

Preface – For the Coexistence of People and Nature –

Japan has a diverse natural environment, even though it is not a large nation. This is mainly due to the fact that: the archipelago extends considerably from north to south; the country is surrounded by the sea; its islands lie across a wide range of latitudes covering several climatic zones; and, its topography ranges in altitude from 0 to 3,776 meters above sea-level.

It is becoming more and more important to secure "coexistence with nature" by conserving the rich natural environment and maintaining essential connections between people and nature. We must make sure that not only our generation, but also future generations, will be able to enjoy this rich and diverse natural environment.

The role of the Ministry of the Environment is expanded more and more. This booklet is an introduction of various services with the Nature Conservation Bureau of the Ministry (of the Environment) offers.



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