Scale of Landscape

Scenic beauty covering a relatively large area (in principle, 10,000ha or more: 3,000ha or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts).

#### . Natural Grade

In principle, must have a wilderness with an area of 1,000ha or more as the central scenic beauty and also meet the following condition:

- Its ecosystem is kept intact.

In principle, the total length of the coastline must be 20km or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts.

#### . Degree of Variety

None

## 3) Land Ownership

4) Industries

5) Utilisation

6) Location

National Parks

Geographical distribution is not taken into consideration.

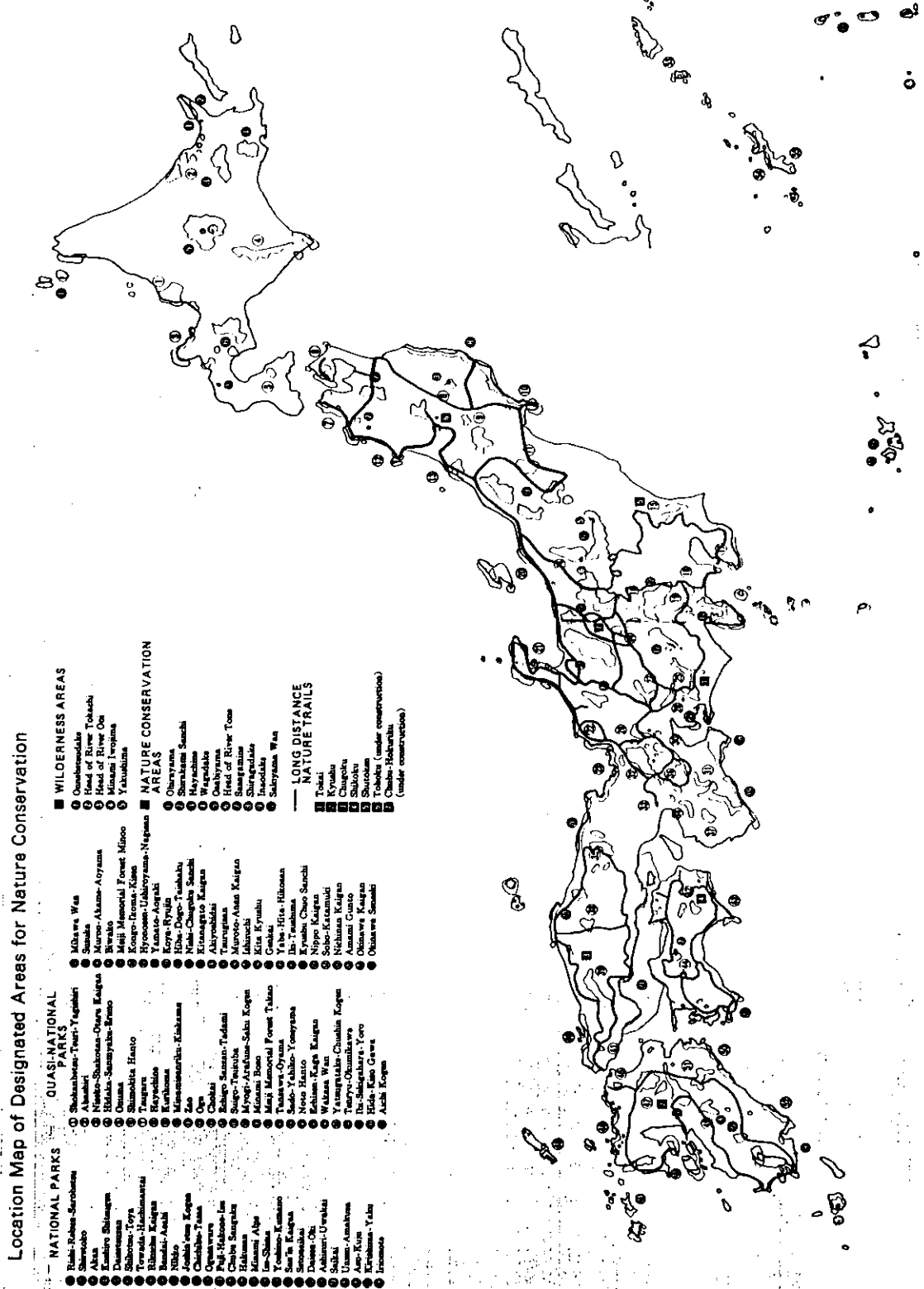
Quasi-national Parks

Proper national distribution is necessary from the standpoint of easy utilisation.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Natural Parks  
Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-1) Designation of Natural Parks : National, Quasi-national and Prefectural Natural Parks



Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

##### 4-3) Natural Parks

##### 4-3-2) Park Plan

Regulation for protection and facilities for utilisation of National Parks are planned by the Environment Agency and revised about every five years. For Quasi-national Parks, planning is elaborated by the prefectures concerned under the guidance of the Environment Agency to follow the standards of National Parks.

Park Plan refers to regulations for protection or use of parks, or plans of park facilities, forming the basis of protection, maintenance, and management of national parks as well as the basis of facilities maintenance. Those are classified into protection plans and utilisation plans.

Protection plans are aimed at restricting such activities harmful to the scenic beauty or ecosystems of natural parks, while utilisation plans are intended for effective and appropriate use of natural parks for outdoor recreational activities.

##### a) Protection Plan

##### 1) For Conservation

Japan is one of the more densely populated countries. Most of its land area, with the exceptions of upper mountain areas, areas of religious importance and lands unsuitable for cultivation, are now utilised by the people for a wide variety of economic activities. Furthermore, almost all private land owners occupy only small plots of land. If any national parks were designated, many economic activities had already been undertaken within national park areas.

Therefore designated areas as national parks cover not only state-owned lands (most of which are national forests) and local government-owned lands, but also many private-owned lands. At present, 24% of the whole national park areas, particularly located in western part of Japan and coastal areas, are private-owned lands.

Several activities such as agriculture, forestry and tourism & recreational industries can also be undertaken within the park areas. Management measures to regulate inappropriate development activities are always taken into consideration through the zoning system by the Environment Agency.

All park areas are classified into four zones such as the special protection zone, the marine park zone, special zone and the ordinary zone according to natural grades of ecosystems and scenic beauty, degree of human impact to the natural environment, and also of importance for visitor use.

