

# Attitudes of visitors and local stakeholders toward introducing the new visitor restriction programs in a brown bear habitat in Japan

---

Tetsuya AIKOH (Hokkaido Univ.), Kazuki OHBA, Yasushi SHOJI, Takahiro KUBO & Keita AKIBA (Shiretoko Nature Foundation)

# Effectiveness of Visitor Management

- Managers introduce some visitor restrictive management actions to reduce inappropriate use levels and behaviors.
- Visitor numbers, the length of stay, restricting specific activities and information supply and education.
- Effectiveness of such programs is evaluated by the conditions of resources and the response of visitors and stakeholders.
- It is impossible to introduce and promote visitor allocations without understanding and support by visitors and local stakeholders.



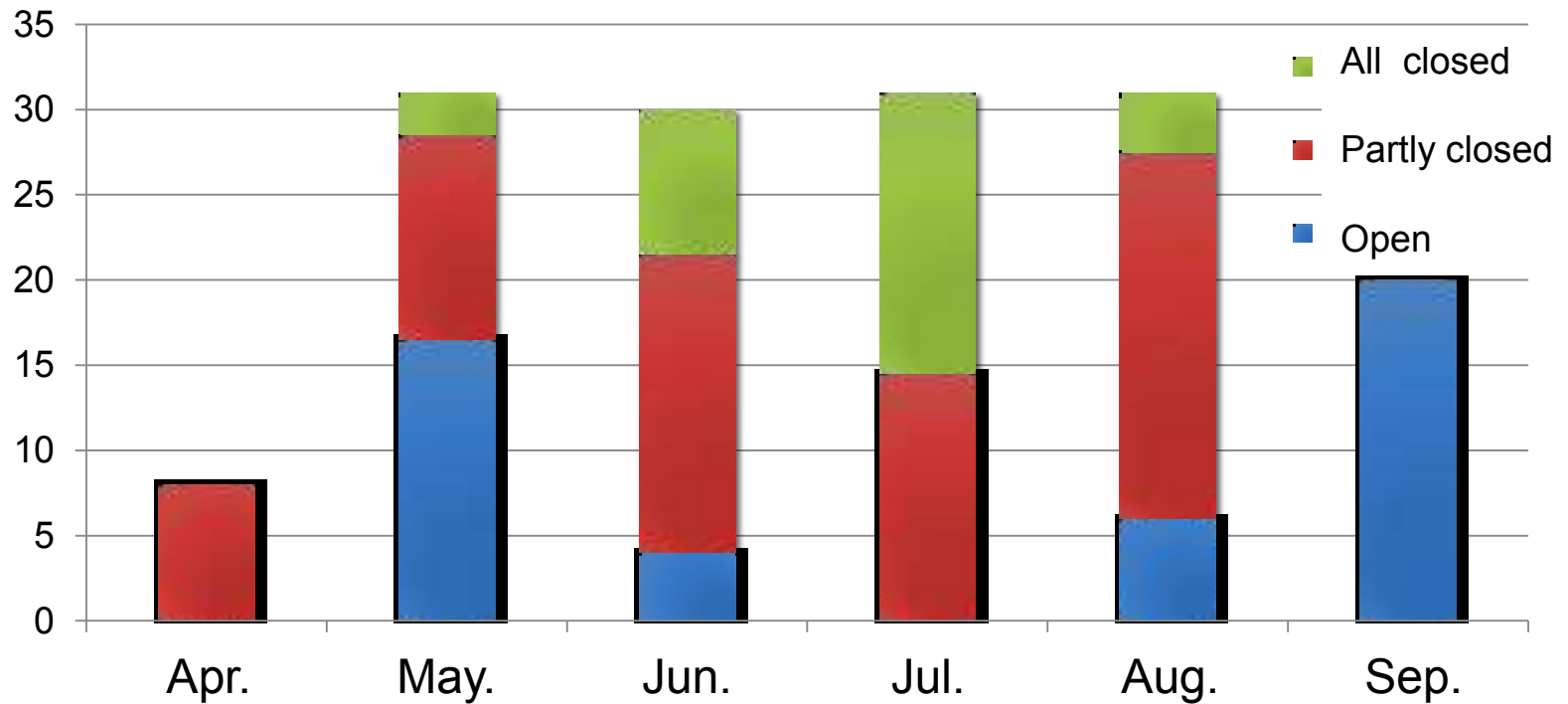








# Closure of Trails



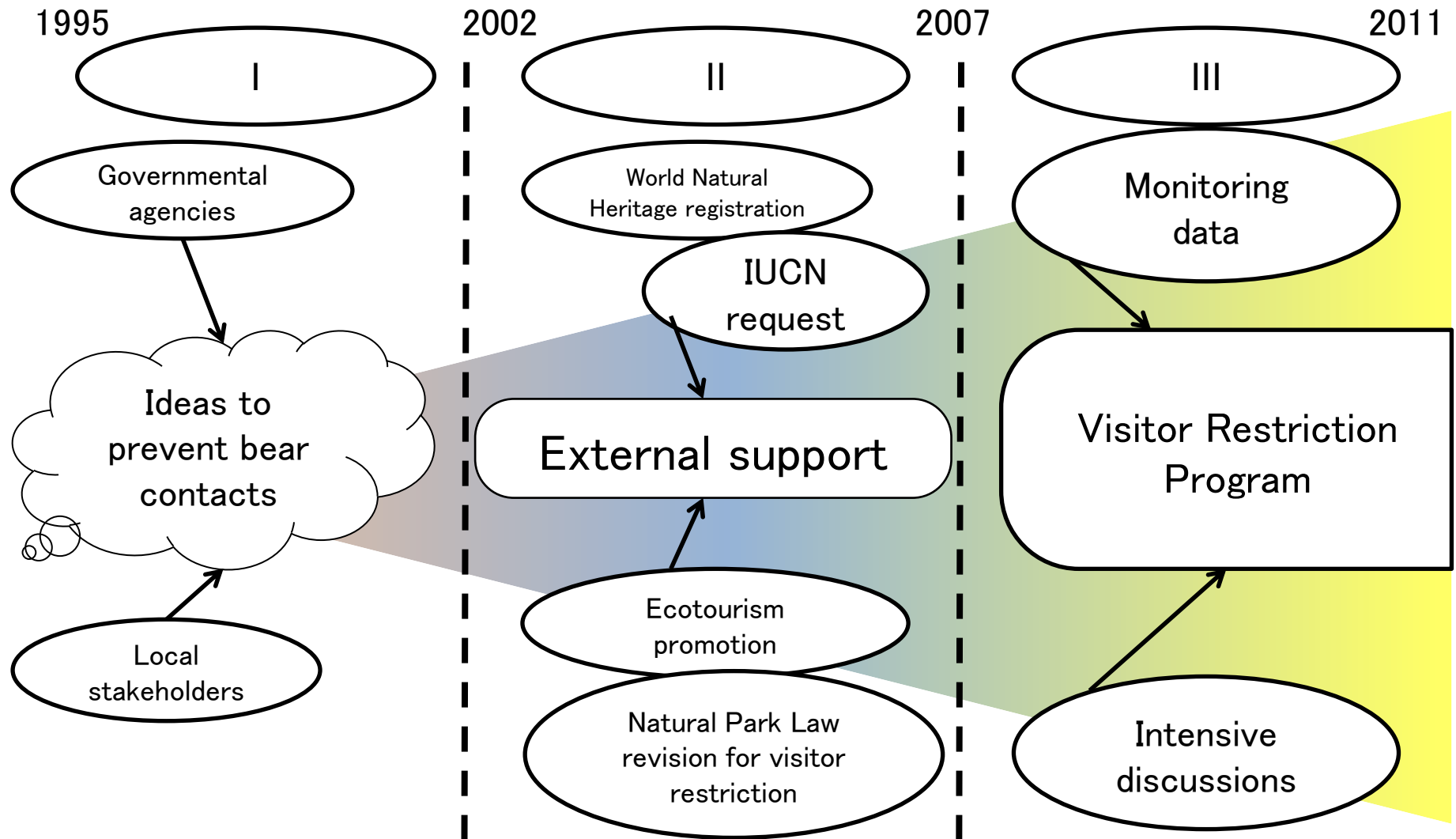








# Introducing process of the new program



# New management system



Path Type	Period	Access	Route	Fee	Notes
Elevated wooden path	Park Opening to May 9	Free	Lake Ni-ko to Ichi-ko	Free (required)	Always free during the open season
	May 10 to July 31	Free	Lake Ni-ko to Ichi-ko	Free (required)	Visitors can walk after attending a short lecture
Ground pathway	August 1 to October 20	Free	Lake Go-ko to Ichi-ko	Free (required)	Visitors can walk after attending a short lecture
	October 21 to Park Closing	Free	Lake Go-ko to Ichi-ko	Free (required)	Visitors are free to walk

Route	Path Type	Fee	Notes
Short route	Elevated wooden path	Free (required)	Use of long route is subject to snowfall and other conditions
Long route	Elevated wooden path	Free (required)	
Short route	Ground pathway	Free	
Long route	Ground pathway	Free	

**A round trip to Lake Ichi-ko can be made without submitting any applications.**

© See reverse side for details of application procedures.



