

An aerial photograph of a tropical island with lush green vegetation and clear blue water. A white boat is visible in the water, leaving a white wake. The island is surrounded by other smaller islands and a bridge is visible in the distance.

# The Knowledge and Opportunities of Eco-tour Guides about Rare Species in Southern Kujuku-shima Islands in Japan

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# Ecotourism in Japan

2007: The Law for the Promotion of Ecotourism was established

## Ecotourism (Common point)

A tourism, which involves traveling to nature and studying the nature, activates the regional economy and has the aim to conserve the nature  
(There are many definition such as Ceballos-Lascurain(1987), Fennel(1999))

## Main stakeholders



**Government:** planning, management, regulation



**Researchers:** collecting data of nature



**Users(Guides, Tourists):** using nature by eco-tour



# Relationships of stakeholders

## Nature conservation

- It could not apply to prevent from nature destruction

Government



Researchers



**Ecotourism:**

Economy activation  
And  
Nature conservation



Users

## Economy activation

- They discuss on expand the eco-tour business to activate the economy



Guides



Tourists

# Research question

**Natural resources**

Researchers

Government

**Ecotourism:**

Economy activation  
And  
Nature Conservation

**Evaluate**

(Common points,  
Differences)

Users

This study:  
Focused on Eco-tour Guides  
for nature conservation

- Do Eco-tour Guides have enough knowledge to conserve nature?
- Can Eco-tour Guides observe natural resources more frequently compared to researcher?

Guides

Tourists

# How evaluate the Knowledge of Eco-tour Guides??

- There are various knowledge that eco-tour guide is required in eco-tour.  
Outdoor activities skill, the weather, topography, history of natural sites, **wildlife** and so on
- Recording species was not the work for eco-tour guides, no data.....
- Extracted the species and aggregated from **Logbook** and **Weblog**
- Similarly, extracted from research reports of Researches



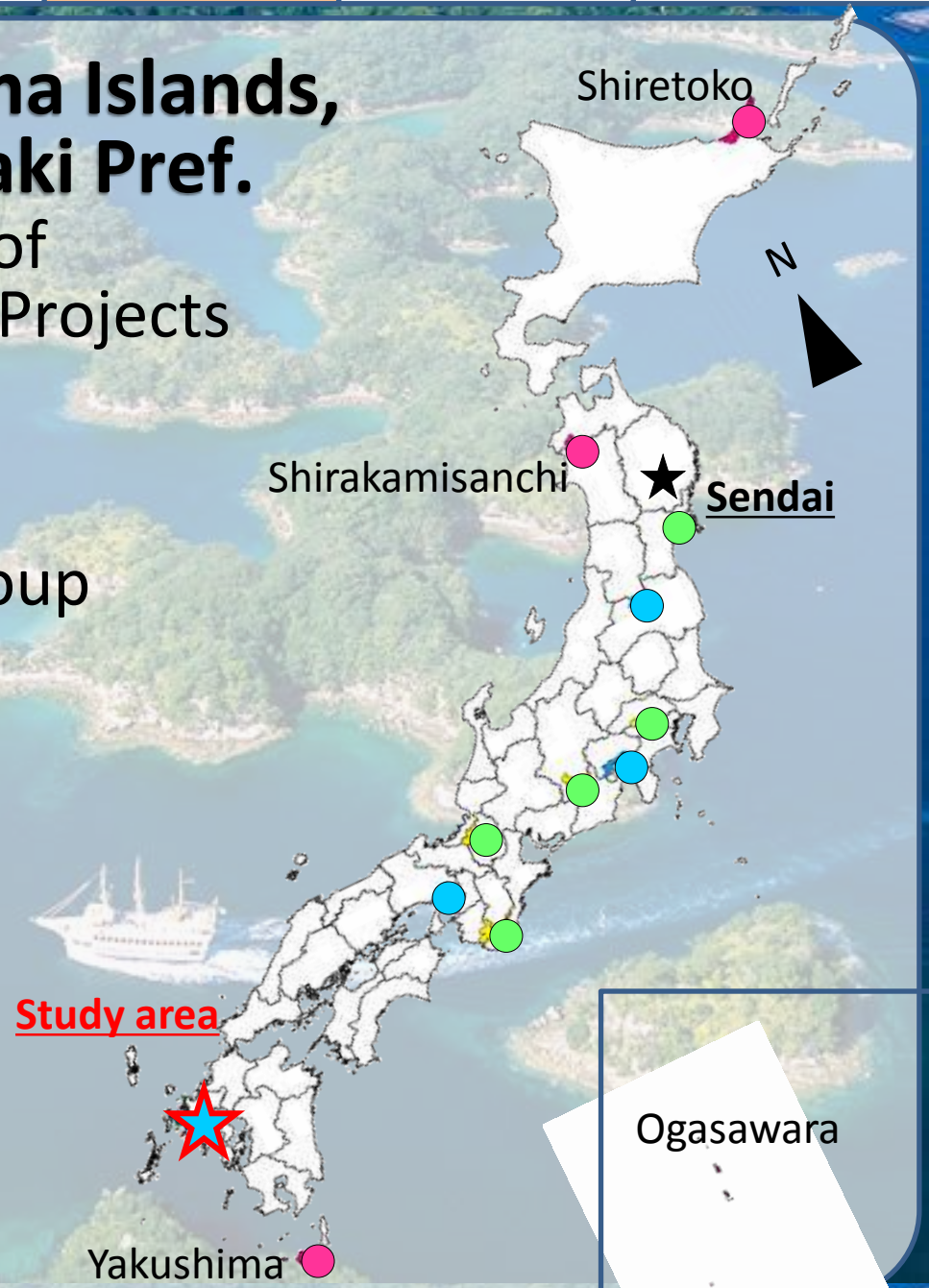
# The south Kujuku-shima Islands, Sasebo city, Nagasaki Pref.