The following map illustrates an example of national park conservation and utilisation plan of

Rishiri Island, Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park close to northernmost Main Island, Hokkaido.

## 2) Regulatory Plan for Protection

The regulatory plan for protection is designed to classify natural parks into several zones on the basis of scenic beauty and ecosystem (zoning system).

### Special Zones

#### a. Criteria of Selection

The special zone is defined as a zone which has places with great scenic beauty (excluding the sea surface beyond the beach-line at the neap tide). Special zones are selected from among the following areas:

- . Zone where it is necessary to preserve the excellent natural environment;
- . Zone where it is necessary to preserve the proper environmental quality, particularly important as the land for utilisation;
- . Zone where shrines, temples, historic sites, holy grounds and places famous, in legend or villages which have buildings of peculiarly localised architectural style mix exquisitely with the surrounding natural scenery;
- . Zone where it is necessary to restore natural scenic beauty and it is considered possible to do so;
- . Other zones where it is necessary to preserve natural scenic beauty.

#### b. Classification of Special Zones

Special zones are classified into special protection zone and other special zones (which are further divided into Class , Class , Class ). Special zones must be classified on the basis of their respective characteristics in terms of scenic beauty. It is also necessary to ensure that appropriate measures to protect and manage individual special zones without impairing any other benefit and protection of the law.

##### . Special Protection Zones

The special protection zone is defined as a zone where it is essential to preserve scenic beauty and ecosystem. Special protection zones are selected from among the following zones.

- Zones where specific landscape and ecosystem retain these primeval state;
- Zones which are likely to be affected by human work, such as alpine zones, alpestrine zones, 'fushochi' and swamps;
- Zones which are important as places for wild growth of plants and habitats of wild animals;
- Zones which has unique topographical or geological features or where unique natural phenomena occur;
- Zones with planted trees which are very advanced in years and therefore are valued highly by scientists and researchers.

## . Classification of Special Zones by Types of Land

Special zones except special protection zone have a wide variety of elements and therefore the necessity of preservation of natural beauty differs from one zone to another. For this reason, these zones are divided into Class , Class , Class .

### Ordinary Zone

The ordinary zone is defined as a zone except special and marine park zones in natural park areas. The following zones falls under this category.

- a. Villages, tracts of farmland or forests which are integrated with special zones in terms of topography, appearance and other scenic elements and which require protection of natural scenery although not so urgently as special zones.
- b. Surrounding zones which are necessary in protection or utilising special zones.

### 3) Facility Plan for Protection and Conservation

The facility plan for protection and conservation is designed to determine policies on the layout and maintenance of individual facilities necessary in ensuring safety in the protection and utilisation of landscape and ecosystem.

### b) Utilisation Plan

#### 1) For Visitor Use

The Utilisation Plan is to facilitate appropriate access to and within parks and accommodation for park visitors. The plan includes how to arrange the exclusive town site so as to concentrate park accommodations in limited areas, and also how to arrange facilities required for traffic system, lodging and camping, nature observation, and other various outdoor activities.

#### 2) Facility Plan for Utilisation

The facility plan for utilisation is designed to determine policies on the systematic layout and maintenance of the town site and the facilities as set forth in Article 4(1)-(9) of the regulations relative to the enforcement of the Natural Parks Law, which are considered effective in attracting visitors, for the purpose of actively promoting the utilisation of those facilities of natural parks which are best suited for visitors.

Important points to note in working out a facility plan for utilisation are as listed below:

- The facility plan for utilisation should not designed to cover all the existing facilities or all prospective facilities. It should be designed to determine policies on the layout and maintenance of only those facilities which are indispensable in promoting the proper utilisation of the natural park;
- The facility plan for utilisation should be designed to decide on facilities necessary in promoting the proper utilisation of the natural park and the most appropriate sites for them on the basis of the prospects for their realisation.

## Town Site

### a. Criteria of Selection

The Town Site is defined as a place for facilities selected with utmost emphasis on the systematic utilisation and maintenance in the natural park. Town sites are selected in the following places. Minute care should be taken to ensure that town sites are not concentrated in a certain part within the natural park.

- Site where it is possible to construct facilities without causing a large-scale change in the surrounding landscape and ecosystem;
- Site where environmental conditions are good for human health;
- Sites which are well protected against disasters;
- Site whose ownership is suited for the formulation and implementation of the park plan.

### b. Location

In principle, town sites should be located within Class special zone. A location where town sites are to be prepared should be selected taking into account such natural conditions as the lay of the land and the prevalent plants and also the type and scale of each facility within the natural park.

### c. Policies on the Provision of Facilities

Policies on the Provision of the facilities should be worked out for each of the following groups of facility sections. However, policies on the basic facilities such as the roads and water supply/sewerage that cover a whole site should be worked out for each of such facilities.

#### Independent Facilities

The independent facilities within a national park are divided into independent facilities (except the roads and transportation facilities), the roads and the transportation facilities.

a) Roadways, b) Bicycle Trail, c) Footpaths, d) Lodging, e) Transportation Facilities (the ropeway and the cable railway)

