

Attitudes of visitors and local stakeholders toward introducing the new visitor restriction programs in a brown bear habitat in Japan

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Effectiveness of Visitor Management

- Managers introduce some visitor restrictive management actions to reduce inappropriate use levels and behaviors.
- Visitor numbers, the length of stay, restricting specific activities and information supply and education.
- Effectiveness of such programs is evaluated by the conditions of resources and the response of visitors and stakeholders.
- It is impossible to introduce and promote visitor allocations without understanding and support by visitors and local stakeholders.



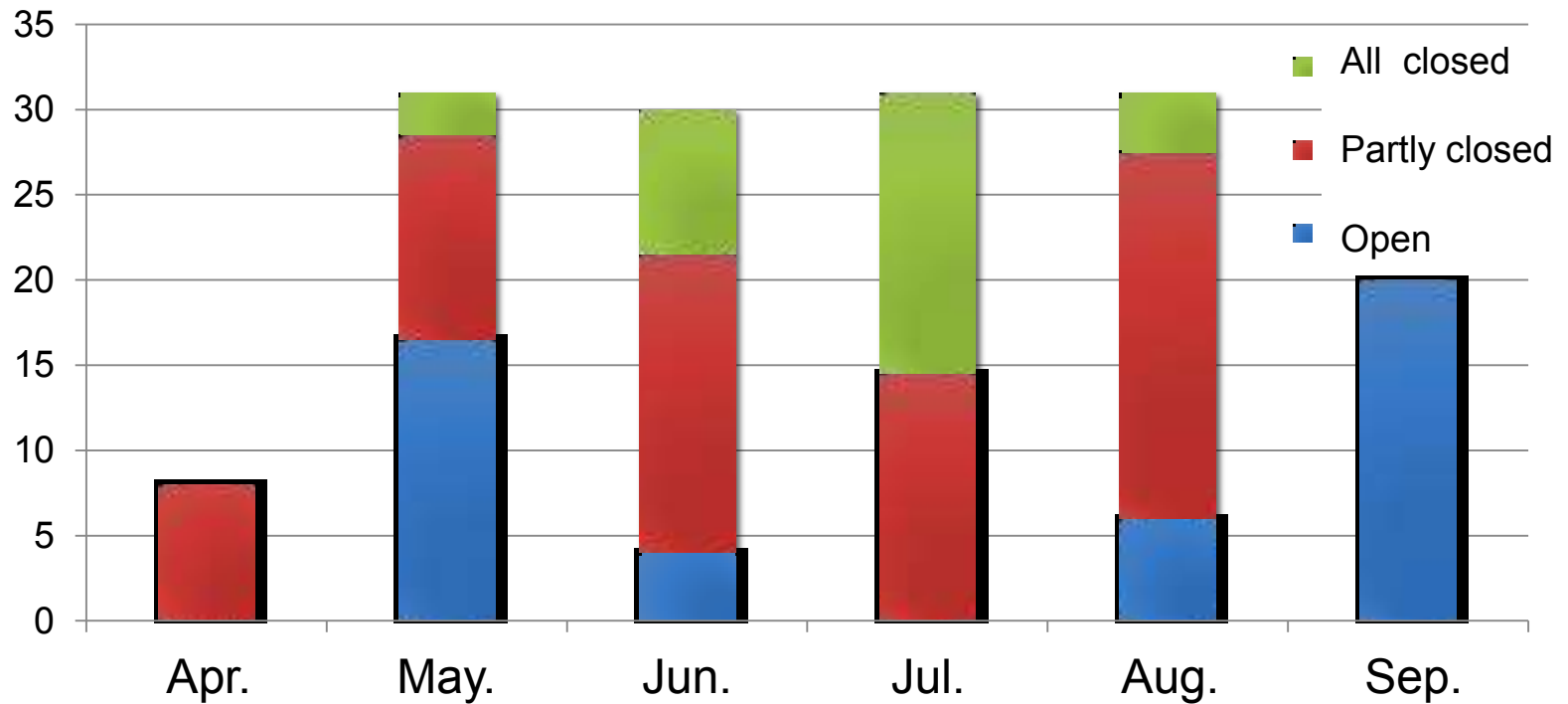








Closure of Trails

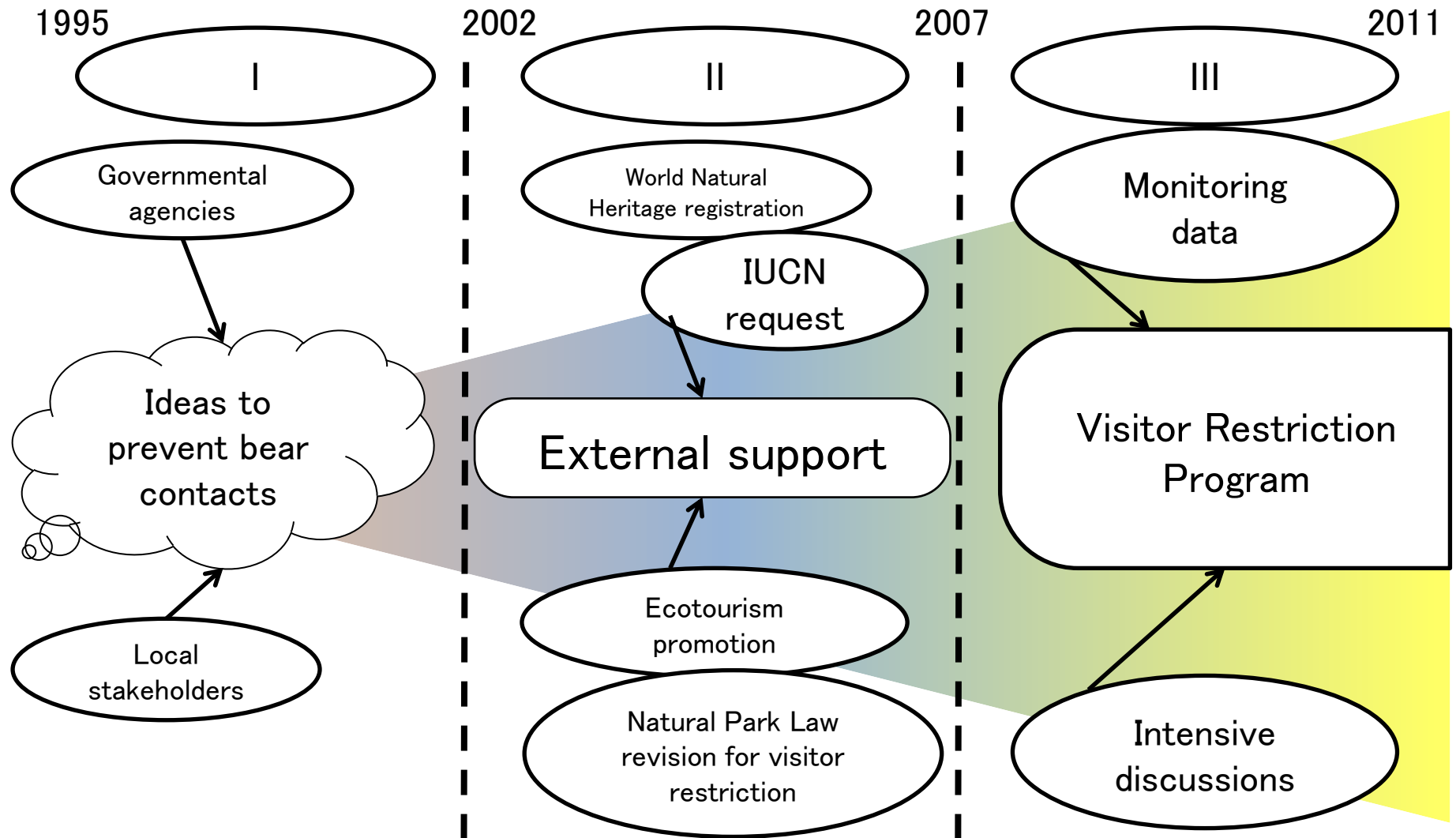








Introducing process of the new program



New management system