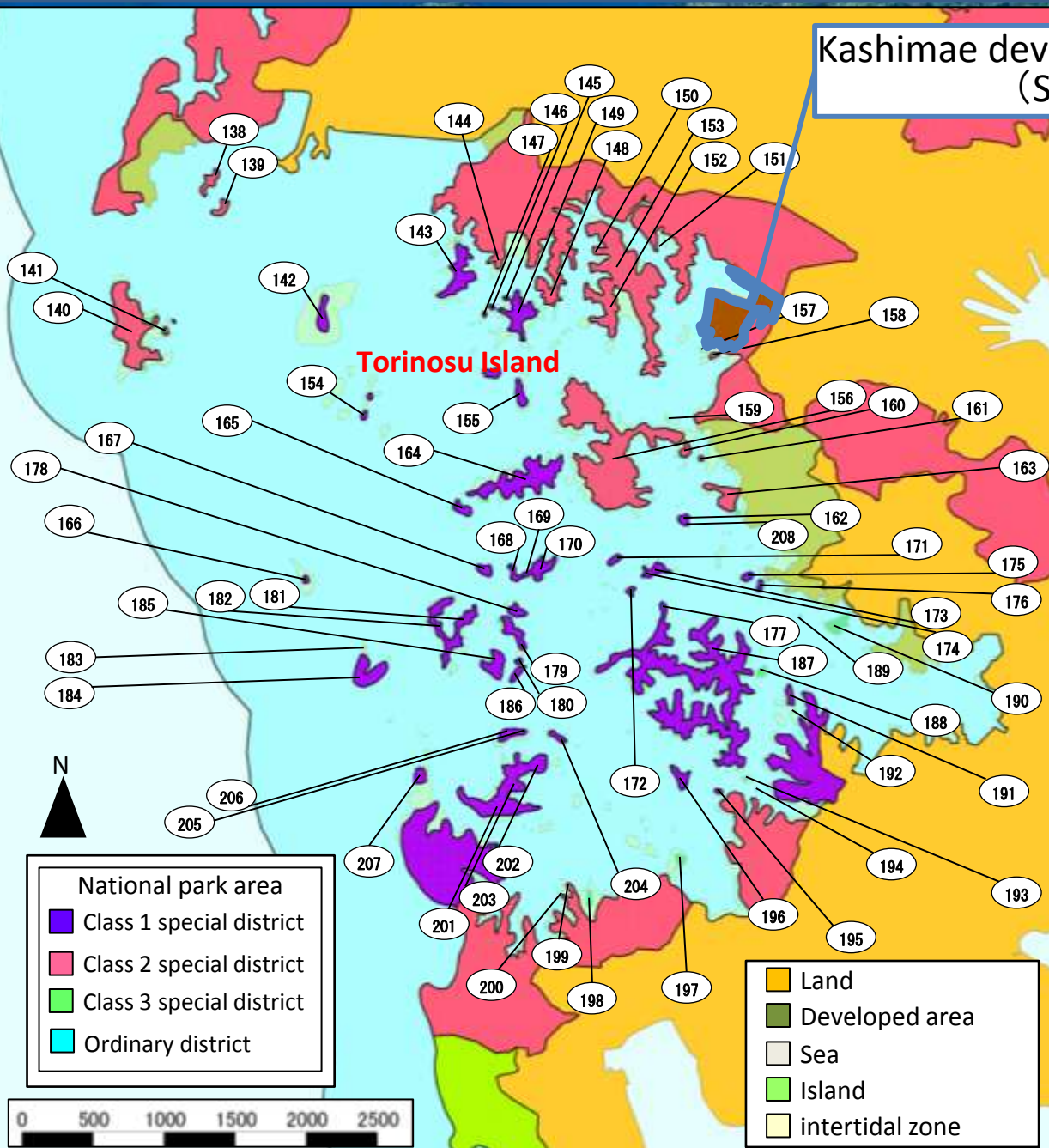
- ◆ One of the model districts of the Ecotourism Promoting Projects
- ◆ Saikai National Park
- ◆ Research institute: Kujuku-shima Research Group
- ◆ 4 operators of Eco-tour