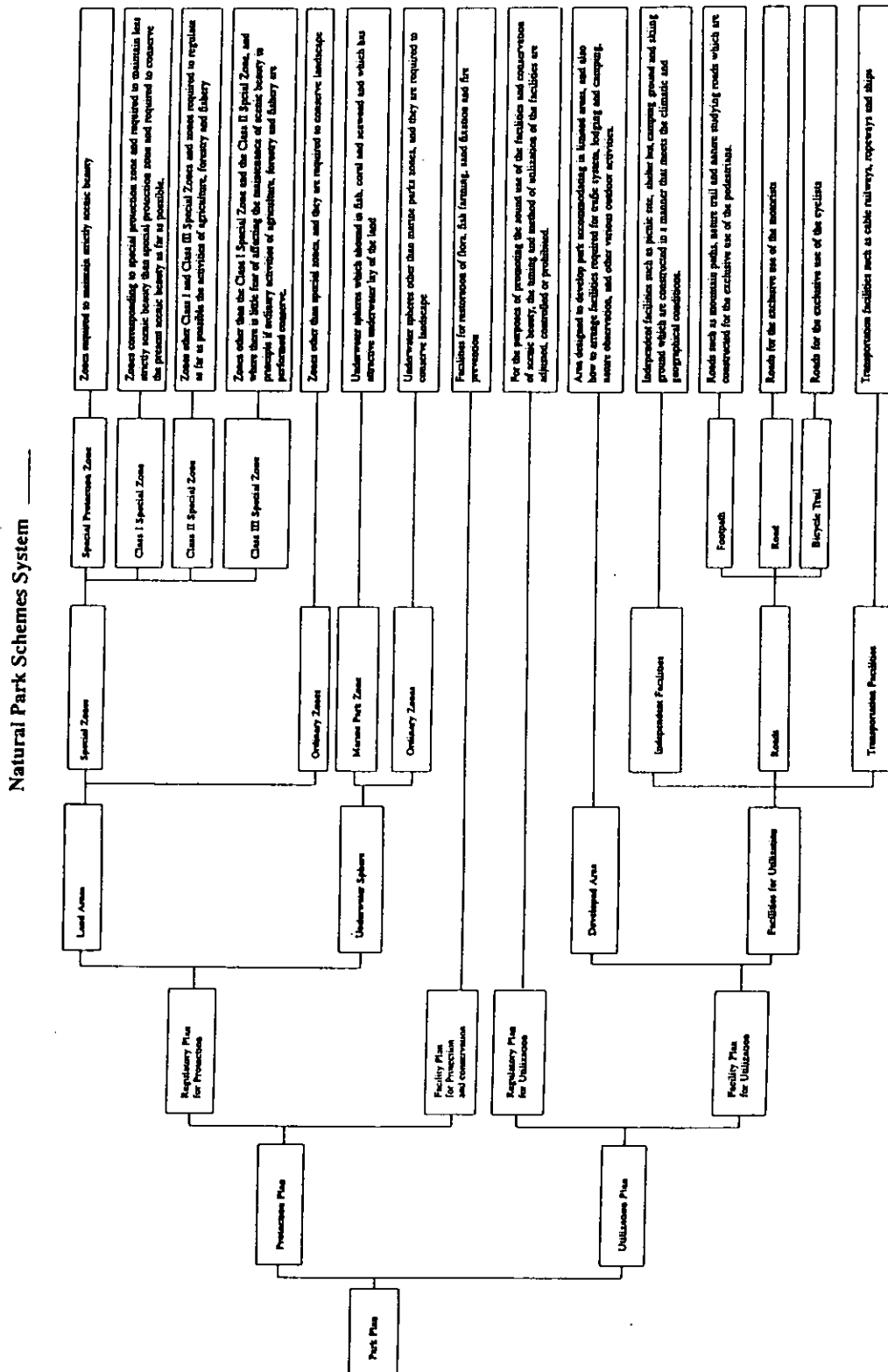
### 3) Regulatory Plan for Utilisation

The regulatory plan for utilisation is worked out when it is necessary to promote their proper use and preservation on the natural scenery. In the regulatory plan for utilisation, facilities with which special adjustment, regulation or prohibition of the term and method or utilisation is required, are decided.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Basic Policies



(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks 4-3-2) Park Plan



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999) : Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management,, FY99, "Natural Parks"

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

##### 4-3) Natural Parks

##### 4-3-3) Management Plan, Administrative System, Control of Various Human Activities

###### a) Management Plan

The management plan of a national park is prepared at National Park and Wildlife Office in order to promote its appropriate protection and recreational use which meet the specific needs and conditions of each national park area.

In Japan, under the zoning system, the national park is usually managed jointly by the State, prefecture and the like. The management plan is prepared for each district of the park to give joint administration a sense of rationality and consistency.

The management plan comes into force only after consulting all prefectural governments and main municipalities in jurisdiction, private corporations in sight-seeing business, NGOs, and experts in the field of natural environmental conservation, and finally after obtaining an approval with the Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau.

Contents of management plan are as follows:

- Matters concerning with the management of landscape and ecosystem;
- Matters concerning with regional development and arrangement;
- Matters concerning with education and guidance of its users and the like;
- Matters concerning with improving regional beauty and views;
- Others.

###### b) Administrative System

Management of national parks system in Japan is carried out by the Environment Agency in close cooperation with prefectural governments, municipality authorities concerned as well as land owners and private sectors. There are 56 Ranger Stations under 11 National Park and Wildlife Offices.

Management of quasi-national parks and prefectural natural parks is implemented by the prefectural governor concerned.

Law enforcement on national parks, in accordance with the Natural Parks Law, is undertaken by the national park rangers and other staff members and the local government officials in collaboration with land owners and private sectors.

###### c) Control of Various Human Activities

To conserve outstanding ecosystems and scenic beauty, many activities liable to deteriorate natural environment, are prohibited without prior permissions and licenses from the

Director-General of the Environment Agency or the Governor of the prefectural government concerned. With reference to the ordinary area, large-scale activities have to be notified in advance to the management authorities.

Permissions are issued in accordance with the Guideline to Assess on Various Development Activities in National Parks Areas elaborated by the Environment Agency.

d) Vehicle Access Control

Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles have gained popularity in recent years in Japan, and the negative impacts of these activities to the natural vegetation and wildlife have become issues of concern. As a countermeasure, the Director-General of the Environment Agency designated part of special protection areas of national and quasi-national parks to apply restriction on such activities. As of October 1996, 25 areas (total of 191,737 ha) in national parks and 9 areas (total of 42,490 ha) were designated for access control.