Park Opening to May 9 Visitors can walk after attending a short lecture		May 10 to July 31 Visitors can walk only in registered/ authorized paid tours led by Shiretoko Goko Lakes registered guides		August 1 to October 20 Visitors can walk after attending a short lecture		October 21 to Park Closing Visitors are free to walk	
<p>A round trip to Lake Ichi-ko can be made without submitting any applications.</p> <p>Descending from the elevated wooden path to ground level is not permitted.</p>							
<p>Short route (Pink line) Free (No fee required)</p> <p>Lake Ni-ko to Ichi-ko</p> <p>Route length: approx. 1.8 km Time required: approx. 40 min.</p>		<p>Long route (Blue line) Fee required</p> <p>Lake Go-ko to Ichi-ko</p> <p>Route length: 3 km Time required: approx. 3 hours</p> <p>Use of long route is subject to snowfall and other conditions.</p>		<p>Short route (Pink line) Free (No fee required)</p> <p>Lake Ni-ko to Ichi-ko</p> <p>Route length: approx. 1.8 km Time required: approx. 40 min.</p>		<p>Long route (Blue line) Free (No fee required)</p> <p>Lake Go-ko to Ichi-ko</p> <p>Route length: approx. 3 km Time required: approx. 1 hr. 30 min.</p>	