Registration desk at Field House



Lecture before hiking

Guided tour with licensed guide





# Different perspectives among stakeholders

2011

Introducing the new program

Before

Local stakeholders

Less information  
Left behind decisions  
Uncertain goal

Feeling of anxiety

Managers, Officials

Objective data  
Rational explanation

During discussion

Accident with bears will be critical matter for tourism.

Reducing visitor risk

As the land and trail managers, accident with bears must never happen.

After

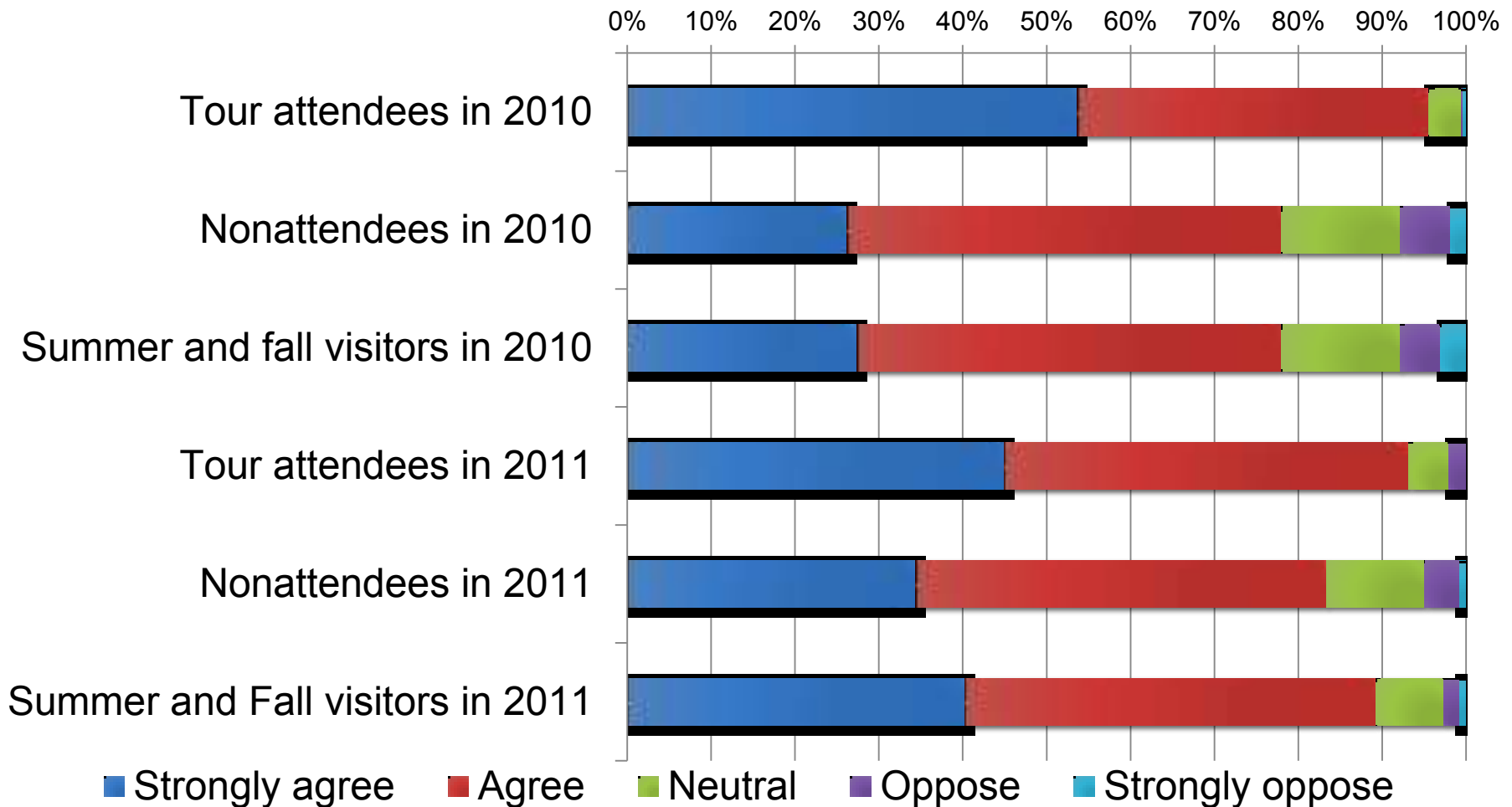
Less attachment

Commendable program  
Good reputation from visitors

