

Nature Conservation Bureau  
Ministry of the Environment

# For Coexistence of People and Nature

Wetlands

Biodiversity

Natural  
Parks

Forest

Wildlife



環境省

Ministry of the Environment



# 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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# 1. Natural Environment of Japan

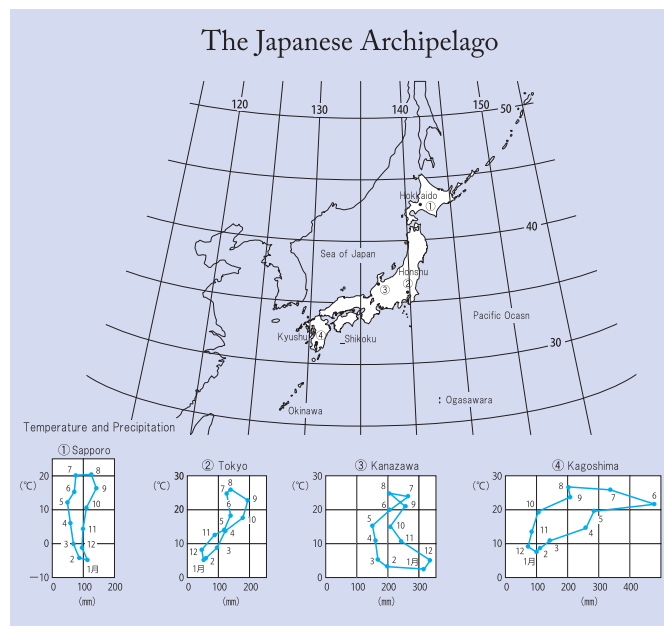
## 1.1 Overview of the Japanese Archipelago

Japan is situated to the east of the Eurasian Continent, its crescent-shaped archipelago extending parallel to the continent across the Sea of Japan. The total land area is approximately 380,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and the islands stretch nearly 3,000 km from north to south, with climates ranging from sub-arctic to sub-tropical.

The Japanese Archipelago lies on one of the newest diastrophism belts in the world, and a wide variety of geological phenomena are observed. The topography of the islands is extremely varied, with mountainous areas, including volcanoes and hills, occupying almost three quarters of the total land area. Most of the mountains are steep, separated by narrow river valleys, and hills connect the mountains to low-lying plains. Most of the plains and basins are small, formed by sedimentation along rivers, and are scattered beside coastal areas and between mountains.

Seasonal winds are influential in defining Japan's four distinct seasons. Precipitation in Japan is above the world average due to rains in summer and autumn and heavy snows in winter. Honshu, the biggest of the main islands, has a range of mountains along its spine, creating a clear difference between weather on the Pacific Ocean side and the Sea of Japan side. In winter, for example, it is relatively dry on the former, while it snows heavily on the latter.

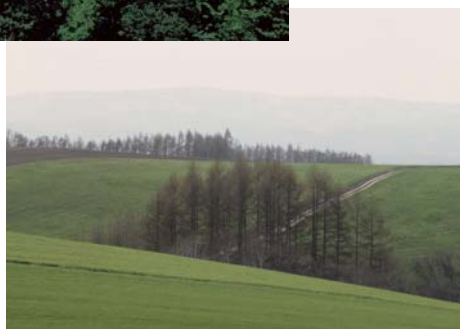
As mentioned above, the wide range of climates from north to south and the variations in topography result in a diverse natural environment across the Japanese Archipelago.



## 1.2 General Information on Land Use

Forests cover most of Japan's hills and mountains, and some 66% of the nation is forested. Farmland occupies about 13%. These two make up almost 80% of the country.

Urban areas cover some 5%, and grassland accounts for approximately 1%.



## 1.3 Vegetation

Vegetation can be seen as a consequence of adaptations by plants, through interaction with the site's climate, geographical history, geology, topography and other forms of life including humans. Therefore, by observing vegetation in detail, we can identify the characteristics of a local environment.

In the absence of human activity, forests would be the natural vegetation in most cases under Japanese climates. Broad-leaved evergreen forests, deciduous broad-leaved forests and evergreen coniferous forests are distributed, belt-like, across climatic zones from north to south, and altitudes from low to high (horizontal and vertical distribution).

In addition, specific plant life is found in particular locations with unique conditions of soil and water, such as wetlands, dunes and mangrove forests. Japan's considerable extension from north to south and its various natural circumstances offer the potential for highly diverse natural vegetation. Actual vegetation is even more diverse, as plant communities created through natural and human disturbances (substitutional vegetation) have replaced most of the original vegetation.

By 1989, the Ministry of the Environment had prepared actual vegetation maps (1:50,000 scale) (\*1) in order to identify the current status of this diverse vegetation and to use the outcome as a basic information map of the natural environment.



The actual vegetation maps (:50,000 scale), revised after the 5th National Surveys on the Natural Environment (see, sec. 5.2) to reflect changes in plant life, show that "natural vegetation" (natural forest (17.9%) and grassland) covers only 19.0% of Japan's total land area.

The rest of the vegetation types include secondary forests (23.9%), plantations (24.8%), secondary grassland (3.6%), farmland (including rural residential areas) (22.9%), urban (4.3%) and others (including open water areas)(1.5%).(\*2) Natural vegetation is distributed in areas with little human activity, such as steep mountains, peninsulas and isolated islands. On the other hand, plains and hills are covered at a higher rate with substitutional vegetation such as secondary forests and grasslands, plantations and farmlands.

(\*1) In 1999, the Ministry of the Environment started to renew all actual vegetation maps on a 1:25,000 scale.

(\*2) These percentages do not necessarily indicate the percentages of real land areas of each vegetation type. The vegetation covering the most area within a circle of 250-meter diameter in the center of each standard grid (about 1 x 1 km) is represented as the vegetation type of that grid. Each percentage, therefore, shows a ratio of the number of grids represented by each vegetation type to the total number of grids.



## 1.4 Fauna and Flora

Despite its small land area, Japan is blessed with rich and diverse fauna and flora. Some 7,000 species of vascular plants, more than 1,000 species of vertebrates, and 70,000 100,000 species of insects inhabit Japan's 380,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The ratio of endemic species is high, with many species of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and one third of all plants considered endemic to Japan.

On the Ogasawara Islands, endemic species or sub-species comprise 40% of higher plants, most terrestrial birds, and three quarters of the terrestrial mollusks. On the Nansei Islands, there are unique species that have very few closely related species elsewhere. Therefore, islands of this kind are home to very unique fauna and flora, and attract a great deal of attention.



Ishikawa's frog  
(*Rana ishikawae*)



Japanese serow  
(*Capricornis crispus*)



Greater pied kingfisher  
(*Geryle lugubris*)



Naniwa's darter  
(*Sympetrum maculatum*)

These rich, diverse and characteristic fauna and flora have various backgrounds. First, the Japanese archipelago has unique geographical conditions, stretching more than 20 degrees both in latitude and longitude along the edge of the Eurasian continent. Second, species interacted with and were subsequently isolated from other species during the emergence and submergence of land caused by glacial activity during the Quaternary period in the Cenozoic era.

Third, the country has various topographical features, including wide altitudinal ranges, coupled with a full variety of weather conditions influenced by the monsoon.

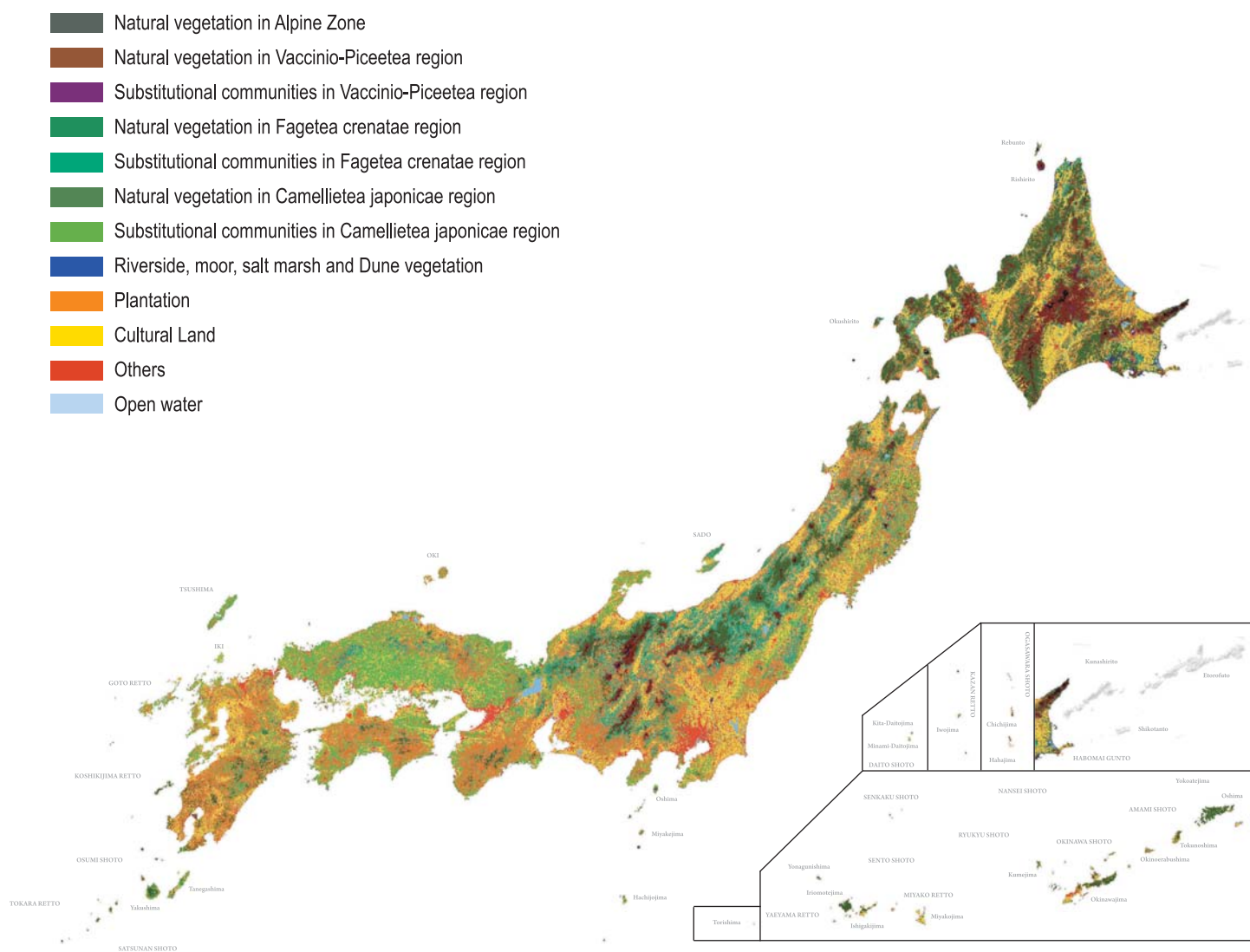
A wide variety of more recent human pressures, however, have caused the natural environment to suffer dramatic changes. Distributions of some species and local populations have been fragmented and reduced, and in the worst cases driven to extinction.



## 1.5 Actual Vegetation Map

The actual vegetation map is important as a diagnostic map of nature for deciding national land planning, regional development and industrial location. It's also important basic map as the ecological prescription of the conservation, restoration and maintenance of natural environment and it is highly regarded as an indispensable materials for making various master plans of conservation and/or development. The Ministry of the Environment grasps the current state of vegetation of the whole country, and makes the actual vegetation map available nationwide since it has the important roles mentioned above.

From the sixth vegetation survey onward, the vegetation map has been undergoing complete revision. Besides that, the ministry anticipates an increase in users of the map due to the enforcement of environmental impact assessment law. Therefore, we have changed its contraction scale from the former 1 / 50,000 to 1 / 25,000 to make it a large-scale map, and have been improving the original map. In the meantime, a project is underway to input the vegetation map data to the GIS database.

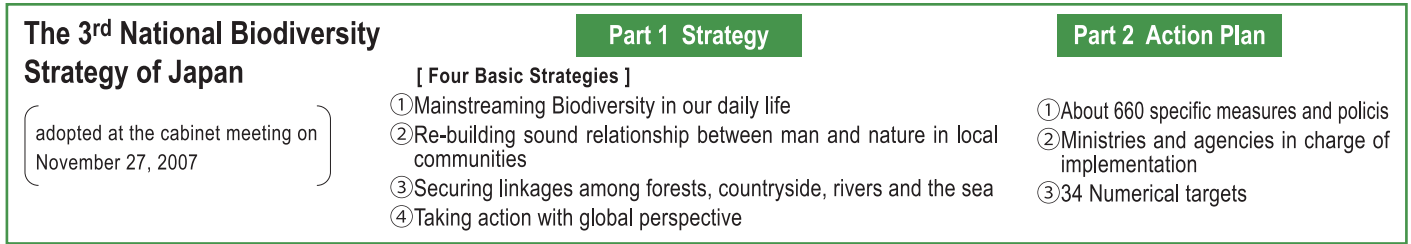




# 2. Administrative System

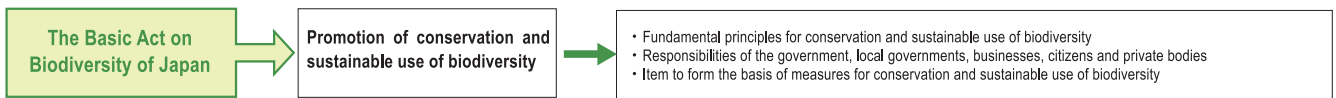
## 2.1 Summary of the Nature Conservation System

### < National Strategy >

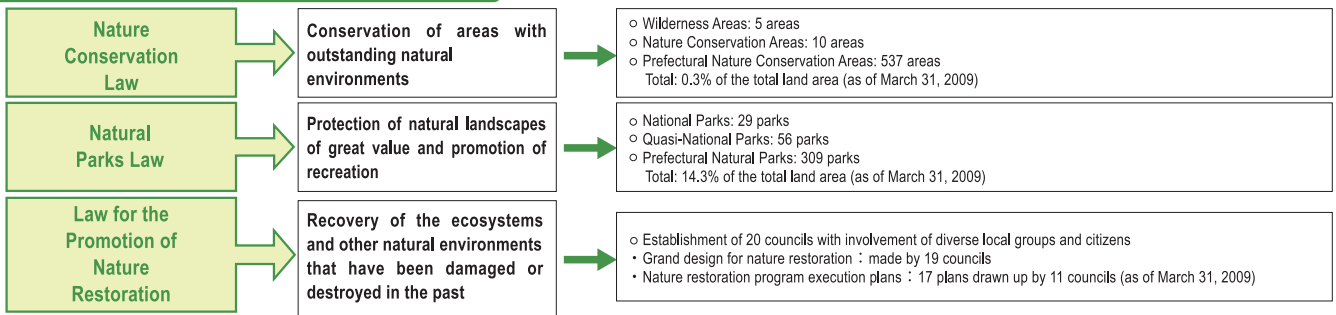


### < Legal System >

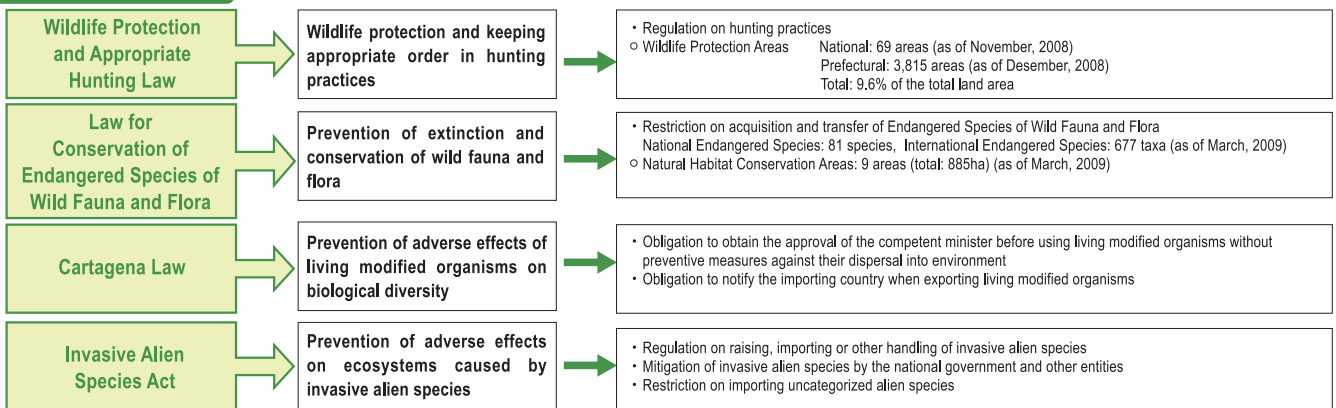
#### Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity



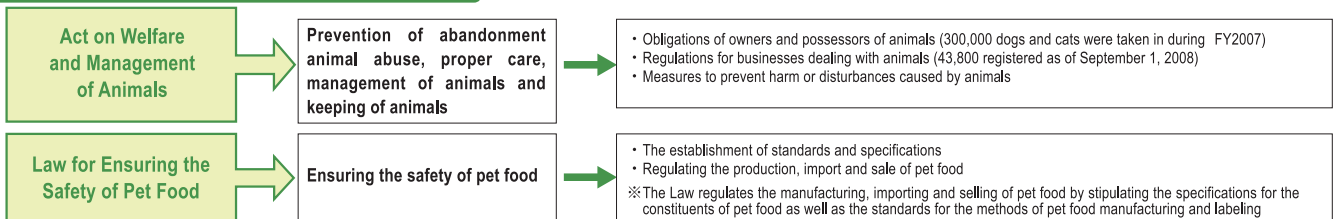
#### Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration



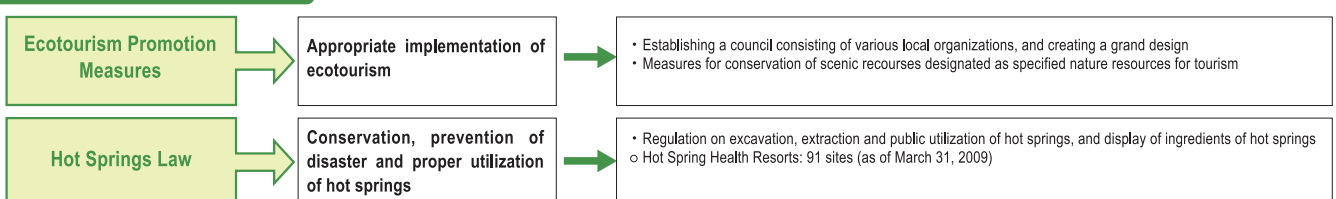
#### Wildlife Protection



#### Welfare and Management of Animals etc.



#### Communication with Nature





## 2.2 The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Biodiversity Strategy (of Japan)

National Biodiversity Strategy provides the target and the direction for the measures of the government on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in accordance with the sixth article of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 2006, in response to the changing situation at home and abroad, we set out to review the national biodiversity strategy, and raised some points to be discussed. In November, 2007, on completion of the revision based on the results of the review, The Third National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan was decided at the cabinet meeting.

### Outline of the Third National Biodiversity Strategy

For "Building a Sustainable Society Coexisting with Flourishing Biodiversity"  
—where Human and the Nature Live Together in Harmony—

#### 【Importance of Biodiversity】

##### Biodiversity Supports Life and Livelihood

- ① Basis for existence of all life on earth — eg. oxygen supply, forming rich soil —
- ② Use value including future options — eg. food, timber, medicine, breeding, uninterpreted genetic information —
- ③ Basis for enriching culture — eg. cultural diversity fostered by local natural environment, Japanese traditional attitude toward nature: cherishing all life on earth —
- ④ Security of livelihood — eg. disaster reduction, food security —

#### 【Challenge】

- Crisis 1 ·Species and habitat degradation due to excessive human activities  
Crisis 2 ·Degradation of satochi-satoyama\* due to insufficient level of management  
(\*Rural landscapes formed by sustainable use of natural resources )  
Crisis 3 ·Ecosystem disturbances caused by the introduced alien species and chemical contaminations

Crisis caused by Global Warming — inevitable and serious —

·Huge potential for species extinction and ecosystem collapse

#### 【Long-term perspective】

##### Grand Design, targeting 100 years ahead

·Grand design of the national land from the viewpoint of biodiversity is presented as the "Centennial Plan", which aims to recover the nation's ecosystem over the next hundred-year period

#### 【Involvement of various stakeholders】

##### Involvement of local governments and the private sector

·Needs for efforts by local governments and businesses are emphasized with a view to linking biodiversity conservation to local activities

※National Biodiversity Strategy is a plan to describe the basic ideas and the government's measures on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in a comprehensive way in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity

## FOUR "BASIC STRATEGIES"

The Third National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan : <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/071210/html>

### Four "Basic Strategies"

#### 1 Mainstreaming Biodiversity in our daily life

- ① Launching "Our Life on Biodiversity" project which Aims to enhance the involvement of local governments, businesses, NGOs and the public
  - Guidance for strategies at local levels
  - Development of guidelines for private sector
  - Proposal for a biodiversity-friendly lifestyle
- ② Hands-on nature experiences for school kids, and primal experiences to "feel with the five senses"

#### 2 Re-building sound relationship between man and nature in local communities

- ① Selecting "Important satochi-satoyama areas have to be inherited by next generation"; developing management models as commons
- ② Developing communities coexisting with wildlife through separating habitat and capacity building
- ③ Promoting sound activities of agriculture, forestry and fisheries which contribute to the conservation of biodiversity
- ④ Managing habitat for endangered fauna and flora; combating alien species issues

#### 3 Securing linkages among forests, countrysides, rivers and the sea

- ① Realizing the ecological network at national scale
- ② Promoting a comprehensive review of National and Quasi-National Parks, and promoting nature restoration
- ③ Studies on marine protected areas to secure sustainable fishery activities

#### 4 Taking action with global perspective

- ① Hosting COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- ② Conducting a country-wide comprehensive ecosystem assessment (Japan Biodiversity Outlook)
  - Developing biodiversity indicators
  - Mapping of states of crisis; selecting "Hot Spots"
- ③ Proposing the "SATOYAMA Initiative" to the world to realize a society in harmony with nature
- ④ Consideration of mitigation and adaptation measures for global warming in the context of biodiversity (Conserving forests and wetlands; Forming ecological networks resistant to global warming)

## What is the idea of "biodiversity"? What does it bring to us?

The Convention on Biological Diversity formulates a definition that considers biodiversity as existence of differences among all living organisms. It provides that biodiversity is found at 3 levels, on ecosystem (i.e. there are various features of natural environment such as tidal flats, forests and rivers), among species (i.e. there are various living things: plants and animals such as brown bears, dragonflies, beech trees and dandelions; microbes like bacteria), within species (i.e. there is a wide diversity of individual characteristics among the same species. For

example, clam-shells have a wide variety of patterns on the surfaces). Each of all the creatures on the earth has its own character, and they range from forests to the sea. One eats another, and vice versa on the food chain, and some insects carry pollen for flowers. In this way, they interact with each one another.

