

Rangers and Partners

The Ministry of the Environment has set up 7 Regional Environment Offices and 98 Ranger Offices throughout the country.

Rangers and Active Rangers are stationed in these offices, and work with many people.



Park Ranger

Volunteers in Parks

Many volunteers work for national parks

Park Volunteers

Each national park has its own registration system for park volunteers. Park volunteers participate in such activities as park interpretation services, cleanup, repair of park facilities and scientific research. Currently, about 1,600 people are registered as park volunteers across the country.



Junior Park Ranger Program

Primary and Junior high school students who volunteer to work in the parks are called Junior Park Rangers. They participate in park patrol and basic research on wildlife guided by rangers and park volunteers. Every summer such programs are held in all the National Parks.



Natural Park Adviser

In order to support appropriate use of the parks, Natural Park Advisers patrol the parks for the safety of visitors simultaneously checking the park facilities.



Green Worker Projects

Skilled park volunteers are called Green Workers. Local people with knowledge of the areas and special skills work on special projects such as wildlife inventories, and nature trail repair and construction. Their expenses are covered by the government.



Rangers: The staff of the Ministry of the Environment who work in national parks are called rangers. Rangers are responsible not only for granting permits, patrolling and maintaining the parks. They are involved with park planning, scientific research and land management. They also provide educational programs and interpretation services for park visitors.

Please contact the Regional Environment Office for further information on Park volunteers and Junior Park Rangers.

Park management organizations and Scenic Area Protection Agreement

In Aso area of Aso-Kuju National Park, a local foundation "Aso Green Stock" has been working as a *park management organization* since December 2003. A park management organization is a NPO or a public-service corporation, assigned by the Minister of the Environment, whose tasks include managing natural scenic areas and inspecting/repairing the trails and other park facilities. Aso Green Stock is involved in maintaining the grassland scenery through prescribed burning and other activities. The area in which their activities take place includes the land under the *Scenic Area Protection Agreement*, which enables national/local governments or park management organizations to manage the land on behalf of the landowners for conserving scenic areas.



Prescribed burning for maintaining the grassland