

Conservation of precious forests for the next generation

To conserve the natural environment of wild forest ecosystems such as Shiretoko, protect flora and fauna, and preserve genetic resources, particularly important national forests are designated as forest reserves, and are protected and managed appropriately.



Ezo Spruce Timber Genetic Resources Reserve (Kamikawa Chubu District Forest Office)



Shiretoko Forest Ecosystem Reserve, designated as a World Natural Heritage site

Mt. Io as viewed from Mt. Rausu-dake (Abashiri Nambu District Forest Office, Konsen Tobu District Forest Office)



Shiretoko violet, an endemic species of the Shiretoko Peninsula



Rebut lady's slippers, a national endangered species of wild fauna and flora



Habitat of Sakaisutsuji (azalea), flowers designated as a natural treasure



Yubari kozakura (small cherry tree), an endemic species to Mt. Yubari-dake



Japanese oak forest reserve (Sorachi District Forest Office)



Blakiston's fish owl, a rare wild animal

Setting status of forest reserves

As of April 2006

Category of forest reserves	Number	Area (ha)	Examples of setting locations
Forest Ecosystem Reserve	5	129,222	Shiretoko, headstream of the Sukki River in the Karibayama mountain area, headstream of the Chubetsu River in the Taisetsu Mountains, central area of the Hidaka Mountains, areas surrounding Mt. Isari-dake
Forest Biologic Genetic Resources Reserve	1	5,400	Rishiri, Rebut Forest Biologic Genetic Resources Reserve
Timber Genetic Resources Reserve	139	2,667	Hokkaido Sakhalin Fir 19 Genetic Resources Reserve, Asahikawa Ezo Spruce 2 Genetic Resources Reserve, Kitami Japanese Oak 27 Genetic Resources Reserve, Obihiro Shiroezo spruce 11 Genetic Resources Reserve, Hakodate Siebold's Beech 4 Genetic Resources Reserve
Plant Community Reserve	63	48,551	Mt. Yubari-dake, Mt. Tengu-dake, Mt. Kirigishi Alpine Plant Reserve, Taisetsu Primeval Forest Reserve, Rebut Lady's Slippers Community Reserve, Sakaisutsuji (azalea) Reserve, Higashinupukaushi, Komakusa Reserve, Utsai Reserve, etc.
Specific Animal Habitat Reserve	16	12,285	Blakiston's fish owl (6 places), Bekanbeushi Japanese Cranes Habitat Reserve, Uenae Steller's Sea Eagle and White-tailed Sea Eagle Habitat Reserve, Lake Kutcharo Reserve, etc.
Specific Geography and Geology Reserve	4	14	Oshunkoshun Basalt Columnar Joint Reserve, Shirataki Rhyolite Granule Reserve, etc.
Local Forest	1	17	Yacho Nijinomori (Wild Bird Rainbow Forest)

Habitat conservation

Hokkaido's national forests are home to black woodpeckers, which are designated as a natural treasure and a vulnerable species (one that is in danger of extinction) in the Red Data Book. The forests are also habitats for goshawks and Hodgson's hawk eagles, both of which are designated as national endangered species of wild flora and fauna in the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. To conserve the habitats of such animals, forest reserves and Green Corridors have been established and forest management plans have been formulated with these habitats in mind.



A feeding tree (Sakhalin fir) for black woodpeckers. The holes made in the trees are used by many other animals.

Photographed by Mr. Arisawa,
Chair of the Forest Biology Research Institute



A family of black woodpeckers



Goshawk

Setting of Green Corridors

As of April 2006

Name	Area (ha)	Length (km)	Connected forest reserves
Shiretoko Peninsula	12,397	35	Shiretoko Forest Ecosystem Reserve Unabetsu-dake Plant Community Reserve Shari-dake Plant Community Reserve
Taisetsu Hidaka	19,265	83	Taisetsuzan Chubetsugawa Genryubu Forest Ecosystem Reserve Hidakasanmyaku Chuobu Forest Ecosystem Reserve
Shikotsu Muine	7,052	30	Isari-dake Forest Ecosystem Reserve Muineyama Plant Community Reserve
Total	38,714	148	

To secure migratory pathways for wildlife, expand their habitats and help them interact with each other, three Green Corridors connecting forest reserves have been established over a total distance of some 150 kilometers.

Forest conservation management

Green support staff are stationed in areas that are visited by many people, such as the Shiretoko Peninsula and the Taisetsu Mountains, to prevent possible deterioration of vegetation. The staff educate visitors by providing usage and etiquette guidebooks, and patrol the areas to stop illegal dumping and protect vegetation.

Educational activities
by green support staff



Usage and etiquette guidebooks

Forest Rehabilitation

The four Forest and Environmental Conservation Centers in Hokkaido conduct various activities such as reforestation programs and forest environment education in cooperation with NPOs that are engaged in the regeneration of nature and the conservation of biodiversity.

Ishikari District Forest and Environmental Conservation Center



Major activity area
National forest surrounding Sapporo



"Creation of a primitive forest reminiscent of 100 years ago"
~Nopporo Natural Recreation Forest~

Tokoro River Forest and Environmental Conservation Center



Major activity area
National forest in the Tokoro River basin



"Induction to a mixed forest of coniferous and broad-leaved trees and regeneration"
~Forest of Okhotsk~

Kushiro Wetland Forest and Environmental Conservation Center

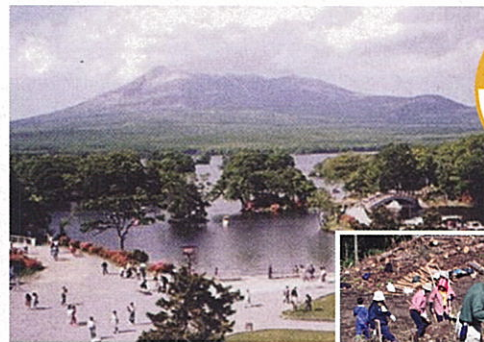


Major activity area
National forest in the upper reaches of Kushiro Wetland



"Reforestation based on broad-leaved trees"
~Upper reaches of Kushiro Wetland~

Komagatake Onuma Forest and Environmental Conservation Center



Major activity area
National forest around Hakodate, Komagatake and Onuma



"Induction to a mixed forest of coniferous and broad-leaved trees and regeneration"
~Onuma Quasi-National Park~

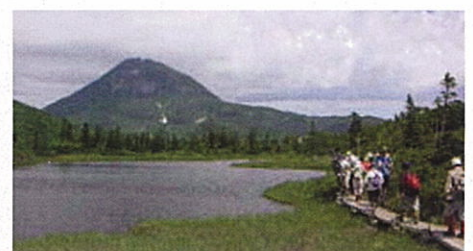
Greening education in the Shiretoko World Heritage Site

Shiretoko Forest Center

The Shiretoko Forest Center promotes the concept of greening and enrichment afforestation in the Shiretoko National Forest, which is designated as a World Natural Heritage Site. The center also collects and provides information on the public interest functions of forests, and manage various surveys and interpretation program by making use of forests in Shiretoko.



Mountain range on the Shiretoko Peninsula



Plant observation program (Lake Rausu)