Biodiversity brings to our lives considerable benefits called "ecosystem services", which include provision of food and water, spiritual enrichment and education, the regulation of climate and water.

# 3. Nature Conservation Areas

On the basis of the Nature Conservation Law and relevant prefectural ordinances, areas without being influenced by human activities and areas with outstanding nature are designated as Wilderness Areas and Nature Conservation Areas (or Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas) respectively, for the purpose of conservation of the natural environment.

## Nature Conservation Areas

### (1) Summary of the System

#### ① Wilderness Areas

Areas where the natural environment has maintained an ecological stability without being influenced by human activities (larger than 1,000ha, or larger than 300ha on an island)

#### ② Nature Conservation Areas

Areas of outstanding nature, as described below:

- (A) Alpine and sub-alpine vegetation areas larger than 1,000ha, and outstanding natural forests larger than 100ha
- (B) Lands with unique topography, geology or natural features (larger than 10ha)
- (C) Coasts, lakes, wetlands, rivers and marine sites with outstanding nature larger than 10ha
- (D) Areas of native plants and wildlife habitats, provided that the area has a natural environment as outstanding as (A), (B) and (C) (larger than 10ha)

#### ③ Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas

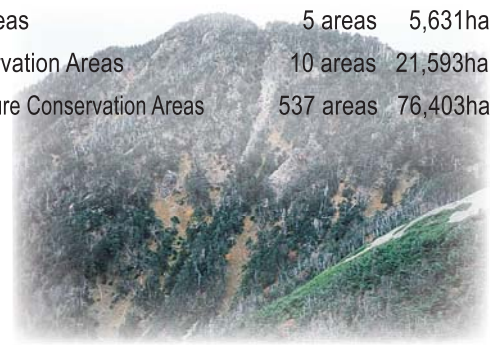
Areas with nature almost as outstanding as that of the Nature Conservation Areas above (except marine areas)

### (2) Designation of Nature Conservation Areas, etc.

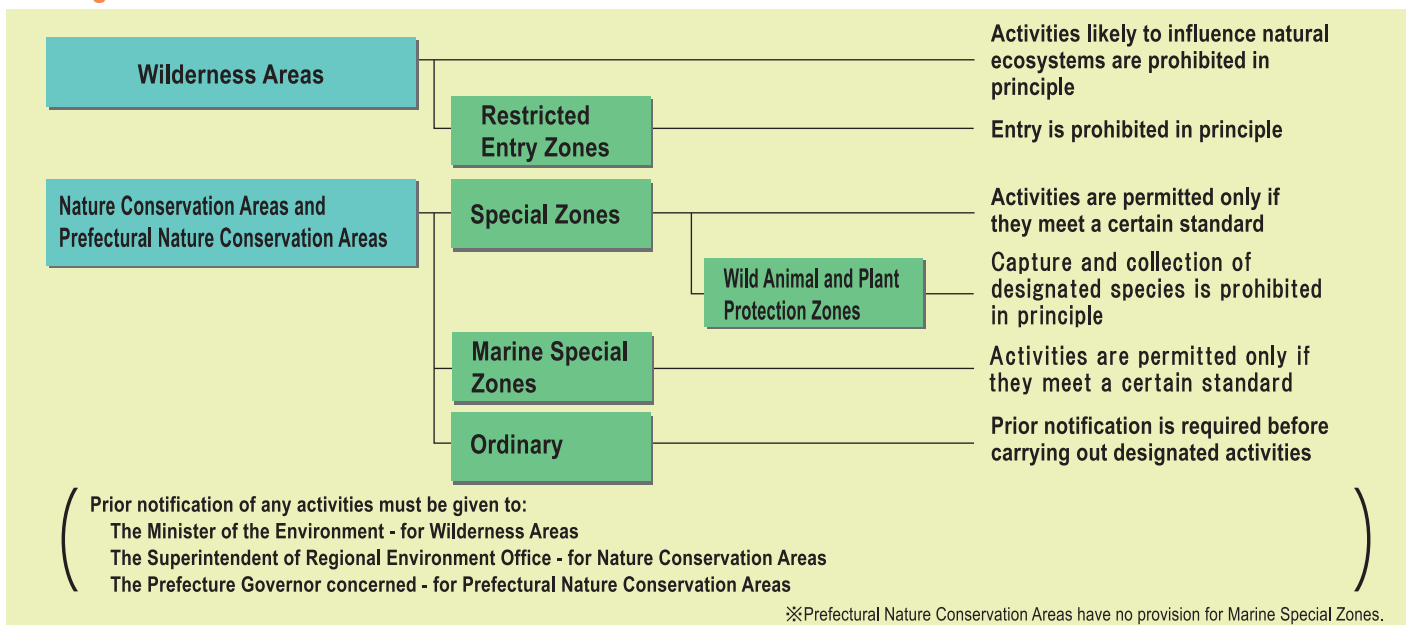
Wilderness Areas and Nature Conservation Areas are designated by the Minister of the Environment after seeking the opinions of the Central Environment Council.

Nature conservation areas designated so far are listed below (as of March 2009):

● Wilderness Areas	5 areas	5,631ha
● Nature Conservation Areas	10 areas	21,593ha
● Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas	537 areas	76,403ha



### (3) Regulations for Conservation



## The Difference between Nature Conservation Areas and Natural Parks

Wilderness Areas and Nature Conservation Areas are designated to preserve into the future the areas that have maintained their pristine characteristics and outstanding natural environment. Natural Parks, on the other hand, are designated to provide opportunities for people to experience nature, as well as to protect natural landscapes. Enjoyable and appropriate use of the parks by visitors is being encouraged through the planned

development of walkways and visitor centers. Parks are expected to increase their role, among others, in high quality, on-site environmental education. In cooperation with local governments concerned, the Ministry of the Environment manages these areas in accordance with their respective purposes.



# 4 .Natural Parks

On the basis of the Natural Parks Law, natural areas of outstanding scenic beauty are designated as National Parks, Quasi-National Parks or Prefectural Natural Parks. In these areas, the Ministry of the Environment conserves natural environment, including biodiversity, and promotes their proper use for visitor's enjoyment and experience in nature.

## Natural Parks

### (1) Summary of the System

On the basis of the Natural Parks Law, areas of outstanding scenic beauty and other areas of similar beauty are designated as National Parks and Quasi-National Parks, respectively. Natural areas that represent prefecture's scenic beauty are designated as Prefectural Natural Parks. They are collectively called "Natural Parks".

In August, 2007, an area of 19,023 hectares in the Tango Peninsula was designated as Tango-Amanohashidate-Oeyama quasi-national park. The area includes the coastal part of the peninsula, the Seya Highlands in its central part, and the Ooe Peaks in the southern part. In August, the Oze region of Nikko national park, Aizu-komagatake, and the areas surrounding Tashiroyama and Taisyakusan were combined into a 37,200-hectare area. This area was also designated as Oze national park. This designation of quasi-national parks are for the first time in 17, and that of national parks are for the first time in 20 years. This increase in the number of national parks in Japan has added up to 29 national parks, 56 quasi-national parks and 309 prefectural natural parks. Natural Parks cover some 14% of the total land area. In addition, 69 Marine Park Areas are designated within National and Quasi-National Parks to preserve unique and beautiful marine landscapes (as of 31 March 2009). These parks protect nature, and provide opportunities for people to experience nature, accepting 900 million visitors annually.

### (2) Designation

①National Parks: Areas of greatest natural scenic beauty that represents the model scenic beauties of Japan. National Parks are designated by the Minister of the Environment after seeking the opinions of the Central Environmental Council. The national government is responsible for their management. To date, 29 parks, 2.09 million ha (5.5% of the total land area), have been designated.

②Quasi-National Parks: Areas of great natural scenic beauty next to the National Parks. Quasi-National Parks are designated by the Minister of the Environment at the request of the

prefecture(s) concerned, after seeking the opinions of the Central Environmental Council.

Prefectures are responsible for their management. To date, 56 parks, 1.36 million ha (3.6% of the total land area), have been designated.

③Prefectural Natural Parks: Areas of great natural scenic beauty that represents prefecture's scenic beauties concerned. Prefectural Natural Parks are designated and managed by the prefectures in accordance with prefectural ordinances. To date, 309 parks, 1.96 million ha (5.2% of the total land area), have been designated.

### (3) Park Plans

The Park Plan (consisted of regulatory and work plans) is formulated for each park for its appropriate protection and use.

The regulatory plan provides specific measures for scenic landscape protection under appropriate public use restrictions according to a zoning classifications determined by the characteristics of the landscape and necessity of protection from use pressure. There are Special Protection Zones, Class I, II and III Special Zones, and Ordinary Zones in terrestrial areas, and Marine Park Zones and Ordinary Zones in marine areas. Regulated Utilization Areas are designated within the Special Zones and Marine Park Zones to achieve conservation of ecosystems and sustainable use of the park under rules and controls.

In September, 2007, Nishi-odai area of Yoshino-Kumano national park became the first Regulated Utilization Area in Japan. Sustainable use of this outstanding national environment under certain rules has begun. The work plan provides for planned development of use facilities, such as trails and campsites, and nature restoration facilities for landscape conservation. The nature restoration facilities aim at restoring the degraded natural process and vegetation.

## Biodiversity Conservation in Natural Parks

The Natural Parks Law was amended as follows in June, 2009 so as to strengthen the conservation of the natural environment and actively help ensure the biodiversity in natural parks.

**<Revision of the Purposes>** Conservation of biodiversity was added to the purposes of the law by the amendment.

**<More Effective Measures to Conserve Ecosystems>** Restrictions were introduced on the release of animals and plants that could have an adverse impact on the ecosystems and on the act of causing damage to trees and bamboos in the (natural) parks.

**<Marine Park Zone System>** After the amendment, the Marine Park Zone System newly covers on-the-sea besides undersea. The new system aims to promote the conservation of such areas as

wetlands and rock reefs, where both the undersea and on-the-water parts together form one ecosystem and create rich biodiversity. Furthermore, the revision has made it possible to apply the Regulated Utilization Area System to the Marine Park Zones in order to restrict excessive use, conserve the marine ecosystems and promote sustainable use of the areas.

**<The Ecosystem Management Work>** The Ecosystem Management Work aims to promote the conservation and restoration of the ecosystem in the natural parks and carry out such measures as building (guard) fences to prevent deer's feeding damage to the ecosystem in the National Parks and other natural parks.

#### (4) Management Structure of National Parks

Park rangers for nature conservation are posted to every National Park, performing duties such as nature conservation, support for appropriate use of parks and nature guide service for park visitors. Since 2005, "Active Ranger" (assistant park rangers for nature conservation) has been playing an active role in a wide range of activities such as patrolling the park, doing research and promoting outdoor activities.

#### (5) Nature Conservation in Natural Parks

##### ① Restrictions on Activities

In Special Protection Zones, Special Zones and Marine Park Zones within National Parks, development activities, such as the building of structures, require permission from the Minister of the Environment or the governor of the prefecture concerned. In Ordinary Zones, certain activities require prior notification to the Minister of the Environment or the governor of the prefecture concerned. The number of applications for permission to perform various activities in: Special Protection Zones and in Special Zones within National Parks totaled 4,606 in FY2007.

### Natural Parks Systems in Japan

In Japan, the authority can designate Natural Park without obtaining the land within the boundaries and impose certain regulations to achieve the purpose of the park. The original landowners continue to own the land after designation. This system is effective in the creation of protected areas on lands that are already densely used, as is often the case in Japan.

It is also effective in conservation of not only pristine nature but also cultural landscapes and secondary natural landscapes formed through people's livelihood activities.

On the other hand, management requires extensive coordination with respect to people's property right and various businesses in the areas concerned. This demands partnerships with the local stakeholders.



##### ② Restriction of Access to Designated Areas

In order to prevent vehicles, such as snowmobiles and allterrain vehicles, from damaging vegetation, wildlife habitats and breeding sites, vehicle entry has been restricted in 35 areas in 18 National Parks and 17 areas in 10 Quasi-National Parks.

The Minister of the Environment may restrict access to designated areas to protect natural environment sensitive to trampling, such as wetlands and alpine plant communities.

##### ③ Ecosystem Management in National Parks

Agriculture and forestry, and ecosystem nationwide have been suffering more and more serious damage caused by wildlife such as deer. Urgent countermeasures are needed in the national parks, too. So, Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the authorities concerned are taking necessary measures to prevent deer's feeding damage to ecosystem in such areas as Shiretoko, Oze, Odaigahara, Minami Alps (the southern part of the Japan Alps).

In some islets with fragile ecosystem like Ogasawara islands, Iriomote island, MOE is conducting intensive extermination of invasive alien species (Green anole, Giant toads, etc.) and also in other areas, in cooperation with some volunteer workers, is controlling invasive alien species.

Moreover, the MOE designated nine species including green turtle as the animals to be protected in Special Zones, and is restricting the capture of those designated animals, conserving their natural habitat, monitoring their lives, and so on.

##### ④ Purchase of Private Lands

In Natural Parks, the national government may purchase areas with outstanding value for nature conservation, when these lands are privately owned and strict conservation measures can not be placed. The prefecture formerly purchased such areas with a subsidy from the national government, however, the system was altered and the national government has been directly obtaining lands since FY2005.

Twenty-two areas (14 in National Parks, 5 in Quasi-National Parks and 3 in National Wildlife Protection Areas), totaling 8,520ha, had been purchased at a cost of 15.19695 billion yen, by the end of March 2007.

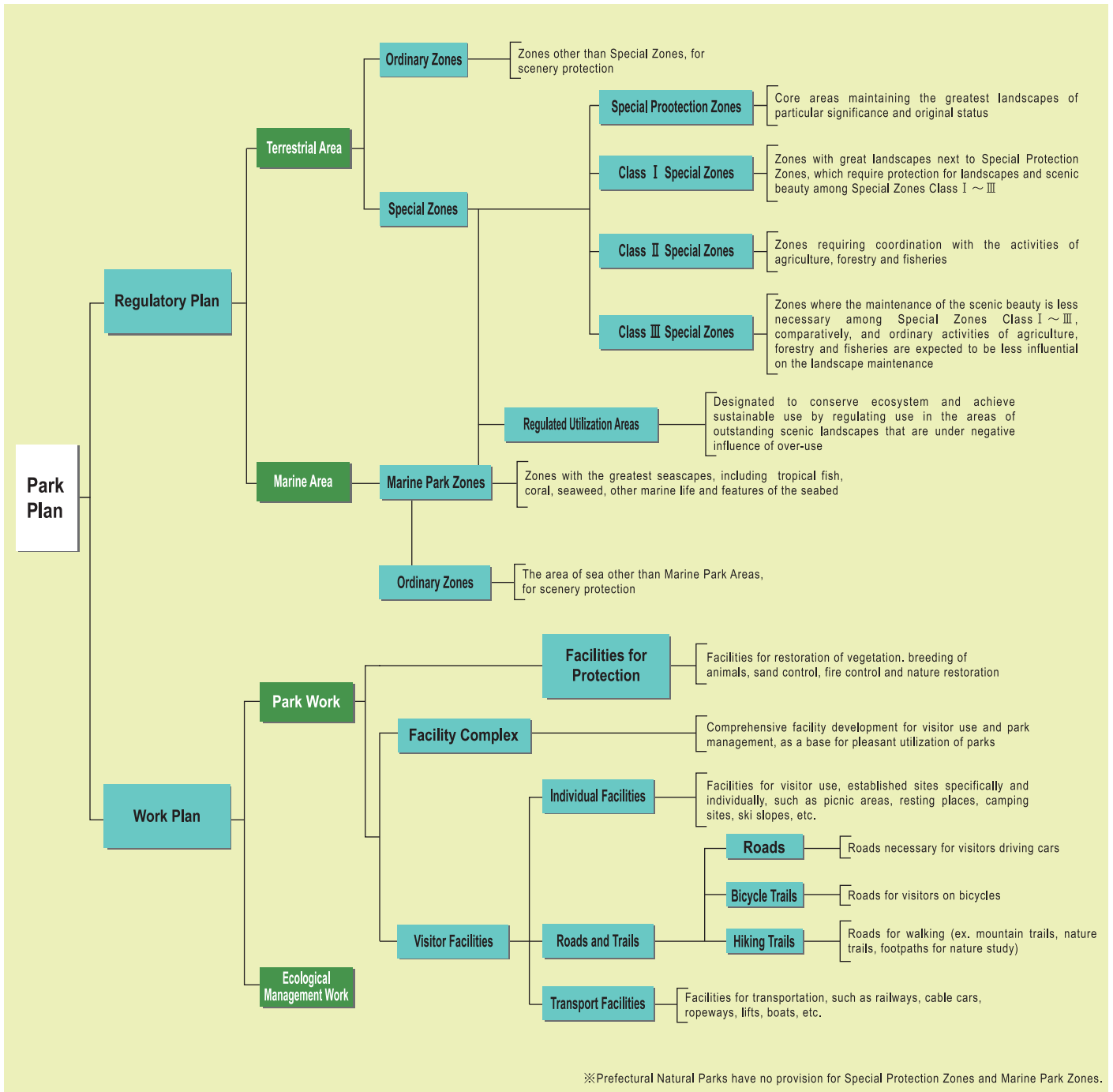
##### ⑤ Cooperation with Local Communities

National Parks are managed in cooperation with local communities, including local authorities and local residents. The Ministry of the Environment has been undertaking "Green Worker Program" for better management of parks. Under this program, the Ministry employs local residents knowledgeable about the local nature and social situations to perform various activities including conservation of the fauna and flora, cleaning locations of difficult access and maintenance of facilities. The Ministry implements careful management of National Parks and other protected areas with the local communities through activities such as designation of Park Management Organizations, four groups in a national park and two groups in the quasi-national park to help manage the parks and approval of Scenic Landscape Protection Agreements concluded between landowners and Park Management Organizations to protect areas such as the Satoyama Landscape (rural landscape, community-based woods).





# Structure of Park Plan



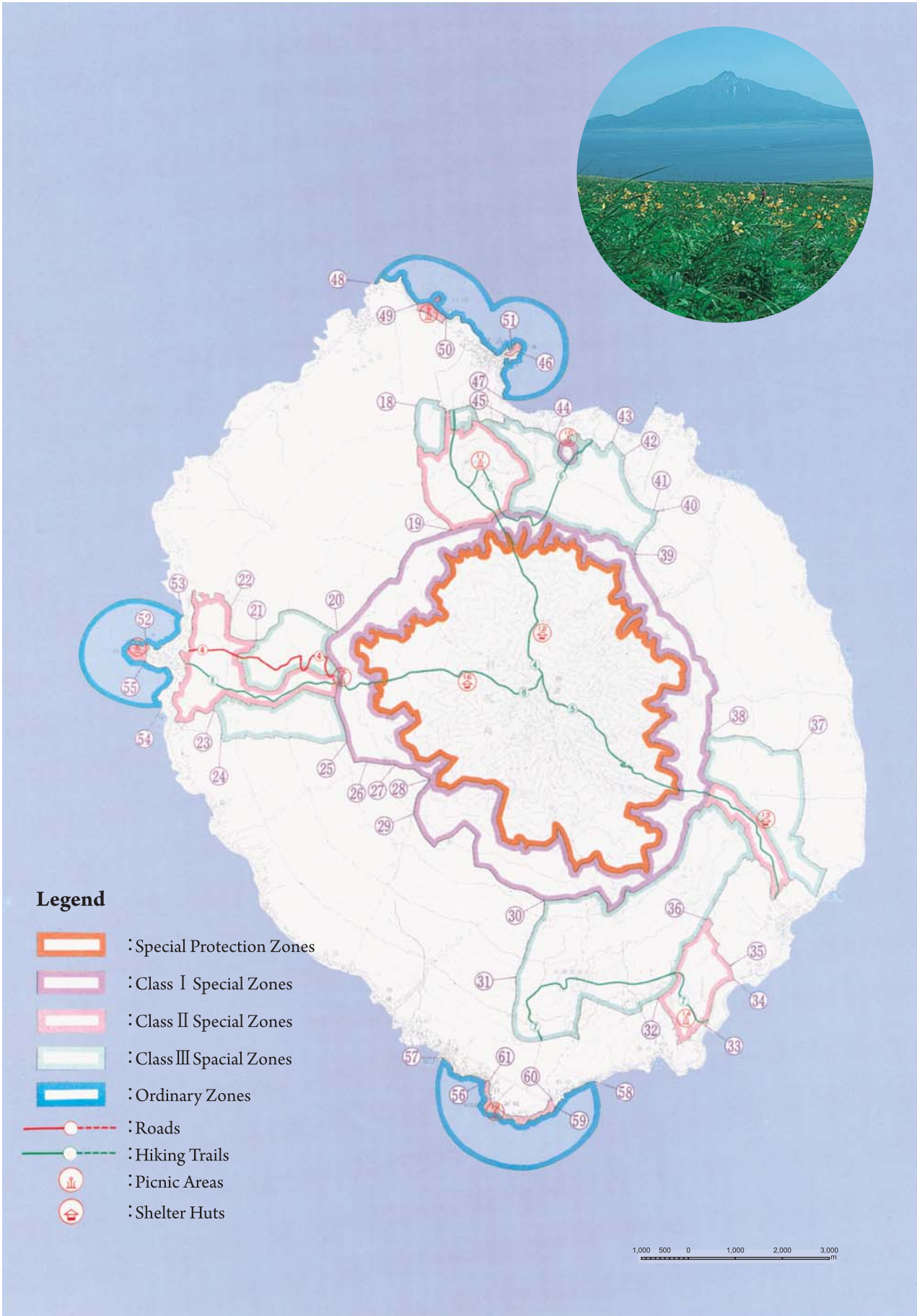
※Prefectural Natural Parks have no provision for Special Protection Zones and Marine Park Zones.