Registration desk at Field House



Lecture before hiking

Guided tour with licensed guide



Different perspectives among stakeholders

2011

Introducing the new program

Before

Local stakeholders

Less information
Left behind decisions
Uncertain goal

Feeling of anxiety

Managers, Officials

Objective data
Rational explanation

During discussion

Accident with bears will be critical matter for tourism.

Reducing visitor risk

As the land and trail managers, accident with bears must never happen.

After

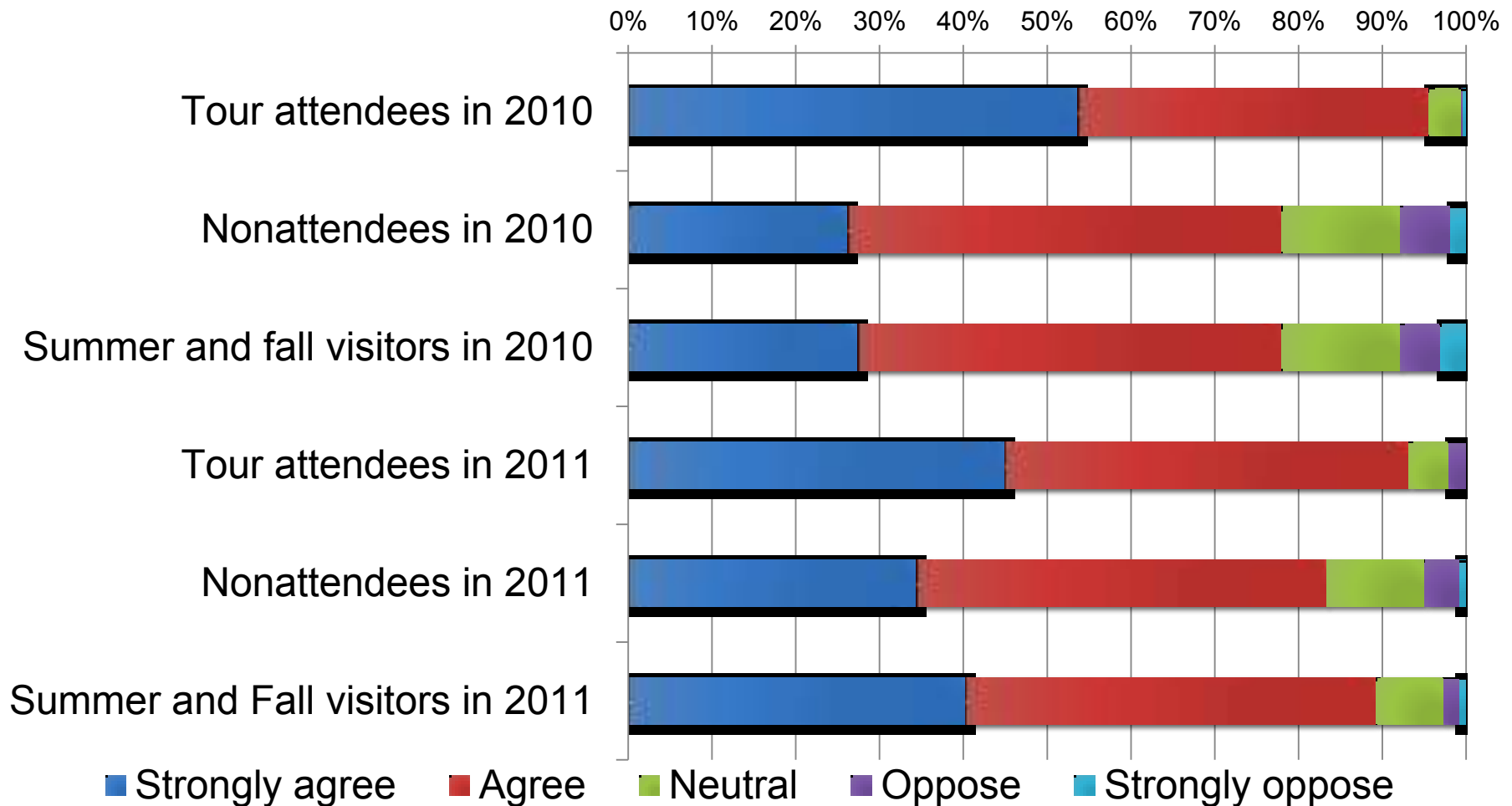
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Commendable program
Good reputation from visitors