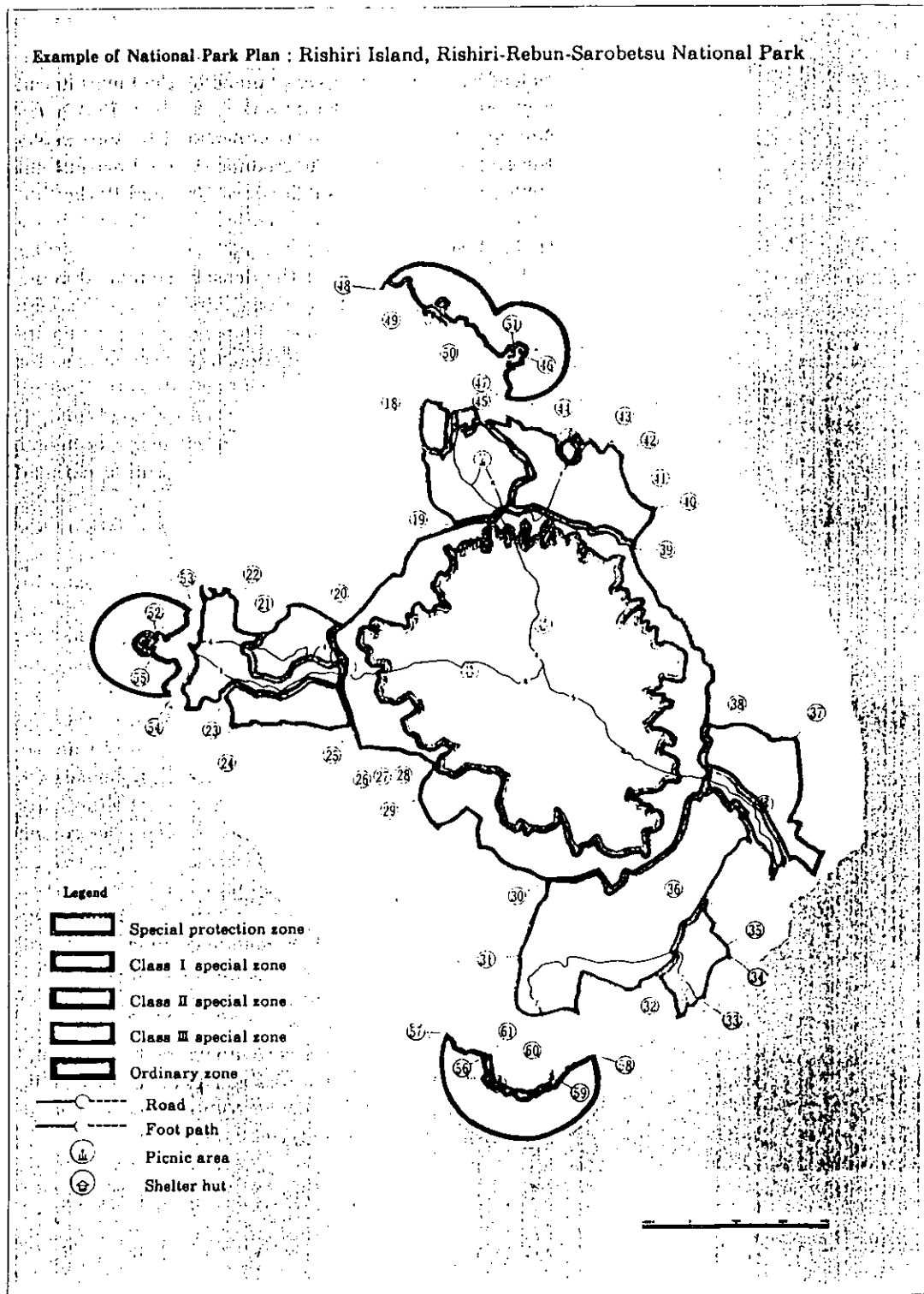
自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編 (1996): 総説、自然と共に生きる時代を目指して 自然保護年鑑4、日正社

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Natural Parks

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-3) Management Plan, Administrative System, Control of Various Human Activities



Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

(4) Protected Areas in Japan

4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-4) Number of Visitors, Budget, Tax, Purchase of Privately-Owned Lands, Contribution to Local Economy

a) Number of Visitors

Natural Park visitation increased dramatically during the period of Japan's rapid economic growth (1960-70s). In recent years, the number exceeds one billion visitors annually. Such huge numbers of visitors is distinguishing feature of natural parks in Japan. While demonstrating the popularity of the natural park system, the resulting widely spread trash, crowding on the trails, and inadequate facilities, as well as the lack of proper information system are causing severe problems for the park management. Exactly who should bear the cost burden of any remedial measures is still unresolved.

b) Budget

The total budget of the Nature Conservation Bureau of the Environment Agency for FY1995, 1996, and 1997 were ¥13,084,580,000, ¥15,061,386,000 and ¥16,577,872,000, respectively.

(National Park Association in Japan: 1998)

c) Reduction of Tax Pertaining to Nature Conservation

1) Exceptional Deduction form Capital Gains

When a piece of land in a special zone of a National or Quasi-national Park or in a special zone of Nature Conservation area is purchased by the State or a local public body, the lower between ¥20 million and the sum of capital gains exceptionally deducted, with respect to income tax and corporation tax, for long-term capital gains. For short-term capital gains, ¥20 million is exceptionally deducted.

When a Protection area of National Endangered Species, a habitat of precious natural wildlife, specific birds, or protected birds under the Treaty on Migratory Birds in a special protection zone of a wildlife protection area is purchased by the Government of Japan or a local public body, ¥15 million is exceptionally deducted from capital gains.

Since 1979, the exceptional deduction from capital gains (i.e.¥15million) has been applied also to those pieces of land in special zones of prefectural natural parks or special zones of prefectural nature conservation areas that are recognised by the Director General of the Environment Agency as highly restricted areas.

2) Exclusion from Property Taxation

In 1974, the Local Taxes Act was amended. Exclusion from property taxation was

introduced, as a result, to special protection zones of National and Quasi-national Parks as well as to first class special zones (i.e., areas classified as forests, wildernesses, ponds or marshes), with a view to the promotion of nature conservation and coordination between nature conservation and private rights. Regarding second class special zones, at the same time, it was considered to be rational that property tax be mitigated for those areas that were considered to be regulated in the same manner as special protection zones and first class special zones, and a notification was issued to that effect from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Then in 1975, the notification was revised to the effect that it was rational that property tax be mitigated for those areas in special zones of prefectural Natural Parks that were considered to be regulated in the same manner as special protection zones of National or Quasi-National Parks and first class special zones, in view of balance among these areas.

Further in 1977, the Ministry of Home Affairs notified that it was rational that property tax be mitigated for those areas in special zones of nature conservation areas (i.e., area classified as ponds or marshes, forests, or wildernesses) that were regulated in the same manner as nature conservation areas.