## The Difference between National Parks and Quasi-National Parks

National Parks and Quasi-National Parks are designed for people's enjoyment, while protecting Japan's beautiful nature. National Parks are designated over the natural areas with the most outstanding scenic sites in the country, while Quasi-National Parks are designated over the areas with most beautiful nature in each region that may not be as outstanding as National Parks. National Parks are usually larger in size than Quasi-National Parks. National Parks are managed by the staff of the Ministry of the Environment called "Park Rangers", while Quasi-

National Parks by the staff of prefectural governments. When the Natural Parks system was established, there were only National Parks. As the demands grew nationwide for creation of outdoor recreation sites near urban areas, protection of more local nature, and designation of National Parks for local tourism promotion (the title of National Park connoted a first-class tourism destination), the system was amended to enable creation of Quasi-National Parks.

# A Sample of the Park Plan: A Section of Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park





# 5 .Conservation and Restoration of Diverse Natural Environment

From the viewpoint of biodiversity conservation and encouraging people to experience nature, conservation of neighboring nature, including coppices, pastures and farmlands, with appropriate measures, is important, as is the conservation of nature exhibiting little human influence. It is also important to take active steps to restore destroyed nature. "Natural" areas formed and maintained by modest human intervention provide diverse environments that many species depend upon, and also play a vital role in affording urban residents opportunities to maintain contact with nature in their daily lives.

## 5.1 Conservation of Forests, Green Tracts and Rivers

The Ministry of the Environment pursues nature conservation together with other government agencies concerned by taking part in planning or programming in which environmental conservation is considered and/or expected, such as the basic plan for forests, green tracts, rivers, lakes and coastal areas. The Ministry also participates in the designation of wild species as Natural Monuments.

The Ministry of the Environment is taking active measures for the conservation of natural environment in collaboration with other related ministries and agencies. Those conservation efforts include: designing and developing basic plans for forests,

green tracts, rivers, lakes and coastal areas, which, either totally or partially, aim at and/or serve for conservation of natural environment, participating in the designation of wild animals and plants as protected species, and so forth.

Sufficient consideration should also be given to wetlands and tidal flats as the natural environments of great importance. The Ministry implements comprehensive efforts, for example, designating "Important Wetlands 500" and promoting related studies and research for preserving them.



## 5.2 Conservation and Restoration of The Satoyama Landscape

The Satoyama Landscape are areas where moderate disturbances associated with human activities contributed in forming and maintaining their unique environment. These areas are vital for biodiversity conservation because they provide crucial habitats for both endangered species and common wildlife such as frogs and katakuri (dog-tooth violet). They are also important as place where people can come into contact with nature and learn about the natural environment. In recent years, however, The Satoyama Landscape have become threatened with loss or degradation due to a number of factors including: decline in the economic value of secondary woodlands (coppices); abandonment of arable land as a result of depopulation in rural areas; and rapid change of land use by development in urban and suburban areas.

The Ministry of the Environment is working with local governments, citizens, NPOs, experts and related government agencies (including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) to conserve and restore The Satoyama Landscape.



Bekkou's darter  
(*Libellula angelina*)

Dogtooth violet  
(*Erythronium japonicum*)

Japanese Tree Frog  
(*Hyla japonica*)

## 5.3 Nature Restoration

The Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration came into force on January 1, 2003. This law intends to promote nature restoration by adopting bottom-up approaches in project formulation process, that respect local stakeholder's initiative.

### The Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration

#### 【Key Feature】

The Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration does not intend to add another set of new regulations. The government is involved with the implementation plans drawn up by people or groups in local communities by giving advice to those in need. It is expected that this law will serve to promote the restoration of natural environments based on discussions initiated by local stakeholders throughout Japan.

#### 【Purpose】

This Law is established to pursue the comprehensive implementation of measures concerning nature restoration, to secure biodiversity in support of efforts toward realizing a society that is in harmony with nature, and to contribute to conservation of the global environment.

#### 【Nature Restoration】

Nature restoration is carried out with the objective of recovering the ecosystems and other natural environments that have been damaged or destroyed by human activities in the past. Nature restoration includes the following 4 activities:

##### Conservation

Activity to proactively maintain the conditions of existing good natural environments.

##### Restoration

Activity to restoring the natural environment in the areas where it has been destroyed or where secondary natural environmental degradation took place.

##### Creration

Activity to recover the natural ecosystem by creating green tracts in areas where most of the natural environment has been lost, such as in big cities.

##### Maintenance

Activity to monitor the condition of the restored natural environment and to provide the necessary management in order to maintain the condition for a long time.

※ Compensatory measures that are to create a similar environment near the one destroyed by development activities not included in Nature Restoration.

#### 【Nature Restoration Committee】

When undertaking nature restoration in an area, the effector who plans to implement the project needs to: indicate the purpose and the contents of the project; provide an opportunity for broad and fair participation; and form a Nature Restoration Committee with local residents, NPOs, experts, landowners, and local and national governmental agencies concerned.

The Committee will (1) draw up the overall plan for nature restoration, (2) discuss the draft implementation plan of the nature restoration project, and (3) conduct communication and coordination for implementing the nature restoration project. Until the end of March, 2009, 20 Nature Restoration Committees have been established in Japan. By the same month, 19 committees have drawn up the overall plan for nature restoration, and 11 of which have drawn up implementation plans of the nature restoration project.

### Nature Restoration Project

In order to realize a Society Coexisting with Nature, which is one of the major goals of the Government, the Ministry of the Environment works to restore the damaged or destroyed natural environment such as wetlands, tidal flats and Satoyama in cooperation with local residents, NPOs, experts and other government agencies concerned.

In Kushiro Wetland area, the Kushiro Wetland Nature Restoration Committee was established in November 2003, with the participation of more than 100 individual and group members. Activities toward nature restoration are now being undertaken by various participating actors.





## 5.4 National Trust Movement

To preserve the natural environment, it is essential to set aside "land", which is fundamental to biodiversity. The National Trust (National Fund for the Environment) movement is a citizen's movement that raises funds and donations widely, and purchases and manages lands containing nature of high conservation value. The idea of this movement was born in Britain and has spread worldwide. In Japan, the movement is promoted in many areas, such as the "Shiretoko 100 Square Meters Movement" in Shari, Hokkaido, and the "Citizen's Movement for Conservation of Tenjinzaki" in Tanabe, Wakayama.

Such movements are meaningful for promoting nature conservation activities not only by official organizations but also by citizens themselves. So these movements are expected to develop further from now on. For the promotion of the National Trust movement, the Ministry of the Environment is publicizing the importance of tax incentives and supporting the successful National Trust activities.



Tenjinzaki, Wakayama

## 5.5 Natural World Heritage

The world is blessed with a vast number of sites of unique natural and cultural interest. Among those, World Heritage sites are irreplaceable assets of all humanity and treasures to be preserved for future generations. They were inscribed on the World Heritage List under the provision of World Heritage Convention.

As of July 2008, there are 14 World Heritage sites in Japan including 3 natural sites: Yakushima, Shirakami-sanchi and Shiretoko.

### Natural World Heritage sites in Japan

#### ■ Yakushima (Kagoshima prefecture)



Yakushima was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 for its unique ecosystem and landscape containing the globally rare ancient forest of Yakusugi trees that are thousands of years old; biota including a number of endemic and endangered species of fauna and

flora; and typical vertical distribution of vegetation from the coast to subalpine zone.

#### ■ Shirakami-sanchi (Aomori and Akita prefectures)



Shirakami-sanchi was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 for its remaining pristine cool-temperate forest dominated by beech, and diverse fauna and flora including the Asian black bear, Japanese serow and birds.

#### ■ Shiretoko (Hokkaido prefecture)

Shiretoko was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005 for its unique feature of interaction between the rich marine ecosystem nurtured by sea ice and the pristine terrestrial ecosystem, and being an important habitat for endangered species of international significance such as Steller's sea eagle, white-tailed eagle and Blakiston's fish owl.



### Challenges for the new inscription of Natural World Heritage sites

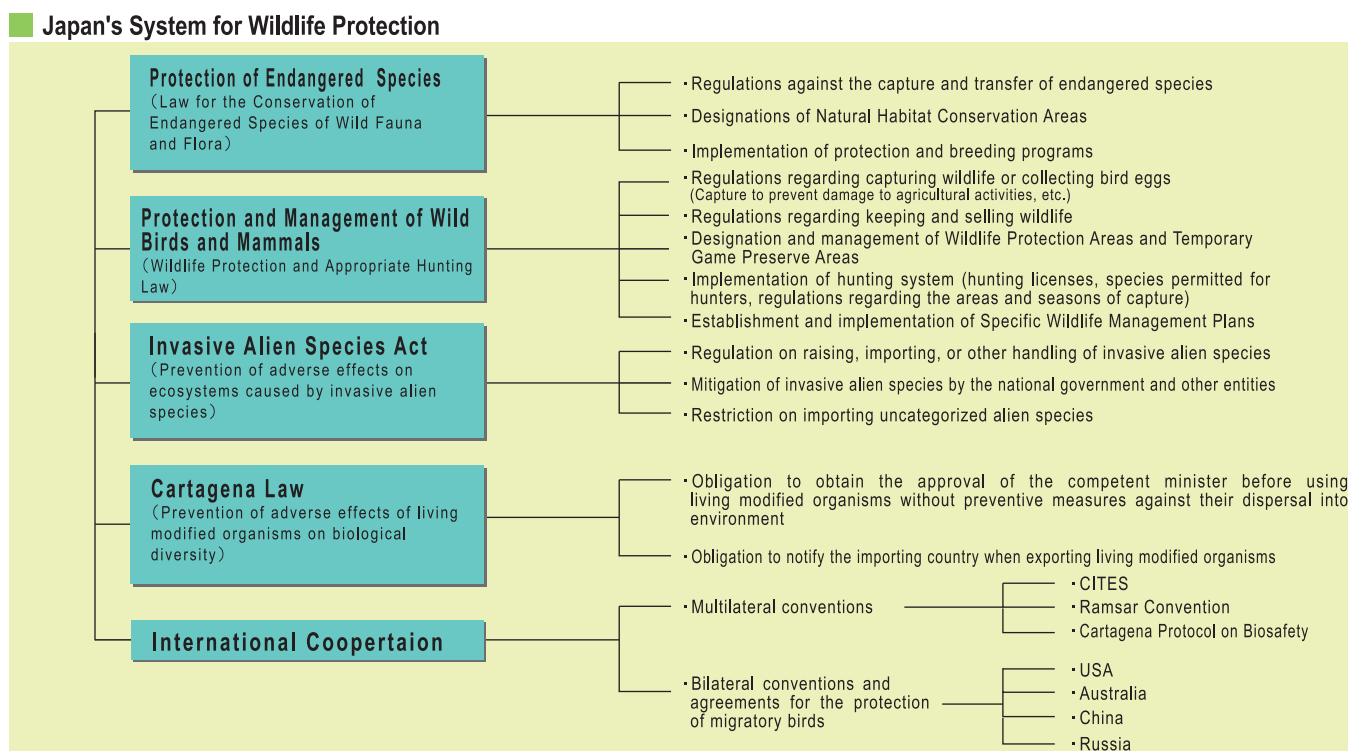
Two candidate natural sites were selected for nomination to the World Heritage List, namely the Ogasawara Islands and the Ryukyu Islands.

The Ogasawara Islands (Metropolitan Tokyo) have various activities on the earth in the past 48 million years recorded in its unique geological conditions, such as Boninite, and peculiar geological formation. Since the islands have never been a part of any continent, they are highly valued for their wide arrays of endemic and rare species and unique island ecosystems. On the other hand, the Ryukyu Islands (Kagoshima prefecture and Okinawa prefecture) have a geological history in relation to the Asian continent. In its history, they were a part of the continent in some periods and were isolated from it in other periods. This geohistory has resulted in the laurel forest ecosystem of the islands. This ecosystem is also highly valued for various endemic and rare species living there. The government agencies and local citizens concerned are cooperating in making further efforts in treatment of alien species to win designation for as new Natural World Heritage sites.

# 6. Protection and Management of Wildlife

Preservation of diverse species of fauna and flora for the sake of the co-existence of people and wild species requires a variety of approaches, such as conservation of habitat, prevention of overexploitation, implementation of the conservation program and the carrying out of appropriate management measures.

These approaches to protect Japan's wild species are encouraged through the "Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (Species Conservation Law), "Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law", "Invasive Alien Species Act" and "Law concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity through Regulations on the Use of Living Modified Organisms" (Cartagena Law). Regarding the protection of migratory birds, international cooperation is promoted through conventions and agreements.



## 6.1 Protection of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Many species of fauna and flora are threatened with extinction, due to destruction and reduction of habitat areas by human activities and the impacts of overexploitation and alien species that disturb ecosystem. "Threatened Wildlife of Japan: Red Data Book" was published in 1991 based on studies by the Ministry of the Environment. The "Species Conservation Law" was enacted in 1993. Efforts have been made to protect endangered species through this law and other related acts.

### Red List (List of wildlife species fear of extermination)

Prevention of wildlife extinction driven by human impacts requires appropriate understanding of the current status of threatened species and promotion of public awareness. The Ministry of the Environment therefore evaluates the risk of extinction on each wildlife species that exhibit Japan from the biological viewpoint, and release the lists of threatened species (Red List). The detailed information about Red List species is compiled and published as the Red Data Book. The Red List are reviewed approximately every five years.

### The Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Species Conservation Law)

Wild fauna and flora are not only important components of ecosystems, but also essential components of the natural environment that sustains society. The Species Conservation Law aims to conserve nature and contribute to ensuring a healthy and cultural livelihood for people, both now and in the future, by preserving such endangered species.

This law institutionalizes mechanisms that designate endangered species as "Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora", and take a variety of measures for species protection, such as restrictions on capture and transfer, and implementation of the conservation program.



Red Data Book

## Number of Endangered Species in Japan (Number on the Red List)

(as of March, 2009)

	Taxonomic Group	Number of Species for Assessment	Extinct	Extinct in the Wild	Threatened		Near Threatened	Data Deficient	Total Number of Species	Local population Threatened		
					Endangered I						Endangered II (Vulnerable)	
					A (Critically Endangered)	B (Endangered)						
Fauna	Mammals	180 (approx. 200)	4 (4)	0 (0)	42 (48)		18 (16)	9 (9)	73 (77)	19 (12)		
					35 (32)	7 (16)						
					15 (12)						20 (20)	
	Birds	approx. 700 (approx. 700)	13 (13)	1 (1)	92 (89)		18 (16)	17 (16)	141 (135)	2 (2)		
											53 (42)	39 (47)
											21 (17)	
	Reptiles	98 (97)	0 (0)	0 (0)	31 (18)		17 (9)	5 (1)	53 (28)	3 (2)		
											13 (7)	18 (11)
											3 (2)	
Amphibians	65 (65)	0 (0)	0 (0)	21 (14)		14 (5)	1 (0)	36 (19)	0 (4)			
										10 (5)	11 (9)	
										1 (1)		9 (4)
Brackish and Freshwater Fish	approx. 400 (approx. 300)	4 (3)	0 (0)	144 (76)		26 (12)	39 (5)	213 (96)	17 (12)			
										109 (58)	35 (18)	
										61 (29)		48 (29)
Insects	approx. 30,000 (approx. 30,000)	3 (2)	0 (0)	239 (171)		200 (161)	122 (87)	564 (421)	2 (3)			
										110 (89)	129 (82)	
Shellfishes	approx. 1,100 (approx. 1,000)	22 (25)	0 (0)	377 (251)		275 (201)	73 (71)	747 (548)	7 (5)			
										163 (86)	214 (165)	
Other Invertebrate	approx. 4,200 (approx. 4,200)	0 (0)	1 (1)	56 (33)		40 (31)	39 (36)	136 (101)	0 (0)			
										17 (10)	39 (23)	
Sub total for Fauna			46 (47)	2 (2)	1002 (700)		608 (451)	305 (225)	1963 (1425)	50 (40)		
Flora	Vascular Plants	approx. 7,000 (approx. 7,000)	33 (20)	8 (5)	1690 (1665)		255 (145)	32 (52)	2018 (1887)	-		
					1014 (1044)	676 (621)						
					523 (564)						491 (480)	
	Excluding the Vascular Plants	approx. 25,300 (approx. 24,800)	41 (35)	2 (2)	463 (329)		118 (45)	172 (71)	796 (482)	-		
											287 (220)	176 (109)
	Bryophytes	approx. 1,800 (approx. 1,800)	1 (0)	0 (0)	229 (180)		22 (4)	33 (54)	285 (238)	-		
					118 (110)	111 (70)						
Algae	approx. 5,500 (approx. 5,500)	5 (5)	1 (1)	110 (41)		40 (24)	37 (0)	193 (71)	-			
										89 (35)	21 (6)	
Lichens	approx. 1,500 (approx. 1,000)	5 (3)	0 (0)	60 (45)		39 (17)	48 (17)	152 (82)	-			
										41 (22)	19 (23)	
Fungi	approx. 16,500 (approx. 16,500)	30 (27)	1 (1)	64 (63)		17 (-)	54 (-)	166 (91)	-			
										39 (53)	25 (10)	
Sub total for Flora			74 (55)	10 (7)	2153 (1994)		373 (190)	204 (123)	2814 (2369)	-		
Total			120 (102)	12 (9)	3155 (2694)		981 (641)	509 (348)	4777 (3794)	50 (40)		
					1811 (1593)							
					1344 (1101)							

(1) The number of species of fauna for assessment (including sub-species etc.) is quoted from "A List of Native Species of Wildlife in Japan" (edited by the Environment Agency, 1993, 1995, 1998), and other sources.

(2) Among Flora, the number of species of vascular plants for assessment (including sub-species etc.) is quoted from the total given by the Japanese Society for Plant Systematics (JSPS).

(3) Among Flora (excluding the vascular plants), the number of species of bryophytes, algae, lichens and fungi for evaluation (including sub-species etc.) are obtained from studies by the Ministry of the Environment.

(4) The figures in the parentheses indicate the number of species listed on the previous Red List.

(5) Insects, shellfishes, other invertebrate animals and non vascular plants are grouped into the category of "Critically Endangered + Endangered" Endangered I, and are not classified as "Critically Endangered" nor "Endangered".

Brief definitions of categories are as follows:

Extinct: Species considered to be already extinct in Japan

Extinct in the Wild: Species existing in captivity only

Critically Endangered + Endangered: Species in danger of extinction

Vulnerable: Species facing growing danger of extinction

Near Threatened: Species with a fragile basis of their existence

Data Deficient: Species that cannot be assessed because of insufficient information

(Additional definition)

Threatened Local Population: isolated local population with high probability of extinction (animals only)



## (1) Designation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

"Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" are classified into three categories as below:

### ① Designated National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Endangered species inhabiting and/or growing in Japan, designated on the basis of scientific knowledge of their existence, such as found in the Red List. Some of these species are classified as "Designated National Endangered Species" and are allowed to be bred on a commercial basis.

### ② Designated International Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Endangered species that require international cooperation for species preservation (species listed in CITES (see, p.43) Appendix I and/or under Japan's bilateral conventions/agreements for protection of migratory birds).

### ③ Temporarily Designated Endangered Species

These are new species and some others that need to be preserved urgently from extinction. The Minister of the Environment makes a designation and the designation is limited to a period of 3 years. In December, 1994, eagle owls, Iriomote fireflies and Kumejima fireflies were designated as "Temporarily Designated Species". Eagle owls were also designated as "Designated National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora". In March, 2008, a species of stag beetle "Platycerus sue" became a designated species in this category.

## (2) Regulations for Treatment of Animals

Such behavior as "capture, collect, kill and injure" of living animals classified as "Designated National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" and "Temporarily Designated Species", is prohibited in principle. Also, exhibiting individuals of "Designated Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" for sale and distribution, and transfer (giving, selling, lending, receiving, buying and borrowing) are prohibited in principle.



Rebun lady's slipper  
(*Cypripedium macranthum* var. *rebunense*)



Short-tailed albatross  
(*Diomedae albatrus*)



Blakiston's fish-owl  
(*Ketupa blakistoni blakistoni*)

## (3) Regulations for Habitat Conservation

Important habitats are designated as "Natural Habitat Conservation Areas" for the preservation of National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Within these areas, zones in great need of regulation are designated as "Conservation Areas", in which specific activities, such as erecting structures and felling trees, require the permission of the Minister of the Environment. Other zones within the areas are termed "Monitoring Areas", serving as buffer for Conservation Areas. Activities such as erecting structures in Monitoring Areas require prior notification to the Minister of the Environment.

## (4) Implementation of The Conservation Program

Some National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, such as the Japanese crested ibis, the Blakiston's fish-owl, and the Iriomote wild cat, require intense measures for species survival. These species are the subject of programs for protection and breeding, including activities such as the maintenance and improvement of natural habitat, feeding, and captive breeding. The Ministry of the Environment implements conservation programs in cooperation with relevant government agencies and endeavors to protect endangered species.

## Wildlife Centers

Wildlife Centers are the base institutions for promoting comprehensive activities for the conservation of regionally unique wildlife, especially National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Their activities include nature interpretation for visitors using exhibits and other visual aids for educational purposes; programs for protection and breeding of endangered species; and study and research. Eight centers were in operation as of March 2009.

# Institutions for Wildlife Conservation

The map of Japan is highlighted in green and features 20 orange circular markers. Lines connect these markers to text labels and photographs of various conservation centers. The institutions are distributed across the country, from Hokkaido in the north to the Ryukyu Islands in the south.

