

Tokyo Ecotourism

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Photo quotation

- ① HP Mikurashima tourist information
- ② HP Mikurashima Village
- ③ HP Ogasawara Village Tourist Association
- ④ HP Field Escort Hilolo
- ⑤ HP Ogasawara Islands Nature Information Center

Tokyo's Location

Sea of Japan



Ogasawara Islands



Tokyo Data

- Population: 13 million
- GDP: US\$868 billion
- Area: 2,189sq.km
- Nature:
 - parks, roadside trees
 - farms, satoyama
 - natural forest etc

Nature of Tokyo



World Natural Heritage Site

Ogasawara Islands (Minamijima)

World Natural Heritage Site

Ogasawara Islands (Anijima)



Nature of Tokyo



World Natural Heritage Site
Ogasawara Islands (Hahajima-Sekimon)



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Nature of Tokyo

Mikurajima
Island ①



Dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*) ①



Castanopsis sieboldii ①

Nature of Tokyo



Mt. Kumotoriyama

(One of the 100 top mountains of Japan)



Mt. Takaosan

(Michelin Green Guide Japon ★★★)

Issues at Natural Parks

- Destruction of the landscape and ecosystem
 - Overuse
 - Development activities, tort
 - Alien species
 - Abandonment of maintenance
 - Environmental change (global warming, reduced rainfall)
- Lack of awareness of the utility value
 - Decline in the regional economy
 - Non-enjoyment of the environment

The Purpose of Tokyo Ecotourism

To stop destruction of the landscape and ecosystem through by overuse



Ogasawara Islands (Minamijima)



Dolphin habitat

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(Ocean area surrounding Mikurajima Island)

The Purpose of Tokyo Ecotourism

- To discover unused natural resources, and find new utility value, while also revitalizing local communities



Ogasawara Islands (Hahajima-Sekimon)



Summit of Mikurajima Island

Features of Tokyo Ecotourism

Specified in the “Outline”

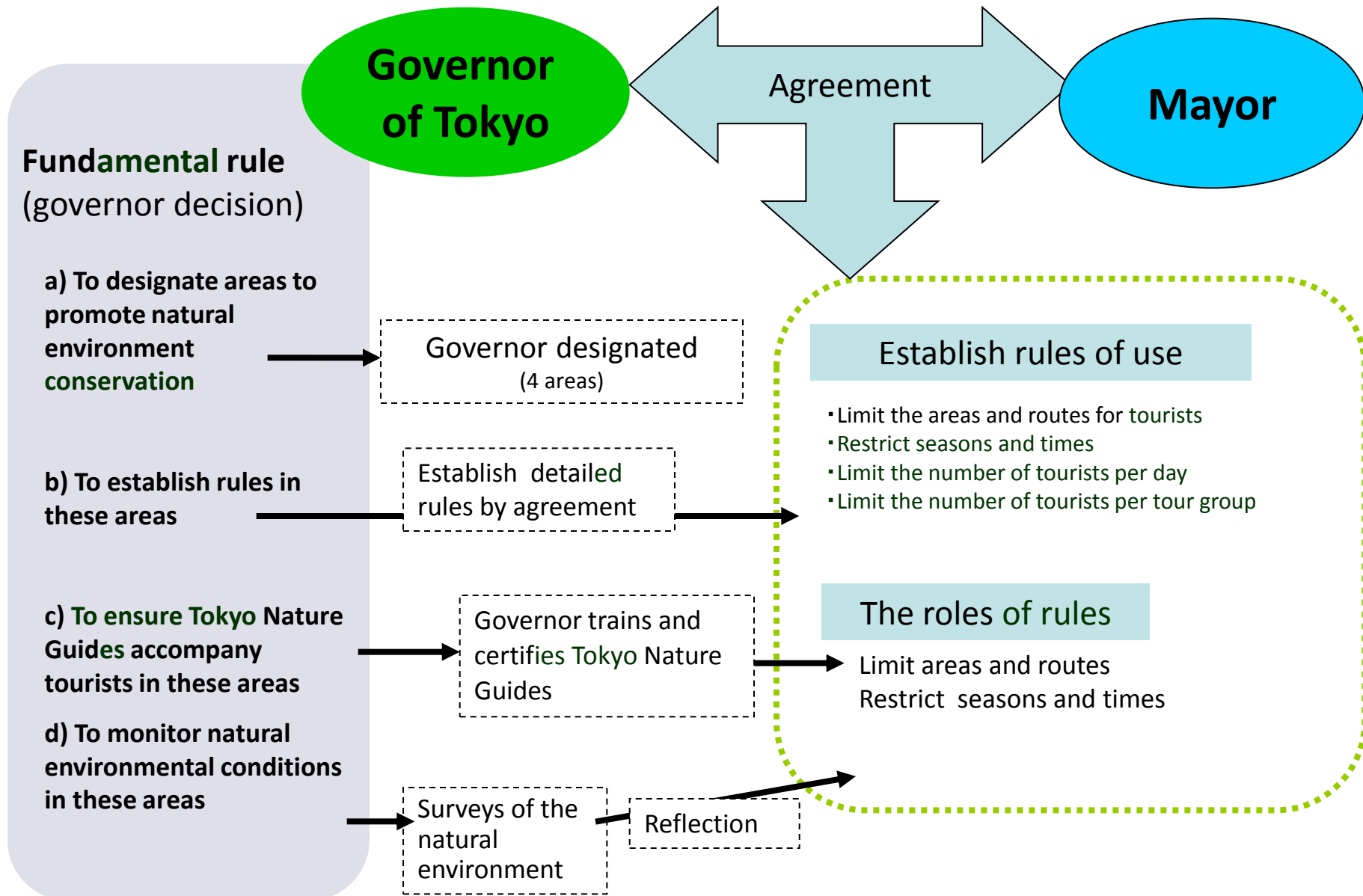
1. Designate areas to promote natural environment conservation
 2. Establish proper use rules these areas
 3. Train and certify Tokyo Nature Guides
 4. Grasp the natural situation via monitoring
- ✂ There is no penalty for being against rule