### 3) Special Measure Pertaining to Nature Conservation Corporations

Preferential measures were introduced to the tax system in April 1985, regarding income tax, corporation tax, real estate acquisition tax, and property tax, with a view to further promoting national trust activities.

These measures are applied to contributions from corporations that are performing operations for conservation and utilisation of excellent natural environment (nature conservation corporations) and whose sound management is ensured. In April 1986, a non-taxation system was introduced to gift tax for these corporations' inherited property when such property is donated.

### 4) Other Measures

Since 1985, tax benefits have been given to the corporation (natural environmental Conservation Corporation) which is engaged in the business to conserve natural environment and to use environment efficiently and wisely, and at the same time operates under optimal management. The purpose of such benefits is to promote National Trust activities.

In 1986, the tax exemptive measures were also taken for the bestowal of inherited properties.

### d) Purchase of Private-Owned Lands

Japanese natural park system regulates the activities which entail adverse effects on the natural environment and resources. The land owners, who could not acquire permissions or licenses, may receive compensation from the government. One of ways of compensation as well as strengthening management in outstanding ecosystems is to purchase the privately-owned

lands within national parks areas.

The policy to purchase important areas such as the special protection zone and the Class special zone was started in 1972 for national parks and in 1976 for the quasi-national parks. From 1991, this concept was expanded to the Class , Class special zones.

Such purchase was executed by means of public bonds issued by prefectural governments. The expenses of the principal to redeem were subsidised by the national government. 6,507 ha. were purchased by the prefectural governments and total amount of bonds issued reached to ¥12.34 million yen until the end of March 1995.

#### e) Contribution to the local Economy

There is no doubt that natural parks contribute to the economy of local communities (such as in the form of revenue from tourism), however studies on the socio-economic aspects of parks is currently lacking in Japan. This can possibly be attributed to the fact that no entrance fees are charged by Japanese natural parks.

自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編 (1996): 総説、自然と共に生きる時代を目指して 自然保護年鑑 4、日正社

(財) 国立公園協会 編 (1998: 1998 自然公園の手びき、国立公園協会

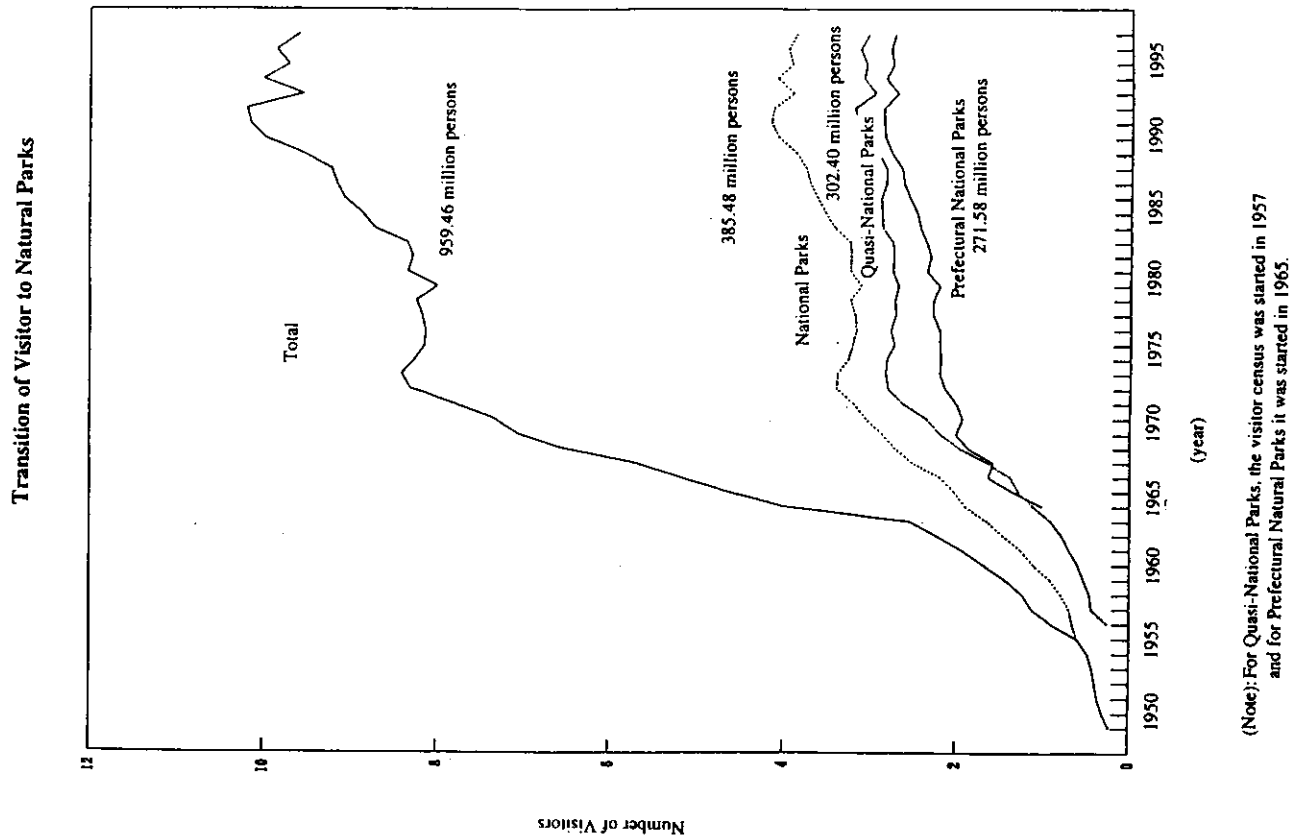
(財) 政策科学研究所 (1978): 環境庁委託業務報告書 自然公園計画策定段階における社会・経済的影響予測手法に関する調査報告書

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Basic Policies

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-4) Number of Visitors, Budget, Tax, Purchase of Privately-Owned Lands, Contribution to Local Economy



Classified Zones in Natural Parks

(as of March 31, 1999)

Item	Number of parks	Park area (ha)	Ratio to the National land area* (%)	Breakdown					
				Special zone				Ordinary zone	
				Special protection zone		Area (ha)	Ratio (%)	Area (ha)	Ratio (%)
Area (ha)	Ratio (%)								
National park	28	2,046,635	5.41	265,509	13.0	1,456,628	71.2	590,007	28.8
Quasi-national park	55	1,343,181	3.55	66,490	5.0	1,249,997	93.1	93,184	6.9
Prefectural natural park	306	1,951,761	5.16	-	-	693,100	35.5	1,258,661	64.5
Total	389	5,341,577	14.13	331,999	6.2	3,399,725	63.6	1,941,852	36.4

Note: National land area 37,785,464 hectare as of October 1998 by the National Land Institute.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999) : Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management,, FY99, "Natural Parks"



#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

##### 4-3) Natural Parks

##### 4-3-5) National Park Rangers and Nature Conservation Bureau

###### a) Outlines of Ranger System

###### 1) History

In USA, national civil servants referred to as Park Rangers are employed to manage National Parks and guide the visitors. In Japan, although such a ranger system was under consideration before the war, the system began in earnest in 1953 with employment of 12 park technical officials. Subsequently in 1958, the number of the officials was fixed at 40.