- Hamatombetsu Kutcharo-ko Waterfowl Observation Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Miyajimanuma Waterfowl and Wetland Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a wetland landscape and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Akkeshi Waterfowl Observation Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Hokkaido Seabird Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of seabirds.
- Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Conservation Center (Nishimeya)**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Conservation Center (Fujisato)**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Utonai-ko Wildlife Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of swans.
- Shiretoko World Heritage Conservation Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Kushiro Shitsugen Wildlife Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Moriyoshisan Wildlife Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Raptors Conservation Center**: Located in Hokkaido, featuring a building and a circular inset of a raptor.
- Sado Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Center**: Located in Niigata, featuring a building and a circular inset of Japanese Crested Ibises.
- Ramsarsite Fujimae-higata Fujimae Active Center**: Located in Niigata, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Sakata Waterfowl and Wetland Center**: Located in Niigata, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Tsushima Wildlife Center**: Located in Yamaguchi, featuring a building and a circular inset of a tiger.
- Waterbird Rescue Training Center**: Located in Yamaguchi, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Ramsarsite Fujimae-higata INAE Visitor Center**: Located in Yamaguchi, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Biodiversity Center of Japan**: Located in Yamaguchi, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Biwako Waterfowl and Wetland Center**: Located in Shiga, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Yakushima World Heritage Conservation Center**: Located in Kagoshima, featuring a building and a circular inset of a deer.
- Amami Wildlife Center**: Located in Kagoshima, featuring a building and a circular inset of a turtle.
- Manko Waterfowl and Wetland Center**: Located in Kagoshima, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- International Coral Reef Research and Monitoring Center**: Located in Kagoshima, featuring a building and a circular inset of coral reefs.
- Yambaru Wildlife Center**: Located in Kagoshima, featuring a building and a circular inset of a waterfowl.
- Iriomote Wildlife Center**: Located in Okinawa, featuring a building and a circular inset of a cat.



## 6.2 Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Mammals

### (1) Overview

More than 700 species of wild birds and mammals (collectively, wildlife) inhabit Japan, the capture of them is strictly regulated on the basis of the Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law (hereafter the "Wildlife Protection Law"; some marine mammals are excluded from the application of this law). The Wildlife Protection Law designates 49 species of wildlife as game, for which hunting is allowed.

Capture of wildlife requires either a hunting license issued under the Wildlife Protection Law, or a special permit for the purpose of scientific study, or for prevention damage to agricultural activities, etc.

Wildlife Protection Areas are designated and managed nationwide for the conservation of wildlife.

Some species of wildlife--whose populations are significantly increasing or decreasing, causing serious damage to people's agricultural, forestry and fishery activities and ecosystem -- require scientific and systematic management. For the reason, the Ministry of the Environment institutionalized wildlife management through Specified Wildlife Management Plan (see below). These promote various approaches, including increasing specialists dedicated to wildlife management.

### (2) Wildlife Protection Areas

Wildlife Protection Areas are designated under the Wildlife Protection Law, to ensure the conservation of wildlife. National Wildlife Protection Areas are designated by the Minister of the Environment, and Prefectural Wildlife Protection Areas are designated by the governor of the prefecture concerned. Capture of wildlife is prohibited in these areas. As of December 31, 2008, 3,884 areas covering 3.64 million ha were designated nationwide. Where more strict regulation is needed, Special Protection Areas may be declared within Wildlife Protection Areas. In the Special Protection Areas, such activities as erecting structures, reclamation and felling trees require permission from the Minister of the Environment or the prefectural governor. As of December 31, 2008, there were 618 Special Protection Areas, covering 290,000ha.

### (3) Hunting System

Hunting in Japan requires a hunting license that applicants can receive upon passing a hunting examination overseen by prefectural governors. The examination tests applicant's ability to identify game species, knowledge of hunting safety and the skills in handling hunting equipment, and so on.

Before hunting, hunters must register with the government of the prefecture in which s/he wishes to hunt and pay a hunting tax.

There are four types of hunting licenses: license for hunting with nets; one for trap hunting; "the first grade game shooting license" for using charge rifles, shotguns and air-guns; and "the second grade game shooting license" for using air-guns only. In order to ensure safe hunting and to maintain hunting resources sustainably, hunting activities are regulated as follows:

#### ① Hunting seasons

In principle, the hunting season is from October 1 to January 31 of the following year in Hokkaido, and from November 15 to February 15 the following year in all other places.

#### ② Areas where hunting is prohibited

Wildlife Protection Areas, Temporary Game Preserve Areas, Public Roads, Public Parks, the Grounds of Shrines and Temples, Cemeteries, etc.

#### ③ Regulations on hunting methods and mass capture

#### ④ Limitations on hunting quotas per day or per hunting season.

The number of hunting licenses issued, and of games taken

Year	No. of hunting licenses issued			No. of games taken		
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Birds	Mammals	Total
2001	34,681	169,521	6,869	1,680	307	1,987
2002	38,041	169,691	4,748	1,722	324	2,046
2003	41,439	152,258	3,775	1,208	305	1,513
2004	43,656	151,203	3,469	1,271	344	1,615
2005	47,552	152,780	3,290	865	316	1,181

Designation of Wildlife Protection Areas (as of December 31, 2008)

	National (as of August 1, 2008)		Prefectural (as of March, 2008)		Total	
	No. of Areas	Size (thousand ha)	No. of Areas	Size (thousand ha)	No. of Areas	Size (thousand ha)
Wildlife Protection Area	69	548	3,815	3,093	3,884	3,641
(Special Protection Area)	56	146	562	149	618	295



Rock ptarmigan  
(*Lagopus mutus japonicus*)



Sika deer  
(*Cervus nippon*)



## (4) Overview of Specified Wildlife Management Plan System

Specified wildlife management plans are drawn up arbitrarily by prefectural governors at their own discretion. Governors should carry out "Management of population size, Management of habitats and Prevention of damage caused by wildlife" etc., in cooperation with various operating bodies. The plans will be monitored, and the findings of monitoring will be taken into consideration when the next plans are made so that

local population of each species will be properly conserved and controlled. A total of 99 Specified Wildlife Management Plans had been established by January, 2009, for 6 species: (Japanese (sika) deer, wild boars, Japanese macaque, bears antelopes, great cormorants )

### Overview of Specified Wildlife Management Plan System

#### 1 Overview of Plans

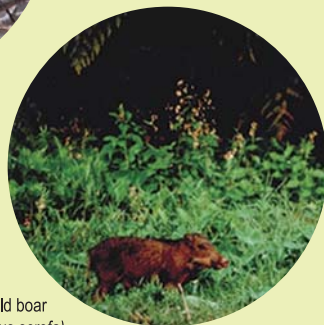
- ① **Aims**  
Avoidance of frictions between wildlife and human activities and stable long-term maintenance of local wildlife populations
- ② **Planning bodies**  
Plans established by prefectural governors
- ③ **Subjects**  
Local populations of the wildlife species that are rapidly increasing, such as sika deer and wild boar, or drastically decreasing, such as bear
- ④ **Contents**  
Descriptions of goals and methods for the management of population size and maintenance of habitats

#### 2 Approach to carry out Plans

- ① Hunting regulations tailored to local circumstances
- ② Conservation and management of habitats
- ③ Countermeasures to prevent and control damage caused by wildlife
- ④ Others

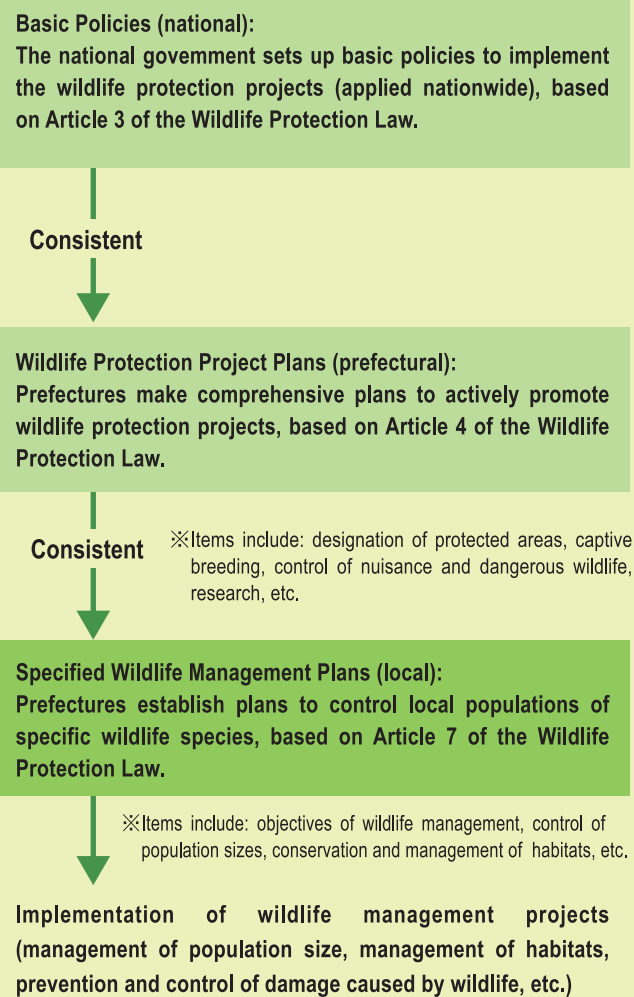


Japanese macaque  
(*Macaca fuscata*)



Wild boar  
(*Sus scrofa*)

#### 3 Role of Plans in Wildlife Management System



## 6.3 Measures Concerning Invasive Alien Species and Living Modified Organisms

### Countermeasures against Invasive Alien Species and Other Related Actions

The species non-native to Japanese ecosystem (alien species) have been brought into Japan and some of them become established live in the wild. The problems caused by these species are emerging as follows: driving the native fauna and flora to extinction, harming people and damaging the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries. Invasive Alien Species Act (IAS Act), which promulgated in June 2004, designates the alien species that are recognized or feared to cause these problems as Invasive Alien Species (IAS). This law has the purpose of preventing adverse effects caused by IAS through regulating raising, planting, storing, carrying, importing or other handling of IAS and through taking measures such as mitigation of IAS by the national government and other entities, with the aim to contribute to conservation of biodiversity, human safety and sound development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

#### (1) Designation of Invasive Alien Species (IAS etc.)

The alien species, which brought into Japan from overseas and recognized or feared to cause adverse effects on biodiversity, human safety, agriculture, forestry and fisheries are designated as IAS, and their importation and raising are restricted.

The Ministry of the Environment is publicizing procedures of the Invasive Alien Species Act and basic problems of invasive alien species on its homepage. (URL: <http://www.env.go.jp/nature/intro/>)

#### (2) Mitigation and Management

In the habitats of endangered species or the species unique to the area, the mitigation measures are to be taken according to the situation of damage.

Examples of these countermeasures include Japan mongoose eradication projects on Amami-Oshima Island in Kagoshima prefecture and Yambaru area on Okinawa Island, monitoring project of cane toad, which has potential to cause adverse effects on ecosystems, on Iriomote Island in Okinawa prefecture, and eradication projects of largemouth bass in the areas including Ramsar Sites.



Largemouth bass  
(*Micropterus salmoides*)



Javan mongoose  
(*Herpestes javanicus*)

#### List of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

(as of January 1, 2008)

Taxon	Species
Mammals	Crab-eating macaque ( <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> ), Coypu / nutria ( <i>Myocastor coypus</i> ), Raccoon ( <i>Procyon lotor</i> ), Javan mongoose ( <i>Herpestes javanicus</i> ), Reeves's muntjac ( <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i> ), etc.
Birds	Laughing thrush ( <i>Garrulax canorus</i> ), Red-billed mesia ( <i>Leiothrix lutea</i> ), etc.
Reptiles	Snapping turtle ( <i>Chelydra serpentina</i> ), Green anole ( <i>Anolis carolinensis</i> ), Taiwan beauty snake ( <i>Elaphe taeniura friesi</i> ), etc.
Amphibians	Cane toad ( <i>Bufo marinus</i> ), Bullfrog ( <i>Rana catesbeiana</i> ), Asian tree frog ( <i>Polypedates leucomystax</i> ), etc.
Fishes	Channel catfish ( <i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> ), Bluegill ( <i>Lepomis macrochirus</i> ), Largemouth bass ( <i>Micropterus salmoides</i> ), etc.
Insects	Large earth bumblebee ( <i>Bombus terrestris</i> ), Argentine ant ( <i>Linepithema humile</i> ), Fire ant ( <i>Solenopsis invicta</i> ), etc.
Invertebrates other than insects	Red back spider ( <i>Latrodectus hasseltii</i> ), Signal crayfish ( <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> ), Mitten crab (genus <i>Eriocheir</i> ), Golden mussel (genus <i>Limnoperna</i> ), etc.
Plants	Water lettuce ( <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> ), Cutleaf coneflower ( <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> ), Bur cucumber ( <i>Sicyos angulatus</i> ), etc.

All native species and subspecies are excluded.

※Full list is available at URL: [http://www.env.go.jp/nature/intro/outline/files/siteisyu\\_list\\_e.pdf](http://www.env.go.jp/nature/intro/outline/files/siteisyu_list_e.pdf).

### Regulations on the use of Living Modified Organisms

There are various Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) used in such field as medicine, agriculture and forestry, industry etc. Meanwhile, the concern for the possibility of LMOs causing adverse effects on biological diversity are expressed, and the Cartagena Protocol put in force in September 2003 based on the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Cartagena Protocol stipulates the international framework regarding the import and export of LMOs. Responding to this protocol, the Cartagena Law became effective in February 2004. The purpose of the law is to ensure the precise and smooth implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, and thereby to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. The Law stipulates the handling of LMOs such as the requirement of acquiring the approval of the competent minister to use LMOs in the open environment. As of the end of February, 2009, 137 cases of LMOs use in the open environment are approved.

Also, the Biosafety Clearinghouse of Japan (<http://www.bch.biodic.go.jp/>) has been established and provides the information on legal framework, approved LMOs and so on.



Cutleaf coneflower  
(*Rudbeckia laciniata*)



# Location Map of Designated Areas for Nature Conservation

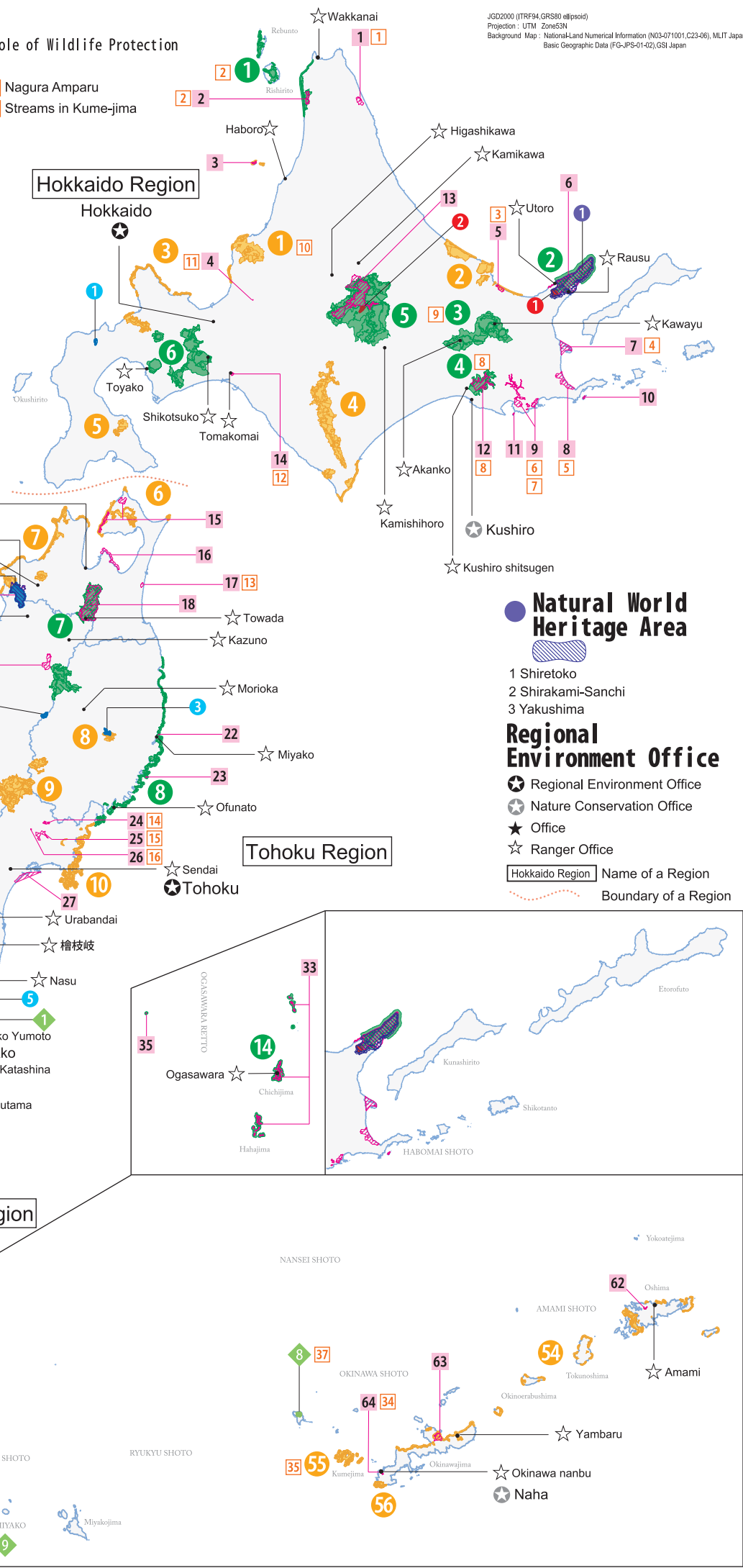
- National Park**
  - Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu
  - Shiretoko
  - Akan
  - Kushiro-shitsugen
  - Daisetsuzan
  - Shikotsu-Toya
  - Towada-Hachimantai
  - Rikuchukaigan
  - Bandai-Asahi
  - Nikko
  - Oze
  - Joshin'etsukogen
  - Chichibu-Tama-Kai
  - Ogasawara
  - Fuji-Hakone-Izu
  - Chubusangaku
  - Hakusan
  - Minami Alps
  - Ise-Shima
  - Yoshino-Kumano
  - San'in-kaigan
  - Setonaikai
  - Daisen-Oki
  - Ashizuri-Uwakai
  - Saikai
  - Unzen-Amakusa
  - Aso-Kuju
  - Kirishima-Yaku
  - Iriomote-Ishigaki
- Quasi-National Park**
  - Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri
  - Niseko-Shakotan-Otarukaigan
  - Hidakasanmyaku-Erimo
  - Onuma
  - Shimokitahanto
  - Tsugaru
  - Hayachine
  - Kurikoma
  - Minamisanriku-Kinkazan
  - Zao
  - Chokai
  - Oga
  - Echigosanzen-Tadami
  - Suigo-Tsukuba
  - Myogi-Arafune-Sakukogen
  - Minamiboso
  - Meiji Memorial Forest Takao
  - Tanzawa-Oyama
  - Sado-Yahiko-Yoneyama
  - Notohanto
  - Echizen-Kagakaigan
  - Wakasawan
  - Yatsugatake-Chushinkogen
  - Tenryu-Oikumikawa
  - Ibi-Sekigahara-Yoro
  - Hida-Kisogawa
  - Aichikogen
- Wilderness Area**
  - Onnebetsudake
  - Head of River Tokachi
  - Head of River Ooi
- Nature Conservation Area**
  - Oohirayama
  - Head of River Tone
  - Shirakami-Sanchi
  - Sasagamine
  - Hayachine
  - Shiragadake
  - Wagadake
  - Inaodake
  - Oosabiyama
  - Sakiyamawan
- Natural Habitat Conservation Area**
  - Handa Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Tanakia tanago
  - Kitadake Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Callianthemum insignie var. hondoense
  - Zenkoji-Nagaoka Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Hynobius abei
  - Ooka Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Hynobius abei
  - Yamasako Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Polemonium kiushianum
  - Kitaobasama Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Polemonium kiushianum
  - Imutaik Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Libellula angelina
  - Uegusukudake Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Opisthotropis kikuzatoi
  - Yonehara Natural Habitat Conservation Area for Platyleura albivannata

- Wilderness Area**
  - Minami Iwoto
  - Yakushima
- Nature Conservation Area**
  - Minami Iwoto
  - Yakushima
- Natural Habitat Conservation Area**
  - Minami Iwoto
  - Yakushima

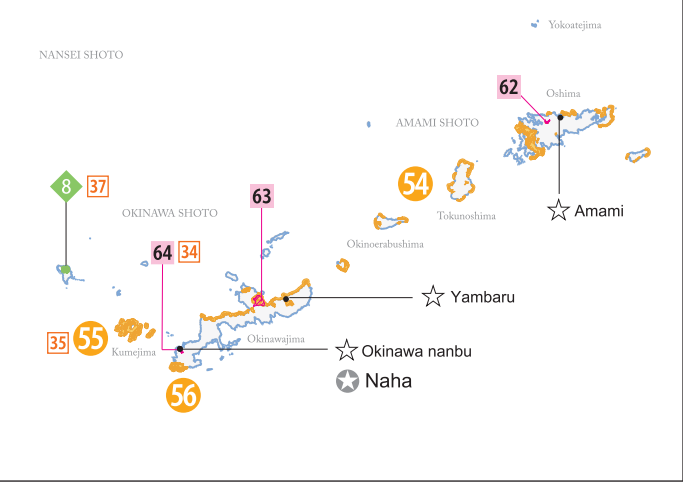
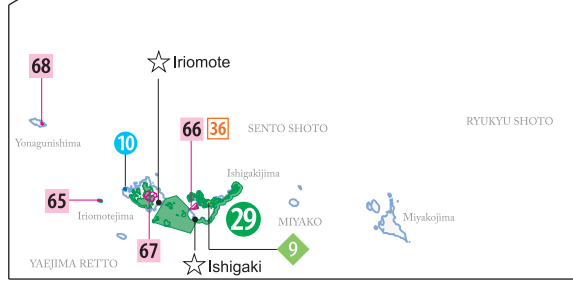
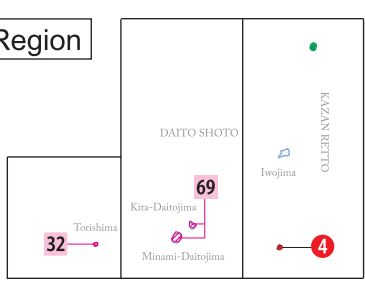
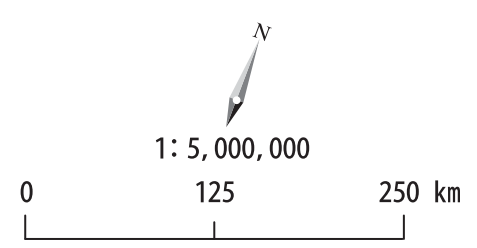
- National Wildlife Protection Area**
  - Hamatonbetsu Kutcharo-ko
  - Sarobetsu
  - Teurito
  - Miyajima-numa
  - Tofutsu-ko
  - Shiretoko
  - Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan
  - Furen-ko and Shunkuni-Hai
  - Kiritappu-shitsugen
  - Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen
  - Kushiro-shitsugen
  - Akan-ko
  - Uryunuma-shitsugen
  - Miyajima-numa
  - Utonai-ko
  - Hotokenuma
  - Izu-numa and Uchi-numa
  - Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding ricepaddies
  - Kejo-numa
  - Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike
  - Sakata
  - Oku-Nikko-shitsugen
  - Oze
  - Kejo-numa
  - Sendai-kaihin
  - Mogamigawa kako
  - Otori Asahi
  - Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike
  - Yatsu
  - Torishima
  - Ogasawara-shoto
  - Kosado-toubu
  - Nishinoshima
  - Nanatsujima
  - Fukushima-gata
  - Hyo-ko
  - Sakata
  - Asama
  - Kita Alps
  - Hakusan
  - Katano-kamoike
  - Fujimae-higata
  - Kiinagashima
  - Odai-sankei
  - Hamakoshien
  - Nakaumi
  - Shinji-ko
  - Daisen
  - Kakujijima
  - Tsurugisan-sankei
  - Ishizuchi-sankei
  - Seinan
  - Okinoshima
  - Wajiro-higata
  - Danjo-gunto
  - Izumi and Takaono
  - Kirishima
  - Kusagakijima
  - Yuwandake
  - Yagachi
  - Manko
  - Nakanouganjima
  - Nagura Amparu
  - Yonaguni
  - Daito-shoto

**The area of Ramsar sites**  
 ※The area of Ramsar sites are a part of the whole of Wildlife Protection Areas designated by National Government.