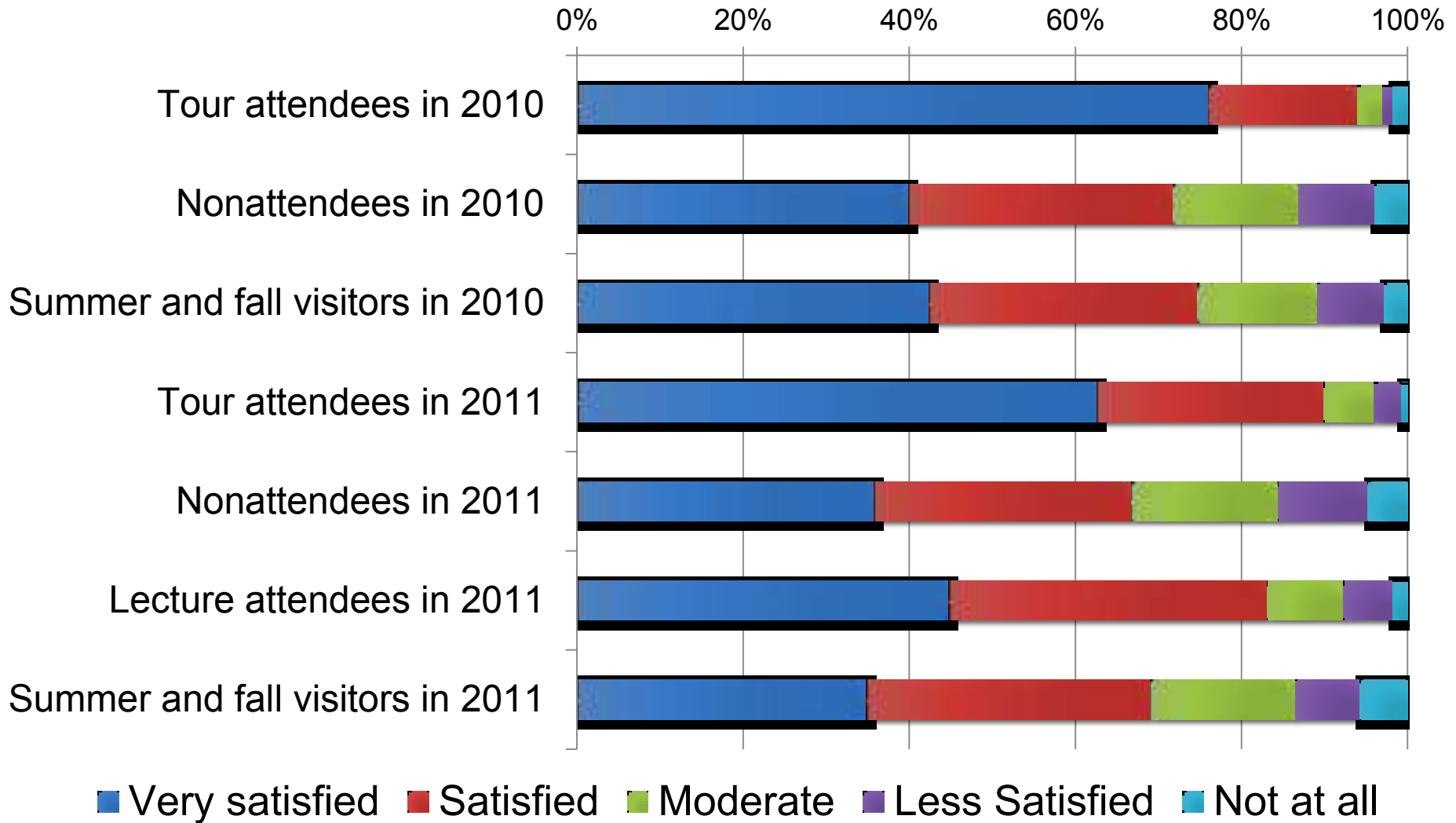
Positive opinion

Good risk management system
Incomplete system

Acceptance of the new program



Overall satisfaction of visitors



Conclusion

- Local stakeholders' acceptance
- Visitors' acceptance and satisfaction
- Further monitoring needs

For collaboration

- Common stake
- Long term discussion
- External stimulus and support
- Scientific data
- Local stakeholders' enthusiasm

Thank you for your attention

Acknowledgements

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