

Reconstruction initiatives incorporating environmental conservation

Green reconstruction: Creating a new national park

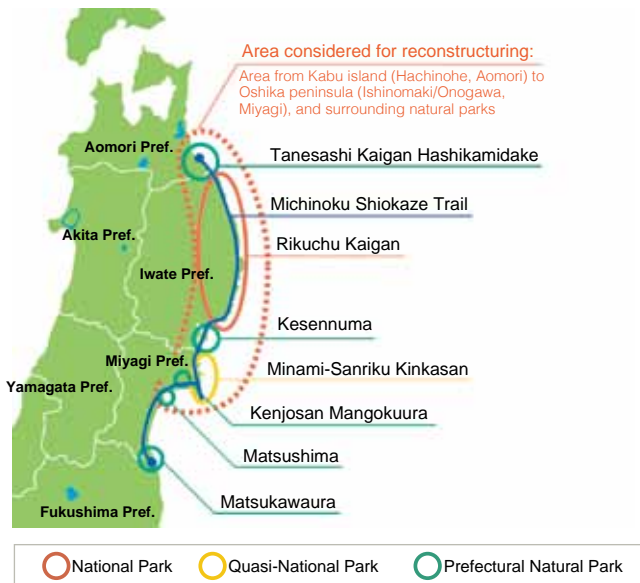
The new Sanriku Fukko National Park

The Great East Japan Earthquake had a substantial impact on the natural environment along the coast, and did substantial damage to facilities (paths, toilets, campsites, etc.) in the Rikuchu Kaigan National Park and many other natural parks. This coastline is known as the Sanriku coast, and includes many areas that have been designated natural parks because of their wonderful scenery. Working on the principle of using reconstruction to restore connections between forests, satoyama, rivers, and sea, the Ministry of the Environment decided to restructure this series of parks into a single park—the Sanriku Fukko National Park—and

use it as a basis for green reconstruction, thereby stimulating local tourism, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

An integral part of this plan was to incorporate the Tanesashi Kaigan Hashikamidake Prefectural Natural Park into the Rikuchu Kaigan National Park. The Tanesashi Kaigan Hashikamidake Prefectural Natural Park includes Kabushima, famed as a breeding ground for black-tailed gulls, and the Tanesashi coast with its beautiful coastal grassland scenery. The parks were officially joined in May 2013, and redesignated the Sanriku Fukko National Park (“Fukko” means “reconstruction”).

Green reconstruction centered on creating the Sanriku Fukko National Park



Source: Ministry of the Environment

Basic concept

- Make the most of the blessings that nature provides
- Study the threats from nature
- Strengthen interconnections between the forests, rivers, sea and Satoyama

Green reconstruction initiatives

- [1] Designation of Sanriku Fukko National Park (Restructuring of natural parks)
- [2] Satoyama and Satoumi Field Museum and Facilities Improvement
- [3] Fun Nature Tours Incorporating Local Treasures (Fukko eco-tourism)
- [4] A Trail to Deepen Exchange Between North and South (Michinoku Shiokaze Trail from Kabu, Aomori to Matsukawaura, Fukushima)
- [5] Restoring Connections between Forests, Satoyama, Rivers, and Sea
- [6] Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- [7] Monitoring the Effects of the Earthquake and Tsunami on the Natural Environment (Monitoring the natural environment)

Contribute to reconstruction by revitalizing local tourism, agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Sceneries from the Sanriku Fukko National Park



Photo: Ministry of the Environment



Photo: Ministry of the Environment



Photo: Hashikami Town

Michinoku Shiokaze Trail - a path bringing north and south together

The Ministry of the Environment is working with local municipalities on preparations for the Michinoku Shiokaze Trail. This is a long-distance path that will become a symbol of reconstruction for the various connections, linking the local natural environment and

people's lives, traces of disaster, the people who use the trail, and the people who live locally. To survey the best course for the trail, monitors walked the envisaged routes and discovered the attractions of each locality.

