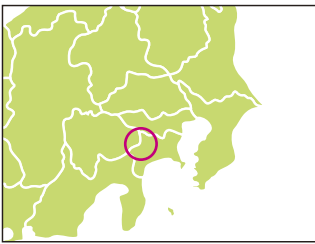


# Tanzawa-Ooyama Region

**Goal** Restore Tanzawa-Ooyama Region with viable nature and people



**Designation:**  
Tanzawa-Ooyama Quasi-national Park  
**Location:** Sagami-hara, Yamakita, Matsuda, Hadano, Atsugi, Isehara, Aikawa, and Kiyokawa, Kanagawa Prefecture  
**Year Initiated:** 2004

**Tanzawa-Ooyama Nature Restoration Committee**

Beech tree dieback, diminished understory vegetation, and the adverse effects of park overuse are serious. The Committee analyzes the relationships among wildlife, human and the environments to further preservation and restoration of Tanzawa natural environments



Japanese black bear  
(Photo by Yoshimori Yamaguchi)



Tanzawa-Ooyama Quasi-national Park contains a series of mountains, including one of the Japanese Hundred Mountains, Mt. Tanzawa, and Mt. Hinokiboramaru, popular for blossoms of the goyotsutsuji (*Rhododendron quinquefolium*). While located near Tokyo, the park retains rich natural environment with old-growth beech forests and large mammals such as the Japanese black bear (*Ursus thibetanus japonicus*) and sika deer. The park also attracts three million visitors every year and is the reservoir watershed for Kanagawa Prefecture.

In the forest habitat, however, human-associated influences and damages are becoming apparent – a combination of air pollution and other factors caused the dieback of beech trees; deer overgrazing diminished forest vegetation; and human trampling increased soil exposure. Beginning with monitoring the natural environment and evaluation of past conservation actions, the linkage among organisms, man and their environments will be investigated to move forward to conservation and restoration of the park environment.



Bark stripping by deer



Deteriorated beech trees



Diminished forest floor vegetation



Degraded mountain trail

## Approaches

- ▶ Restore rare plants and animals →①
- ▶ Preserve healthy forest and streams at the watershed scale →②
- ▶ Create a recycling-oriented society that depends on local natural resources →③
- ▶ Construct an information system accessible by prefecture residents →④

In addition to environmental monitoring and evaluation of past conservation actions, the relationships among organisms, humans and their environments will be surveyed and analyzed. Creation of a recycle-oriented society that depends on local natural resources will be pursued in cooperation with local residents, NPOs and industries.



**Related Web Sites**

e-Tanzawa (Tanzawa Natural Environment Information Station):  
<http://www.e-tanzawa.jp>

### ① Conducting biological assessment

A restoration goal(s) will be identified with an emphasis on conservation of rare species and biological diversity. An array of biological communities has been surveyed in detail to characterize the current status and issues in order to nail down the species to be protected, areas of priority protection, and conservation strategies.



A tower for beech tree survey

### ② Site survey for water and soil restoration

This assessment focuses on ozone concentration, water discharge and quality, a long-term change of slope failure location, and amount of soil erosion in order to determine areas that are suitable for beech forest restoration, soil conservation techniques and the strategies for comprehensive watershed conservation.

### ③ Survey for regional community revitalization

Information on regional resources, industries and cultures are being organized and analyzed to identify the current status and issues. Action plans for revitalizing the region will be developed in cooperation with various stakeholder groups.

### ④ Information infrastructure

Information of the natural environment, obtained by various investigations, was compiled to a GIS database, the "Tanzawa Natural Environment Information Station". This station is being used for comprehensive evaluation of ecological conditions.