#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

## 4-1) Outlines of Protected Area Systems in Japan

#### a) Protected Areas System Under the Nature Conservation Law

## 1) Wilderness Areas

To conserve primeval natural environment, natural areas with primeval features and of a certain consistency are designated as Wilderness Areas where, based on the policy of leaving the area to natural succession, strict protection measures including prohibition of activities altering natural features are taken. To date, five areas with a total area of 5,600 ha have designated as Wilderness Areas.

## 2) Nature Conservation Areas

The Nature Conservation Area system aims to conserve natural areas of a certain consistency by regulation of activities and systematic conservation projects, etc. Natural areas to be designated include forests made up mostly of natural forests, water and waterside areas with their outstanding natural environment including coasts, lakes, tidal flats, rivers and oceans, and outstanding natural habitats of plants and animals.

To date, 10 areas with a total area of 21,598 ha have been designated.

## b) Protected Area Systems for Nature Conservation Unique to Local Governments

With the aim of conservation the natural environment around residential areas, local authorities have their own protected area systems such as the Green Zone Conservation Area and Local Zone Conservation Area, etc. aside from the Prefectural Nature Conservation Area.

#### c) Natural Parks

Twenty-eight National Parks, 55 Quasi-national Parks, and 301 Prefectural Natural Parks have been designated under the Natural Parks Law to conserve Japan's scenic areas and promote their utilisation.

Natural parks, making up about 14.1% of the total area of the country, contain diverse ecosystems based on the natural vegetation, etc., full of variety in areas ranging from the subarctic zone to the subtropical zone and from the alpine zone to the coastal region. In natural parks, inhabiting wildlife, marine animals and plants, and their habitats are positioned as components of natural scenery. To protect them, the regulations are being implemented.

#### d) Natural Habitat Conservation Area

Preventing the extinction of species of wild fauna and flora poses as an urgent task because they are important components of ecosystems and indispensable for mankind to lead an abundant life. Endangered species of wild fauna and flora in Japan are designated as National Endangered Species in accordance with the "Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora." To preserve their habitats, areas are designated as Natural Habitat Conservation Areas and, in particular, important areas are treated as Managed Areas. Acts in the areas are regulated under a permission system. Areas outside the Protection Zone are treated as Monitoring Areas where natural environment will be conserved by making notification of acts mandatory.

Priority areas to be designated as Natural Habitat Conservation Areas will be selected among those areas such as areas where National Endangered Species inhabit with good conditions and habitats of a large size. For species of a wide range of distribution, main habitats in each major distribution area try to be designated as Natural Habitat Conservation Areas. These efforts will be taken to avoid the extinction of the species.

Protection guidelines have also been established for each Natural Habitat Conservation Area according to the ecological features of the designated species, environment management is performed to maintain the living conditions of the designated species, and periodic surveillance of the conservation areas and surveys of the living conditions of the designated species are conducted.

Furthermore, Projects for Rehabilitation of Natural Habitats and Maintenance of Viable Populations are also implemented actively to maintain and improve habitat conditions of the Natural Habitat Conservation Areas.

## e) Protection Areas for Birds and Mammals

Serving as important components of nature, birds and mammals play a significant role in maintaining the ecosystems, and are crucial to realising a rich living environment for man. For purposes of the conservation and propagation of birds and mammals, indispensable areas have been set up as Protection Areas for Birds and Mammals (Wildlife Protection Areas) based on the "Law for the Protection of Birds and Mammals and Hunting (Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law) " and capturing and hunting are prohibited. Especially important areas are designated as Special Protection Areas (Special Wildlife Protection Areas), and various acts are regulated for the conservation of the living environment for the diverse variety of birds and mammals.

## f) Natural Monuments

Based on the "Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties" efforts are presently underway in Japan to commemorate nature that is abundantly diverse and contributes to the formation of the indigenous culture, and preserve nature that is valuable academically as natural monuments. The law designate the following as natural monuments that shall be preserved: animals and plants indigenous to Japan including rare species, primeval forests (natural forests) with differing climaxes, the various vegetation of marshes and mountainous areas, and secondary natural environments such as manmade village mountains. Increased to a total number of 955, the natural monuments contribute enormously to the conservation of biological diversification in Japan.

#### g) Protected Forests, etc.

Parts of national forests are classified as "Nature Conservation Forests" where management priority is given to conservation of natural environment such as primeval-like forest ecosystems based on the "National Forest Management Bylaw". These forests should be managed leaving as they are, in principle, without any forestry works.

Among the National Conservation Forests, those that especially play an important role in the protection of natural environment such as protection of rare wild animals and preservation of genetic resources are designated as "Protected Forests" and intensive efforts are made to conserve natural environment in accordance with the "National Forest Management Bylaw" and "Guidelines for Establishing Protected Forests". Protected Forests are classified into seven categories according to object to protect and objectives of protection: "Forest Biosphere Reserve", "Forest reserve", "Forest Genetic Resources Reserve", "Forestry Tree Genetic Resources Reserve", "Plant Community Reserve", "Specific Animal Habitat Reserve", "Specific Geographical Feature Reserve" and "Local Symbol Forest Reserve". Protected Forests totalled 787, comprising about 470 thousand hectare.

#### h) Protected Waters

Water areas suitable for the spawning of aquatic animals, as a habitat for young fish, and for the growth of seedings of aquatic animals and plants are specified as protected waters in accordance with the Preservation of Fisheries Resources Law.

Reclaiming, dredging, and work that changes the flow rate, water level, etc. of rivers within the protected areas are restricted. At presence protected waters consisted of 2,200 km of rivers, 240 ha of lakes, and 3000 ha of sea surfaces. Protection activities that have been conducted within the designated areas include everyday management of surveillance and guidance to prevent poaching, increased awareness and education of residents and fishermen, and PR activities as well as the development of spawning areas and surveys of the environment and resources beneath the sea so that the relevant environment within the areas can be maintained.

## i) International Protected Areas

There are three types of international protected areas in Japan registered and/or approved in accordance with international conventions or a programme as shown below. As of June 1995, there were 15 such areas with a total area of about 220,000 ha (excluding overlapping designated areas in Yaku Island).

Two areas (Yaku Island and Shirakami Mountains and) for the World Heritage Convention,

Eleven areas (e.g. Kushiro Marsh, Lakes Izu/Uchi and Yatsu Tideland) for the Ramsar Convention,

Four areas (Yaku Island, Odaigahara/Mt. Omine, Hakusan and Shiga Highlands) for the MAB.

Council of Ministers for Global Environmental Conservation, Government of Japan (1995): National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity. (http://www.eic/or/jp/eanet/en/pol/nsj/index.html)

# (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-1) Outlines of Protected Area Systems in Japan

Law	Year of Enactment	Protected Areas
Nature Conservation Law	1972	Wilderness Area
		Nature Conservation Area
Law for Conservation of Endangered	1992	Natural Habitat Conservation Area
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora		
Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law	y 1963	Wildlife Protection Area
		Wildlife Special Protection Area
Natural Parks Law	1957	Special Zone
		Special Protection Zone
Law for the Protection of Cultural	1950	Nature Reserve
Properties		
Preservation of Fisheries Resource La	aw 1951	Protected Waters, etc.
Fisheries Law	1949	Capturing Prohibited Area
		Capturing Regulated Area, etc.
Guidelines for Establishing Protected	1915	Forest Biosphere Reserve, etc.
Forests, etc.		

Laws Concerning Ecosystem Conservation and Protected Areas Designated by These Laws.

堂本 暁子(1997):バイオスフェアリザーブ(生物圏保存地域)と生物多様性、ワイ ルドライフ・フォーラム2(4)、野生生物保護学会

#### 4-2) History of Establishment of Protected Areas

## 4-2-1) Legislation for Nature Conservation before National Parks Law

The National Parks Law was established in March 1931. This law has had epoch-making significance in the history of measures for natural environment conservation. The law was modelled after the national park systems in the USA and saw the introduction of moderately large areas of National Parks, in which human activities are controlled and facilities for their utilisation are provided. The objectives of the Law are to conserve natural scenery of aesthetic value and landscape, plants and animals of academic worth, to offer opportunities for the improvement of the health of the public and to secure places for recreation.

This Law has a predecessor however, in that the concept of nature conservation had been already incorporated to the legislative systems in the Meiji era in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

It was the Meiji government that adopted a national policy of overtaking the Western developed countries through modernisation efforts. Specifically, a policy of enhancing the wealth and military strength of the country was adopted and westernisation and industrial development were strongly promoted.

As result of these policies, the countryside was developed, the forest areas were cleared, the seashore was reclaimed and urbanisation advanced. As a consequence of this, ancient shrines and temples, famous places of scenic beauty and historical interest, primeval forests and natural coasts were destroyed and much magnificent natural scenery and landscape, plants and animals of scientific value were lost. A further consequence was the increased incidence of natural disasters and loss of places for relaxation throughout the country.

In the second half of the Meiji era, the authorities took note of these adverse impacts, and gradually began to initiate legislative systems for the conservation of nature. Under the Forest Law established in 1897, a system of Protection Forests was introduced in order to conserve water resources, scenic beauty, etc. and served to protect the remaining forests from felling as well as to preserve scenery with historical and cultural value.

A system of protecting important birds and mammals from overhunting was introduced under the Hunting Regulation in 1892, which was later upgraded to the Hunting Law in 1895, and a system of Wildlife Protection Areas was adopted under the same law in 1918.

As for an urban planning system, local ordinances were set in place in Tokyo and other major cities around 1888. In 1919, the City Planning Law was established incorporating a system for maintaining city parks and green areas, as well as to protect places of scenic beauty from overdevelopment.

The Historical Spot, Scenic Beauty and Natural Monument Preservation Law was established in 1919. Prior to the establishment of the later-to-come National Parks Law, the Law devised an epoch-making system for the preservation of exceptional natural scenic areas and academically important animals, plants, rocks, landscapes and geological features. Under the Law historical spots, scenic beauty places and natural monuments were designated, regardless their ownership, and controlled or prohibited altering of the landscape and the felling of trees. This system of restriction for conservation by the government without possessing the lands and objects is believed to take initiative to the later national park systems.

