

# 2. Administrative System

## 2.1 Summary of the Nature Conservation System

### < National Strategy >

#### The 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan

(adopted at the cabinet meeting on November 27, 2007)

#### Part 1 Strategy

##### [ Four Basic Strategies ]

- ① Mainstreaming Biodiversity in our daily life
- ② Re-building sound relationship between man and nature in local communities
- ③ Securing linkages among forests, countryside, rivers and the sea
- ④ Taking action with global perspective

#### Part 2 Action Plan

- ① About 660 specific measures and policies
- ② Ministries and agencies in charge of implementation
- ③ 34 Numerical targets

### < Legal System >

#### Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

##### The Basic Act on Biodiversity of Japan

##### Promotion of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

- Fundamental principles for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Responsibilities of the government, local governments, businesses, citizens and private bodies
- Item to form the basis of measures for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

#### Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

##### Nature Conservation Law

##### Conservation of areas with outstanding natural environments

- Wilderness Areas: 5 areas
- Nature Conservation Areas: 10 areas
- Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas: 537 areas
- Total: 0.3% of the total land area (as of March 31, 2009)

##### Natural Parks Law

##### Protection of natural landscapes of great value and promotion of recreation

- National Parks: 29 parks
- Quasi-National Parks: 56 parks
- Prefectural Natural Parks: 309 parks
- Total: 14.3% of the total land area (as of March 31, 2009)

##### Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration

##### Recovery of the ecosystems and other natural environments that have been damaged or destroyed in the past

- Establishment of 20 councils with involvement of diverse local groups and citizens
- Grand design for nature restoration : made by 19 councils
- Nature restoration program execution plans : 17 plans drawn up by 11 councils (as of March 31, 2009)

#### Wildlife Protection

##### Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law

##### Wildlife protection and keeping appropriate order in hunting practices

- Regulation on hunting practices
- Wildlife Protection Areas National: 69 areas (as of November, 2008)  
Prefectural: 3,815 areas (as of December, 2008)  
Total: 9.6% of the total land area

##### Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

##### Prevention of extinction and conservation of wild fauna and flora

- Restriction on acquisition and transfer of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- National Endangered Species: 81 species, International Endangered Species: 677 taxa (as of March, 2009)
- Natural Habitat Conservation Areas: 9 areas (total: 885ha) (as of March, 2009)

##### Cartagena Law

##### Prevention of adverse effects of living modified organisms on biological diversity

- Obligation to obtain the approval of the competent minister before using living modified organisms without preventive measures against their dispersal into environment
- Obligation to notify the importing country when exporting living modified organisms

##### Invasive Alien Species Act

##### Prevention of adverse effects on ecosystems caused by invasive alien species

- Regulation on raising, importing or other handling of invasive alien species
- Mitigation of invasive alien species by the national government and other entities
- Restriction on importing uncategorized alien species

#### Welfare and Management of Animals etc.

##### Act on Welfare and Management of Animals

##### Prevention of abandonment animal abuse, proper care, management of animals and keeping of animals

- Obligations of owners and possessors of animals (300,000 dogs and cats were taken in during FY2007)
- Regulations for businesses dealing with animals (43,800 registered as of September 1, 2008)
- Measures to prevent harm or disturbances caused by animals

##### Law for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food

##### Ensuring the safety of pet food

- The establishment of standards and specifications
- Regulating the production, import and sale of pet food
- ※ The Law regulates the manufacturing, importing and selling of pet food by stipulating the specifications for the constituents of pet food as well as the standards for the methods of pet food manufacturing and labeling

#### Communication with Nature

##### Ecotourism Promotion Measures

##### Appropriate implementation of ecotourism

- Establishing a council consisting of various local organizations, and creating a grand design
- Measures for conservation of scenic resources designated as specified nature resources for tourism

##### Hot Springs Law

##### Conservation, prevention of disaster and proper utilization of hot springs

- Regulation on excavation, extraction and public utilization of hot springs, and display of ingredients of hot springs
- Hot Spring Health Resorts: 91 sites (as of March 31, 2009)

## 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】

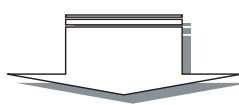
##### Grand Design, targeting 100 years ahead

· 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.