Operators	Eco-tour program
P	1 Small pleasure boat guided tour
	2 Yacht Sailing tour
	3 Uninhabited island landing tour
	4 Sculling boat tour
U	5 Kayak trial tour
	6 Sea kayak tour
F	7 Sea kayak tour
W	8 Diving tour

Study area

Yakushima





Kashimae developed area in the national park  
(Saikai Parlseas Resort)

- 71 islands  
(They have unique numbers)
- All islands are uninhabited
- All islands is designated as Saikai National Park
- Eco-tour operators and Kujuku-shima research group are located on and near Kashimae developed area



Reference : Sasebo City HP



# Database of wildlife species

Database of wildlife species  
of Sasebo area

**2,624** species

Totally 22 documents

- 8 Scientific resources
- 3 Administrative documents
- 3 Guidebook
- 8 Documentation of Eco-tour Guides



# Numbers of rare species

Database of wildlife species  
2,624 species

Wildlife species database: 2624 species

- 8 Scientific resources
- 3 Administrative documents
- 3 Guidebook
- 8 Documentation of Eco-tour Guides

Eco-tour guides  
348 species

1085 species

292 species

Eco-tour Guides observed: 348 species

- 6 years Logbook
- 7 years Weblog

39 species

4 species

4 species

Researchers observed: 370 species

- 5 years report

15 species

276 species

34 species

Researchers  
370 species

Rare species  
57 species

Rare species that inhabitant locations  
were confirmed in this area  
(57 species)

