

Conservation State of Yakushima

1. Management Structure

- Similar to the other natural World Heritage properties in Japan, a Scientific Council of experts was established in order to manage the property adaptively based on the scientific knowledge. With the advices from the Scientific Council, management of the property is conducted.

2. Management of Yaku-sika deer

- The number of Yaku-sika (*Cervus nippon yakushimae*) has been increasing, and in some part of the island, the decrease of endangered plant species, declination of forest floor vegetation and soil erosion are becoming concern.
- To respond to the situation, a working group on Yaku-sika was established under the Scientific Council in 2011, and control measures are taken based on the scientific advices.
- Also, Kagoshima Prefecture has formulated “Type II Specified Wildlife (Yaku-sika) Control Plan” covering the whole Yakushima Island in 2017 based on the Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act. Based on this plan, national government (Ministry of the Environment and Forestry Agency), Kagoshima Prefecture and Yakushima Town are working together in an integrated manner for population management, prevention of damage and habitat management in and out of the property.

3. Tourism and visitor management

- Problems caused by the high number of visitors such as crowding, tramping and poor quality of visitor’s experience have been challenges for the management of the property. However, the number of visitors has been on a declining trend for roughly ten years, and is currently about two-thirds of that in 2008 which was the highest. As a result, the problems are not so obvious compared to before.
- In 2016, Ministry of the Environment has established the Review Committee for the Utilization of Mountainous Part of Yaskuhima World Natural Heritage and National Park comprising of experts, administrators and relevant local organizations. In order to conserve natural environment of mountainous part of Yakusma National Park including World Heritage property and to provide high quality visitor experience, the committee started to discuss various topics including setting up visions for appropriate use of mountainous part, construction and maintenance of infrastructures, visitor management and provision of information to users.
- Yakushima Town, a member of management authorities of the property, established Municipal

Ordinance on World Natural Heritage Site Yakushima's Mountain Environmental Conservation Donation, and started to collect the donation from hikers in 2017.

4. Research and Monitoring

- In order to evaluate the state of conservation of OUV, a monitoring plan for the property was formulated in 2011. In the plan, five evaluation items and 14 monitoring items corresponding to the OUV as well as methodology, indicators and standards are set out. Based on this monitoring plan, relevant organizations are working together for conducting monitoring.
- The results of the monitoring are reported to the Scientific Council and advices towards the proper management of the property are given.