林 修三 (1981): 第一章 総説、自然保護行政のあゆみ、環境庁自然保護局

(4) Protected Areas in Japan

# (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-2) History of Establishment of Protected Areas

# 4-2-1) Legislation for Nature Conservation before National Parks Law

## List of National Parks

## As of March 31,1999

Number	National Park	Data of	Designation	Area(ha)	Prefecture		
1	Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu	Sept.	20, 1974	21,222	Hokkaido		
2	Shiretoko	June	1, 1964	38,633	"		
3	Akan	Dec.	4, 1934	90,481	"		
4	Kushiro Shitsugen	July	31, 1987	26,861	"		
5	Daisetsuzan	Dec.	4, 1934	226,764	"		
6	Shikotsu-Toya	Мау	16, 1949	99,302	"		
7	Towada-Hachimantai	Feb.	1, 1936	85,409	Aomori, Iwate, Akita		
8	Rikuchu Kaigan	May	2, 1955	12,198	Iwate, Miyagi		
9	Bandai-Asahi	Sept.	5, 1950	186,404	Yamagata, Fukushima, Niigata		
10	Nikko	Dec.	4, 1934	140,021	Fukushima, Tochigi, Gunma, Niigata		
11	Joshin'etsu Kogen	Sept.	7, 1949	189,062	Gunma, Niigata, Nagano		
12	Chichibu-Tama	July	10, 1950	121,600	Saitama, Tokyo, Yamanashi, Nagano		
13	Ogasawara	Oct.	16, 1972	6,099	Tokyo		
14	Fuji-Hakone-Izu	Feb.	1, 1936	121,850	Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Shizuo		
15	Chubu Sangaku	Dec.	4, 1934	174,323	Niigata, Toyama, Nagano, Gifu		
16	Hakusan	Nov.	12, 1962	47,700	Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Gifu		
17	Minami Alps	Јипе	1, 1964	35,752	Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka		
18	lse-Shima	Nov.	20, 1946	55,549	Mie		
19	Yoshino-Kumano	Feb.	1, 1936	59,798	Mie, Nara, Wakayama		
20	San'in Kaigan	July	15, 1963	8,784	Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori		
21	Setonaikai	Mar.	16, 1934	62,790	Hyogo, Wakayama, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Fukuoka, Ooita		
22	Daisen-Oki	Feb.	1, 1936	31,927	Tottori, Shimane, Okayama		
23	Ashizuri-Uwakai	Nov.	10, 1972	11,166	Ehime, Kochi		
24	Saikai	Mar.	16, 1955	24,636	Nagasaki		
25	Unzen-Amakusa	Mar.	16, 1934	28,287	Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima		
26	Aso-Kuju	Dec.	4, 1934	72,678	Kumamoto, Ooita		
27	Kirishima-Yaku	Mar.	16, 1934	54,833	Miyazaki, Kagoshima		
28	Iriomote	Мау	15, 1972	12,506	Okinawa		

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

### 4-2) History of Establishment of Protected Areas

### 4-2-2) Development of Nature Park System

#### a) Introduction of National Parks Law

In 1931, the National Parks Law, which marked the start of Japan's national park system, was established to conserve areas of notable scenic value and to promote their utilisation. Other factors which were conducive to the enactment of the National Parks Law included the promotion of local industries by attracting tourists from home and abroad with the prospect of acquisition of foreign currencies, the fostering of a sense of devotion among the population to the nation itself and to their home provinces.

#### b) The Early Era of National Parks

In March 1934, Setonaikai, Unzen and Kirishima National Parks were the first national parks to be designated, and by the outbreak of World War , a total of 12 national parks had been designated. These national parks were classified into two types: those for the conservation of scenic beauty and those oriented for tourism purposes. Akan National Park, Daisetsuzan National Park and Chubu Sangaku National Park belonged to the former type, while Nikko National Park, Fuji Hakone National Park, Setonaikai National Park and Unzen National Park were assigned the latter category.

#### c) After World War

After the end of World War , the designation of new national parks and the expansion of the existing national parks areas were actively promoted for the purpose of promotion of sightseeing recreation and the tourist industry, both considered as contributing to the country's post-war economic reconstruction.

In 1946, Ise-Shima National Park was designated as the country's first post-war national park, and by 1955 seven national parks had been newly designated.

In 1950, a partial revision of the National Parks Law, led to the inauguration of the designation of Quasi-national Parks.

#### d) Rapid Growth of the Economy and the National Parks Law to the Natural Parks Law

The Natural Parks Law, enacted in 1957, provides for addition of Quasi-National Parks and Prefectural Natural Parks to the national park system of the country.

Following this, the rapid growth of the Japanese economy throughout the 1960's and 1970's resulted in extraordinary increases in the both the average income and to the amount of leisure time available to the people, which in turn contributed to the sharp increase in the number of

visitors to natural parks. In accordance with these developments, the designation of natural parks was further accelerated.

During that period, however, grave concern was voiced over the disturbance to nature caused by excessive development activities, together with increases environmental pollution in urban areas, both of which came to be issues of serious concern to Japanese society.

## e) Current Developments

As a measure directed at resolving these burgeoning environmental concerns, the Environment Agency was established in 1971, which took over responsibility for administrative management of natural parks from the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Ever since, the central government has been emphasising the importance of conservation of the natural environment, particularly preservation of the country's natural ecosystems.

At present, the Environment Agency, in its running of the country's natural park system is making every effort to reconcile the two inseparable objectives of protection and utilisation of Natural Parks

# 自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編(1992):自然公園とは?、世界と日本の自然は今 自然保 護年鑑3、日正社

Japan International Cooperation Agency (1998) :Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, "Natural Parks"

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-2) History of Establishment of Protected Areas

# 4-2-2) Development of Nature Park System

List of Quasi-national Parks

## As of March 31, 1999

Quasi-national park okanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri bashiri seko-Shakotan-Otaru Kaigan daka Sanmyaku-Erimo numa imokita Hanto ugaru ayachine irikoma inami-Sanriku Kinkazan o ga okai higo Sanzan-Tadami igo-Tsukuba yogi-Arafune-Saku Kogen inami Boso eiji Memorial Forest Takao inzawa-Oyama do-Yahiko-Yoneyama bio Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen inryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	March June July March August May July May March April August December March July May May June June October	1, 1990 1, 1958 24, 1963 1, 1958 24, 1963 1, 1981 1, 1958 22, 1968 31, 1975 10, 1982 22, 1968 30, 1979 8, 1963 15, 1973 24, 1963 15, 1973 3, 1959 10, 1969 1, 1958 11, 1967 25, 1965 27, 1950 1, 1968 1, 1958 1, 1968 1, 1955 1, 1964	13,123 5,685 770 27,572 29,464 9,672 9,246	" Aomori " Iwate Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagat Miyagi Miyagi, Yamagata Akita, Yamagata Fukushima, Niigata Ibaraki, Chiba Gunma, Nagano Chiba Tokyo Kanagawa Niigata Toyama, Ishikawa
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inami-Sanriku Kinkazan o ga nokai higo Sanzan-Tadami igo-Tsukuba yogi-Arafune-Saku Kogen inami Boso eiji Memorial Forest Takao nzawa-Oyama do-Yahiko-Yoneyama bo Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen nryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	March August May July May March April August December March July May May June June October	30, 1979 8, 1963 15, 1973 24, 1963 15, 1973 3, 1959 10, 1969 1, 1958 11, 1967 25, 1965 27, 1950 1, 1968 1, 1968 1, 1955	13,902 39,635 8,156 28,373 86,129 34,309 13,123 5,685 770 27,572 29,464 9,672 9,246	Miyagi Miyagi, Yamagata Akita Akita, Yamagata Fukushima, Niigata Ibaraki, Chiba Gunma, Nagano Chiba Tokyo Kanagawa Niigata Toyama, Ishikawa
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inami Boso eiji Memorial Forest Takao inzawa-Oyama do-Yahiko-Yoneyama bio Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen mryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	August December March July May June June October	1, 1958 11, 1967 25, 1965 27, 1950 1, 1968 1, 1968 1, 1955	5,685 770 27,572 29,464 9,672 9,246	Chiba Tokyo Kanagawa Niigata Toyama, Ishikawa
eiji Memorial Forest Takao Inzawa-Oyama do-Yahiko-Yoneyama bio Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen mryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	December March July May June June October	11, 1967 25, 1965 27, 1950 1, 1968 1, 1968 1, 1955	770 27,572 29,464 9,672 9,246	Tokyo Kanagawa Niigata Toyama, Ishikawa
nzawa-Oyama do-Yahiko-Yoneyama oto Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen mryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	March July May May June June October	25, 1965 27, 1950 1, 1968 1, 1968 1, 1955	27,572 29,464 9,672 9,246	Kanagawa Niigata Toyama, Ishikawa
do-Yahiko-Yoneyama oto Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen mryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	July May May June June October	27, 1950 1, 1968 1, 1968 1, 1955	29,464 9,672 9,246	Niigata Toyama, Ishikawa
oto Hanto hizen-Kaga Kaigan akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen nryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	May May June June October	1, 1968 1, 1968 1, 1955	9,672 9,246	Toyama, Ishikawa
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akasa Wan atsugatake-Chushin Kogen nryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	June June October	1, 1955		isnikawa, rukui
atsugatake-Chushin Kogen nryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	June October		1 21.091	Fulmi Vasta
nryu-Okumikawa i-Sekigahara-Yoro	October	1, 1964		Fukui, Kyoto
i-Sekigahara-Yoro		1 1000	39,857	
	December	1, 1969	25,723	
			20,219	
da-Kiso Gawa	March	3, 1964	18,075	
chi Kogen			21,705	
ikawa Wan	April	10, 1958	9,464	
zuka		22, 1968	29,821	
uroo-Akame-Aoyama	December			Mie, Nara
wako	July	24, 1950	97,601	
eiji Memorial Forest Minoo	December	11, 1967	963	
ongo-lkoma-Kisen	April	10, 1958	23,119	Osaka, Nara, Wakayama
onosen-Ushiroyama-Nagisan	April	10, 1969	48,803	Hyogo, Tottori, Okayama
amato-Aogaki	December	28, 1970		Nara, Nara
oya-Ryujin	March	23, 1967	19,198	Nara, Wakayama
ba-Dogo-Taishaku	July	24, 1963	7,808	Tottori, Shimane, Hiroshima
shi-Chugoku Sanchi		10, 1969	28,553	
ta-Nagato Kaigan	November		12,384	
tiyoshidai	November	1, 1955	4,502	//
				Tokushima, Kouchi
				//
				Ehime, Kochi
ppo Kaigan				Oita, Miyazaki
bo-Katamuki	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	25, 1965		
chinan Kaigan	June	1, 1955	4,542	
			7,861	Kagoshima
nami Gunto	Мау	15, 1972	10,320	Okinawa
nami Gunto iinawa Kaigan			3,127	"
	rugisan roto-Anan Kaigan zuchi a-Kyushu kai ba-Hita-Hikosan Tsushima Ishu-Chuo Sanchi po Kaigan o-Katamuki ninan Kaigan ami Gunto	rugisan March roto-Anan Kaigan June zuchi November a-Kyushu October kai June pa-Hita-Hikosan July Tsushima July Isuhu-Chuo Sanchi May po Kaigan February o-Katamuki March ninan Kaigan June ami Gunto February nawa Kaigan May	rugisan         March         3, 1964           roto-Anan Kaigan         June         1, 1964           zuchi         November         1, 1955           a-Kyushu         October         16, 1972           kai         June         1, 1956           a-Hita-Hikosan         July         29, 1950           Tsushima         July         22, 1968           ushu-Chuo Sanchi         May         15, 1982           po Kaigan         February         15, 1974           o-Katamuki         March         25, 1965           ninan Kaigan         June         1, 1955           ami Gunto         February         15, 1974           nawa Kaigan         May         15, 1972	rugisan         March         3, 1964         20,961           roto-Anan Kaigan         June         1, 1964         6,225           zuchi         November         1, 1955         10,683           a-Kyushu         October         16, 1972         8,107           kai         June         1, 1956         10,158           pa-Hita-Hikosan         July         29, 1950         85,023           Tsushima         July         22, 1968         11,950           ushu-Chuo Sanchi         May         15, 1982         27,096           po Kaigan         February         15, 1974         8,518           o-Katamuki         March         25, 1965         22,000           ninan Kaigan         June         1, 1955         4,542           ami Gunto         February         15, 1974         7,861           nawa Kaigan         May         15, 1972         10,320