As of 1992, there were a total of 128 such rangers, or National Park Managers as they are known. The rise in the workload and scope of duties has led to the recent increases in their numbers, both by direct recruitment and through transfers from the Forestry Agency, and other agencies. Meanwhile, 28 National Parks in Japan have been divided into 11 blocks, each block administered by a National Park and Wildlife Offices or National Park Manager Station.

###### 2) Duties

No National Park is the same as any other, and likewise no park's management requirements are the same. The realities of the field demand special care and skills, especially with regards to maintenance of scenic assets, and park ranger duties in Japan are as follows:

- To carry out field surveys required to substantiate or recommend review existing plans of the park; produce draft plans; and to coordinate the views of local stakeholders;
- To direct and regulate the developers to avoid harming the scenic beauty of the parks; to report examination of approval and permission for a wide range of development activities to the central office; and to promote programmes for beautification and management of vegetation;
- To manage the visitor facilities properly and to provide direction to the visitors as to their proper (and improper) use
- To monitor the status of land use and management requirement of the facilities and to undertake the necessary improvements.

###### b) Park Volunteers and Sub-rangers

Apart from the park rangers, who are officials of the Environment Agency, private citizens are also employed on a voluntary basis to work nature conservation and visitor services; and play an important role in the management of the parks.

###### 1) Park volunteers

The park volunteers work in National Parks, patrolling areas to collect garbage, introducing

the visitors to the natural history of the park to through field interpretations and slide shows; and providing general instructions how to best utilise the park. There are about 1,700 volunteers working in 33 areas of 21 National Parks as of December 1995.

## 2) Sub-rangers

The sub-rangers comprise mostly students, who work under supervision of the park rangers on a casual basis and allocated to areas with high visitation during the summer vacation. The sub-rangers, many of whom have good knowledge and experience in nature conservation, receive many inquiries from students during the course of their duties.

## c) Nature Conservation Bureau

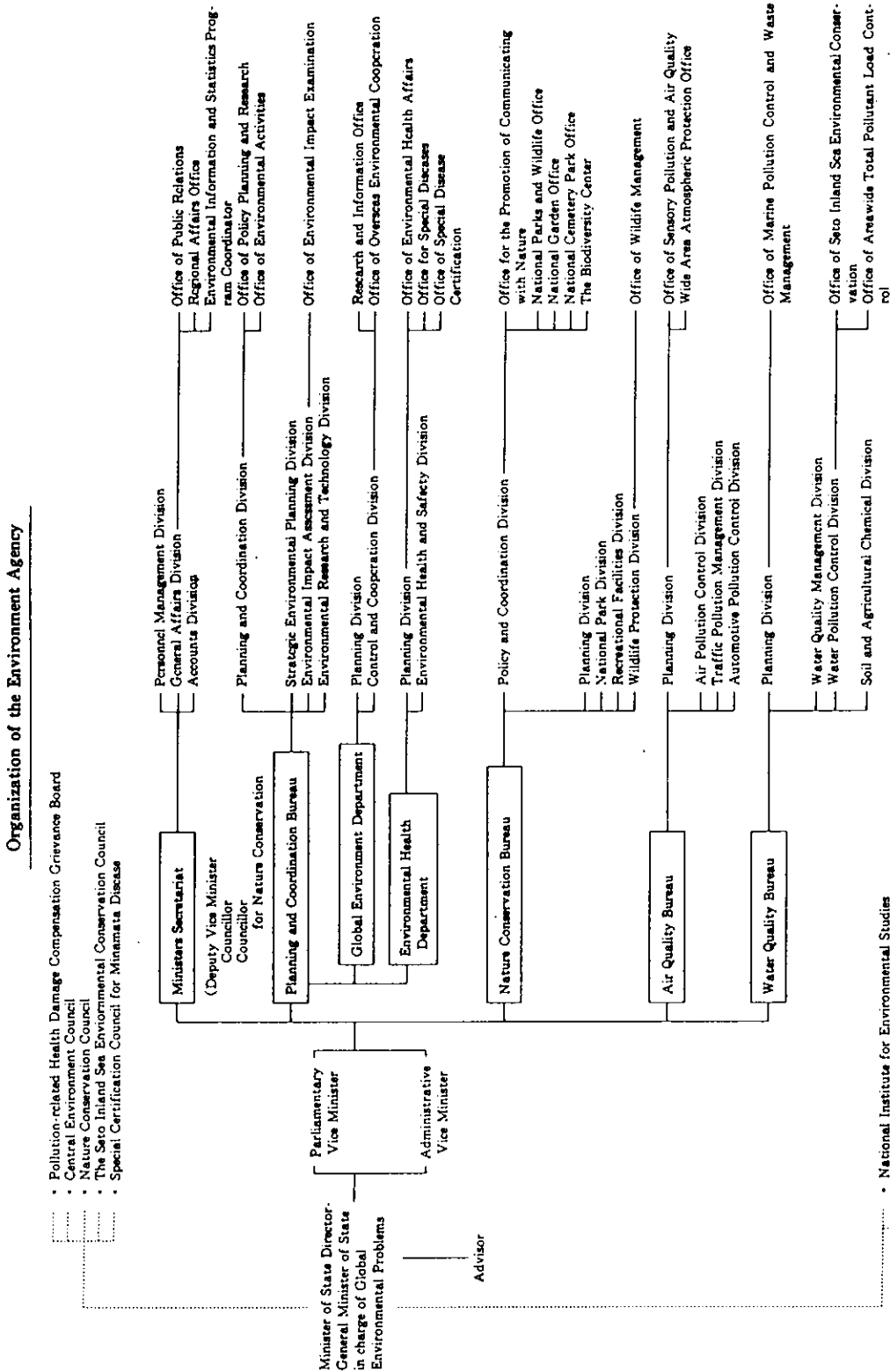
The administrative agencies concerned with nature conservation are the Environment Agency as well as the National Land Agency, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Construction.