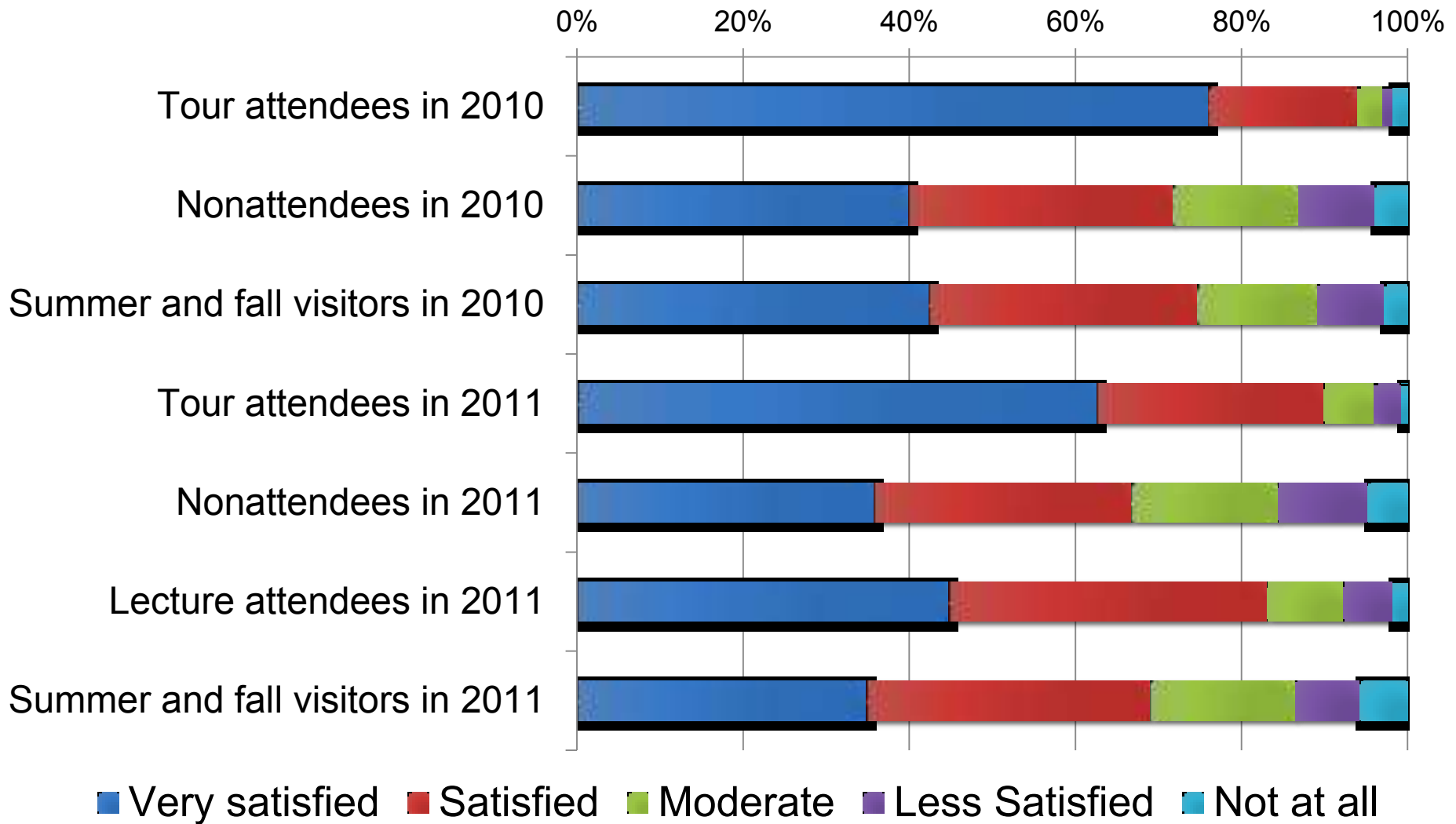
Positive opinion

Good risk management system  
Incomplete system

# Acceptance of the new program



# Overall satisfaction of visitors



# Conclusion

- Local stakeholders' acceptance
- Visitors' acceptance and satisfaction
- Further monitoring needs

## For collaboration

- Common stake
- Long term discussion
- External stimulus and support
- Scientific data
- Local stakeholders' enthusiasm

# Thank you for your attention

## Acknowledgements

- Shiretoko Five Lakes Management Committee
- Ministry of the Environment
- Shiretoko Nature Foundation
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