Local people discussing their ideas at workshops



Photo: Ministry of the Environment

Trail researchers walking the whole distance



Photo: Ministry of the Environment

Repair and reconstruction of damaged facilities

Repair and reconstruction of damaged facilities at some of the most-used parts of the Sanriku Fukko National Park, such as Jodogahama (a beach in Miyako, Iwate) and Kesenuma Oshima (an island in Kesenuma, Miyagi) are proceeding in collaboration with the local authority, contributing to reconstruction of the area. At Anegasaki cape (Miyako, Iwate), there are plans to preserve part of the damaged park facilities unrepaired, creating a venue for learning about how dangerous nature can be.

Hamano camp site retained to show nature threats



Photo: Ministry of the Environment

Communicating to an international audience

The Sanriku Fukko National Park idea has attracted substantial international attention when introduced at international venues such as the Preliminary Asia Parks Congress in Tokyo in November 2011 and the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Jeju, Korea in September 2012.

Further presentations and updates are planned for

the first Asia Parks Congress in Sendai, Japan in November 2013. By distributing this information internationally, we hope that the initiative will become an international model for the role that conservation policies have to play in recovery from a natural disaster.

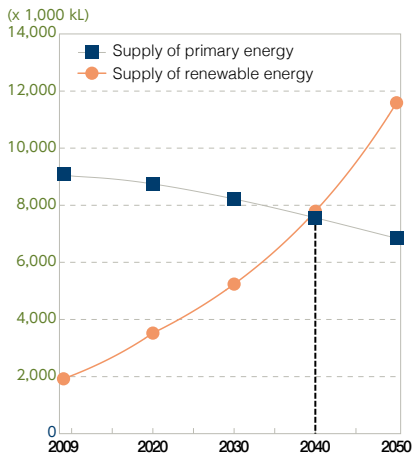
Local reconstruction initiatives in areas affected by the earthquake

Fukushima Prefecture

One of the key policies for reconstruction in Fukushima prefectures is to build a community with a rapid progress of renewable energy development to become a pioneer in the use of renewable energy, with 100% or more of the energy demand to be met by renewable energy produced within the prefecture. Tsuchiyu-Onsen Hot Spring in the Bandai area was

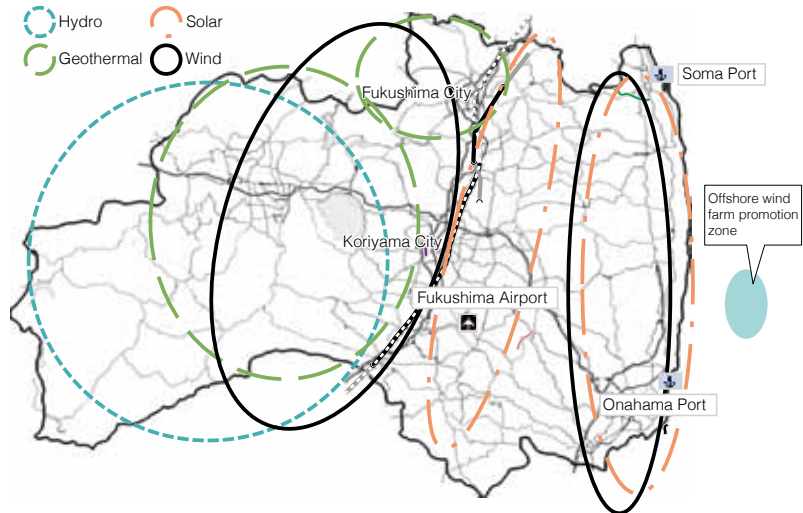
affected by harmful rumors following the disaster. It has commenced their own reconstruction project that serves as a model for other resort areas. This project leverages the largest geothermal resources in the Tohoku region to generate electricity through binary generators designed to use the heat produced by spa water.

Fukushima prefecture's plans for use of renewable energy



Source: Vision for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima Pref.

Renewable energy potential in Fukushima prefecture



Source: Vision for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima Pref.