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

(4) Protected Areas in Japan

#### 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-1) Designation of Natural Parks : National, Quasi-national and Prefectural Natural Parks

## a) Category

Legal basis of National Parks is the Natural Parks Law. The Law aims to conserve scenic areas and their ecosystems, to promote their utilisation, and to contribute to the health, recreation and environmental education of the people. In compliance with this law, natural parks are categorised following 3 parks.

## 1) National Parks

The place of greatest and national-level natural scenic beauty and ecosystems, worthy of the names of the national scenic and out-standing ecosystem's sites in Japan.

## 2) Quasi-national Parks

The place of great natural scenic beauty at the district-level and next to the National Parks.

## 3) Prefectural Natural Parks

The places of prefectural-level importance and designated by the prefectural governors concerned.

### b) Designation

## 1) National Park

Designated by the Director General of the Environment Agency after conferring with related governmental agencies and consulting with the Nature Conservation Council. 28 parks, 2.05million hectares (ca. 5.4% of the area of the country).

2) Quasi-national Park

Designated by the Director General of the Environment Agency by proposal of the Governor of the Prefecture concerned after conferring with related governmental agencies and consulting with the Nature Conservation Council. 55 parks, 1.34 million hectares (ca. 3.6% of the area of the country).

#### 3) Prefectural Natural Parks

Designated by the prefectural governments in accordance with the prefectural ordinance. 306 parks, 1.95 million hectares (ca. 5.2% of the total area of the country).

- c) Guideline on Selection of Natural Parks
- 1) Landscape

## National Parks

Typical scenic beauty in Japan. Scenic beauty judged superb by international standards.

Quasi-national Parks Level of scenic beauty comparable to that for National Parks. Prefectural Natural Parks Typical scenic beauty in each prefecture

2) Criteria of Landscape

National Parks

Scale of Landscape

Magnificent scenic beauty covering an enormous area (in principle, 30,000ha or more: 10,000ha or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts).

. Natural Grade

In principle, must have a wilderness with an area of 2,000ha or more as the central scenic beauty and also meet the following conditions:

- No possibility of an ecosystem or a few ecosystem being changed by development activities or occupancy by humans;
- Scientific, educational or recreational importance of the species of animals and plants.
- Great natural scenic beauty;

In principle, the total length of the coastline must be 20km or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts.

. Degree of Variety

Must consist of two or more scenic elements and also have scenery full of variety.

Quasi-national Parks

Scale of Landscape

Scenic beauty covering a relatively large area (in principle, 10,000ha or more: 3,000ha or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts).

. Natural Grade

In principle, must have a wilderness with an area of 1,000ha or more as the central scenic beauty and also meet the following condition:

Its ecosystem is kept intact.

In principle, the total length of the coastline must be 20km or more in the case of parks consisting mainly of coasts.

. Degree of Variety

None

3) Land Ownership

## 4) Industries

## 5) Utilisation

## 6) Location

National Parks

Geographical distribution is not taken into consideration.

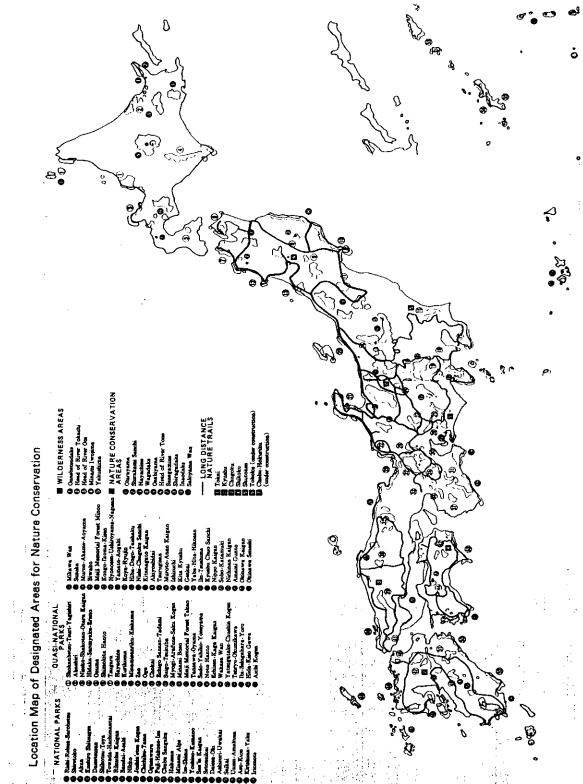
Quasi-national Parks

Proper national distribution is necessary from the standpoint of easy utilisation.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Natural Parks Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

# (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3)-1) Designation of Natural Parks : National, Quasi-national and Prefectural Natural Parks



Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

(4) Protected Areas in Japan

4-3) Natural Parks

## 4-3-2) Park Plan

Regulation for protection and facilities for utilisation of National Parks are planned by the Environment Agency and revised about every five years. For Quasi-national Parks, planning is elaborated by the prefectures concerned under the guidance of the Environment Agency to follow the standards of National Parks.

Park Plan refers to regulations for protection or use of parks, or plans of park facilities, forming the basis of protection, maintenance, and management of national parks as well as the basis of facilities maintenance. Those are classified into protection plans and utilisation plans.

Protection plans are aimed at restricting such activities harmful to the scenic beauty or ecosystems of natural parks, while utilisation plans are intended for effective and appropriate use of natural parks for outdoor recreational activities.

#### a) Protection Plan

#### 1) For Conservation

Japan is one of the more densely populated countries. Most of its land area, with the exceptions of upper mountain areas, areas of religious importance and lands unsuitable for cultivation, are now utilised by the people for a wide variety of economic activities. Furthermore, almost all private land owners occupy only small plots of land. If any national parks were designated, many economic activities had already been undertaken within national park areas.

Therefore designated areas as national parks cover not only state-owned lands (most of which are national forests) and local government-owned lands, but also many private-owned lands. At present, 24% of the whole national park areas, particularly located in western part of Japan and coastal areas, are private-owned lands.

Several activities such as agriculture, forestry and tourism & recreational industries can also be undertaken within the park areas. Management measures to regulate inappropriate development activities are always taken into consideration through the zoning system by the Environment Agency.

All park areas are classified into four zones such as the special protection zone, the marine park zone, special zone and the ordinary zone according to natural grades of ecosystems and scenic beauty, degree of human impact to the natural environment, and also of importance for visitor use.

The following map illustrates an example of national park conservation and utilisation plan of

Rishiri Island, Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park close to northernmost Main Island, Hokkaido.

## 2) Regulatory Plan for Protection

The regulatory plan for protection is designed to classify natural parks into several zones on the basis of scenic beauty and ecosystem (zoning system).

- Special Zones
- a. Criteria of Selection

The special zone is defined as a zone which has places with great scenic beauty (excluding the sea surface beyond the beach-line at the neap tide). Special zones are selected from among the following areas:

- . Zone where it is necessary to preserve the excellent natural environment;
- . Zone where it is necessary to preserve the proper environmental quality, particularly important as the land for utilisation;
- . Zone where shrines, temples, historic sites, holy grounds and places famous, in legend or villages which have buildings of peculiarly localised architectural style mix exquisitely with the surrounding natural scenery;
- . Zone where it is necessary to restore natural scenic beauty and it is considered possible to do so;
- . Other zones where it is necessary to preserve natural scenic beauty.
- b. Classification of Special Zones

Special zones are classified into special protection zone and other special zones (which are further divided into Class , Class , Class ). Special zones must be classified on the basis of their respective characteristics in terms of scenic beauty. It is also necessary to ensure that appropriate measures to protect and manage individual special zones without impairing any other benefit and protection of the law.

. Special Protection Zones

The special protection zone is defined as a zone where it is essential to preserve scenic beauty and ecosystem. Special protection zones are selected from among the following zones.

- Zones where specific landscape and ecosystem retain these primeval state;
- Zones which are likely to be affected by human work, such as alpine zones, alpestrine zones, 'fushochi' and swamps;
- Zones which are important as places for wild growth of plants and habitats of wild animals;
- Zones which has unique topographical or geological features or where unique natural phenomena occur;
- Zones with planted trees which are very advanced in years and therefore are valued highly by scientists and researchers.

### . Classification of Special Zones by Types of Land

Special zones except special protection zone have a wide variety of elements and therefore the necessity of preservation of natural beauty differs form one zone to another. For this reason, these zones are divided into Class , Class , Class .

