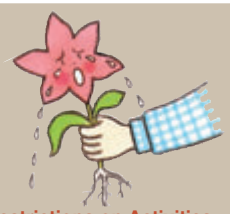
Conservation of National Parks

It is our responsibility to conserve the great natural scenic beauty and biodiversity in the national parks, and to keep them unimpaired for the future generations. The Government thus promotes and regulates the use of national parks.

Clearing crown-of-thorns starfish threatening corals

The Law and Measures

In order to fulfill their mission, the National Parks have established regulations to ensure the conservation of their natural environment.



Restrictions on Activities

Within designated conservation areas, activities harmful to the landscape of the park such as building and logging may not be carried out without a permit. Camp fires, and the collection of insects, plants, fallen leaves and branches are also prohibited in Special Protection Zones.

Regulations against Driving Vehicles in Parks

Beaches where turtles lay eggs, and rare plant habitats are very sensitive to external influence. Use of vehicles, snowmobiles, and motorboats is prohibited in such areas in order to protect them.

Restrictions on Private Cars

Private cars are prohibited in certain areas. Alternative transporation is provided for visitors. This has been undertaken in crowded national parks such as Mt. Fuji (Fuji-Hakone-Izu NP), Kamikochi (Chubu sangaku NP), Oze (Oze NP), and Yakushima (Yakushima NP).

Nature restoration

Some National Parks include areas in which the nature lost in the past needs to be restored actively. In order to regain the healthy ecosystems in those areas, the Ministry of the Environment is conducting several activities such as restoring and recovering wetlands and forests. The activities are implemented through conducting researches, taking measures, and monitoring, in cooperation with local residents and experts.

Cleanup

Litter and human waste left behind not only spoil the beauty of National Parks, but also affect the ecosystems within the park. As a rule, visitors are asked to take their litter home, but cleanup, treatment of human waste, and facility maintenance are also carried out by national park maintenance crews.

Land Acquisition

National Parks in Japan contain a large number of private lands. When it is deemed necessary, important areas in national parks are purchased by the government for nature conservation.

Etiquette

All park visitors are responsible for nature conservation. Park visitors' behavior is important for conserving nature. Visitors must abide by certain nature conservation rules: take litter home; stay on the hiking trails; and leave plants and animals untouched.

Nature is not always safe. Whether you go mountain climbing or snorkeling, you need to be well prepared for accidents and unpredictable changes in the weather.