The Environment Agency incorporates the Nature Conservation Bureau, the main duties of which are general coordination for conservation and management of the natural environment. The Bureau consists of five divisions (Policy and Coordination, Planning, National Park, Park Facilities and Wildlife Protection) and three offices (Wildlife Management, Promotion of Communing with Nature and the Biodiversity Center). In addition, it maintains a number of branch offices are located in regional areas, namely the National Park and Wildlife Offices, the National Garden Office and the National Cemetery Park Office.

自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編 (1992): 総説、世界と日本の自然は今 自然保護年鑑 3、  
日正社

環境庁 (1992): 自然と人とのよりよい関係を求めて 環境庁自然保護局 - その役割と  
仕事

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks  
 4-3-5) National Park Rangers and Nature Conservation Bureau



Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

##### 4-3) Natural Parks

##### 4-3-6) Programmes for Provision of Places for Communing with Nature and their Beautification

###### a) Provision of Public Facilities

To satisfy the public desire for communion with nature, the Environment Agency is providing public facilities fitting to the natural features of the natural parks and other natural areas in the people's vicinity. In National and Quasi-national Parks, basic visitor facilities, such as visitor centres, public toilets and camping sites have been provided for both conservation of the diversified natural environment, so that the visitors can experience the park in safety and comfort. There are also general programmes for conservation and restoration of the natural environment and for provision of visitor facilities within the core areas of some typical parks as well as a programme to provide core facilities for communing with nature and nature studies. Outside the natural parks, areas for recreational use have been relax have been provided to enhance opportunities for communing nature in people's vicinities well as its conservation and utilisation.

###### b) The Green Diamond Plan

The report Special Improvement Project to Promote Coexistence with Nature released by the Nature Conservation Council in June 1995 identified the need to develop measures for the formation of a network of places to commune with locally-diversified nature. The report also states the need to further enrich measures to make distinctive yet user-friendly parks providing opportunities to commune with nature.

The Green Diamond Plan, launched in 1995, is a to enrich conservation of the natural environment in core areas of representative National/Quasi-national Parks and to enhance utilisation of the parks through encouragement of nature experience and learning. This plan consists of the following four programmes:

- Conservation and restoration of the natural environment: vegetation, animal populations, scenery, etc.;
- Provision of field locations for nature experience: high-grade nature of suitably sufficient area.
- Provision of visitor facilities at bases for the utilisation: orientation, guidance, conservation activities, etc.;
- Provision of visitor facilities at bases for directing utilisation: access control, guidance, information services, etc.

c) Eco-museum

This programme is to provide the core facilities for the park visitors, particularly children, to commune with and learn about natural things, such as wildlife and vegetation, in the main utilisation areas of National/Quasi-national Parks. The Eco-museum is composed of an 'Eco-museum centres' and an 'Eco-field'. The Eco-museum centre provides a number services to the visitors, in the form of general information on nature through interpretation; nature experience and studies; guidance for the proper use; and support for volunteer activities. The Eco-field on the other hand provides opportunities for field experience and observations along nature trails between the Eco-museum centre and the nature observation facilities.

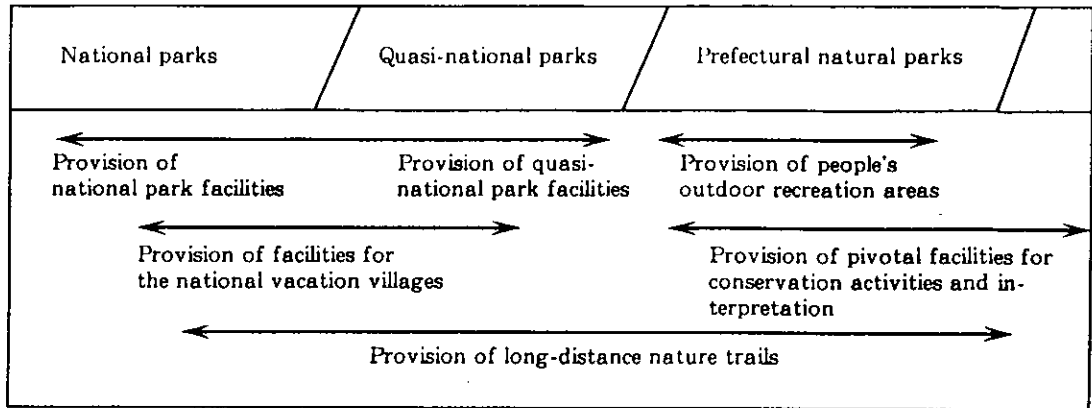
d) Beautification Programme

Garbage produced by the park visitors not only lowers the aesthetic beauty of nature, but also may result in pollution effects, which can manifest itself in such form as offensive odours. To enhance beautification and cleanup of major areas, particularly the more popular National Parks, this programme assists in creation and strengthening of 'beautification groups' to work in the field and provides subsidies for their activities. This programme has designated the first Sunday of August as Natural Parks Clean Day, when activities for beautification and cleanup are conducted concurrently at national level in cooperation with the local governments concerned.