## Ordinary Zone

The ordinary zone is defined as a zone except special and marine park zones in natural park areas. The following zones falls under this category.

a. Villages, tracts of farmland or forests which are integrated with special zones in terms of topography, appearance and other scenic elements and which require protection of natural scenery although not so urgently as special zones.

- b. Surrounding zones which are necessary in protection or utilising special zones.
- 3) Facility Plan for Protection and Conservation

The facility plan for protection and conservation is designed to determine policies on the layout and maintenance of individual facilities necessary in ensuring safety in the protection and utilisation of landscape and ecosystem.

#### b) Utilisation Plan

#### 1) For Visitor Use

The Utilisation Plan is to facilitate appropriate access to and within parks and accommodation for park visitors. The plan includes how to arrange the exclusive town site so as to concentrate park accommodations in limited areas, and also how to arrange facilities required for traffic system, lodging and camping, nature observation, and other various outdoor activities.

## 2) Facility Plan for Utilisation

The facility plan for utilisation is designed to determine policies on the systematic layout and maintenance of the town site and the facilities as set forth in Article 4(1)-(9) of the regulations relative to the enforcement of the Natural Parks Law, which are considered effective in attracting visitors, for the purpose of actively promoting the utilisation of those facilities of natural parks which are best suited for visitors.

Important points to note in working out a facility plan for utilisation are as listed below:

- The facility plan for utilisation should not designed to cover all the existing facilities or all prospective facilities. It should be designed to determine policies on the layout and maintenance of only those facilities which are indispensable in promoting the proper utilisation of the natural park;
- The facility plan for utilisation should be designed to decide on facilities necessary in promoting the proper utilisation of the natural park and the most appropriate sites for them on the basis of the prospects for their realisation.

Town Site

## a. Criteria of Selection

The Town Site is defined as a place for facilities selected with utmost emphasis on the systematic utilisation and maintenance in the natural park. Town sites are selected in the following places. Minute care should be taken to ensure that town sites are not concentrated in a certain part within the natural park.

- Site where it is possible to construct facilities without causing a large-scale change in the surrounding landscape and ecosystem;
- Site where environmental conditions are good for human health;.
- Sites which are well protected against disasters;
- Site whose ownership is suited for the formulation and implementation of the park plan.

b. Location

In principle, town sites should be located within Class special zone. A location where town sites are to be prepared should be selected taking into account such natural conditions as the lay of the land and the prevalent plants and also the type and scale of each facility within the natural park.

#### c. Policies on the Provision of Facilities

Policies on the Provision of the facilities should be worked out for each of the following groups of facility sections. However, policies on the basic facilities such as the roads and water supply/sewerage that cover a whole site should be worked out for each of such facilities.

#### Independent Facilities

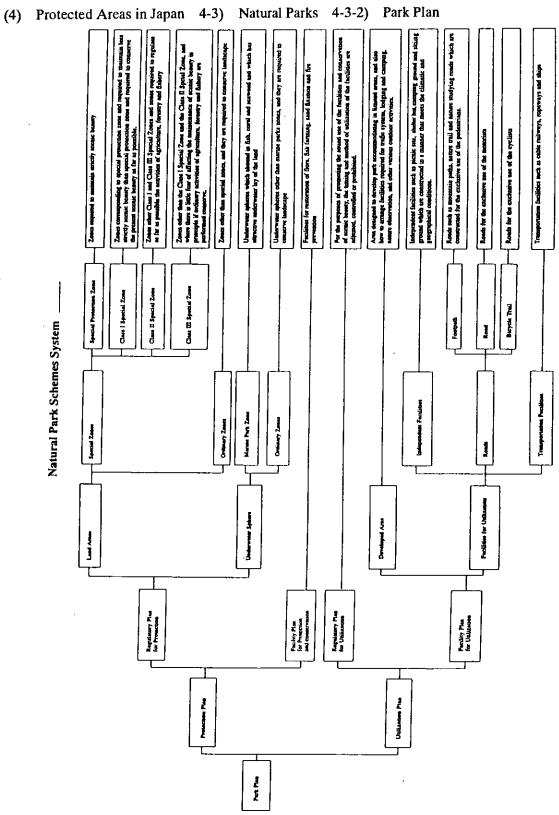
The independent facilities within a national park are divided into independent facilities (except the roads and transportation facilities), the roads and the transportation facilities.

a) Roadways, b) Bicycle Trail, c) Footpaths, d) Lodging, e) Transportation Facilities (the ropeway and the cable railway)

## 3) Regulatory Plan for Utilisation

The regulatory plan for utilisation is worked out when it is necessary to promote their proper use and preservation on the natural scenery. In the regulatory plan for utilisation, facilities with which special adjustment, regulation or prohibition of the term and method or utilisation is required, are decided.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Basic Policies



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999) : Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management,, FY99, "Natural Parks"

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#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

#### 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-3) Management Plan, Administrative System, Control of Various Human Activities

### a) Management Plan

The management plan of a national park is prepared at National Park and Wildlife Office in order to promote its appropriate protection and recreational use which meet the specific needs and conditions of each national park area.

In Japan, under the zoning system, the national park is usually managed jointly by the State, prefecture and the like. The management plan is prepared for each district of the park to give joint administration a sense of rationality and consistency.

The management plan comes into force only after consulting all prefectural governments and main municipalities in jurisdiction, private corporations in sight-seeing business, NGOs, and experts in the field of natural environmental conservation, and finally after obtaining an approval with the Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau.

Contents of management plan are as follows:

- Matters concerning with the management of landscape and ecosystem;
- Matters concerning with regional development and arrangement;
- Matters concerning with education and guidance of its users and the like;
- Matters concerning with improving regional beauty and views;
- Others.

#### b) Administrative System

Management of national parks system in Japan is carried out by the Environment Agency in close cooperation with prefectural governments, municipality authorities concerned as well as land owners and private sectors. There are 56 Ranger Stations under 11 National Park and Wildlife Offices.

Management of quasi-national parks and prefectural natural parks is implemented by the prefectural governor concerned.

Law enforcement on national parks, in accordance with the Natural Parks Law, is undertaken by the national park rangers and other staff members and the local government officials in collaboration with land owners and private sectors.

#### c) Control of Various Human Activities

To conserve outstanding ecosystems and scenic beauty, many activities liable to deteriorate natural environment, are prohibited without prior permissions and licenses from the Director-General of the Environment Agency or the Governor of the prefectural government concerned. With reference to the ordinary area, large-scale activities have to be notified in advance to the management authorities.

Permissions are issued in accordance with the Guideline to Assess on Various Development Activities in National Parks Areas elaborated by the Environment Agency.

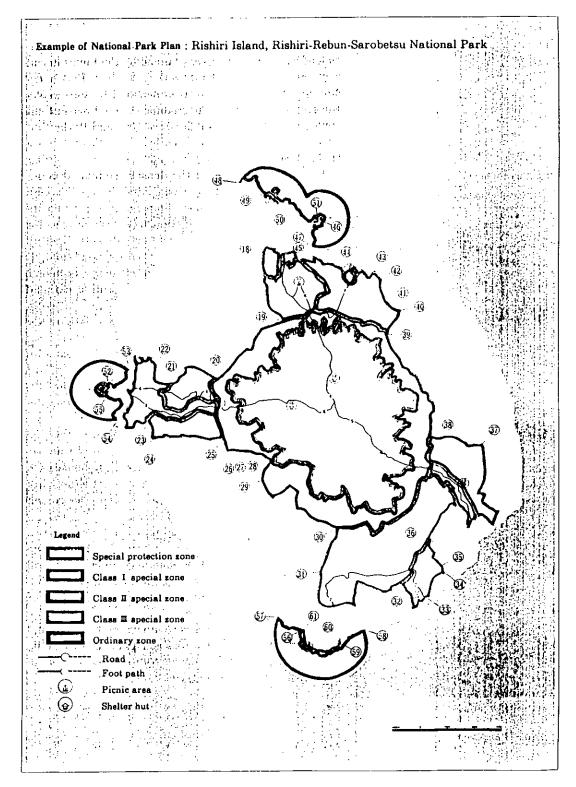
## d) Vehicle Access Control

Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles have gained popularity in recent years in Japan, and the negative impacts of these activities to the natural vegetation and wildlife have become issues of concern. As a countermeasure, the Director-General of the Environment Agency designated part of special protection areas of national and quasi-national parks to apply restriction on such activities. As of October 1996, 25 areas (total of 191,737 ha) in national parks and 9 areas (total of 42,490 ha) were designated for access control.

# 自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編(1996):総説、自然と共に生きる時代を目指して 自然保 護年鑑4、日正社

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Natural Parks Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

## 4-3-3) Management Plan, Administrative System, Control of Various Human Activities



Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

- (4) Protected Areas in Japan
- 4-3) Natural Parks
- 4-3-4) Number of Visitors, Budget, Tax, Purchase of Privately-Owned Lands, Contribution to Local Economy

#### a) Number of Visitors

Natural Park visitation increased dramatically during the period of Japan's rapid economic growth (1960-70s). In recent years, the number exceeds one billion visitors annually. Such huge numbers of visitors is distinguishing feature of natural parks in Japan. While demonstrating the popularity of the natural park system, the resulting widely spread trash, crowding on the trails, and inadequate facilities, as well as the lack of proper information system are causing severe problems for the park management. Exactly who should bear the cost burden of any remedial measures is still unresolved.

## b) Budget

The total budget of the Nature Conservation Bureau of the Environment Agency for FY1995, 1996, and 1997 were ¥13,084,580,000, ¥15,061,386,000 and ¥16,577,872,000, respectively. (National Park Association in Japan: 1998)

#### c) Reduction of Tax Pertaining to Nature Conservation

#### 1) Exceptional Deduction form Capital Gains

When a piece of land in a special zone of a National or Quasi-national Park or in a special zone of Nature Conservation area is purchased by the State or a local public body, the lower between ¥20 million and the sum of capital gains exceptionally deducted, with respect to income tax and corporation tax, for long-term capital gains. For short-term capital gains, ¥20 million is exceptionally deducted.

When a Protection area of National Endangered Species, a habitat of precious natural wildlife, specific birds, or protected birds under the Treaty on Migratory Birds in a special protection zone of a wildlife protection area is purchased by the Government of Japan or a local public body, ¥15 million is exceptionally deducted from capital gains.