# How evaluate Observation opportunities of Eco-tour Guides??

Observation opportunities

Range

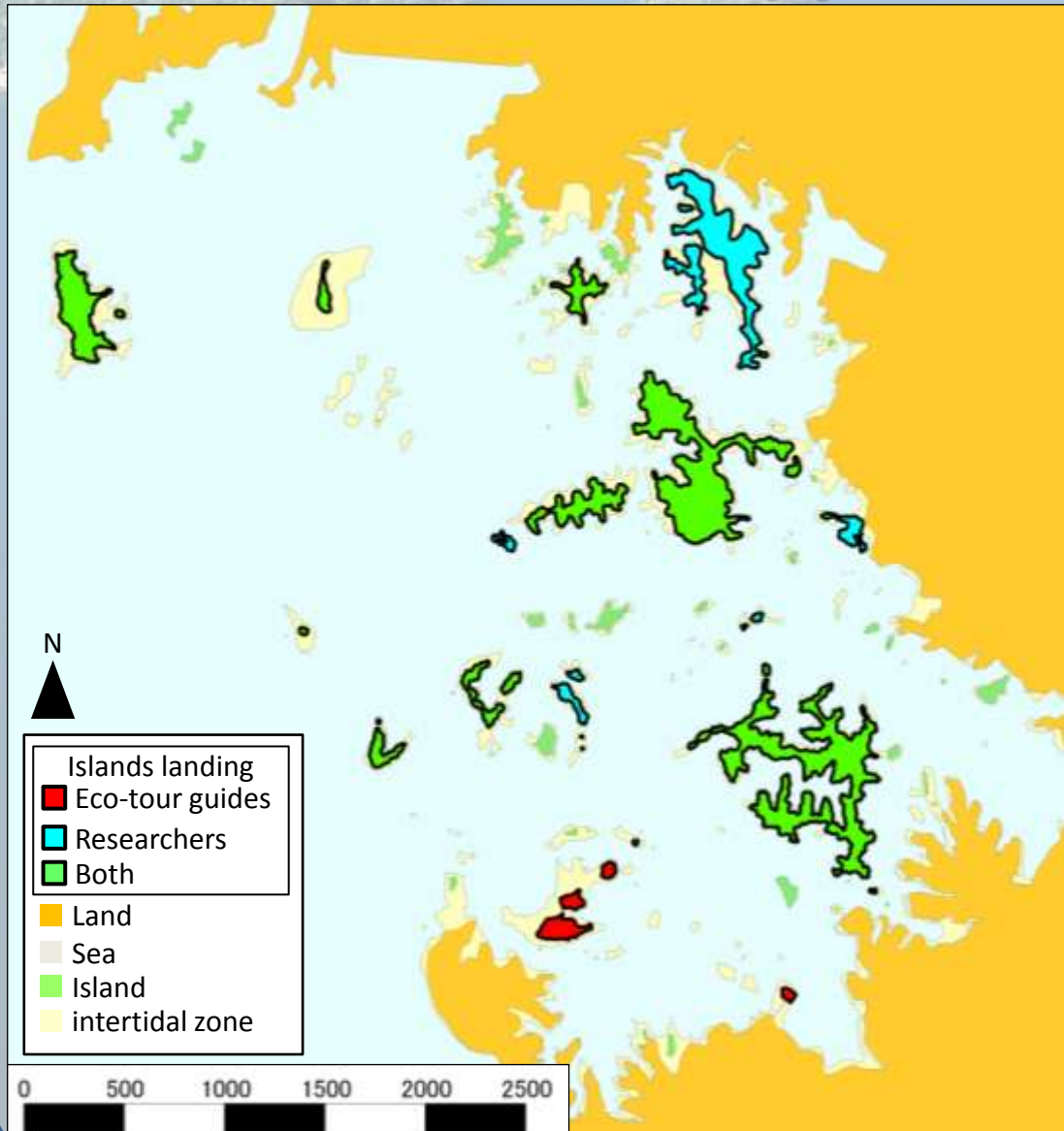
frequency

The numbers of islands  
that landed

The count of the days  
that landed islands



# Observation opportunities (Range)



Total :71

Eco-tour guides : 15

4

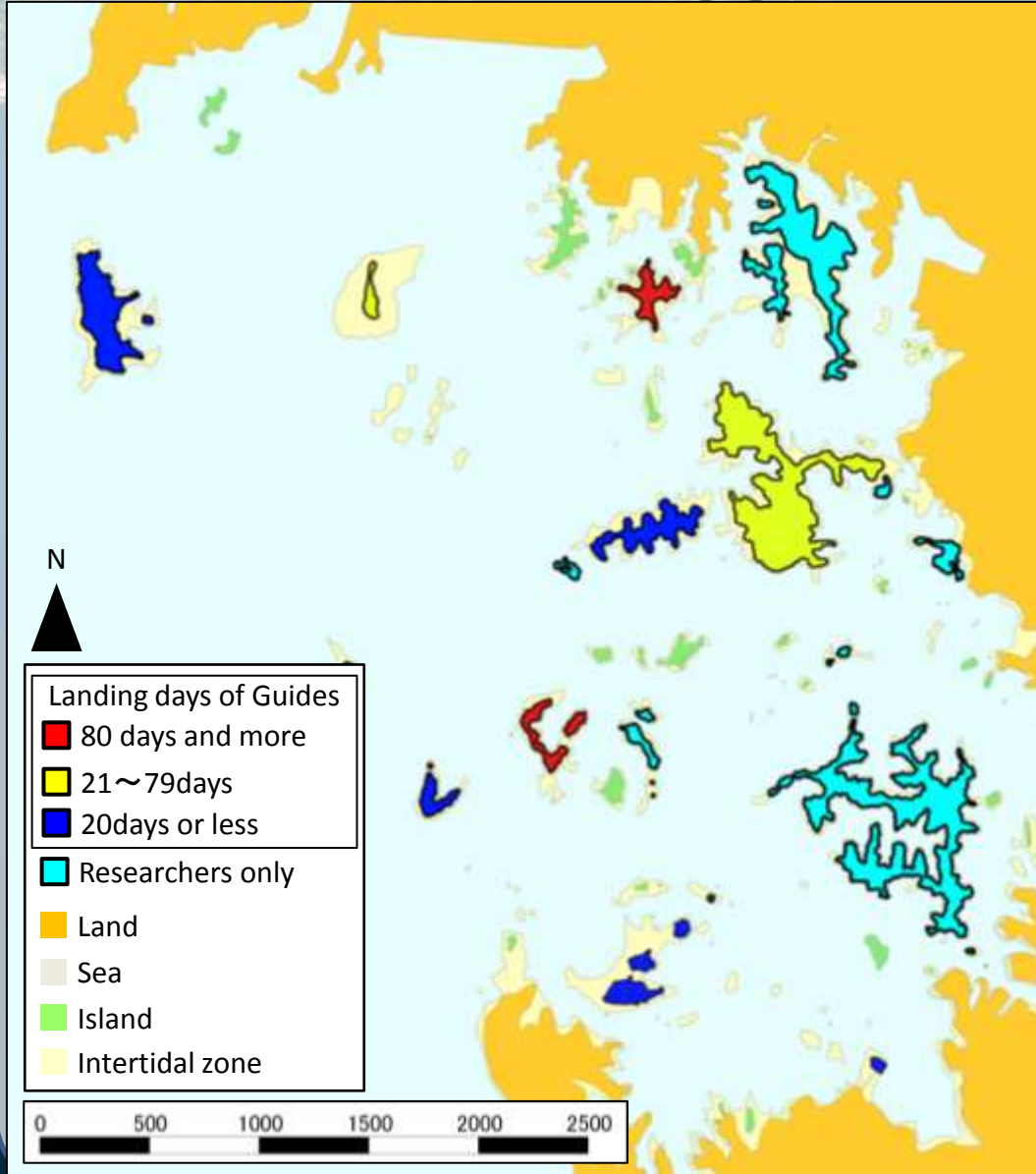
11

19

Researchers : 30

Not landing : 37

# Observation opportunities (Frequency)



## Frequency of landing

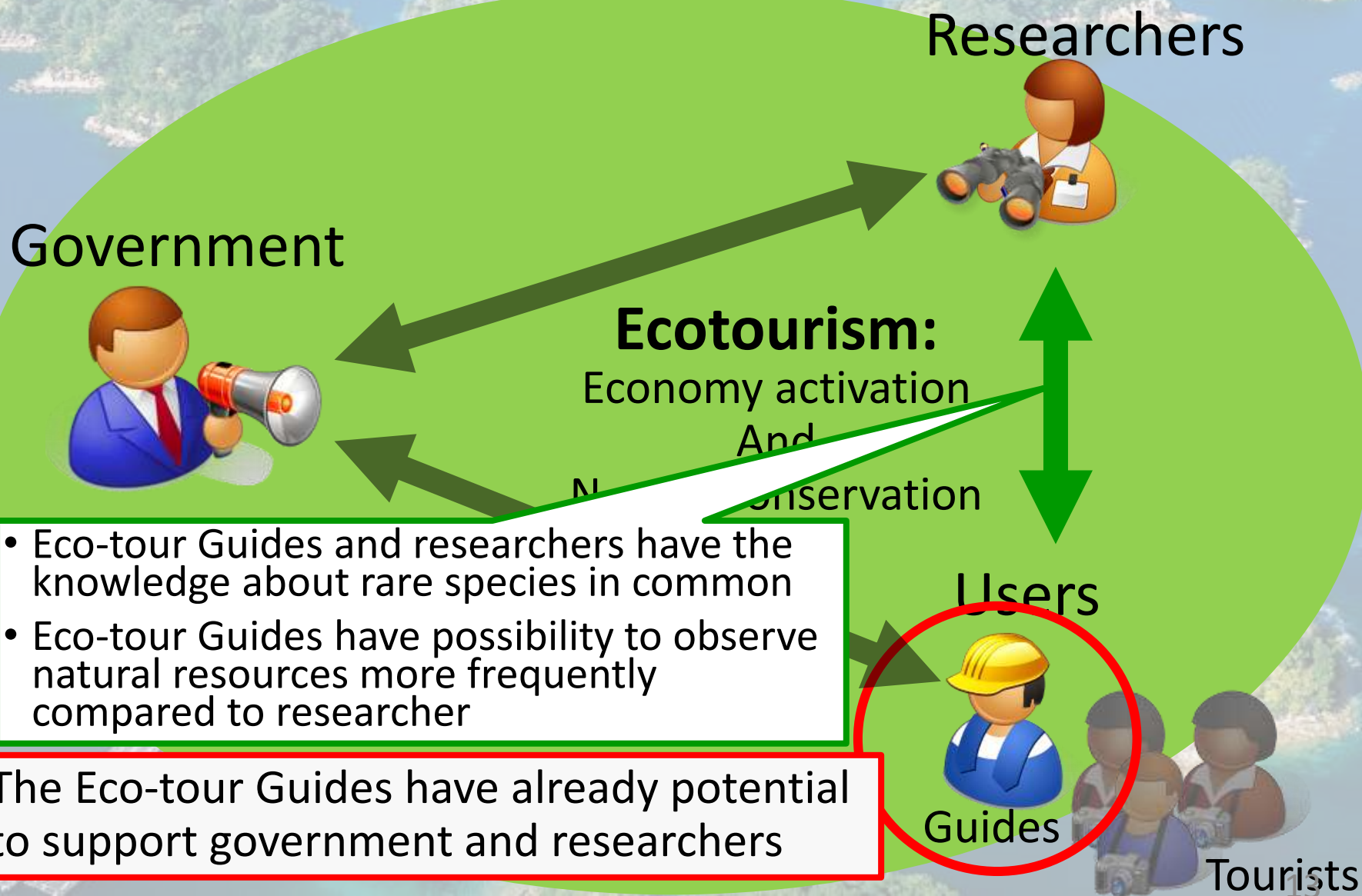
Landing days by Eco-tour Guides	No. of islands
80 days and more	3 islands
21~79days	2 islands
20days or less	10 islands

## Average landing days per island

	Eco-tour Guides	Researchers
Landing days	24.6	1.6



# Discussion



An aerial photograph of a tropical island with lush green vegetation and clear blue water. A long pier extends into the water, and a white boat is visible near the bottom center. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue band at the top of the image.

**Thank you very much for your attention**

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## **Reference**

- Ceballos-Lascurain H (1987) The Future of Ecotourism, Mexico Journal, January, 13-14
- Fennel D (1999) Ecotourism: An Introduction, Routledge, 43
- Take M (2013) A Study on Conservation of the Natural Tourism Resources by Ecotourism Guide Workers in Japan, Doctoral thesis submitted to Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo, 161pp+ appendix (in Japanese)