The Governor of Tokyo and the Mayor of each municipality defines each role, area, and the details of the rules by agreement.

Implementation History of Tokyo Ecotourism

- 2000 Start of consideration to solve issues associated with the overuse in the South Island in the Ogasawara Islands
- 2002 - TMG defined the Ecotourism Guidelines
- TMG designated areas to promote natural environment conservation (Minamijima, Sekimon in Hahajima, both islands are in the Ogasawara Islands)
 - Conclusion of the agreement between the governor and mayor
 - TMG started training guides in Ogasawara village
- 2003 TMG started ecotourism introducing the rules in the above areas
- 2004 - TMG designated areas to promote conservation of the natural environment (sea and land areas of Mikurajima, in the Izu Islands)
- Conclusion of the agreement between the governor and mayor
 - TMG started training guides in Mikurajima village
 - TMG started ecotourism introducing the rules in the above areas

Scheme of Tokyo Ecotourism



Case 2: Hahajima-Sekimon (Ogasawara Islands)

Before the introduction

- Many natural resources
ex. The limestone terrain,
Endemic species
- However, natural resources
couldn't be utilized for tourists



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The main rule

- Limit the routes
- Limit the number of
tourists per day to 50
people
- Limit the number of the
tourists per tour group to
5 people
- Caves off limits

After the introduction

- Tourists can discover nature, and gain
enjoyment
- The local community has been vitalized
by Tokyo Ecotourism
- Now more thorough with the rules to
prevent tourists bringing in alien
species



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Case 3: Mikurajima Island (Ocean area)

Before the introduction

- Worsening habitat for dolphins due to activities such as swimming with dolphins and dolphin watching
- Concerns about accidents

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The main rule

- Restrict visits to 3 hours per time
- Limit the number of managing ships per day to 45 vessels
- Limit the number of tourists per group to 13 people

After the introduction

- Due to monitoring of environment conditions, we can now regulate activities according to the condition of the dolphin habitat
- Improvement of safety measures and guide technology
- Settled on stricter self-regulation by tour operators
- Limited concentration on dolphin tourism and increasing number of tourists making use of the mountain



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Case 4: Mikurajima Island (Land area)

Before the introduction

- Habitat of specific flora and fauna
- Largest breeding ground for greater shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*)
- However, natural resources could not be utilized for tourists
- Concern over illegal activities, such as removal of specific flora and fauna



The main rule

- Limit the routes
- Limit the number of tourists per day to 50 people
- Limit the number of the tourists per tour group to 7 people



After the introduction

- People have become interested in the terrestrial ecosystems of Mikurajima, and the measure for their conservation is progressing.
- Upgraded tour menu
- People are now prevented from removing specific flora and fauna



Discussion

- Ten years have passed since the system was introduced, with the purpose of promoting proper use and protection of natural assets largely achieved.
- In particular, vegetation has been restored in the South Island of the Ogasawara Islands, and TMG has eliminated the state of over-use.
- Hahajima Ogasawara Shimen has raised in status as an important guide course on the island.
- Ecotourism in the Ogasawara Islands played a role as a model of pioneering efforts regarding appropriate use of World Heritage areas.
- As for dolphin tourism in the water of Mikurajima, tourism needs are still high, however stopping over-exploitation has played an important role in raising tourists' awareness of overuse of natural resources.
- Provides an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the natural assets of Mikurajima.

Efforts and Future Challenges

Ogasawara Islands (South Island)

- Promote efficiency of self-management by businesses

Mikurajima Island (water area)

- Investigate the relationship between the changes in the dolphin habitat and trends in dolphin tourism
- Respond to results appropriately.

Ogasawara Islands (Hahajima-Shimen); Mikurajima Island (land area)

- Continue to re-examine the mechanism to achieve both a high level of local vitalization and conservation

All areas

- Consider the efficiency of monitoring and how to reflect the rules in these results