Since 1979, the exceptional deduction from capital gains (i.e.¥15million) has been applied also to those pieces of land in special zones of prefectural natural parks or special zones of prefectural nature conservation areas that are recognised by the Director General of the Environment Agency as highly restricted areas.

2) Exclusion from Property Taxation

In 1974, the Local Taxes Act was amended. Exclusion from property taxation was

introduced, as a result, to special protection zones of National and Quasi-national Parks as well as to first class special zones (i.e., areas classified as forests, wildernesses, ponds or marshes), with a view to the promotion of nature conservation and coordination between nature conservation and private rights. Regarding second class special zones, at the same time, it was considered to rational that property tax be mitigated for those areas that were considered to be regulated in the same manner as special protection zones and first class special zones, and a notification was issued to that effect form the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Then in 1975, the notification was revised to the effect that it was rational that property tax be mitigated for those areas in special zones of prefectural Natural Parks that were considered to be regulated in the same manner as special protection zones of National or Quasi-National Parks and first class special zones, in view of balance among these areas.

Further in 1977, the Ministry of Home Affairs notified that it was rational that property tax be mitigated for those areas in special zones of nature conservation areas (i.e., area classified as ponds or marshes, forests, or wildernesses) that were regulated in the same manner as nature conservation areas.

#### 3) Special Measure Pertaining to Nature Conservation Corporations

Preferential measures were introduced to the tax system in April 1985, regarding income tax, corporation tax, real estate acquisition tax, and property tax, with a view to further promoting national trust activities.

These measures are applied to contributions from corporations that are performing operations for conservation and utilisation of excellent natural environment (nature conservation corporations) and whose sound management is ensured. In April 1986, a non-taxation system was introduced to gift tax for these corporations' inherited property when such property is donated.

## 4) Other Measures

Since 1985, tax benefits have been given to the corporation (natural environmental Conservation Corporation) which is engaged in the business to conserve natural environment and to use environment efficiently and wisely, and at the same time operates under optimal management. The purpose of such benefits is to promote National Trust activities.

In 1986, the tax exemptive measures were also taken for the bestowal of inherited properties.

### d) Purchase of Private-Owned Lands

Japanese natural park system regulates the activities which entail adverse effects on the natural environment and resources. The land owners, who could not acquire permissions or licenses, may receive compensation from the government. One of ways of compensation as well as strengthening management in outstanding ecosystems is to purchase the privately-owned

lands within national parks areas.

The policy to purchase important areas such as the special protection zone and the Class special zone was started in 1972 for national parks and in 1976 for the quasi-national parks. From 1991, this concept was expanded to the Class , Class special zones.

Such purchase was executed by means of public bonds issued by prefectural governments. The expenses of the principal to redeem were subsidised by the national government. 6,507 ha. were purchased by the prefectural governments and total amount of bonds issued reached to \$12.34 million yen until the end of March 1995.

## e) Contribution to the local Economy

There is no doubt that natural parks contribute to the economy of local communities (such as in the form of revenue from tourism), however studies on the socio-economic aspects of parks is currently lacking in Japan. This can possibly be attributed to the fact that no entrance fees are charged by Japanese natural parks.

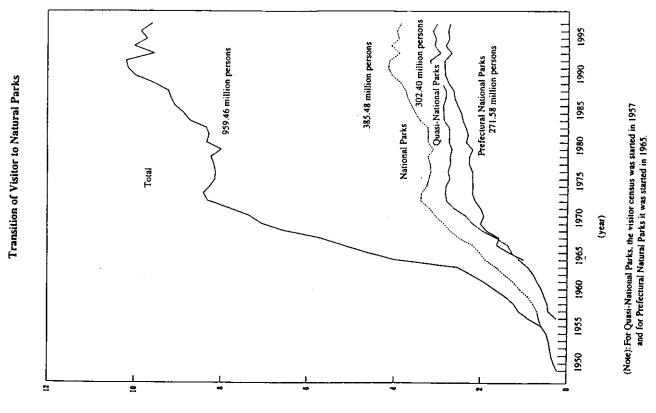
自然保護年鑑編集委員会 編(1996):総説、自然と共に生きる時代を目指して 自然保 護年鑑4、日正社

(財)国立公園協会編(1998:1998自然公園の手びき、国立公園協会

(財)政策科学研究所(1978):環境庁委託業務報告書 自然公園計画策定段階における 社会・経済的影響予測手法に関する調査報告書

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Basic Policies Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-4) Number of Visitors, Budget, Tax, Purchase of Privately-Owned Lands, Contribution to Local Economy



Number of Visitors

<b>Classified Zones</b>	in Natural Parks
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ltem r	Number of parks	Park area (ha)	Ratio to the National land area* (%)	(as of March 31, 1999) Breakdown					
				Special zone				Ordinary zone	
				Special protection zone		Area (ha)		Area (ha)	
				Area (ha)	Ratio (%)		Ratio (%)		Ratio (%)
National park	28	2.046.635	5.41	265.509	13.0	1,456,628	71.2	590.007	28.8
Quasi-national park	55	1,343,181	3.55	66,490	\$.0	1,249,997	93.1	93.184	6.9
Prefectural natural park	306	1,951,761	5.16	-	•	693,100	35.5	1.258,661	64.5
Total	389	5,341,577	14.13	331,999	6.2	3,399,725	63.6	1,941,852	36.4

Note: National land area 37,785,464 hectare as of October 1998 by the National Land Institute.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999) : Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management,, FY99, "Natural Parks"

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

#### 4-3) Natural Parks

## 4-3-5) National Park Rangers and Nature Conservation Bureau

## a) Outlines of Ranger System

## 1) History

In USA, national civil servants referred to as Park Rangers are employed to manage National Parks and guide the visitors. In Japan, although such a ranger system was under consideration before the war, the system began in earnest in 1953 with employment of 12 park technical officials. Subsequently in 1958, the number of the officials was fixed at 40.

As of 1992, there were a total of 128 such rangers, or National Park Managers as they are known. The rise in the workload and scope of duties has led to the recent increases in their numbers, both by direct recruitment and through transfers from the Forestry Agency, and other agencies. Meanwhile, 28 National Parks in Japan have been divided into 11 blocks, each block administered by a National Park and Wildlife Offices or National Park Manager Station.

## 2) Duties

No National Park is the same as any other, and likewise no park's management requirements are the same. The realities of the field demand special care and skills, especially with regards to maintenance of scenic assets, and park ranger duties in Japan are as follows:

- To carry out field surveys required to substantiate or recommend review existing plans of the park; produce draft plans; and to coordinate the views of local stakeholders;
- To direct and regulate the developers to avoid harming the scenic beauty of the parks; to report examination of approval and permission for a wide range of development activities to the central office; and to promote programmes for beautification and management of vegetation;
- To manage the visitor facilities properly and to provide direction to the visitors as to their proper (and improper) use
- To monitor the status of land use and management requirement of the facilities and to undertake the necessary improvements.

#### b) Park Volunteers and Sub-rangers

Apart from the park rangers, who are officials of the Environment Agency, private citizens are also employed on a voluntary basis to work nature conservation and visitor services; and play an important role in the management of the parks.

## 1) Park volunteers

The park volunteers work in National Parks, patrolling areas to collect garbage, introducing

the visitors to the natural history of the park to through field interpretations and slide shows; and providing general instructions how to best utilise the park. There are about 1,700 volunteers working in 33 areas of 21 National Parks as of December 1995.

## 2) Sub-rangers

The sub-rangers comprise mostly students, who work under supervision of the park rangers on a casual basis and allocated to areas with high visitation during the summer vacation. The sub-rangers, many of whom have good knowledge and experience in nature conservation, receive many inquiries from students during the course of their duties.

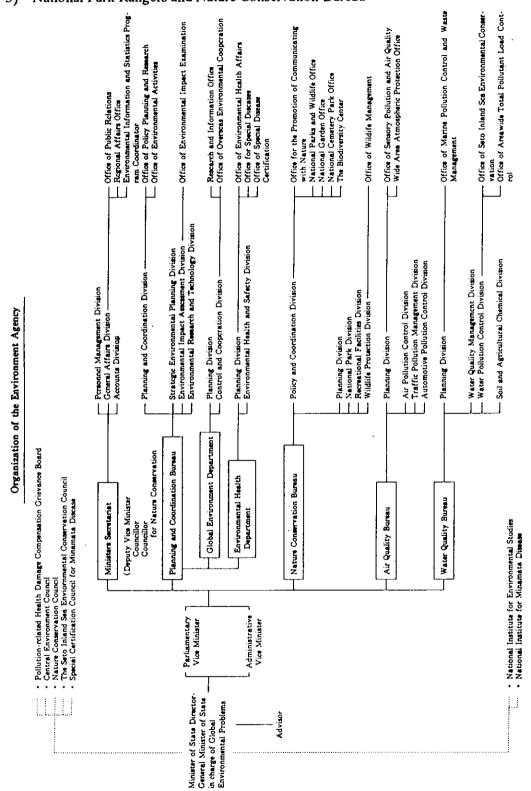
#### c) Nature Conservation Bureau

The administrative agencies concerned with nature conservation are the Environment Agency as well as the National Land Agency, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Construction.

The Environment Agency incorporates the Nature Conservation Bureau, the main duties of which are general coordination for conservation and management of the natural environment. The Bureau consists of five divisions (Policy and Coordination, Planning, National Park, Park Facilities and Wildlife Protection) and three offices (Wildlife Management, Promotion of Communing with Nature and the Biodiversity Center). In addition, it maintains a number of branch offices are located in regional areas, namely the National Park and Wildlife Offices, the National Garden Office and the National Cemetery Park Office.

自然保護年鑑編集委員会編(1992):総説、世界と日本の自然は今自然保護年鑑3、 日正社

環境庁 (1992): 自然と人とのよりよい関係を求めて 環境庁自然保護局 - その役割と 仕事



# 4-3-5) National Park Rangers and Nature Conservation Bureau

(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

#### 4-3) Natural Parks

4-3-6) Programmes for Provision of Places for Communing with Nature and their Beautification

## a) Provision of Public Facilities

To satisfy the public desire for communion with nature, the Environment Agency is providing public facilities fitting to the natural features of the natural parks and other natural areas in the people's vicinity. In National and Quasi-national Parks, basic visitor facilities, such as visitor centres, public toilets and camping sites have been provided for both conservation of the diversified natural environment, so that the visitors can experience the park in safety and comfort. There are also general programmes for conservation and restoration of the natural environment and for provision of visitor facilities within the core areas of some typical parks as well as a programme to provide core facilities for communing with nature and nature studies. Outside the natural parks, areas for recreational use have been relax have been provided to enhance opportunities for communing nature in people's vicinities well as its conservation and utilisation.