- 1 Kutcharo-ko
- 2 Sarobetsu-nya
- 3 Tofutsu-ko
- 4 Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan
- 5 Furen-ko and Shunkuni-Hai
- 6 Kiritappu-shitsugen
- 7 Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen
- 8 Kushiro-shitsugen
- 9 Akan-ko
- 10 Uryunuma-shitsugen
- 11 Miyajima-numa
- 12 Utonai-ko
- 13 Hotokenuma
- 14 Izu-numa and Uchi-numa
- 15 Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding ricepaddies
- 16 Kejo-numa
- 17 Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike
- 18 Sakata
- 19 Oku-Nikko-shitsugen
- 20 Oze
- 21 Yatsu-higata
- 22 Hyoko
- 23 Katano-kamoike
- 24 Mikata-goko
- 25 Biwa-ko
- 26 Fujimae-higata
- 27 Kushimoto Coral Communities
- 28 Nakaumi
- 29 Shinji-ko
- 30 Akiyoshidai Groundwater System
- 31 Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen
- 32 Imuta-ike
- 33 Yakushima Nagata-hama
- 34 Manko
- 35 Kerama-shoto Coral Reef
- 36 Nagura Amparu
- 37 Streams in Kume-jima



JGD2000 (ITRF04, GRS80 ellipsoid)  
 Projection: UTM, Zone53N  
 Background Map: National Land Numerical Information (N03-071001, C23-06), MLIT Japan  
 Basic Geographic Data (FG-IPS-01-02), GSI Japan



- Natural World Heritage Area**
  - Shiretoko
  - Shirakami-Sanchi
  - Yakushima
- Regional Environmental Office**
  - Regional Environmental Office
  - Nature Conservation Office
  - Office
  - Ranger Office
- Hokkaido Region** Name of a Region
- Boundary of a Region



# 7.Promotion of Communication with Nature

Communication with nature gives people peace of mind and delight. It also plays a significant role in promoting better understanding of nature and in fostering attitudes of environmental stewardship.

The Ministry of the Environment develops many activities to promote communication with nature, and provide sites for people to experience diverse nature.

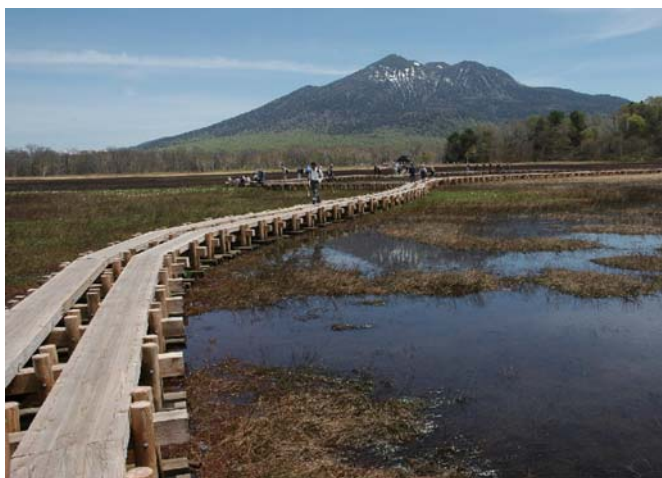
## 7.1 Establishment of Sites for the Promotion of Communication with Nature in Natural Parks

### (1) Natural Park Facility Development and Maintenance Program

In a wide variety of locations, such as National Parks and Quasi-National Parks, the Ministry of the Environment has been working to provide people with opportunities to learn about and experience nature. The Ministry has also been working to establish facilities to conserve and restore the natural environment. The basic goals of these activities are to provide good communication with nature and to ensure coexistence with nature.

This program was initiated in 1994, introducing a new type of public works projects that are closely related to people's livelihoods, and the Ministry has worked hard to promote these projects.

The principles underlie all the projects of this program include: "promotion of communication with nature", "safe and pleasant use", "conservation and restoration of nature" and "multi-dimensional consideration" (people, nature, Earth-friendly, etc.).



Oze National Park Ozegahara

### (2) Development and Maintenance of National Park Facility

Development and maintenance of National Park facilities are implemented by either the national government or the local governments. However, the Ministry of the Environment set priority and directly manages the followings; ①projects in Special Protection Zones or Class I Special Zones that are the core areas of National Parks, ②projects in Facility Complexes that are bases for visitor use, and ③specially required projects such as nature restoration project. Also, the ministry has been conducting conservation programs to improve the habitat environment of wildlife in the national wildlife protection areas since 2007.



Chubu Sangaku National Park Kamikochi Visitor Center



Rebunrishisarobetsu National Park Horonobuenti

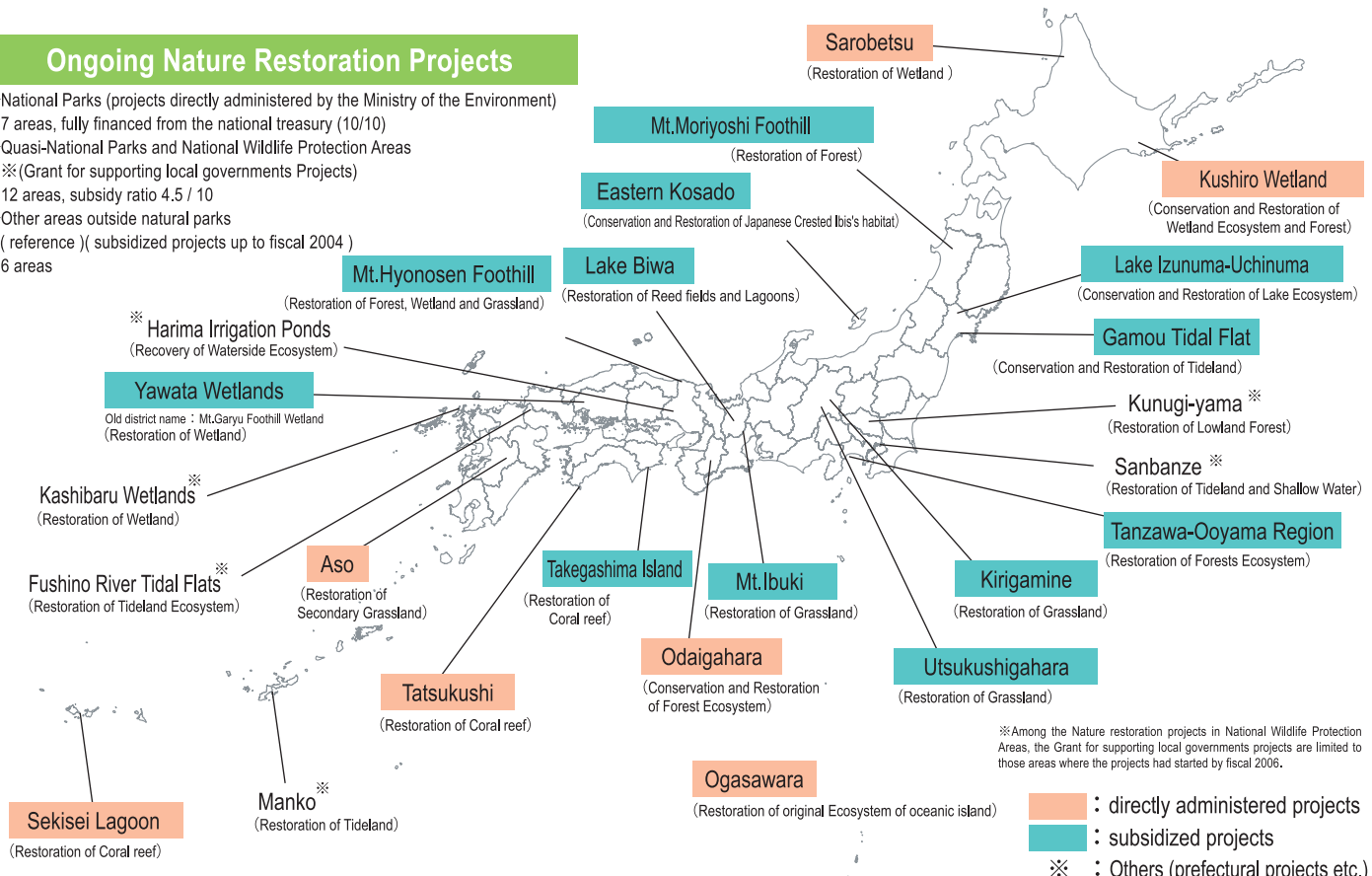
### (3) Development and Maintenance of Quasi-National Park Facility

Development and maintenance of Quasi-National Park facilities are implemented by the local governments. The national government has supported the local governments in facility development and maintenance projects by providing subsidy. In 2005, the national government established a new grant for supporting local governments, and now, the related projects are supported by this grant.

This grant for supporting local governments supports not only the facility development projects in Quasi-National Parks but also Long-Distance Nature Trail Projects (outside National or Quasi-National Parks).

## Ongoing Nature Restoration Projects

- ◆ National Parks (projects directly administered by the Ministry of the Environment)  
7 areas, fully financed from the national treasury (10/10)
- ◆ Quasi-National Parks and National Wildlife Protection Areas  
※(Grant for supporting local governments Projects)  
12 areas, subsidy ratio 4.5 / 10
- ◆ Other areas outside natural parks  
(reference )( subsidized projects up to fiscal 2004 )  
6 areas



### ◆ Grant for supporting local governments projects

This grant is a subsidy to support implementation of the projects based on the facility development and maintenance plan prepared by the prefectural governments. This grant is provided to the prefectural governments in a lump sum, and each prefectural government decides its allocation at their own discretion. Compared to the previous subsidy, this system promotes the local initiative and autonomy.

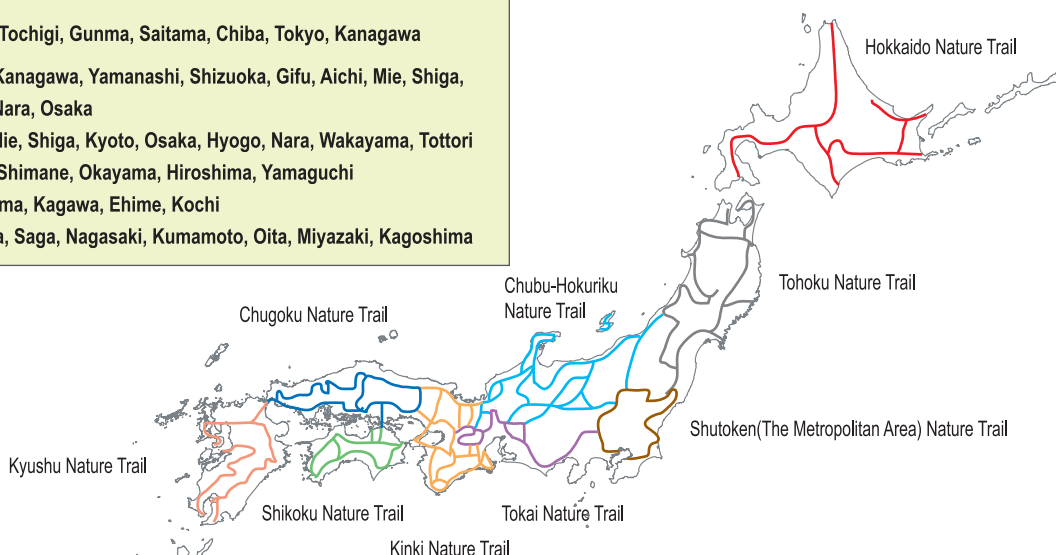
### ◆ Long-Distance Nature Trail Development Projects

Long-distance nature trails form a nationwide network of nature paths, and the trails will allow you to go on a safe, easy and enjoyable walk along scenic areas all the year round. Walking along a trail will give you the opportunity to communicate with diverse natural environments, appreciate local history and culture, and foster a healthy mind and body.

## Long-Distance Nature Trail and Related Prefecture

Hokkaido Nature Trail	Hokkaido
Tohoku Nature Trail	Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, Fukushima
Chubu-Hokuriku Nature Trail	Gunma, Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Nagano, Gifu, Shiga
Shutoken(The Metropolitan Area) Nature Trail	Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa
Tokai Nature Trail	Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka
Kinki Nature Trail	Fukui, Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama, Tottori
Chugoku Nature Trail	Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi
Shikoku Nature Trail	Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi
Kyushu Nature Trail	Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima

## Map of Long-Distance Nature Trail Network





## Four Viewpoints of Facility Development and Maintenance Programs

### Restoration of nature

Facility development and maintenance program is intended to restore degraded mountain trails and surrounding vegetation, and to protect vegetation from herbivores, such as sika deer.



Boardwalk to protect vegetation from being trampled (Numahara Garden, Nikko National Park, Tochigi)

### Vegetation restoration

In alpine areas, where climatic conditions are harsh, it takes a long time for vegetation to recover, if at all, once original vegetation is lost. Hikers trample vegetation along some hiking trails and heavy foot traffic can cause erosion where slopes are steep. Restoring vegetation in alpine areas is a high priority. For this reason, the Ministry of the Environment conducts the minimal infrastructure improvements necessary to protect sensitive vegetation and restore degraded areas.

Protection and restoration of alpine vegetation (Daisen Summit Vegetation Restoration Facility, Daisen-Oki National Park, Tottori)



### Impact of over-abundant herbivores

Wildlife populations can increase when the natural balance in ecosystems is disturbed. Such wildlife can exert serious pressures on vegetation. The Ministry of the Environment attempt Various measures to prevent damage from herbivores.



Deer eating the bark of a tree



Deer barrier (showing the gate) (Odayohara Vegetation Restoration Facility, Nikko National Park, Tochigi)

### Pleasant use

The Ministry of the Environment is working to provide more pleasant environments for visitors by improving the quality of visitor facilities, such as toilets and walking trails, and through refurbishment of Facility Complexes in Natural Parks.

### Refurbishment of camping sites

Old or outdated camping sites are refurbished to meet the contemporary needs. Traditionally, groups and mountaineers have used camping sites. Visitation pattern has been diversified due to recent increase in family use. The functions and facilities needed for camping sites have thus diversified greatly. Sanitary buildings equipped with toilets and showers and camping sites with car-parking spaces are being developed, taking into account impacts on nature and user's trends.



Refurbished restrooms (Chazonobara, Daisen-Oki National Park, Tottori)



Refurbished sanitary building (Nyuto-sanroku Hot Springs Camping site, Towada-Hachimantai National Park, Akita)



Clean and easy-to-use kitchen (Ohara Dam Camping site, Suzuka Quasi-National Park, Shiga)

Refurbished hiking trail (Chubu Sangaku National Park, Nagano)



### Communication with nature

Facility development and maintenance program targets visitor centers as starting point for people's communication with nature, and trails, for safe and pleasant nature education.



Sounkyo Visitor Center, Daisetsuzan National Park, Hokkaido



Unzen Suwanoike Visitor Center, Unzen-Amakusa National Park, Nagasaki



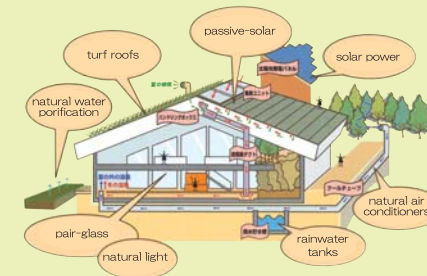
Hiruzen Camping Site, Daisen-Oki National Park, Okayama

### Multi-dimensional consideration

Facility development takes into consideration multiple issues, such as nature, the global environment, and users.

### Taking advantage of natural energy

In the construction of buildings, various technologies are integrated to utilize natural energy.



Timber-paved parking lot (Tanukiko Country Nature School, Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, Shizuoka)



Wheelchair-accessible boardwalk (Rengenuma, Bandai-Asahi National Park, Fukushima)



Visitor Center that uses sunlight (Yokoyama Visitor Center, Ise-Shima National Park, Mie)





## (4) Other Facilities

### ① National Park Resort Villages

National Park Resort Villages are recreational complexes developed in harmony with nature in appropriate places of outstanding nature in National and Quasi-National Parks.

Complexes are composed of various facilities for visitors to enjoy the nature of an area at its best, such as comfortable accommodation at moderate rates. Development started in 1961 and 36 National Park Resort Villages have been established to date.

Among the facilities in National Park Resort Villages, national and local authorities develop public facilities such as picnic sites, walking trails, and camping sites. The National Park Resort Villages of Japan develops and manages fee-for-services facilities, including accommodation and ski lifts.



Urabandai National Resort Village, Bandai-Asahi National Park

### ② Hot Springs

Japan is one of the world's major hot spring nations, and hot springs play a very important role as resorts for people's health and relaxation. As of March 2007, there were 28,090 hot spring sources throughout the country (5,097 naturally flowing, 14,108 equipped with pumping systems, and 8,885 not in use). The total hot water from these sources amounts to approximately 4.03 million tons per day.

To conserve these hot springs, prevent disasters caused by flammable natural gas released during excavation or extraction of hot springs, seek proper utilization of these hot springs, we have the "Hot Springs Law". On the basis of this law, the Minister of the Environment gives the designation of "Hot Spring Health Resorts" to hot springs of good quality. As of March 2008, 91 sites, covering 16,652.75ha, had been designated.

In April, 2007, a partial amendment of the law was made to require that hot spring business operators carry out an analysis of ingredients of hot springs on a regular basis, and update the notice of ingredients of hot springs, etc. In the following November, in view of an explosion accident of flammable natural gas, another amendment was carried to review the criteria for granting permission for excavation of hot springs, and to create a approval system concerning the extraction of hot springs.



Hot Spring Health Resort "Shima-Onsen", Gumma

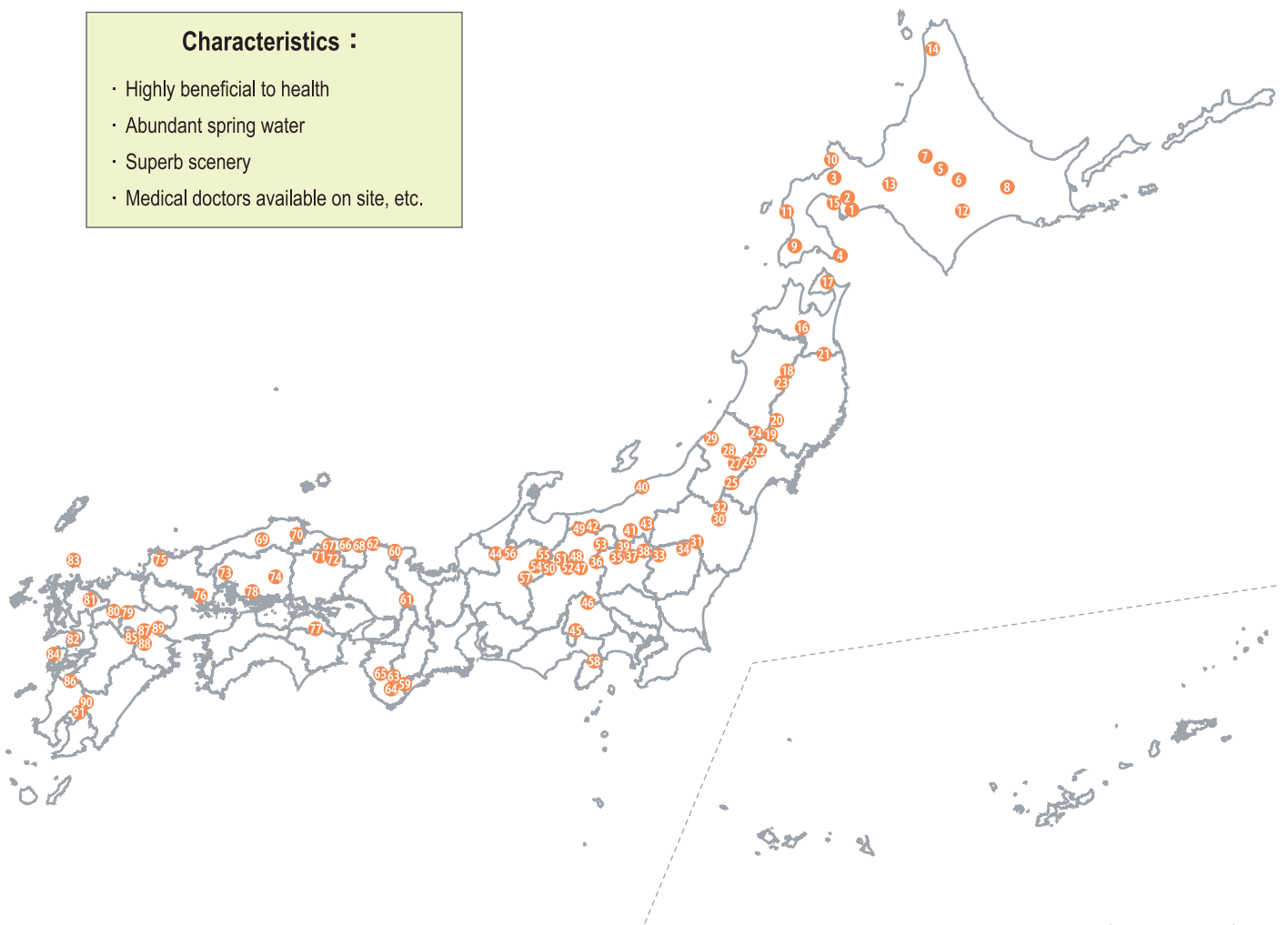


Nature Contact Hot Spring Center, "Kintaichi-Onsen", Iwate

# Hot Spring Health Resort

## Characteristics :

- Highly beneficial to health
- Abundant spring water
- Superb scenery
- Medical doctors available on site, etc.