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-6) Programmes for Nature Commune Places and Beautification

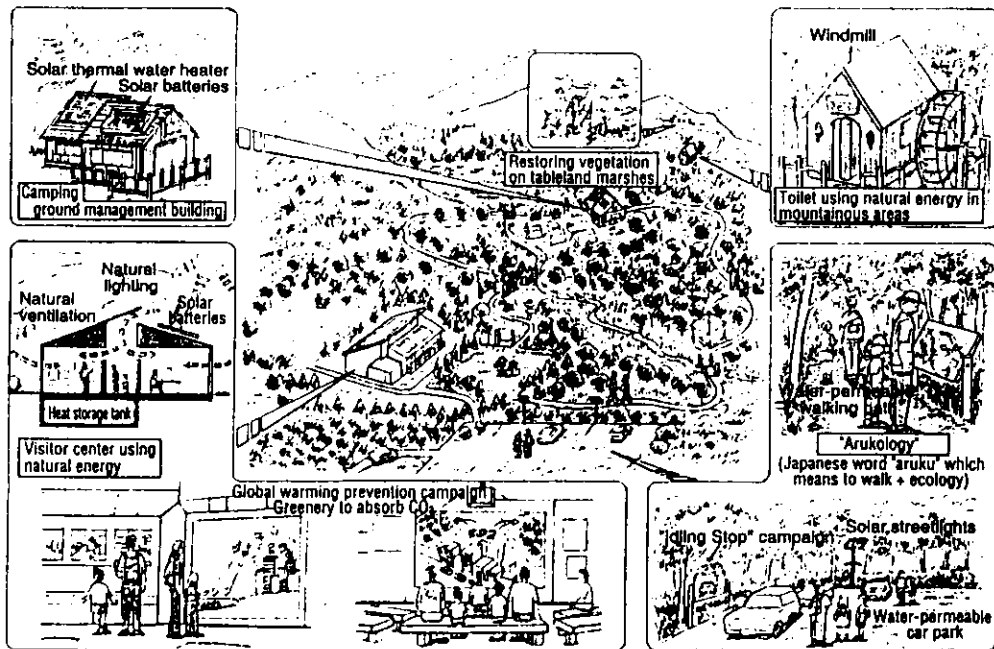
System for Provision of Natural Parks



Wild nature

Familiar nature

Special Improvement Project to Promote Coexistence with Nature  
 ("Coexistence Plan 21")(Global Warming Prevention Campaign Focus Areas)



Planning Division, Global Environment Department, Environment Agency (1998): Working for the Environment, An Introduction to the Environment Agency and Japan's Environmental Policy

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

##### 4-3) Natural Parks

##### 4-3-7) Characteristics of Natural Parks in Japan

###### a) National Sense of Awareness of National Parks

The natural park system including National Parks is a system to conserve natural scenic areas of exceptional value, as well as to promote public health, relaxation and environmental education through increased visitor use. According to the National Opinion Poll on Nature Conservation and Utilisation by the Prime Minister's Office in 1991, the number of people who 'do not know' the natural park system occupied more than 30% of the respondents. Also according to the survey, the main purposes for visiting natural parks were sightseeing (50.6%), 'going for drives' (30.0%) and mountain climbing, hiking, basking in the sea and basking in the forest (29.7%). The survey results tend to indicate that to the Japanese populace at large, a national park is a place for scenic recreation and not much more.

This illustrates a basic difference between Japan and countries such as the USA and Germany, where visitation of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves has led to changes in lifestyle and has greatly contributed to intensifying movements towards nature conservation. In the light of this, Japan may have to consider revising its national park policies and the role that they play in the lives of its people.

###### b) Comparisons with National Parks in the Western Countries

In Western countries, land ownership in national parks can be classified into two categories. In the USA and Canada national parks are considered as being 'constructed' in that total jurisdiction over the land in the parks is held by the authorities while in the UK and Japan a national park is simply an "area" designated to the parks authorities, regardless of the ownership. In the New World, the former is the norm due to the large territories available within those countries. In fact some Western European countries established this type of park in their overseas territories after USA established the world first park in 1872. On the other hand, in the countries whose land is either small in area or fully-developed the parks are necessarily modelled after the UK system since there are few or no vacant areas for the establishment of large parks. In this type of arrangement, conservation of the natural environment and scenery can only be realised through regulation or placing limitations on human activities within the parks. In Japan, national park conservation measures are based mainly on the imposition of regulation, while in the UK, a contractual arrangement or "nature conservation easement", is the main measure employed to coordinate the landowners' rights with conservation objectives.

As for the number of individual parks, Japan can easily stand comparison with the USA,

Canada and the UK. However, the favourable comparison stops there, as there remain large gaps between Japan and these countries as far as total area of the parks per head of population, the number of park management personnel assigned per unit area of park, the number of park personnel employed per 100,000 people and the management cost per head of population. Another major difference exists between the USA and Canada, and the UK, in that the former generally designate vast areas of virgin wilderness to the parks, while UK designates farming/mountain villages and scenery because of the few areas of virgin nature remaining. In Japan on the other hand, parks have the features of both: wilderness areas such as Shiretoko, Daisetsu Mountains and the Chubu Mountains, as well as scenic areas with a blend of nature and human culture and lifestyle, such as Setonaikai and Aso-kuju.

#### c) IUCN Categories

IUCN places categories on National Parks and other protected areas throughout the world and compiles the UN list for Protected Areas about every five years. In the 1990 version, National Parks divided into two general categories: Type II (National Park) and Type V (Protected Landscape). Of the 28 National Parks in Japan, 15 are categorised as type II and the remaining 13 as type V.

自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編 (1992): 日本の国立公園は諸外国とどう違う、世界と日本の自然は今 自然保護年鑑 3、日正社

薄木 三生 (1994): 自然保護地域の種類と設定状況、地球環境ハンドブック (不破 敬一郎 編) 朝倉書店



(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks  
 4-3-7) Characteristics of Natural Parks in Japan

Comparison of National Parks (Canada, US, UK, Japan)

	Canada	US	UK	Japan
Land Ownership	Park Owned Authority	Park Owned Authority	Area designation without regarding to land ownership	Area designation without regarding to land ownership
Number	34	48	10	28
Area (million ha)	18.2	19.4	1.36	2.00
Proportion to total land area	2%	2%	6%	5%
Per-capita area (m <sup>2</sup> )	7100	800	240	160
Staff Size (persons)	4000	9500	630	110
Management Area per personnel (ha)	4500	2000	2000	18000
Personnel per capita (/100,000)	16	4	1.1	0.1
Volunteers	4000			3000
Annual Visitation		300 million		400 million
Operational Budget (billion yen)	50	190		3.6
per capita (yen)	2000	800		30

自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編 (1992) : 日本の国立公園は諸外国とどう違う、世界と日本の自然は今 自然保護年鑑 3、日正社