A network of new links sets the tone for future culture conservation in the Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park

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Background

At the Sanriku coast in northeastern Japan, satoyama rural landscape and satoumi marine landscape lie right next to each other. The interconnection between mountains, forests, and the sea has always been important in this area, something that also appears in the lifestyle and traditional events of each location in the region.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami has greatly damaged and affected the area— not only the natural landscapes and the ecosystems, but also the whole livelihood and daily work of the local people. With the goal to contribute to the reconstruction of the disaster area, the Ministry of The Environment of Japan is currently pursuing the reorganization of the existing coastal nature park into a national park that will carry the name Sanriku Fukko National Park.

In this process, it will be essential to make sure that cultural resources based on local lifestyle and work will be given due consideration as important elements in the conservation and use of the national park. The conservation management and park use programs should therefore be created with the goal in mind to proactively create links between the national park and the material and human resources of the surrounding rural and fishing villages. Verification of the state and role of the nature park before and at the time of the disaster will also be important.
Research goals

• We conducted a survey to identify historical changes in the planning of the park up to the time when it was decided to create the Sanriku Fukko National Park.

• We conducted case studies in Kesennuma and Minami-Sanriku in Miyagi Prefecture in order to determine the extension and role of previous natural parks, while also researching the surrounding areas that will be linked to the new national park.

• We then investigated the role played at the time of the disaster by facilities or institutions related to previous natural parks.

• We used the results of our case studies to discuss how “resources” or “people and institutions” that connect the park with the wider local area can be given due consideration in the conservation management and park use strategy of the new national park.
The specifications for natural parks on the Sanriku Coast have been changing according to the norms and social issues of the time of their foundation.

Today, a new meaning, and new roles and functions for national parks emerge out of the Sanriku area with the foundation of the Sanriku Fukko National Park which will be based on three main specifications:

“Make good use of nature's blessings,”
“Learn about the threats of nature,”
“Strengthen the link between forests, villages, rivers, and the sea.”
Oshima Island

「緑の真珠」として知られ、美しい自然が残されていたが、津波と火災で被害を受ける。住民総出で観光地の再生に力を入れる。

気仙沼湾内に浮かぶ気仙沼大島は周囲22km、東北最大級の有人離島。

気仙沼港から客船・フェリーで約25分の航程で、
"緑の真珠"と呼ばれる自然豊かな美しい島へ。

龍舞崎や十八場沼など自然が広がり、リラックス海濱の遊庭等、
自然の美を愉しめる場所がたくさん。

日本有数の港・気仙沼湾も美しい海の幸や珍味を使った料理も充実。

ここでは、味わい深い海鮮料理が楽しめます。
Hashikami
Yasse
教育旅行ガイドのHashikamiとYasse

Hashikamiエリア

三陸復興国立公園の最南端、岩井崎はペルメル石灰岩の標準地のひとつ。2億5千万年前のランゴリ有孔虫を含んだ石灰岩が海に洗われて現在の奇蹟を形成しています。震災によって奇跡的に生えた亀の松、ダイナミックな潮を呼び上げる潮吹きの付近には、江戸時代に活躍した漁師出身の第9代漁師「秀孝山の顕像」が立っています。

おすすめの体験

三陸復興国立公園、岩井崎ガイド

八瀬エリア

おすすめの体験

八瀬・森の学校

八瀬地区の学習の指導者、体験メニューの配備を行っています。

〒988-0868 宮城県気仙沼市関根240-1 TEL 0226-55-3232
Shizugawa Minami-sanriku Hotel Kanyo
Tokura-Hadenya, Keimeimaru

南三陸

三浦さき子さん

帰って来た浮き球は夫からのメッセージ

Before the Great East Japan Earthquake, the
restaurant "Keimeimaru," a former fishery,
opened in the Yoge district where she was
raised. The restaurant served kawase-maki, a
delicious seasonal food collected from the
nearby sea. "Keimeimaru" was the name of the
Michelin-starred establishment in Japanese
writing. "Keimeimaru" means "three Chinese
characters", "Kichi", "Hana", and "Maru".
"Kichi" originates from the term "Kichi-kai",
representing her husband's name "Kojo".
The menu had three large items: "Kichi".

The restaurant was washed away by the
massive tsunami following the 2011 Japan
Earthquake.

After the disaster, she returned and

continued to work.
Tokura-Hadenya, Kakurezato
Shizugawa- Sizen-no-Ie
/Nature Center
Future Plan of “Field Museum” by the Ministry of the Environment

- Tome
- Minami-sanriku
- Ishinomaki
- *inuwashi* golden eagles
Field Museum System - the link between forests, villages, rivers, and the sea
Links and connections today

About SWTJ

SWTJ (Solidarity with Tohoku, Japan) is a disaster-relief organization based in Kyoto, Japan, that provides long-term support to victims of the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. See our website for details: http://www.swtjp.org

http://www.swtjp.org

2013 SWTJ サマーフェス
SWTJ 2013 SUMMER
Challenges

Efforts to build new links between forests, villages, and the ocean in the aftermath of a disaster are often faced with substantial challenges. There are, for instance, a number of places of natural beauty or culturally important resources in the new Sanriku Fukko National Park that will have to cede to new infrastructure planned in the frame of post-disaster reconstruction such as roads or new towns that are transferred to a new location. As a result, the value of these natural or cultural resources may substantially decrease.