## b) The Green Diamond Plan

The report Special Improvement Project to Promote Coexistence with Nature released by the Nature Conservation Council in June 1995 identified the need to develop measures for the formation of a network of places to commune with locally-diversified nature. The report also states the need to further enrich measures to make distinctive yet user-friendly parks providing opportunities to commune with nature.

The Green Diamond Plan, launched in 1995, is a to enrich conservation of the natural environment in core areas of representative National/Quasi-national Parks and to enhance utilisation of the parks through encouragement of nature experience and learning. This plan consists of the following four programmes:

- Conservation and restoration of the natural environment: vegetation, animal populations, scenery, etc.;
- Provision of field locations for nature experience: high-grade nature of suitably sufficient area.
- Provision of visitor facilities at bases for the utilisation: orientation, guidance, conservation activities, etc.;
- Provision of visitor facilities at bases for directing utilisation: access control, guidance, information services, etc.

## c) Eco-museum

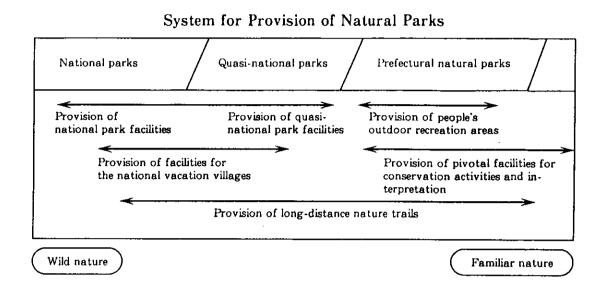
This programme is to provide the core facilities for the park visitors, particularly children, to commune with and learn about natural things, such as wildlife and vegetation, in the main utilisation areas of National/Quasi-national Parks. The Eco-museum is composed of an 'Eco-museum centres' and an 'Eco-field'. The Eco-museum centre provides a number services to the visitors, in the form of general information on nature through interpretation; nature experience and studies; guidance for the proper use; and support for volunteer activities. The Eco-field on the other hand provides opportunities for field experience and observations along nature trails between the Eco-museum centre and the nature observation facilities.

#### d) Beautification Programme

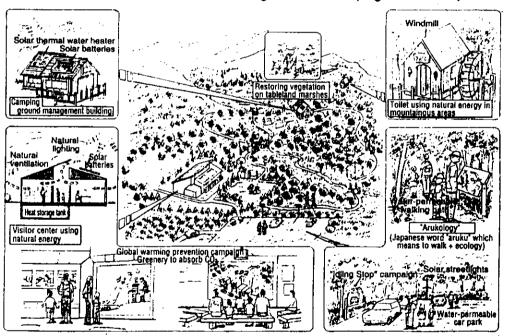
Garbage produced by the park visitors not only lowers the aesthetic beauty of nature, but also may result in pollution effects, which can manifest itself in such form as offensive odours. To enhance beautification and cleanup of major areas, particularly the more popular National Parks, this programme assists increation and strengthening of 'beautification groups' to work in the field and provides subsidies for their activities. This programme has designated the first Sunday of August as Natural Parks Clean Day, when activities for beautification and cleanup are conducted concurrently at national level in cooperation with the local governments concerned.

環境庁自然保護局(1997):6.自然とのふれあいの推進、人と自然の共生をめざして 環 境庁 自然保護局 - その役割と仕事 (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

## 4-3-6) Programmes for Nature Commune Places and Beautification



Special Improvement Project to Promote Coexistence with Nature ("Coexistence Plan 21")(Global Warming Prevention Campaign Focus Areas)



Planning Division, Global Environment Department, Environment Agency (1998): Working for the Environment, An Introduction to the Environment Agency and Japan's Environmental Policy

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

#### (4) Protected Areas in Japan

#### 4-3) Natural Parks

## 4-3-7) Characteristics of Natural Parks in Japan

## a) National Sense of Awareness of National Parks

The natural park system including National Parks is a system to conserve natural scenic areas of exceptional value, as well as to promote public health, relaxation and environmental education through increased visitor use. According to the National Opinion Poll on Nature Conservation and Utilisation by the Prime Minister's Office in 1991, the number of people who 'do not know' the natural park system occupied more than 30% of the respondents. Also according to the survey, the main purposes for visiting natural parks were sightseeing (50.6%), 'going for drives' (30.0%) and mountain climbing, hiking, basking in the sea and basking in the forest (29.7%). The survey results tend to indicate that to the Japanese populace at large, a national park is a place for scenic recreation and not much more.

This illustrates a basic difference between Japan and countries such as the USA and Germany, where visitation of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves has led to changes in lifestyle and has greatly contributed to intensifying movements towards nature conservation. In the light of this, Japan may have to consider revising its national park policies and the role that they play in the lives of its people.

#### b) Comparisons with National Parks in the Western Countries

In Western countries, land ownership in national parks can be classified into two categories. In the USA and Canada national parks are considered as being 'constructed' in that total jurisdiction over the land in the parks is held by the authorities while in the UK and Japan a national park is simply an "area" designated to the parks authorities, regardless of the ownership. In the New World, the former is the norm due to the large territories available within those countries. In fact some Western European countries established this type of park in their overseas territories after USA established the world first park in 1872. On the other hand, in the countries whose land is either small in area or fully-developed the parks are necessarily modelled after the UK system since there are few or no vacant areas for the establishment of large parks. In this type of arrangement, conservation of the natural environment and scenery can only be realised through regulation or placing limitations on human activities within the parks. In Japan, national park conservation measures are based mainly on the imposition of regulation, while in the UK, a contractual arrangement or "nature conservation objectives.

As for the number of individual parks, Japan can easily stand comparison with the USA,

Canada and the UK. However, the favourable comparison stops there, as there remain large gaps between Japan and these countries as far as total area of the parks per head of population the number of park management personnel assigned per unit area of park, the number of park personnel employed per 100,000 people and the management cost per head of population. Another major difference exists between the USA and Canada, and the UK, in that the former generally designate vast areas of virgin wilderness to the parks, while UK designates farming/mountain villages and scenery because of the few areas of virgin nature remaining. In Japan on the other hand, parks have the features of both: wilderness areas such as Shiretoko, Daisetsu Mountains and the Chubu Mountains, as well as scenic areas with a blend of nature and human culture and lifestyle, such as Setonaikai and Aso-kuju.

## c) IUCN Categories

IUCN places categories on National Parks and other protected areas throughout the world and compiles the UN list for Protected Areas about every five years. In the 1990 version, National Parks divided into two general categories: Type II (National Park) and Type V (Protected Landscape). Of the 28 National Parks in Japan, 15 are categorised as type II and the remaining 13 as type V.

自然保護年鑑編集委員会編(1992):日本の国立公園は諸外国とどう違う、世界と日本の自然は今自然保護年鑑3、日正社

薄木 三生 (1994): 自然保護地域の種類と設定状況、地球環境ハンドブック (不破 敬 一郎 編)、朝倉書店

# (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-3) Natural Parks

# 4-3-7) Characteristics of Natural Parks in Japan

	Canada	US	UK	Japan
Land Ownership	Park Authority Owned	Park Authority Owned	Area designation without regarding to land ownership	Area designation without regarding to land ownership
Number	34	48	10	28
Area (million ha)	18.2	19.4	1.36	2.00
Proportion to total land area	2%	2%	6%	5%
Per-capita area (m <sup>2</sup> )	7100	800	240	160
Staff Size (persons)	4000	9500	630	110
Management Area per personnel (ha)	4500	2000	2000	18000
Personnel per capita (/100,000)	16	4	1.1	0.1
Volunteers	4000			3000
Annual Visitation		300 million		400 million
Operational Budget (billion yen)	50	190		3.6
per capita (yen)	2000	800		30

# Comparison of National Parks (Canada, US, UK, Japan)

自然保護年鑑編集委員会編(1992):日本の国立公園は諸外国とどう違う、世界と日本の自然は今自然保護年鑑3、日正社

## 4-4) Wilderness Area and Nature Conservation Area

The Nature Conservation Law, which provides the basic frames for nature conservation, is to protect and manage natural resources and natural ecosystems in cooperation with other related laws. In accordance with this Law, Wilderness Areas, Nature Conservation Areas and Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas are established.

- a) Category
- 1) Wilderness Area

Area that preserves its original characteristics without any influence of human activities.

2) Nature Conservation Area

Natural area that preserves its valuable natural environment, as

alpine and subalpine vegetation;

valuable natural forests;

typical landscape, geology and natural phenomena;

river, lake, marsh, and sea coast with valuable wildlife;

marine area with valuable wildlife;

habitats of plants and wildlife preserving a natural environment comparable to - .

3) Prefectural Nature Conservation Area

Area that preserves a natural environment almost equivalent to a Nature Conservation Area, but does not include marine areas.

## b) Designation

Wilderness Areas and Nature Conservation Areas are designated by the Director General of the Environment Agency after conferring with related governmental agencies and consulting with the Nature Conservation Council.

Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas are designated after conferring with the Director General of the Environment Agency by the Governor of the Prefecture concerned.

The areas designated so far are:

- Wilderness Areas : 5, ca. 5,631 ha;
- Nature Conservation Areas : 10, ca. 21,593 ha;
- Prefecture Nature Conservation Areas: 519, ca. 73,609 ha.

## c) Regulation

## 1) Wilderness Area

In a restricted entry zone even entrance is prohibited except by permission of the Director General of the Environment Agency. In other zones all activities influencing natural ecosystems are prohibited except when permitted by the Director General of the Environment Agency.

