



Designation:
Hyonosen-Ushiroyama-Nagisan
Quasi-national Park
Location:
Yabu; Kami and Shin-onsen,
Mikata-gun, Hyogo Prefecture
Year Initiated: 2004

**Mt. Hyonoson Area Preservation
and Restoration Working
Committee**

The Committee works on various activities to promote public outreach, education and communication, as well as on preservation and restoration of wetlands, pampas grasslands, and other invaluable ecosystems.



The Usuiro-hyomon-modoki (*Melitaea protomedea protomedea*)

Mt. Hyonoson Foothill

Goal Preserve the magnificent and sensitive natural communities of Mt. Hyonoson and its surroundings and restore the pre-damaged conditions.



The Mt. Hyonoson Foothill range, consisting of Mt. Hyonoson in the center and its surrounding chain of 1,000-m high mountains, features various natural habitats, from wetlands of northern subalpine plants, such as sedge (*Carex limosa*) and gentian (*Gentiana triflora* var. *japonica*), and grasslands of the Japanese pampas grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) that support rare species of the Usuiro-hyomon-modoki butterfly (*Melitaea protomedea protomedea*) and the anemone (*Pulsatilla cernua*).

However, Oonuma Pond and other wetlands have been desiccated and invaded by shrub trees, degrading the wetland plant communities. Although the pampas grassland around Mt. Hachibuse has retained owing to mowing for skiing ground maintenance, rare species are only limitedly distributed. Efforts to restore and preserve the Mt. Hyonoson ecosystems were initiated with prohibiting overexploitation of rare species and studying effective strategies in sustaining the grassland communities.



Japanese cedar plantation



A desiccated wetland



A reduced community of the bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliolate*)



Invasion of shrub trees into Oonuma Pond

Approaches

- ▶ Return cedar plantations to native beech forests →①
- ▶ Restore pampas grasslands →②
- ▶ Restore the wetland environment degraded by the invasion of shrub trees →③

Baseline data collection about the wetlands and pampas grasslands and its analyses are in progress. Other ongoing actions include monitoring the current status, feasibility testing on beech forest restoration and pampas grassland management.

① Feasibility testing on beech forest restoration

A cedar plantation was experimentally logged in a strip to examine the recovery of beech forest. The logged strip was re-planted with beech seedlings or seeded. The seedlings are covered with nets to prevent hare grazing.



Feasibility testing on beech forest restoration

Related Web Sites

Ueyama Foothill Eco-Museum : <http://www.ueyamakogen-eco.net/>

② Identifying a management strategy for pampas grasslands

Traditional management had sustained the pampas grassland in the Ueyama Highland. However, because of recent cessation of mowing and other practices, Bamboo grass and shrub trees have invaded into the grassland. Currently, the effectiveness of mowing and cutting in preserving the pampas grassland is being tested.



Removing bamboo grass

③ Removing invaded shrubs in the wetland

As an initial effort for wetland restoration, the Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*) and other shrub species were removed to secure light for the growth of wetland plants.



Working on shrub tree removal