(as of March 31, 2009)

Hot Spring	Location	Hot Spring	Location	Hot Spring	Location
1 Karurusu	Noboribetsu, Hokkaido	31 Shinkashi	Nishigo, Fukushima	62 Hamasaka	Shinonsen, Hyogo
2 Kitayuzawa	Date, Hokkaido	32 Tuchiyo-Takayu	Fukushima, Fukushima	63 Totsukawa	Totsukawa, Nara
3 Niseko	Rankoshi and Niseko, Hokkaido	33 Nikkoyumoto	Nikko, Tochigi	64 Kumanohongu	Tanabe, Wakayama
4 Esan	Hakodate, Hokkaido	34 Itamuro	Nasushiobara, Tochigi	65 Ryujin	"
5 Tokachidake	Kamifurano, Hokkaido	35 Shima	Nakanajo, Gunma	66 Shikano-Yoshioka	Tottori, Tottori
6 Shikaribetsukyo	Shikaoi, Hokkaido	36 Kazawa	Tsumagoi, Gunma	67 Sekigane	Kurayoshi, Tottori
7 Ashibetsu	Ashibetsu, Hokkaido	37 Kamimoku-Namesawa	Minakami, Gunma	68 Iwai	Iwami, Tottori
8 Meakan	Ashoro, Hokkaido	38 Katashina	Katashina, Gunma	69 Sanbe	Oda, Shimane
9 Yunotai	Kaminokuni, Hokkaido	39 Yuiuku-Kawafuru-Hoshi	Minakami, Gunma	70 Saginoyu	Yasugi, Shimane
10 Sakazuki	Tomari, Hokkaido	40 Yahiko-Iwamuro	Yahiko and Niigata, Niigata	71 Yubara	Maniwa, Okayama
11 Kaitorima	Setana, Hokkaido	41 Muikamachi	Minamiuonuma, Niigata	72 Okutsu	Kagamino, Okayama
12 Makubetsu	Makubetsu, Hokkaido	42 Seki-Tsubame	Myoko, Niigata	73 Yuki-Yunoyama	Hiroshima, Hiroshima
13 Naganuma	Naganuma, Hokkaido	43 Tochiomata-Komanoyu	Uonuma, Niigata	74 Yano	Fuchu, Hiroshima
14 Toyotomi	Toyotomi, Hokkaido	44 Hakusan	Hakusan, Ishikawa	75 Tawarayama	Nagato, Yamaguchi
15 Toya-Hidamari	Toyako, Hokkaido	45 Shimobe	Minobu, Yamanashi	76 Mitsuo	Shunan, Yamaguchi
16 Sukayu	Aomori, Aomori	46 Masutomi	Hokuto, Yamanashi	77 Shionoe	Takamatsu, Kagawa
17 Yagen	Mutsu, Aomori	47 Maruko	Ueda, Nagano	78 Yunoura	Imabari, Ehime
18 Hachimantai	Hachimantai, Iwate; Semboku Kazuno, Akita	48 Tazawa-Kutsukake	Aoki, Nagano	79 Chikugogawa	Ukiha, Fukuoka
19 Sukawa Shin'yu	Ichinoseki, Iwate	49 Otari	Otari, Nagano	80 Yoshii	"
20 Geto	Kitakami, Iwate	50 Shirahone	Matsumoto, Nagano	81 Furuyu-Kumanokawa	Saga, Saga
21 Kintaichi	Ninohe, Iwate	51 Ariake-Hotaka	Azumino, Nagano	82 Unzen-Obama	Unzen, Nagasaki
22 Okunaruko-Kawatani	Osaki, Miyagi	52 Utsukushigahara	Matsumoto, Nagano	83 Ikiyunomoto	Iki, Nagasaki
23 Tazawako Kogen	Semboku, Akita	53 Kutsuno	Yamanouchi, Nagano	84 Amakusashimoda	Amakusa, Kumamoto
24 Akinomiya	Yuzawa, Akita	54 Hirayu	Takayama, Gifu	85 Minamioguni	Minamioguni, Kumamoto
25 Zao	Yamagata, Yamagata	55 Okuhida	"	86 Yunotsuru	Minamata, Kumamoto
26 Ginzan	Obanazawa, Yamagata	56 Shirakawagohirase	Shirakawa, Gifu	87 Yufuin	Yufu, Oita
27 Goten	Murayama, Yamagata	57 Osaka	Gero, Gifu	88 Nagayu	Taketa, Oita
28 Hijiori	Okura, Yamagata	58 Hatake-Nagoya	Izunokuni and Kannami, Shizuoka	89 Kannawa-Myoban-Shibaseki	Beppu, Oita
29 Yutagawa	Tsuruoka, Yamagata	59 Yunokuchi	Kumano, Mie	90 Kirishima	Kirishima, Kagoshima
30 Dake	Nihonmatsu, Fukushima	60 Kuminohama	Kyotango, Kyoto	91 Hayato-Shinkawaikoku	"
		61 Rurikeikogen	Nantan, Kyoto		



## 7.2 Promotion of Activities for Communication with Nature

The Ministry of the Environment conducts the following measures to provide people with communication with nature so that they may acquire a better understanding of and more sensitivity toward nature. It is expected that these measures will encourage people to actively and voluntarily engage in conservation of the natural environment.

### (1) Provision of Opportunities for Communication with Nature

Visitor's bases in National Parks, such as visitor centers and nature schools, provide visitors with interpretation, and various programs and activities to experience nature and to promote a better understanding of nature.

In addition, April 15-May 14 of each year is designated as "Green Month", July 21-August 20 as "Campaign to Communication with Nature", and October as the "Month for Nature Trail Walking". Many events, such as nature observation, take place nationwide during these periods. The Ministry also calls for each prefecture to initiate events that provide opportunities for people to have communication with nature.

The Ministry of the Environment organizes "National Nature Park Conference" every year. In this conference, the ministry honors those who have contributed to the promotion of natural parks with a commendation from the Environment Minister, holds a symposium on ecotourism takes participants on an on-site eco-tour program and provides other programs. This event aims at deepening people's understanding of nature, promoting sustainable use of natural parks and fostering respect for nature. Children are also given opportunities to experience nature and to learn the importance of the environment and the spirit of contributing to society. Junior Park Ranger Programs in National Parks across the country provide opportunities for children to experience the jobs of the nature conservation officers (the "Rangers"), such as patrolling, promoting visitor's etiquette, and conducting research on nature.



Junior Park Ranger

### (2) Training Personnel to Support Communication with Nature

#### ① Training Personnel to Support Nature Experience

Interaction with nature can help children grow up in a healthy way, and develop sensitivity towards nature, so that they learn to take appropriate action to environmental issues. Activities in nature "through the five senses" will become fundamental

experience for children's personal growth and (the formation of) their environmental awareness. Therefore, the Ministry of the Environment is conducting training programs for those who support nature experience.



I get close naturally

#### ② Encouragement of Volunteer Activities

In recent years, increasing numbers of people are eager to contribute directly to nature conservation. In National and Quasi-National Parks, there are about 3,000 Natural Park Advisers, at the request of the Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau, actively participating in instructing visitors on etiquette in the parks. "Park Volunteers", recruited from the general public by Regional Environment Office, assist the Offices in offering nature interpretation. Currently, about 1,800 people are registered as park volunteers in 25 National Parks around the country, and are taking an active part in clean-up campaigns and interpretation activities.

#### (3) Provision of Information

The Ministry of the Environment works to establish networks among nature lovers and providers of nature activities. It disseminates information on nature-related events via, for example, the internet in Ministry of the Environment homepage ("Nature Lovers Club").



"Nature Lovers Club" (<http://www.env.go.jp/nature/nats/>)



## 7.3 Promotion of Ecotourism

The ministry of the Environment defines ecotourism as tourism to experience and understand the natural environment, history and culture that are unique to the area, and to be responsible for their conservation. Practice of ecotourism in the area contributes to: environment conservation by protecting local natural environment and cultural resources; promotion of tourism by creating more demand for tourism; revitalization of the local community by ensuring job security; and also utilization as a place for environmental education is expected. To implement ecotourism, it is necessary to have cooperation among tourists, travel agencies, local residents and a variety of local industries.

### Efforts to promote ecotourism by the Ministry of the Environment

#### (1) Ecotourism Promotion Measures

To promote and establish ecotourism, the ministry, in accordance with the proposals from the "Conference on Promoting Ecotourism", an advisory body of experts, has been implementing the following five promotion measures since 2004.

##### ① Ecotourism Charter

Ecotourism Charter was formulated to promote the principles of ecotourism in a comprehensible form.

##### ② List of Ecotour

The website of the Ministry of the Environment that provides the information of ecotour programs nationwide. (<http://ecotourism.jp/>)

##### ③ Ecotourism Award

The Minister of the Environment will give an award to excellent activities in which ecotourism operators and communities organizing ecotourism focus on natural environment or the development of local communities.

##### ④ Manual for Promoting Ecotourism

The ministry has compiled a manual and made it available on its website for those promoting ecotourism in their local communities. It will instruct you in the basic method or some important points of promoting ecotourism. (<http://www.env.go.jp/nature/ecotourism/manual.html>)

##### ⑤ Model Projects

The Ministry of Environment supported 13 model sites that futuristically worked on ecotourism (FY2004-2006). Since 2007, it has started support projects to promote appropriate operation of ecotourism at the Natural World Heritage sites and the candidate sites for the Heritage.



A snowshoe experience



A canoe experience

#### (2) Other Promotion Measures

Besides these five promotion measures, the Ministry of the Environment, in accordance with the Ecotourism Promotion Law, which was established and now is in force, has been implementing other measures such as raising public awareness by organizing symposiums, offering support based on the law to regions that operate ecotourism, accumulating know-how about ecotourism and developing human resources in an integrated manner. These measures are aimed at further promotion of ecotourism by helping ecotourism operators take advantage of regional characteristics while ensuring the conservation of natural environment.

#### Establishment of the Ecotourism Promotion Law

The Ecotourism Promotion Law, which defines the comprehensive framework for ecotourism activities that are promoted in local areas, was passed and established in June, 2007, and came into effect in April, 2008. In the following June, "the Basic Policies for Promotion of Ecotourism", which the government had formulated based on the Ecotourism Promotion Law was approved by the Cabinet (meeting).

The Conference on Promotion of Ecotourism organized by municipalities will make a grand design according to the Ecotourism Promotion Law, and the ensuing government's approval of the grand design will make the following actions possible.

##### ① Conservation of natural tourism resources

By designating those resources as specified natural tourism resources, the municipalities can take protective measures to prohibit staining and damaging (certain) natural tourism resources, and behaviors disturbing to (other) tourists in the area where they are located.

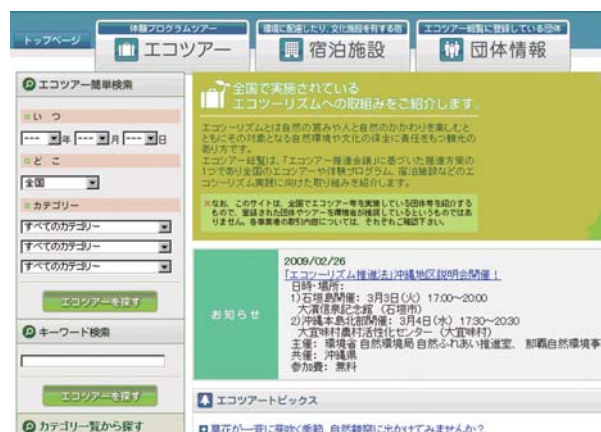
##### ② Entrance restriction

The municipalities can restrict the number of people entering the area where specified natural tourism resources are located if necessary.

##### ③ Public relations

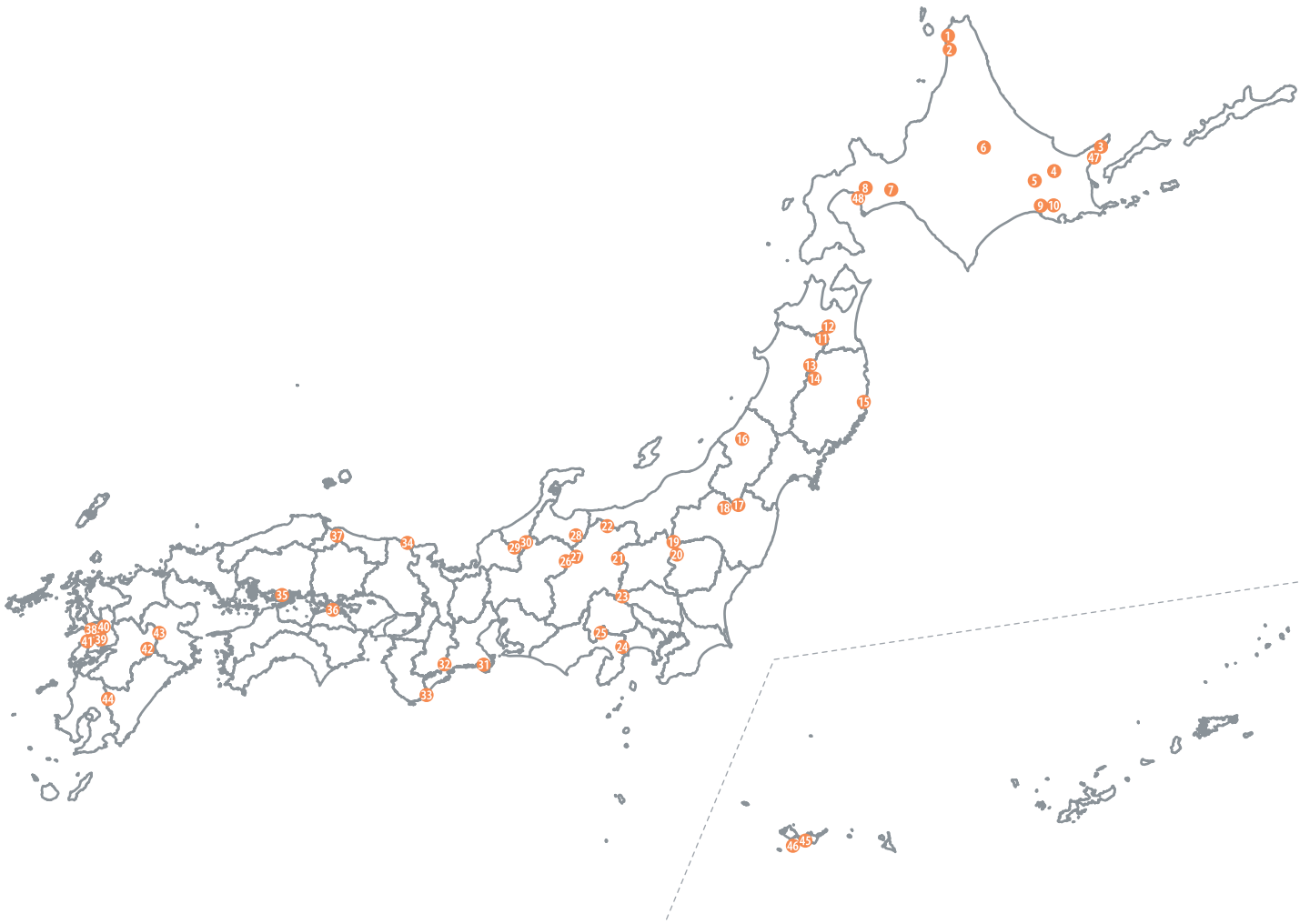
The government will publicize ecotourism programs promoted in the approved region nationwide.

※"Natural tourism resources" involves fauna and flora, their habitats and traditional cultures of local communities in the destinations of ecotourism.



"Comprehensive List of Ecotour" Website <http://ecotourism.jp/>

# MOE Visitor Centers in National Parks



(as of March 31, 2009)

National Park	Visitor Center	Location	National Park	Visitor Center	Location
Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu	1 Sarobetsu Natural Flower Garden country school	Toyotomi, Hokkaido	Chubusangaku	26 Kamikochi Visitor Center	Matsumoto, Nagano
Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu	2 Horonobe Visitor Center	Horonobe, Hokkaido	Chubusangaku	27 Kamikochi Information Center	Matsumoto, Nagano
Shiretoko	3 Rausu Visitor Center (old)	Rausu, Hokkaido	Chubusangaku	28 Tateyama Center	Tateyama Toyama
Akan	4 Kawayu Eco-museum Center	Teshikaga, Hokkaido	Hakusan	29 Ichinose Visitor Center	Hakusan, Ishikawa
Akan	5 Akan Lakeside Eco-museum Center	Kushiro, Hokkaido	Hakusan	30 Chugu-Onsen Visitor Center	Hakusan, Ishikawa
Daisetsuzan	6 Sounkyo Visitor Center	Kamikawa, Hokkaido	Ise-Shima	31 Yokoyama Visitor Center	Shima, Mie
Shikotsu-Toya	7 Shikotsu Lake Visitor Center	Chitose, Hokkaido	Yoshino-Kumano	32 Odaigahara Visitor Center	Kamikitayama, Nara
Shikotsu-Toya	8 Toya-Takarada Nature Experience House	Toyako, Hokkaido	Yoshino-Kumano	33 Ugu Visitor Center	Nachikatsuura Wakayama
Kushiroshitsugen	9 Onnenai Visitor Center	Tsurui, Hokkaido	San'in-kaigan	34 Takeno Snorkel Center Visitor Center	Toyooka, Hyogo
Kushiroshitsugen	10 Lake Toro Eco-Museum Center	Shibecha, Hokkaido	Setonaikai	35 Okunoshima Visitor Center	Takehara, Hiroshima
Towada-Hachimantai	11 Towada Visitor Center	Towada, Aomori	Setonaikai	36 Gosikidai Visitor Center	Sakaide, Kagawa
Towada-Hachimantai	12 Tsuta Onsen Visitor Center	Towada, Aomori	Daisen-Oki	37 Daisen Information Center	Daisen, Tottori
Towada-Hachimantai	13 Hachimantai Visitor Center	Kazuno, Akita	Unzen-Amakusa	38 Unzen Mountain Information Center annex (Unzen Park Visitor Center)	Unzen, Nagasaki
Towada-Hachimantai	14 Amihari Visitor Center	Shizuisi, Iwate	Unzen-Amakusa	39 Unzen Mountain Information Center	Unzen, Nagasaki
Rikuchukaigan	15 Miyako Visitor Center	Miyako, Iwate	Unzen-Amakusa	40 Heisei Shinzan Nature Center	Shimabara, Nagasaki
Bandai-Asahi	16 Tsukiyama Visitor Center	Tsuruoka, Yamagata	Unzen-Amakusa	41 Unzen Suwa-pond Visitor Center	Unzen, Nagasaki
Bandai-Asahi	17 Jododaira Visitor Center	Fukushima, Fukushima	Aso-Kuju	42 Minami-Aso Visitor Center	Takamori, Kumamoto
Bandai-Asahi	18 Urabandai Visitor Center	Kitashiobara, Fukushima	Aso-Kuju	43 Chojahara Visitor Center	Kokonoe, Oita
Nikko	19 Ozenuma Visitor Center	Hinoeki-, Fukushima	Kirishima-Yaku	44 Ebino Eco-museum Center	Ebino, Miyazaki
Nikko	20 Nikko-Yumoto Visitor Center	Nikko, Tochigi	Iriomote-Ishigaki	45 Taketomi Yuga-kan	Taketomi, Okinawa
Joshin'etsukogen	21 Kazawa Information Center	Tsumagoi, Gunma	Iriomote-Ishigaki	46 Kuroshima Visitor Center	Taketomi, Okinawa
Joshin'etsukogen	22 Kasagamine Mini-Visitor Center	Myoko, Niigata	Shiretoko	47 Rausu Visitor Center (new)	Rausu, Hokkaido
Chichibu-Tama-Kai	23 Mokiba Mini-Visitor Center	Kawakami, Nagano	Shikotsu-Toya	48 Lake Toya Visitor Center	Toyoko, Hokkaido
Fuji-Hakone-Izu	24 Hakone Visitor Center	Hakone, Kanagawa			
Fuji-Hakone-Izu	25 Lake Tanuki Nature School	Fujinomiya, Shizuoka			

# 8 .Welfare and Proper Management of Animals

The Ministry of the Environment aims at raising a spirit for animal welfare among people and preventing animals from doing harm to humans, based on the "Act on Welfare and Management of Animals". So the ministry is putting efforts into raising public awareness of welfare and proper management of animals, and preventing abandonment of animals or cruelty towards them, and is promoting such measures as regulations on animal handling business, measures for preservation of the living environment, measures to prevent animals from causing infringement on the life of humans, and measures to ensure responsibilities of owners and possessors of animals. Moreover, in June, 2008, the "Law for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food" was passed to help maintain the health of pet animals and promote protection and welfare of pet animals.

## Act on Welfare and Management of Animals

The "Act on Welfare and Management of Animals" provides for appropriate treatment and management of animals.