2) Nature Conservation Area and Prefectural Nature Conservation Area

In a wildlife protection area capture and collection of designated animals and plants are prohibited except by the permission of the Director General of the Environment Agency or the Governor of the Prefecture concerned, respectively. In a special zone certain activities except those permitted by the Director General of the Environment Agency or Governor concerned according to the guidelines, are prohibited. In other zones certain activities must be reported to the Director General of the Environment Agency or the Governor concerned, respectively.

d) Regarding the Wilderness Area, from the standpoint of the valuableness and rareness, general and scientific survey took place from 1980-84. Further, for the Nature Conservation Area, a comprehensive academic survey has been carried out since 1985.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, Natural Parks Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan

# (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-4) Wilderness Area and Nature Conservation Area

Wilderness Area	۱ 		Total : 5 areas 5		as of March 31, 199			
District	Prefecture	Area (ha)	Land ownership	Data of designation	Features of natural environment	Remarks		
Onnebetsudake	Hokkaido	1,895	National forest	Feb. 4, 1980	Alpine vegetation mainly composed of creeping pin- es	No entry restricted zone		
Head of River Tokachi	Hokkaido	1,035	"	Dec. 28, 1977	Virgin forest of silver fir and fir tree	"		
Head of River Ooi	Shizuoka	1,115	"	Mar. 22, 1976	Temperate zone conifer forest and subarctic zone conifer forest	"		
Minami Iwojima (Island)	Tokyo	367	"	May 17, 1975	Tropical and subtropical vegetation, geographical features eroded by wave, sea birds	All areas desig- nated as entry restricted zone (on June 24, 1983)		
Yakushima (Island)	Kagoshima	1,219	"	May 17, 1975	Temperate zone evergreen broadleaved forest main- ly composed of natural cedar and pasania	No entry restricted zone		

Nature Conservation Area Total : 10 areas 21,593 ha.

as of March 31, 1999

						,
District	Prefecture	Area (ha)	Land ownership	Data of designation	Features of natural environment	Remarks
Ohirayama	Hokkaido	674	National forest	Dec. 28, 1977	Natural forest of beech trees(Fagus crenata) lo- cated nearly to the north- ern limit, Limestone rock vegetation.	ted as special zone and wildlifeprote-
Shirakami sanchi	Aomori Akita	14,013	"	Oct 7, 1992	The largest natural beech forest in Japan Valuable flora and fauna, ex Black woodpecker	Part of areas desi- gnated as special zone and wildlife protection zone
Hayachine	Iwate	1,370	"	May 17, 1975	Alpine and subalpine veg- etation, characteristec ve- getation of Serpentine's mountain area, Vertical distribution of beech- tree's zone to alpine zone vegetation.	All areas desig- nated as special zone. Part of them designated as wi- ldlife protection zone.
Wagadake	Iwate	1,451	"	May 21, 1981	Beech tree forest, Natural forest of "mountain re- cess oak" (Quercus mon- golica ver.), creeping pine forest, permanent snow- field vegetation.	All areas desig- nated as special zone and wildlife protection zone.
Osabiyama	Tochigi	545	#	Mar. 16, 1981	Alpine and subalpine ve- gelation, Natural beech forest.	
Head of River Tone	Gunma	2,318	"	Dec. 28, 1977	Alpine low tree forest, beech trees, Natural for- est of <i>Quercus mongolica</i> var., permanent snowlield vegetation, sn- owbridge zone's characte- ristic vegetation	All areas desig- nated as special zone and wildlife protection zone.
Sasagamine	Ehime Kochi	537	National forest and private forest	Mar. 31, 1982	Beech tree forest, "Shi- koku-Shirabe" (evergreen conifier belonging to pine species)	All areas designa- ted as special zone. Part of them desig- nated as wildlife protection zone.
Shiragadake	Kumamolo	150	National forest	Маг. 21, 1980	Natural beech forest loca- ted close to the southern limit distribution.	All areas desig- nated as special zone.
Inaodake	Kagoshima	377	"	Мау 17, 1975	Evergreen broad-leaved f- orest mainly composed of witch-hazels and "Ura- jiro oaks" (belong to bee- ch tree's species)	All areas desig- nated as special zone.
Sakiyamawan (Bay)	Okinawa	128	Sea Surface	May 28, 1983	Large groups of "Aza- mi"coral, coral reef	All areas designa- ted as marine spe- cial zone.

Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency(1999) : Nature Conservation in Japan

## 4-5) Wildlife Protection Areas

## a) Establishment of Wildlife Protection Area

To promote protection of the wildlife species and their habitats, the Environment Agency, according to the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law, establishes two kind of protected areas. Those are Wildlife Protection Areas and Wildlife Special Protection Areas. Prefectural governor also establishes same kinds of protected areas which are locally important.

When establishing a wildlife protection area and when designating a special wildlife protection area, the opinions of local groups making their livelihood in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as hunters and wildlife protection groups, and any others who are concerned will be heard. The case is then reviewed by the Nature Conservation Council in the government or prefecture concerned, and then in accordance with the Law, the area is established or designated as such for a maximum of 20 years (subject to renewal).

## 1) Wildlife Protection Area

The Director General of the Environment Agency or the prefectural governor, when he deems it necessary for protection and reproduction of wildlife, may establish the wildlife protection area for a duration not exceeding twenty (20) years. Wildlife protection areas are established to protect and to promote the reproduction of birds and mammals, and the hunting of wildlife is prohibited within such areas. Persons who hold any rights regarding the land or standing trees have to give precedence to any actions of the Director General of the Environment Agency and/or the prefectural governors aiming at providing facilities for nest building, supply of water and food on land and in standing trees for wildlife.

There are 3,767 Wildlife Protection Areas with the area of 3,601 thousand hectares as of the end of March 1999.

2) Special Protection Area

The Director General of the Environment Agency or the prefectural governor, when he deems it necessary for protection and reproduction of wildlife, may designate a special protection area within a wildlife protection area for a duration not exceeding that of the wildlife protection area in which such a special protection area is placed. Felling of standing trees and/or bamboo, construction of any structures, reclaiming wetlands and the like shall require permission of the Director General of Environment Agency or the prefectural governor, unless such action is of minor scale.

## b) Problems of Wildlife Protection Areas

It is relatively difficult to establish new Wildlife Protection Areas even if they are proposed in

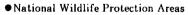
"Plan for Wildlife Protection Programme", which is reviewed every five years. To establish the protection areas, public hearings must be held to hear opinions from the persons and parties concerned. Usually a plan for the establishment is not accepted if there are objections from a part of the attendants. Therefore, the rate of designation of the new protection areas to the proposed ones is relatively low: in some local government body, the rate of the designation is only 30 to 60%.

Even for the protection areas established, the conservation system is not sufficient. The number and dimension of the protection areas are limited. The period of the designation is twenty years and sometimes it is not renewed. Since the protection areas are designated without surveys on flora and fauna in and around the areas, many of them do not have data on wildlife species and populations; it is unknown that a protection area covers the home ranges of large mammals. Outside the protection areas, hunting with rifles or traps is allowed almost everywhere except city areas, etc.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999): Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, "Wildlife Management" Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency (1999): Nature Conservation in Japan 川道 美枝子(1997): 野生哺乳類の保護に関わる法律、レッドデータ 日本の哺乳類(日本哺乳類学会 編)、文一総合出版

# (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-5) Wildlife Protection Areas

National Wildlife Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites



Ramsar Sites (Designated wetlands for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance)



Nature Conservation Bureau, The Environment Agency(1999) : Nature Conservation in Japan

## 4-6) National Forests and Protected Forests

#### 4-6-1) Management of National Forests

## a) Role of National Forests

National forests under the jurisdiction of the Forest Agency, totalling 7,600,000 hectare, account for about 20% of the land area and about 30% of the forest area of Japan. Since most of the national forests lie in the mountainous backbone of the country ,and there are more primeval-like natural forests compared to private forests, national forests have more forests where public benefit functions should be particularly performed, such as the conservation of national land, conservation of headwaters, conservation and formation of natural environment, and to allow the forests to be used by the public for health and relaxation. On the other hand, with long-term plans, national forests, according to the plans provide in sustainable forms various types of wood, accounting for about one quarter of the domestic supply volume of Japan (1993). In addition, various activities in national forests such as timber production greatly helps to develop rural communities that otherwise are economically weak, though providing forest products and land to meet the requirements of local residents and industries, providing infrastructure for living such as forest roads, and increasing employment opportunities. The management of the national forest, as a central entity for forest and forestry, aims at contributing to development of nation's economy and people's lives by securing various functions.

## b) Basic Policy for Management of National Forests

In order to fulfil the above-mentioned roles, the following eight management points of national forests must be emphasised:

- i. conservation of national land;
- . conservation of headwaters;
- . conservation and formation of natural environment;
- . promotion of health and cultural use of national forest;
- . timber supply in various species and characters;
- . coordination of forestry activities in national forest and non-national forest;
- . improvement of forestry techniques, training and dissemination, and;
- . contribution to development local communities.

To promote forest management accordingly, National Forest Operation should be managed under the following basic policies:

1) Establish a "Regional Forest Plan of National Forests" for every forest area (158 areas in

the whole country)corresponding to the same area for private forests based on the "Forest Law, " and promote suitable forest management and forestry production according to characteristics of each area through coordination between private and national forests, and upstream and downstream area based on the "River Basin Management System".

- 2) To answer the various needs of the people accurately and fulfil tasks appropriately, by clarifying the function to be emphasised among various overlapping functions of forests categorise forests into the following four Types:
- i. forests whose principal function is conservation of land (Land Conservation Forest),
- ii. forests whose principal function is conservation of natural environment (Nature Conservation Forest),
- iii. forests whose principal function is utilisation of recreation and public welfare such as for recreation(Recreation and Welfare Forest), and
- iv. forests whose principal function is timber production and other industrial utilisation.(Timber Production Forest)

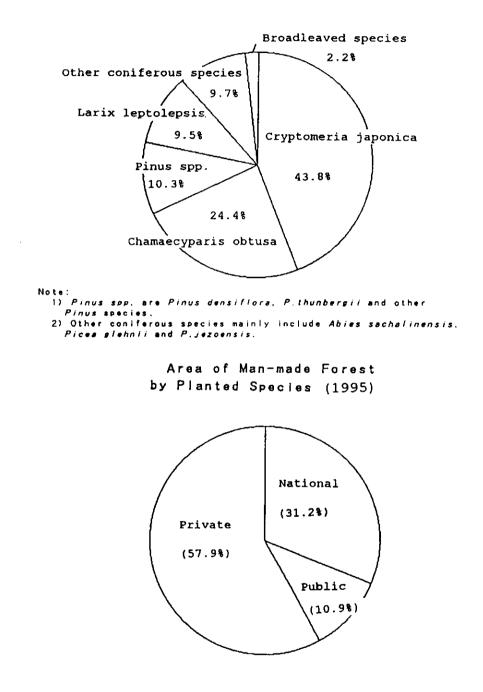
In addition, efforts should be made in all forests to conserve headwaters. Each forest should be managed properly with appropriate techniques to perform principal function. In view of the importance of fulfilling public benefit functions of forests such as conserving nature, tie-ups with national land and environment administrative policies should be strengthened for the management of the national forest.