In addition, the planned construction of high sea walls will obstruct the link between areas of the interior and the sea. This will, for example, be the case for the area where the Minami-Sanriku field center is planned. The planned sea wall will rise between the field center and the ocean, and at this important location of the national park, the link between the land and the ocean will be lost. The problem is not only the fact that the link between land and sea will be cut by a sea wall. Again and again, local people have affirmed that it is very important to them to be able to actually see the ocean from their villages and towns. The construction of a large-scale, standardized sea wall will not only physically cut the land from the sea, but will also cut the spiritual link between the sea and the local people and their communities.
Challenges
Interconnection between national parks and the surrounding area

Potential of the development of network of a network
We can see the potential of the development of a network for the use of resources in a manner that links the interior with the coast. In order to correctly assess resources, it will be necessary to examine whether the extension of the new national park will also include resources in prefectural natural parks or other areas. Indeed, the significance of the Sanriku Fukko National Park will substantially increase if full and sustainable use of natural, cultural, and human resources will be made.

Efforts to achieve local agreement for the extension of the national park
Efforts should be made to achieve local agreement for the extension of the national park from the current area, which is limited to the coast, to additional areas in the interior. Should areas in the interior remain outside the national park, however, the national park should still make efforts to establish close relations with villages and towns in the interior from the viewpoint of conservation management and resource use.

Construction of the new national park
It is important to pursue the construction of the new national park in close cooperation with the local people, so that the resources that they have so carefully preserved up to now, and the priceless natural scenery in their surroundings, can be passed on to future generations. This is a region where people have been proudly living with both the blessings and threats of nature. Only if we return to them a place they will truly be proud of, can we speak of true reconstruction.
The role that Sanriku Fukko National Park may play in the case of a disaster

Locations in a National Park
Locations can serve as a place for evacuation, or as camping grounds, or as open spaces. Most importantly, a national park should have a number of forests or similar environments that provide water sources, firewood as fuel, and other resources that will be necessary for the local community. Such locations, small or large, should be spread over the whole national park, and they should be well connected.

Well-established Linear Connections of Various Scales
While the “ocean-village-mountain” link is important, there should also be smaller linear links such as a route that links a village to a shrine and thus connects cultural resources. Such routes will not only serve ordinary users of the national park, but will also serve as emergency roads in case of a disaster, or will be useful during post-disaster reconstruction.

A broad network between people and various organizations
Through the use and management of the national park, and through sustainable use of local resources and cultural exchange taking place in relation to the park, coastal and mountainous areas, and, on a larger scale, the Sanriku area and areas in other countries, will be linked, and will have a higher potential for mutual support in case of a disaster.
<Basic idea>

Green reconstruction centered around the establishment of a national park
-Reconstruction that progresses hand-in-hand with nature fostered by forests, rural communities, rivers and the sea-

<Basic policies>

(1) Use natural blessings.
(2) Study natural threats.
(3) Strengthen the relationship between forests, rural communities, rivers and the sea

Green reconstruction projects

(1) Establishment of Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park
(2) Development of Satoyama and Satoumi field museums and related facilities
(3) Tours for deeply enjoying nature using local treasures (reconstruction ecotourism)
(4) A trail which connects north and south to deepen exchanges (the Tohoku coastal trail between Kabushima, Aomori to Matukawaura, Fukushima)
(5) Restoration of connections between forests, rural communities, rivers and the sea
(6) Promotion of education for sustainable development (ESD)
(7) Understanding the impacts of the earthquake and the tsunami on the natural environment (natural environment monitoring)
History of Natural Parks in Sanriku Coast

In the project outline of the Rikuchu Kaigan National Park, the characteristics of the area designed as national park were noted as “areas of the coastal landscape in which the natural state is best preserved.”

Regarding the coastline of Kesennuma, which is a typical ria coast, the characterization mentioned that except for protected natural scenery or areas needed for the use of the park, these coasts were except from the park in order to avoid friction with other industries.

On the other hand, the Minami-Sanriku Kinkazan Quasi-National Park was established as a park characterized not only by its beautiful natural scenery, but also by its highly significant cultural scenery such as shrines and temples, and by the many recreational opportunities it offered.

Finally, the Kesennuma Prefectural Natural Park is characterized as a park that stretches from the Kitayama Mountain Range to the coast, and comprises mountains, hills, rice terraces, villages and hamlets, coastal terraces, and coastal waters that form unified landscapes rich in variety.

In this way, the specifications for natural parks on the Sanriku Coast have been changing according to the norms and social issues of the time of their foundation. Today, a new meaning, and new roles and functions for national parks emerge out of the Sanriku area with the foundation of the Sanriku Fukko National Park which will be based on three main specifications: “Make good use of nature’s blessings,” “Learn about the threats of nature,” and “Strengthen the link between forests, villages, rivers, and the sea.”