Miyagi Prefecture

Under the *Miyagi Prefectural Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan*, they define each citizen as a key player in the recovery efforts. The various other players such as local municipalities, companies, NPOs, and other groups and entities work together, deepening the bond, not just for restoration but for full reconstruction of the whole prefecture. The city of Higashi Matsushima on the Pacific coast is constructing megasolar facilities as a symbol of reconstruction, making effective use of land damaged by the tsunami. In Watari, a town in the coastal area, local citizens have taken a lead in drawing a master plan to regenerate the hazard-protection coastal forests damaged by the tsunami. They are proceeding with their reconstruction efforts focusing on restoring the coastal forests.

Hazard-protection coastal forests destroyed by tsunami



Before the Great East Japan Earthquake (June 2007)

After the Great East Japan Earthquake (October 2011)

Photo: Tohoku Kensetsu Kyokai

Frameworks supporting the establishment of sustainable society through reconstruction

Offset credit (J-VER) scheme

Japan has an emissions trading scheme, J-VER, that supports restoration of the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake through carbon offsets. Under this scheme, reductions in emissions and removals of greenhouse gases achieved by projects in Japan are verified, recognizing them as J-VER carbon credits that can be sold in the market. This approach encourages progress towards a low carbon society at the same time as providing support for the affected areas. To support reconstruction, assistance is also provided to find matching companies and local

authorities to purchase the credits, and the scheme is promoted by publicizing the use of carbon credits from the affected areas.

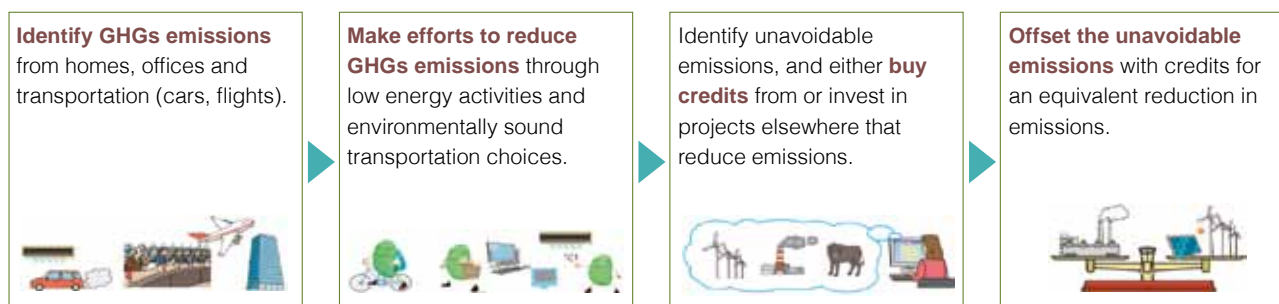
For example, the Kamaishi Forestry Cooperative, based in Kamaishi City, Iwate prefecture, sells J-VER credits, and is contributing to reconstruction through sustainable forest management, such as by integrating the management of small areas of individually-owned forests, and promoting the use of forestry residues as biomass.

Carbon offsetting

What is carbon offsetting?

Definition: Individuals and businesses (1) become aware of their greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions, (2) make efforts to reduce their own GHGs emissions, (3) identify unavoidable emissions, and (4) offset some or all of those emissions by purchasing credits from projects that have achieved GHGs reductions or sequestered carbon.

Significance: Carbon offsetting (1) encourages efforts by individuals and businesses to reduce their GHGs emissions, (2) creates awareness that GHGs emissions represent a cost, shifting society towards low carbon lifestyles and business activities, and (3) provides funding for GHGs reduction and carbon sequestration projects



Source: Ministry of the Environment

Eco-point system for housing adapted for reconstruction support

For a period of about one year beginning in October 2011, Japan implemented special eco-point systems for housing to support reconstruction efforts. The system was applied to a new construction or to an eco-friendly renovation, and was designed to provide them with three benefits: (1) support for reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake, (2) stimulus for the housing market, and (3) countermeasures

against global warming. Points awarded could be exchanged for eco-products and products produced in the areas affected by the earthquake. In addition, a construction of new eco-housing in the affected areas was awarded twice the number of points given in other areas. In the eco-reform category, points were also awarded for anti-seismic improvements.