#### c) Promotion of Forest Management for Nature Conservation

Among national forests, forest where principal function to be performed is conservation of natural environment is classified as Nature Conservation Forests. In Principal, they are protected and managed by leaving as they are without human manipulation, and also aimed for conservation in the protected areas by designating there forests as the Protected Forests.

Council of Ministers for Global Environmental Conservation, Government of Japan (1995): National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity. (http://www.eic/or/jp/eanet/en/pol/nsj/index.html) (4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-6) National Forests and Protected Forests4-6-1) Management of National Forests

Forest Resources and Ownership



Forest Area by Ownership (1995)

Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, "Forest Conservation"

#### 4-6) National Forests and Protected Forests

#### 4-6-2) Protected Forests

Appropriate protection and management are implemented for "Nature Conservation Forests" and "Protected forests" based on the guidelines on the procedures for selection and designation, and management of the forests pursuant to the "National Forest Management Bylaw" and the "Guidelines for Establishing Protected Forests". Actually, management is carried out by grasping situation of protected forests through patrols by staff of district forest offices such as forest rangers giving instructions to visitors and calling for attentions from them preventing damage by forest fires, disease and harmful insects, and taking necessary measures to recover the damage caused by large scale forest decay or landslides. In addition, necessary measures are taken for the protection of the populations, and maintenance and conservation of habitats, according to the characteristics of each object to be protected.

The seven types of Protected Forests are outlined as follow.

#### a) Forest Biosphere Reserve

The objective of Forest Biosphere Reserve is to contribute to maintaining the natural environment comprised of forest ecosystems, protecting animals and plants, preserving genetic resources, and academic studies, by preserving primeval-like natural forests representing the main forest zones in Japan and rare primeval-like natural forests with features seen only in respective region. As of April 1, 1995, there have been designated 24 such reserves, comprising about 313 thousand hectare, and two more are scheduled to be designated soon.

## b) Forest Genetic Resources Reserve

The objective of Forest Genetic Resources Reserve is to preserve, in forest ecosystems, genetic resources of organisms that comprise natural ecosystems together with forests and have potential of sustainable use in the future. As of April 1, 1995, two such reserves have been designated comprising about 11 thousand hectare, and eleven more are planned to be designated in coming years.

#### c) Forest Tree Genetic Resources Reserve

The objective of Forestry Tree Genetic Resources Reserve is to preserve, in forest ecosystems, the genetic resources of major forestry tree species and rare tree species. As of April 1, 1995, 336 such reserves have been designated, comprising about 9 thousand hectare.

#### d) Plant Community Reserve

The objective of Plant Community Reserve is to maintain representative plant communities of the natural flora of Japan and local regions and historically and academically valuable individuals along with contributing to academic studies. Specifically, designated within this category are the areas with plant communities that become increasingly rare or exist in critical areas of distribution of the species, and with plant communities and individuals that need protection. As of April 1, 1995, 341 such reserves have been designated, comprising about 90 thousand hectare.

#### e) Specific Animal Habitat Reserve

The objective of Specific Animal Habitat Reserve is to protect the breeding areas and habitats of specific animals and contribute to academic studies. Specifically, designated within this category are the breeding areas and habitats of animals that become increasingly rare, the breeding areas and habitats of animal groups not found elsewhere, and the breeding areas and habitats of animals that need protection. As of April 1, 1995, 26 such reserves have been designated, comprising about 12 thousand hectare.

#### f) Specific Geographical Feature Reserve

The objective of Specific geographical Feature Reserve is to protect peculiar topographic and geological features in Japan, and to contribute to academic studies. As of April 1, 1995, 30 such reserves have been designated, comprising about 31 thousand hectare.

## g) Local Symbol Forest Reserve

The objective of Local Symbol Forest Reserve is to protect present of which local municipalities strongly desire to maintain because they serve as significant symbols of the respective regions and contribute to development of the local community. Local Symbol Forest Reserve is set under the condition that an agreement with a term up to 30 years is made between Director of Regional Forest Office and a head of local municipalities. As of April 1, 1995, 28 reserves have been designated, comprising about 2 thousand hectare.

Council of Ministers for Global Environmental Conservation, Government of Japan (1995): National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity. (http://www.eic/or/jp/eanet/en/pol/nsj/index.html)

# (3) Protected Areas in Japan 4-6) National Forests and Protected Forests

## 4-6-2) Protected Forests

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Туре	Subject	No.	Area (ha)		
1. Forest biosphere reserve	To conserve undisturbed natural forests in order to facilitate maintenance of natural environment consisting of forest ecosystem, protection of wild animals and plants, conservation of gene resources, and scientific researches.	26	320,020		
2. Forest organisms genetic resource reserve	To conserve gene resources which consist of important part of natural ecosystem within the forests to retain possibility for future use.	10	28,599		
<ol> <li>Forestry woods genetic resource reserve</li> </ol>	To conserve gene resources of scarce tree species and main tree species for forestry activities.	331	9,286		
<ol> <li>Forest vegetation reserve</li> </ol>	To maintain specific plant communities representing Japan or regions and certain individual trees and plants having historic and scientific value. And to facilitate development of forest management technology and scientific researches.	350	107,413		
<ol> <li>Specific animals habitat reserve</li> </ol>	To maintain important habitat for	31	16,033		
<ol> <li>Specific geography or geology reserve</li> </ol>	To maintain unique topography, soil structure and the natural features	32	30,080		
<ol> <li>Local symbol forests reserve</li> </ol>	To maintain forests, for which strong requests for conservation are submitted by local governments because of their important value such as symbols for the area, and to facilitate development of the region.	32	2,308		
Total		812	513,739		

# Protected Forests in National Forest (April, 1999)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1999) : Textbook for the Group Training Course in Nature Conservation and Natural Parks Management, FY99, "Forest Conservation"

## 4-7) Present Situations and Problems on Nature Protected Areas

#### a) System of Protected Areas - Outline

There are four categories of protected areas established and managed by laws under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency: Nature Conservation Areas, Natural Parks, Wildlife Protection Areas and Natural Habitat Conservation Areas.

1) Spatial allocation

Not all protected areas are established for the same reason and the specific conservation objectives vary from maintaining vast scenic landscapes to preservation of habitats for specific plant and animal species. The Basic Policy for Natural Environment Conservation states that nature's variety should be systematically conserved, Nature Conservation Areas and Natural Parks are designed not to duplicate of the kind of nature covered by the other. As a result, Nature Conservation Areas are designated outside Natural Parks while areas in Natural Parks duplicating Wilderness Areas lose their validity as National Parks. Thus protected areas are ranked in order of from high to low priority as: Wilderness Area, National Parks, Quasi-national Parks, Nature Conservation Areas, Prefectural Natural Parks and finally Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas.

Meanwhile, the protected areas based on different laws, such as "Wildlife Protection and Hunting Low" and "Natural Parks Low", are established to be likely unrelated each other. Because of this, for example, National Park area is not necessarily prohibited hunting except in the area of Special Protection Zone.

## 2) Procedures of designation and establishment

Procedures to designate and establish these protected areas are similar, except as far as the obligation to hold public hearings. The consultation and agreement with the local administrative offices concerned are indispensable while there is no obligation to obtain an agreement from landowners because the establishment of a protected area is not considered as an infringement on land ownership.

However, as a current tendency, opinions and demands from landowners are often brought in through consultation process with the local administrative offices. As a result, the cases to get an agreement with landowners are increasing recently.

The procedures to designate the protected areas reflect the times and process of establishment of the laws themselves. The Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law was established in 1918 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and the National Parks Law in 1931 by the Ministry of the Interior. The original objectives of both these laws included promotion of regional development, agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as nature conservation, and the procedures for the designation were relatively simple. The other laws under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency are all newly established laws and targeting principally at nature conservation, however procedures became tighter and less flexible to avoid conflicting with legislation by other government offices concerned. In contrast, the procedures for designation of Natural Habitat Conservation Areas under the most recent Endangered Species Law are the best regulated in terms of content, but most difficult to be completed.

#### 3) Area and area selection

Natural Parks make up the largest area of protected areas: 53,000 km<sup>2</sup> amounting to 14% of the country, while Wildlife Protection Areas cover 33,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Nature Conservation Areas occupy only 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> and Natural Habitat Conservation Areas amount to almost nothing.

The areas presently designated to Nature Conservation Areas have relatively large area and belong to two types: i) alpine and sub-alpine vegetation (over 1000 ha); and ii) outstanding natural forests (over 100ha). There are other three types requiring smaller minimum areas (over 10 ha): i) unique topography, geographic features and natural phenomena; ii) outstanding natural coastline, lakes, marshes, bogs, rivers and marine areas; and iii) habitats and breeding sites of wild plants/animals and precious man-made forests. However, only one of these designations is assigned to one particular area of Sakiyama Bay Nature Conservation Area. At present the objective of the Nature Conservation Law to conserve relatively small areas of natural environment outside Natural Parks is seems to be not achieved well.

#### b) Evaluation for Effect of Regulation in Protected Areas

Taking all factors such as severity of regulations and actual implementation into consideration, the functions of nature conservation are evaluated in the protected area systems at national level from more to less effective in the following order: Wilderness Areas, Natural Habitat Conservation Areas, National/Quasi-national Park (special protection zone), National/Quasi-national Park (class I special zone), Nature Conservation Area (Special Zone: Wildlife Protection Zone), National/Quasi-national Park (Class II/III Special Zone), Wildlife Protection Areas (Restricted Entry Zone) and Wildlife Protection Areas (Special Protection Zone).

幸丸 政明(1997):国立公園等自然保護区の現状と課題、ワイルドライフ・フォーラム 2(4)野生生物保護学会

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(4) Protected Areas in Japan 4-7) Present Situations and Problems on Nature Protected Areas

Kohmal M.(1999), Text Material for JICA Country Focused Training Course in Wildlife Conservation and Management (African Countries), FY99, "System of Protected Areas in Japan"