### Fundamental Principle

The guiding principle underlying this law is that all people should recognize and respect the lives of animals. All people should not only refrain from abusing animals, but also treat animals with sound knowledge of their behavior, in order to realize a society in which people and animals can live together comfortably.

### Responsibilities of Animal Owners

The owners of animals are obliged to maintain the health and safety of animals, and be responsible for the animal's behaviors to prevent harm and trouble to other people. Owners shall try to show their ownership of animals in appropriate ways. They are also expected to have correct knowledge of infectious diseases related to animals.

### Regulations for Animal Handling Business Operators

Those who sell, keep, lend, train or display animals as a business shall register to the governor of the prefecture concerned. Governors are authorized to give recommendations or orders to business owners if there are problems with their facilities and/or treatment of animals. Governors have closedown orders on a vicious supplier.

### Measures Pertaining to Preservation of The Living Environment

When one keeps many animals and it causes negative impacts on the living environment of his/her neighborhood, the governor of the prefecture may recommend or order the owner to take necessary remedial measures.

### Restriction on The Care and Keeping of Specified Animals (Dangerous Animals)

Those who intend to keep animals categorized by the government as dangerous animals are required to obtain a permission of the prefectural governor. The owners of the specified animals have to make sure proper management of their pet animals by using microchips for ownership identification and making their feeding facilities strong enough to prevent the animals from escaping.

### Efforts by The Government and Municipalities

So that a deeper interest in and better understanding of the welfare of animals and appropriate ways of keeping animals can take firm root in society, one week from 20 to 26 September of each year is designated as "Be Kind to Animals Week". The national and local authorities hold events for this purpose. Furthermore, in order to promote measures for welfare and management of animals comprehensively, the Minister of the Environment formulates basic guidelines and then prefectural governors draw up plans for promoting measures. The governors and local organizations concerned may appoint Animal Welfare Promoters and may also organize councils of other parties to support the activities of Animal Welfare Promoters.

### Penal Provisions

There are penal provisions for such offenses as killing pets with no reasons, abandoning them and abusing them.

(\*) The term "protected animals" involves cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, domestic rabbits, chickens, domestic pigeons, domestic ducks and other mammals, birds and reptiles that people possess.



## Law for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food

To prevent damage to pet animal health from pet food and ensure the safety of pet animals, the "Law for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food" was established in June, 2008 (effective June, 2009). This law sets the standards and specifications for pet food for dogs and cats, and prohibits producing, importing and selling pet food that falls short of these standards and specifications and contains harmful ingredients. If any problems arise, the government may order the makers who caused the problems to recall their products and dispose of them. The law provides for penal provisions against malicious offenders.



# 9 .National Gardens etc.

The Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace, Shinjuku Gyoen and Kyoto Gyoen were opened to the public as national gardens in 1949. Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery tomb of unknown war dead was established in 1959.

## National Gardens and National Cemetery

### Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace



This Garden covers 115.1 ha, including the Palace Plaza, Kitanomaru Area, and 12 moats surrounding the Imperial Palace. The Palace Plaza maintains a beauty and tranquility befitting the fore garden of the Palace with 2,000 pine trees, lawn and moats. Some 450,000 tons of water in the moats are purified through a filtration system. Wadakura Fountain Park combines fountains and waterfalls of various size for an arranged water display. Kitanomaru Area has been managed as a forest park with some 130,000 trees of 175 species.

### Shinjuku Gyoen

This is a representative garden of the Meiji era, and is a fine example of western-style gardens in Japan. The 58.3 ha site contains 20,000 trees, including 1,300 cherry trees, for people to enjoy varied scenery through the four seasons. A greenhouse in the garden exhibits tropical plants. Chrysanthemums grown following the Imperial Family tradition are exhibited every November. The information center, which explains the Garden and its natural environment, offers the public conservation education and facilitates for contact with nature.



### Kyoto Gyoen



This Imperial Garden (63.3 ha) is located in the center of Kyoto city, surrounding the Kyoto Imperial Palace and Sendo Imperial Palace, where more than 200 houses of princes and nobles once stood. Historic remnants of old buildings, such as Hamaguri Gomon and "Shusuitei", a Kujo Family second home remains in the Garden. A "Forest for Mothers and Children" and a "Dragonfly Pond" have been created; these are frequently used for nature observation and other events.

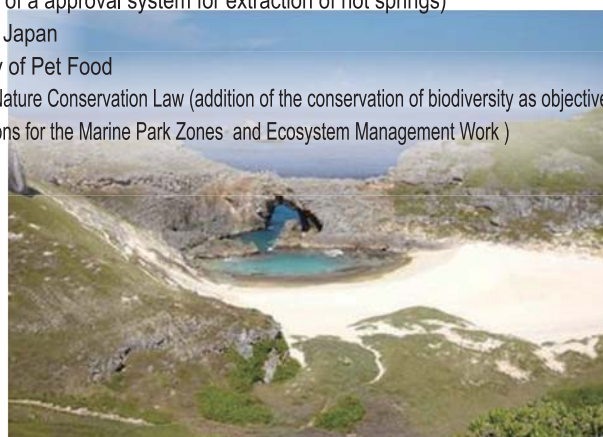
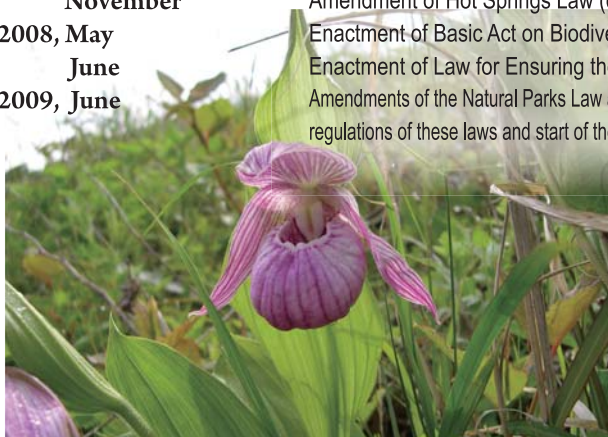
### Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery

This cemetery houses the tomb of the unknown war dead from the Second World War. As of May 2005, 352,926 people had been laid to rest in Rokkakudo House. Memorial services are held by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare every spring, and other memorial services are held under the sponsorship of various groups throughout the year. Trees are densely leafed in this 1.6 ha cemetery, creating a calm and solemn atmosphere befitting its role.



# 10 . A Brief History of Administration and Management for Nature Conservation

1985, March	Enactment of the Hunting Law
1931, April	Enactment of the National Parks Law
1948, July	Enactment of the Hot Springs Law
1957, June	Enactment of the Natural Parks Law
1963, March	Amendment of the Hunting Law into the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law
1971, July	Establishment of the Environment Agency
1972, June	Enactment of the Nature Conservation Law
1973, October	Cabinet adoption of the Basic Policies for Nature Conservation
	Enactment of the Law Relating to Protection and Management of Animals
1973	Commencement of the National Surveys on the Natural Environment (Green Census)
1980, October	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) came into effect for Japan
November	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) came into effect for Japan
1992, June	Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Enactment of the Species Conservation Law)
September	Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) came into effect for Japan
1993, November	Enactment of the Basic Environment Law
December	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into effect for Japan
1994, December	Cabinet adoption of the Basic Environment Plan
1995, October	Adoption of the National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity by the Council of Ministers concerned with Global Environment Conservation
1997, May	Enactment of the Law on Preservation of Fauna and Flora in the Antarctic Region
June	Enactment of the Environment Impact Assessment Law
1998, June	Opening of the Biodiversity Center of Japan (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
1999, June	Amendment of the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law (start of the Specified Wildlife Management System)
December	Amendment of the Law Relating to Protection and Management of Animals into the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals
2000, December	Cabinet adoption of the New Basic Environment Plan
2001, January	Establishment of the Ministry of the Environment
2002, March	Adoption of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan by the Council of Related Ministers for Global Environment Conservation
April	Amendment of the Natural Parks Law (establishment of provisions for Regulated Utilization Zones, Scenic Landscape Protection Agreements and Park Management Organizations)
July	Amendment of the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law into the Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law
December	Enactment of the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration
2003, June	Enactment of the Cartagena Law (Law concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity through Regulations on the Use of Living Modified Organisms)
2004, June	Enactment of the Invasive Alien Species Act
2005, June	Amendment of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (formulation of the basic guidelines, setting of standards for animal handling business and promotion of measures for ownership identification etc.)
October	Establishment of Regional Environment Offices
October	Adoption of the Results of Inspection for the Operations of National Biodiversity Strategy by the Council of Related Government Agencies concerned with National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan
2006, June	Amendment of Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law (revision of regulation on hunting and enhancement of wildlife management measures)
2007, April	Amendment of Hot Springs Law (requirement of periodical analyses of ingredients of hot springs and update of notices)
June	Enactment of Ecotourism Promotion Measures
November	Cabinet adoption of The 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan
November	Amendment of Hot Springs Law (creation of a approval system for extraction of hot springs)
2008, May	Enactment of Basic Act on Biodiversity of Japan
June	Enactment of Law for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food
2009, June	Amendments of the Natural Parks Law and the Nature Conservation Law (addition of the conservation of biodiversity as objective regulations of these laws and start of the provisions for the Marine Park Zones and Ecosystem Management Work )





# 11. Collection and Use of Information

National Survey on the Natural Environment has been undertaken, in order to document the current status of the natural environment and changes taking place, and to collect basic data from across Japan. The survey results are used in various fields concerned with nature conservation, including research, administration and education. The Biodiversity Center of Japan conducts surveys of the nation's natural environment, and collects, maintains and shares with the public the data and information gathered.

## 11.1 National Survey on the Natural Environment

### (1) What's "National Survey on the Natural Environment"

National Survey on the Natural Environment (the Survey) is also called "Green Census". The Ministry of the Environment has been undertaking the Survey approximately every five years since 1973, based on Article 4 of the Nature Conservation Law. The purposes of the Survey are to document the current status of the natural environment of the country as a whole and changes that are taking place, and to prepare basic data and information for drawing up nature conservation policies. Summaries of these surveys are below (5.2).

The results of the Survey are published in many forms such as printed reports, maps, digital information, etc., and are open to the public. They also provide a primary source of information about the natural environment for nature conservation administration, such as designation and planning of natural parks, environmental impact assessments and other purposes.

#### Nature Conservation Law, Article 4

The State shall endeavor to conduct at approximately five-year intervals surveys of the topography, geology, fauna and flora and other basic surveys as necessary for building the policies to be taken for the conservation of the natural environment.

### (2) Timeline for the Survey

#### ◆ The First National Survey (1973)

There had been no national surveys to collect basic data and information about the natural environment until 1973, when survey was first undertaken. The survey was intended to aid in understanding the current status of the natural environment nationwide, scientifically and comprehensively; to clarify what existed and what was in need of preservation; and to prepare basic data for the enhancement of nature conservation administration.

#### ◆ The Second National Survey (1978~1979)

The Second Survey was planned with a focus on an all-inclusive and objective collection of basic information on the natural environment. Actual vegetation maps (1:50,000 scale) were prepared (mapping was completed countrywide after the Third National Survey), and mammal distribution survey was conducted.

#### ◆ The Third National Survey (1983~1987)

Comprehensive and objective basic information on the natural environment was continuously gathered, in order to determine changes in natural conditions after the Second Survey. Additional surveys included Natural Landscape Resources and Survey of Common Wildlife.

#### ◆ The Fourth National Survey (1988~1992)

The Fourth Survey took place. As in the Third Survey, inclusive and objective information gathering and determinations of changes since the last survey was conducted. Additional surveys included surveys of big trees and of marine organisms biological environments (seaweed beds, tidal flats and coral reefs).

#### ◆ The Fifth National Survey (1993~1999)

Wetland survey and coastline survey were conducted, mainly to generate data for comparison with the data and information collected during previous surveys. Survey with a new framework, namely a "biodiversity survey" and a "national survey of the marine natural environment" started in 1994 and 1997 respectively.

#### ◆ The Sixth National Survey (1999~2004)

The Sixth Survey include: projects for overall renewal of the actual vegetation maps changing the scale from 1:50,000, as prepared in the Second and Third Survey, to 1:25,000; medium-to-large mammal distribution survey to compare the current status with that reported in the Second Survey; and tidal flats and seaweed beds surveys using a unified method.

#### ◆ The Seventh National Survey (2004~2009)

The Seventh Survey has been continuously started after the Sixth Survey. They are the vegetation surveys for the renewal of the actual vegetation map (1/25,000); the coast and neritic region surveys on the biota of tidal flats, seaweed beds etc. and the census and habitation surveys on five species of medium-to-large mammals that have a significant impact on agriculture and forestry or ecosystems and some other surveys.



Specified mammals distribution survey (Japanese shika deer)

## 11.2 Monitoring Sites 1000

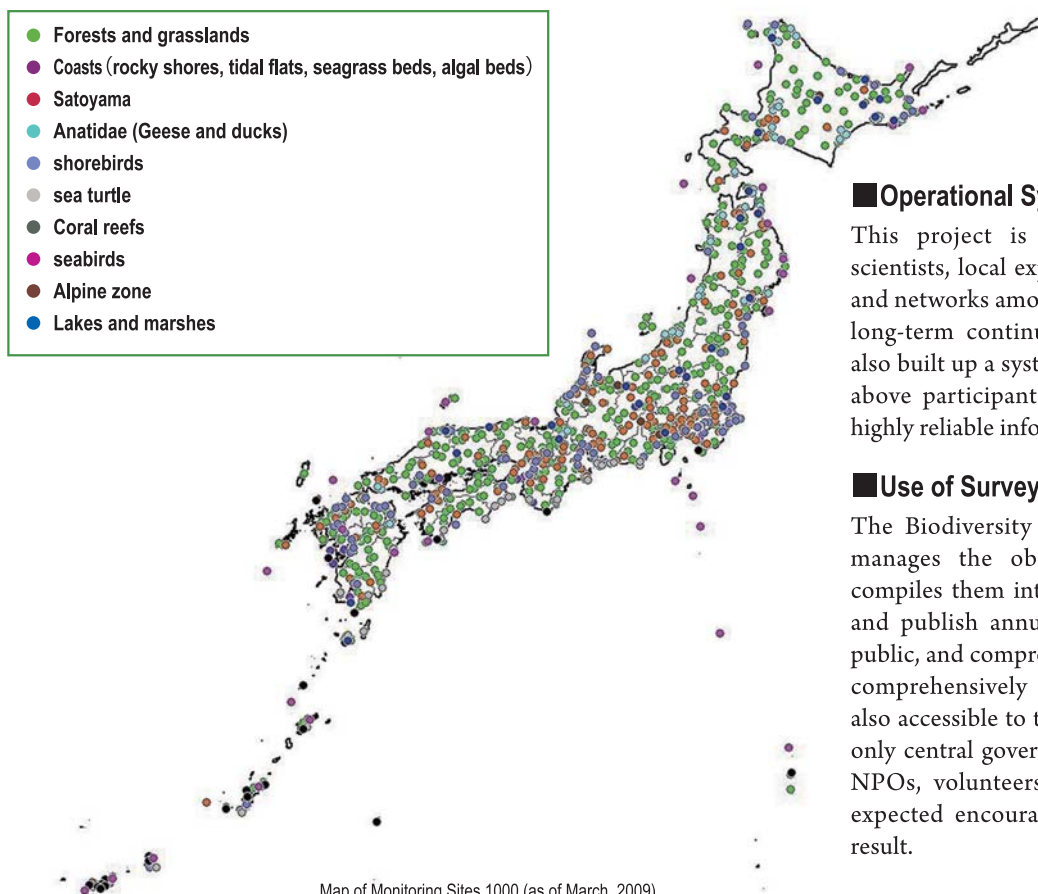
The "Monitoring Sites 1000" project was launched in fiscal 2003 in accordance the Second National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan. This is a long-term ecosystem monitoring project at about 1000 monitoring sites in various types of ecosystems throughout Japan -such as alpine zones, forests, grasslands, Satoyama, lakes and marshes, sandy beaches, rocky shores, tidal flats, seagrass beds, Algal beds, coral reefs and, islands and islets. The project aims to detect signs of ecosystem degradation, such as decrease of the population size in particular species, as early as possible by analyzing the monitoring results, and to contribute to prompt and appropriate measures for biodiversity conservation.



Monitoring Sites 1000  
Since 2003

"Monitoring Sites 1000" Logo mark

- Forests and grasslands
- Coasts (rocky shores, tidal flats, seagrass beds, algal beds)
- Satoyama
- Anatidae (Geese and ducks)
- shorebirds
- sea turtle
- Coral reefs
- seabirds
- Alpine zone
- Lakes and marshes



Map of Monitoring Sites 1000 (as of March, 2009)

### Operational System

This project is conducted in cooperation with scientists, local experts, NPOs and volunteer citizens, and networks among them has been developed for this long-term continuous survey. The government has also built up a system for sharing information with the above participants so as to quickly collect and use highly reliable information.

### Use of Survey Results

The Biodiversity Center of Japan accumulates and manages the obtained data on the monitoring, compiles them into available information and figures and publish annual reports or news letters for the public, and comprehensively analyze the survey results comprehensively every five years. These results are also accessible to the public through the website. Not only central governments but also local governments, NPOs, volunteers, researchers and schools will be expected encourage to use of this information and result.

Survey items and number for the Monitoring Sites 1000 project (as of March, 2009)

Ecosystem types		Site categories	Major survey subjects	Site number	Surveyors	
Terrestrial	Alpine zone		During examination	5	Scientists/experts	
	Forests and grasslands	Core	①vegetation ②tree census ③litter ④ground beetles ⑤terrestrial birds	19	Scientists/experts	
		Sub-core	①vegetation ②tree census ③terrestrial birds	25	Scientists/experts	
		Satellite	①vegetation ②terrestrial birds	422	Citizen collaborators	
	Satoyama	Core	①human impacts ②herbaceous plants ③aquatic environments ④indicate faunas	18	Citizen collaborators	
Satellite		one of the survey subjects of core sites	179	Citizen collaborators		
Inland waters	Lakes and marshes	Core	①vegetation ②plankton ③fishes	30	Scientists/experts	
		Satellite	①vegetation ②Anatidae	81	Citizen collaborators	
Marine	Coasts and shallow seas	Sandy beach	①area, vegetation ②sea turtle egg-laying	41	Citizen collaborators	
		Rocky shore	benthos	6	Scientists/experts	
		Tidal flats	Core	benthos	8	Scientists/experts
			Core	①tidal flat structures ②shorebirds	123	Citizen collaborators
			Satellite			
		Seagrass beds	①seagrass ②benthos	6	Scientists/experts	
		Algal beds	①algal vegetation ②benthos	6	Scientists/experts	
		Coral reefs	①substrate, turbidity ②coral coverage, community type, crown-of-thorns starfish population	24	Scientists/experts	
Islets	①vegetation ②avifauna ③focus species	30	Scientists/experts			
<b>Total</b>				<b>1023</b>		

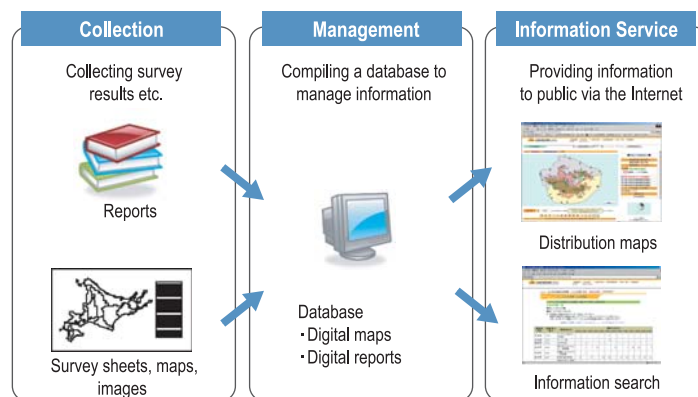


## 11.3 Information Service

### (1) Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System (J-IBIS)

The Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System (J-IBIS) is an integrated system to collect, manage and provide a broad range of biodiversity information, especially the results of the National Survey on the Natural Environment. Digital data of reports, maps (GIS data) and other survey results are made available to public via the Internet. J-IBIS has been practically used in a variety of areas including nature conservation administration, environmental assessment, environmental education and NGO activities.

(URL: <http://www.biodic.go.jp/english/J-IBIS>)



### (2) Internet Nature Information System

In order to protect the environment, it is important for the Ministry of the Environment to share information so that people individually come to realize the richness of nature. The Ministry has therefore opened the Internet Nature Information System so that people can examine nature more closely, and actively gather information over the Internet.

(URL: <http://www.sizenken.biodic.go.jp>)

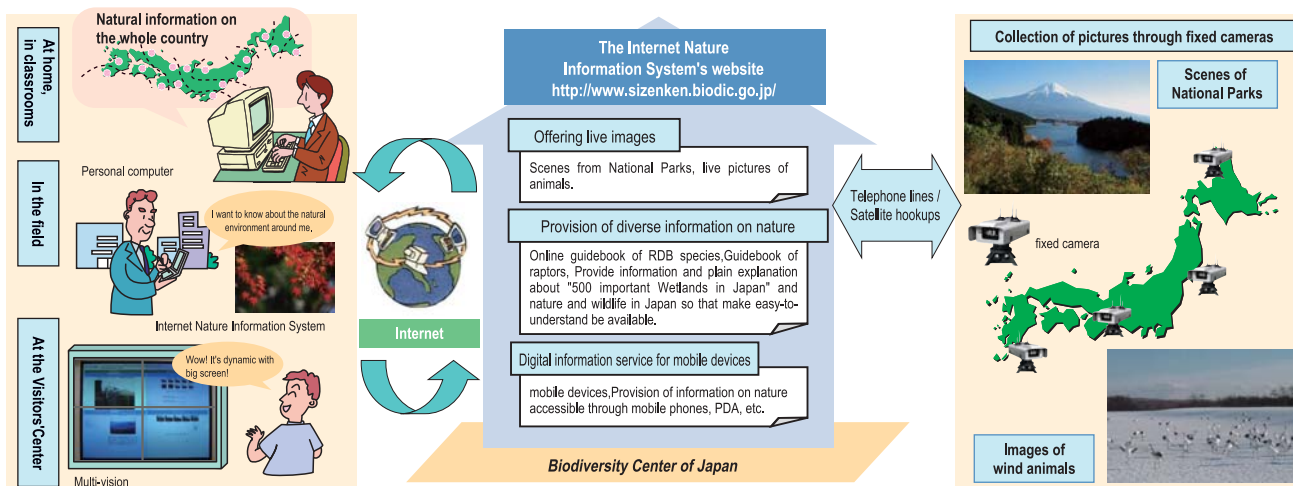
#### ■ Live images of nature from nationwide

Live images of National Parks and wild animals, from fixed cameras set up in 40 locations or more around the country, can be viewed over the Internet.

