

Connecting Yakushima's Nature & Environment to Future Generations

屋久島の自然と環境を次の世代へ

- ◆ Located along a walking trail in Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine, the "Yayoi Cedar" has long been cherished by many visitors as one of the prominent Yakusugi trees. With its majestic presence, it was selected as one of the "Japan Top 100 Giants of the Forest." However, the inside of its trunk had significantly decayed, and most part of the tree had died.
- ◆ August 2024, as tree stood taller than the surrounding vegetation, its upper part protruded prominently (see photo below). Due to this exposure, it was unable to withstand the localized strong winds and heavy rain brought by Typhoon No. 10 that struck Yakushima, and its trunk broke and fell leaving three meters above the base.



The Yayoi Cedar before falling, with its bleached, skeletal crown protruding prominently.

Notice: This is a protected area. Please stay on the sidewalk and avoid entering other areas.

The "Yayoi Cedar" has been preserved on-site in its natural fallen state.



- ◆ Following discussions at a review meeting among relevant stakeholders, it was decided that the fallen "Yayoi Cedar" would be left in place and entrusted to the natural course of ecological succession. By showing its fallen form and the emergence of new life around it, the site will serve as a space for forest environmental education and as a way to pass on the story of nature's transformation to future generations.
- ◆ Through monitoring the forest regeneration process, we plan make effective use of the site collaborating and cooperating with stakeholders in Yakushima.