#### ■ Provision of various kinds of information on nature

In addition to the information mentioned above, this information system provides (Online guidebook of Red Data Book species), information on "500 important Wetlands in Japan" selected by the Ministry of the Environment, websites for you to learn about nature from season to season in Japan (party Japanese version only).

#### Internet Nature Information System



### (3) Biodiversity Information Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)

Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Biodiversity Center of Japan developed the "Biodiversity Information Clearing-House System" as a mechanism to promote exchange of information related to biodiversity. CHM operates on the website and compiles a database of information (metadata) including the contents, location and access methods.

of biodiversity information scattered all over the nation. The database is open to the public, and users are able to know the location of and access to relevant information easily via the Internet, by searching metadata registered by the information holders.

(URL: <http://www.chm.biodic.go.jp/> (Japanese version only) )

### (4) Natural Environment Information GIS

Natural Environment Information GIS is a data set of electronic data with geospatial information on natural environment are compiled by using the Geographic Information so that users can access it easily. This system provides such information as the National Survey results accumulated by the Ministry of the

Environment. It can be downloaded from J-IBIS, or is available in the form of DVD, CD, etc. Natural Environment Information GIS is being used in various fields including some administrative branches of the government in charge of environmental conservation, research, education, etc.

## 11.4 Biodiversity Center of Japan

As called for in the National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity, the Biodiversity Center of Japan was established in 1998 under the former Environment Agency. The Center promotes network of people and information for conservation of biodiversity through fulfillment of its four functions in an integrated manner: survey, information, specimen and documents, and publicity.

The Biodiversity Center plays an important role as a clearinghouse for general information on the nation's natural environment and biodiversity, through such means as supporting the planning of conservations and NGOs, and providing natural environment information for environmental impact assessments.

### Functions

#### SURVEY

##### Implementation of the National Survey on the Natural Environment and Monitoring-site 1000 etc.

The Center organizes and carries out basic national surveys of vegetation, flora and fauna distribution, inland water (including rivers, ponds, lakes and marshes), and coastal areas (including tidal flats and coral reefs). These surveys aim to ascertain the current status and monitor changes in the nation's natural environment.

#### SPECIMEN AND DOCUMENTS

##### Collection and storage of biological specimens and documents

The Center collects and stores the Green Census results and other literature related to biodiversity. It also keeps specimens of important plants and animals, including endangered species such as the Japanese Crested Ibis.

#### PUBLICITY

##### Publicity on the importance of biodiversity conservation

Materials gathered by the Center are made available to the public. Also, information on state of Japan's natural environment and biodiversity, as well as conservation activities, are publicized through the center's exhibition hall and website.

#### INFORMATION

##### Collection, management, and public service of information on biodiversity

The Center has developed the Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System (J-IBIS), a database of Japan's natural environment and biodiversity. The information held, which includes the Green Census results, is available to the public through the Internet and other means.

### CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Collection and Use of Information



- Open : 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily
- Closed : <Exhibition Facilities>  
in winter (November - April)  
weekends, national holidays,  
New Year Holiday period (12/28~1/4)
- <Library>  
weekends, national holidays  
New Year Holiday period (12/28~1/4)
- Admission fee : free
- Address : 5597-1, Kenmarubi, Kamiyoshida, Fujiyoshida City,  
Yamanashi Prefecture
- Telephone : 0555-72-6031
- Homepage : [http://www.biodic.go.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.biodic.go.jp/index_e.html)



# 12 .International Cooperation

Efforts toward biodiversity conservation, such as protection of threatened wildlife and conservation of important ecosystems, should not be confined to domestic affairs, but should be promoted through international cooperation as a shared concern of all humans. The Ministry of the Environment takes an active part in international activities.

## 12.1 International Conventions

### The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity aims to conserve diverse living organisms and their habitats comprehensively, and to ensure the sustainable use of these resources. One hundred fifty-seven nations signed the Convention at the Earth Summit in 1992, and it came into force in December 1993. There were 191 contracting parties as of August 2009.

For facilitating domestic implementation of this convention, the liaison council, consisting of nine ministries with the Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau as the chair, was formed. The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan was developed in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in January 2000, the parties adopted the "Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", which outlines procedures for the import and export of living modified organisms from a biodiversity perspective based on the Convention.

In light of this protocol, the Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with other ministries concerned, examines preliminary environmental impact assessment before giving approval of use of living modified organisms, to secure biological diversity.



A Ramsar site  
(Kushiro Shitsugen)



A Ramsar site  
(Akiyoshidai Groundwater System)



A Ramsar site (Oze)



CBD COP9



Eco Asia 2008

### The Ramsar Convention

Japan became a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention (the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat) in 1980. The convention aims to promote the designation and conservation of internationally important wetlands and the Flora and Fauna living there, and the wise use of such wetlands. Japan designated 37 Ramsar sites such as Kushiro-shitsugen, Izu-numa/Uchi-numa, Yatsu-higata, Fujimae-higata, as of March, 2009.

### CITES

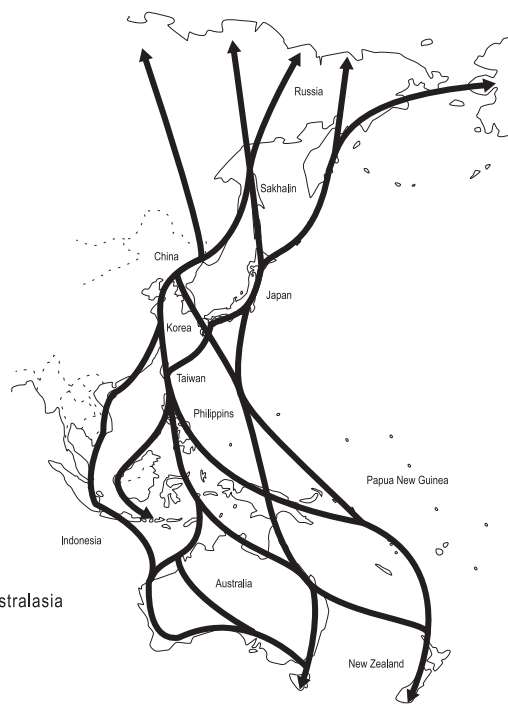
Japan ratified the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES) in 1980. The Convention classifies threatened species of wild fauna and flora into three categories published in CITES Appendix I - III, based on their need for protection, and regulates international trade accordingly.

CITES-based regulations for import and export in Japan are applied through enforcement of the "Customs Law" and the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law". To increase effectiveness, the Government designates the species listed in the CITES Appendix I as International Endangered Species under the "Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Species Conservation Law)" and regulates the transfer of species within the country.

### Conventions and Agreements for the Protection of Migratory Birds

Japan maintains bilateral conventions and agreements for the protection of migratory birds with the U.S. (since 1974), Australia (since 1981), China (since 1981), and Russia (since 1988), to protect migratory birds, endangered bird species, and their environments (with China, protection of migratory birds and their environments only). Each convention or agreement calls for a meeting approximately every two years to exchange information on measures taken in each country and to discuss the need and possibilities for joint research.

In November, 2006, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership" was launched under the leadership of Japan and Australia. This partnership aims to promote the conservation of migratory water birds including cranes, anatines, shorebirds, and to exchange information on measures against avian influenza with other countries.



Flyways of migratory shorebirds in East Asia and Australasia

## International Cooperation on Coral Reef Conservation

### International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Japan actively promotes the "International Coral Reef Initiative(ICRI)" in collaboration with USA, Australia and other countries. ICRI is aimed for the conservation of coral reef ecosystems and the sustainable use of them. There are 44 countries and some 40 organizations including international organizations and NGOs in this international framework, where members can discuss the issue on equal terms with one another and promote mutual cooperation. ICRI is coordinated by the Secretariat which is voluntarily hosted in turn by member countries, and Japan and Republic of Palau had been jointly hosting the Secretariat from July, 2005 to June, 2007. In April, 2007, the general meeting of ICRI was held in Tokyo, and "Recommendation on Developing MPA Networks" and "ICRI resolution on coral reefs & climate change" etc. were adopted.



Sekisei coral-reef lagoon, Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park

### Formation of Marine Protected Area Network

In accordance with "Recommendation on Developing MPA Networks", etc. adopted in the ICRI Tokyo General Meeting Assembly in April, 2007, the Ministry of the Environment is making efforts to establish the coral reef reserve network ( which is) centered in East Asia. In November, 2008, the ministry organized The International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting / 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop in Tokyo, and began to design strategies to build up networks of ecological marine protected areas, (networks) of human resources for a better management of the marine protected areas and of information exchange. In 2010, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is to be held in Nagoya. So, the ministry is working with relevant countries and NGOs working on the conservation of coral reef to examine the draft of the strategies so that it can propose the strategies to the world at COP 10 in Nagoya.



The International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting / 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop



## ■ The World Heritage Convention

Japan ratified the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1992. As of July 2009, there are 186 States Parties to the Convention, and a total of 890 properties: 689 cultural properties, 176 natural properties, and 25 mixed properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List. Japan served as a member of the World Heritage Committee from 2004 to 2007.



World Natural Heritage(Shiretoko)

## ■ Bilateral Agreements

Japan has concluded Environmental Conservation Cooperation Agreements and Science and Technology Agreements with the U.S., Russia, Korea, China, Australia and other countries, to take part in international cooperation in the environmental field.

With Korea, information exchange and joint surveys are taking place through collaborative projects for the protection of migratory birds, under the auspices of the Japan-Korea Environmental Conservation Cooperation Agreement.

## ■ Others

Besides conventions and agreements, Japan is promoting international cooperation in the environmental sphere with the U.S., the E.U. and other countries. With the U.S. in particular, cooperation activities are undertaken based on the Common Agenda and the United States-Japan Cooperative Program on Natural Resources (UJNR).

The Ministry of the Environment participates as a government member in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and Wetlands International (WI), both of which are international organizations for nature conservation.

## ■ 12.2 International Cooperation for Developing Countries



The activity in the biology research center

### ■ Japan's Contribution to International Cooperation for Developing Countries

Biodiversity conservation, a concern common to all humanity, including the conservation of important ecosystems and the protection of threatened species, requires internationally coordinated efforts. Many developing countries, however, experience difficulties in tackling these problems appropriately due to lack of funds, technology and human resources; for this reason, developed countries and international organizations provide assistance. Japan assists these countries by providing "technical cooperation" and "grant aid cooperation" as a part of Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the

Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and others. Japan also contributes to global nature conservation through contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). In Japan's ODA Charter adopted in June 1992 (revised in August 2003), environmental ODA is considered important, and "approach to global problems" such as global warming is described as one of the four issues that Japan should intensively tackle. In recent years international cooperation by NGOs has also taken root.

### Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was established as a joint initiative of NGOs and international organizations. CEPF provides assistance to NGOs and community groups for activities related to conservation of biodiversity hotspots (areas characterized both by exceptional levels of species endemism, which means rich biodiversity, and by serious levels of habitat loss) in developing countries. The Government of Japan has been participating in this initiative as a donor since 2002. It is expected that the natural blessings gained from hotspots conservation activities will contribute to realize economically sustainable development.

## ■ International Cooperation by the Ministry of the Environment

The Ministry of the Environment provides a budget for ODA expenses, and actively promotes international cooperation. The Nature Conservation Bureau, with its main focus on the Asia-Pacific region, assists countries in developing their administrative ability to implement Agenda 21, including conservation of coral reef ecosystems, and supports necessary activities from the viewpoint of global environment conservation such as "wetland conservation and management".

## ■ Cooperation through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

For the promotion of nature conservation in developing countries, an important subject is development of human resources, such as administrators and technicians with expert knowledge and experience. The Nature Conservation Bureau carries out Technical Cooperation Projects, such as training programs and the dispatch of experts, with the cooperation of local governments and NGOs through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The aim of training programs is to provide administrators and technicians in developing countries with opportunities to learn the skills and experience of nature conservation possessed in Japan. Currently, courses designed to meet the needs of many developing countries, such as a Group Training Course in Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coral Reefs and one in Biodiversity Information Systems, are held every year, as well as individual training courses at the request of developing countries.

Experienced experts are dispatched to transfer technology for nature conservation to administrative organizations and research institutes in developing countries. In response to a request from a developing country, experts in various fields, including national park management, wildlife conservation and natural environment education, are dispatched either individually or as a team. In the field of the natural environment alone, from 10 to 20 experts are dispatched to the countries of Asia, Africa, Central and South America etc. every year. Grant aid cooperation provides developing countries with funds for the development of facilities and purchase of equipment; the Ministry of the Environment cooperates through providing advice at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA. An example is the advice for the construction of the Research and Development Center for Biology (Cibinong, Indonesia) related to the Biodiversity Conservation Project in Indonesia.

## ■ International Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

A variety of NGOs have been playing an active part in international cooperation for environmental conservation in developing countries in recent years. Various support systems for such NGOs activities are being prepared, such as the Japan Fund for the Global Environment Grant Program of the Environment Restoration and Conservation Agency of Japan, and funding from the private sector. NGOs are expected to play a vital role in international cooperation for nature conservation as well; therefore, to encourage the success of NGOs and funding organizations in international cooperation, the Ministry of the Environment provides information and advice.



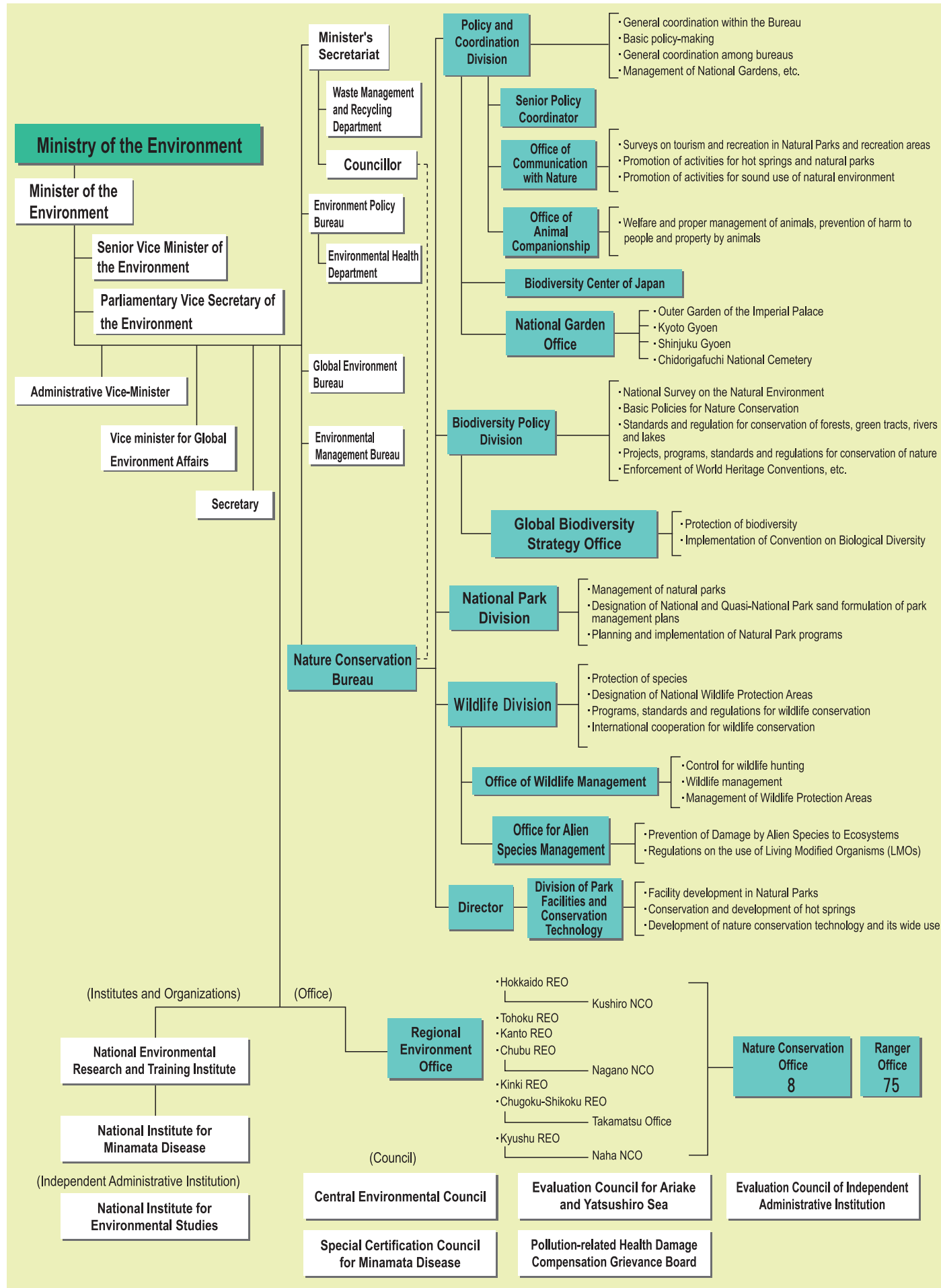
The habits investigation of the Javan Leopard  
(Gunung Halimun Saraku National Park)



A research center constructed with Japan's grant aid  
(Indonesia Biodiversity Information Center, Cibinong, Indonesia)



# Organization of the Ministry of the Environment



## Regional Environment Office

Office	Address	Tel No. Fax No.
Hokkaido Regional Environment Office	Kita-8, Nishi-2, Kita-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido, 060-0808	011-299-1950 011-736-1234
Kushiro Nature Conservation Office	10-3, Saiwai-cho, Kushiro-shi, Hokkaido, 085-8639	0154-32-7500 0154-32-7575
Tohoku Regional Environment Office	3-2-23, Hon-cho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi, 980-0014	022-722-2870 022-722-2872
Kanto Regional Environment Office	11-2, Shintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama, 330-6018	048-600-0516 048-600-0517
Niigata Office	5-1, Bandaijima, Niigata-shi, Niigata, 950-0078	025-249-7575 025-290-6675
Nikko Nature Conservation Office	9-5, Hon-cho, Nikko-shi, Tochigi, 321-1434	0288-54-1076 0288-53-4154
Hakone Nature Conservation Office	164 Kyufudaba, Motohakone, Hakone-cho, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa, 250-0522	0460-84-8727 0460-84-9349
Chubu Regional Environment Office	2-5-2, Sannomaru, Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi, 460-0001	052-955-2130 052-951-8889
Nagano Nature Conservation Office	1108, Asahi-machi, Nagano-shi, Nagano, 380-0846	026-231-6570 026-235-1226
Matsumoto Nature Conservation Office	124-7, Azumi, matsumoto-shi, Nagano, 390-1501	0263-94-2024 0263-94-2651
Kinki Regional Environment Office	1-7-31, Otemae, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka, 540-6591	06-4792-0700 06-4790-2800
Chugoku-shikoku Regional Environment Office	18-28, Kuwata-cho, Kita-ku, Okayama-shi, Okayama, 700-0984	086-223-1577 086-224-2081
Hiroshima Office	6-30, Hachobori, Chuo-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima, 730-0012	082-511-0006 082-211-0455
Takamatsu Office	2-1-1, Kotobuki-cho, Takamatsu-shi, Kagawa, 760-0023	087-811-7240 087-822-6203
Yonago Nature Conservation Office	124-16, Higashi-machi, Yonago-shi, Tottori, 683-0067	0859-34-9331 0859-34-9330
Kyusyu Regional Environment Office	1-6-22, Onoue, Kumamoto-shi, Kumamoto, 862-0913	096-214-0311 096-214-0354
Fukuoka Office	2-6-23, HakataekiHigashi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka, 812-0913	092-437-8851 092-481-6465
Aso Nature Conservation Office	1180, Kurokawa, Aso-shi, Kumamoto, 869-2225	0967-34-0254 0967-34-2082
Naha Nature Conservation Office	5-21, Yamashita-cho, Naha-shi, Okinawa, 900-0027	098-858-5824 098-858-5825

## Biodiversity Center of Japan

Biodiversity Center of Japan	5597-1, Kenmarubi, Kamiyoshida, Fujiyoshida-shi, Yamanashi, 403-0005	0555-72-6031
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## National Garden Offices

Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace Office	1-1, Kokyo Gaien, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0002	03-3213-0095
Kitanomaru Branch	1-1, Kitanomaru Koen, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0091	03-3211-7878
Kyoto Gyoen National Garden Office	3, Kyoto Gyoen, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto, 602-0881	075-211-6348
Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden Office	11, Naito-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0014	03-3350-0151
Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery Park Office	2, Sanban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0075	03-3262-2030



## FOR ALL THE LIFE ON EARTH



### Biodiversity



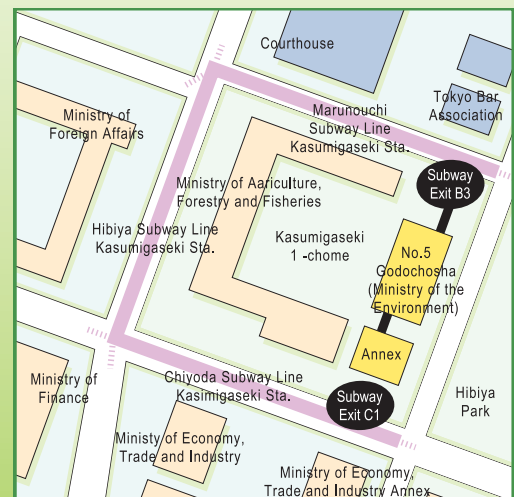
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Ministry of the Environment homepage:<http://www.env.go.jp/>

Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System:  
<http://www.biodic.go.jp/english/J-IBIS>

Internet Nature Information System:<http://www.sizenken.biodic.go.jp>



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