

National forests provide materials for rebuilding Iya-no-Kazurabashi (Vine Bridge)



Opening ceremony of the bridge after rebuilding (February 2021)

In Iya area, Kazurabashi (Vine Bridge) had long been utilized as a daily life passage between mountains. The bridge is special because it is built by weaving together vines called Shirakuchikazura that grow naturally in the surrounding mountains. For safety concerns, the bridge is rebuilt every three years.

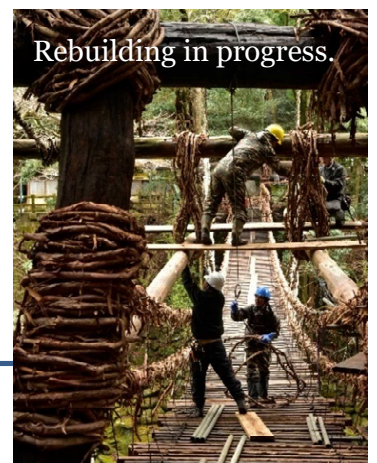
To rebuild the bridge, approximately six tons of Shirakuchikazura are needed. However, it became difficult to secure this amount of Shirakuchikazura in this area alone. As a contribution to the local community, the national forests provide certain amount of Shirakuchikazura needed.



Shirakuchikazura vines



It takes about 30 years for the vine to grow thick enough to build the bridge.



Rebuilding in progress.

The vine Shirakuchikazura (or Sarunashi) is a climbing plant that grows on the mountains of Iya area. Its fruit, in the size of 2-3cm, that tastes like kiwifruit, have been utilized to make jam, juice, and so on.

Shirakuchikazura is the material necessary to build vine bridge. The Miyoshi City, in which two vine bridges “Iya-no-Kazurabashi” and “Oku-Iya Niju Kazurabashi” need to be rebuilt regularly, had been struggling to secure enough amount of Shirakuchikazura.

To solve this problem, Executive Committee for Securing Materials for Rebuilding Iya-no-Kazurabashi has been working with local elementary and junior high school students to grow Shirakuchikazura saplings.

Tokushima District Forest Office signed the “Agreement for Cultivating Shirakuchikazura” with the above mentioned Executive Committee. Under this agreement, a field was set up in the national forest for planting saplings grew by elementary and junior high school students.



Every year, local elementary and junior high school students grow the saplings.



A 4-5 year old sapling waiting to be planted in the forest

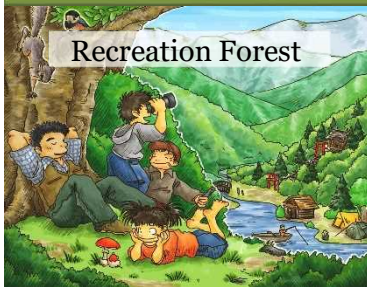


Saplings were planted at a field in national forest. (July 2022)

National Forests in Tokushima

Tokushima District Forest Office manages 16,282 ha of national forests and 2,107 ha of governmental afforested lands. The national forests spread across eastern part of mountain areas in Shikoku region, including Mt. Tsurugi and Mt. Miune.

The area not only contains crucial headwaters that flow into tributaries of Yoshino River and Naka River, but also contributes to the stable supply of forest products and local development. With Tsurugisan Natural Recreation Forest and Takashiroyama Scenic Recreation Forest designated, this forest area benefits the public in various ways, including preserving biodiversity and so on.



Tsurugisan Recreation Forest Homepage
https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/national_forest/recreation_forest/tsurugisan.html



Mt. Tsurugi

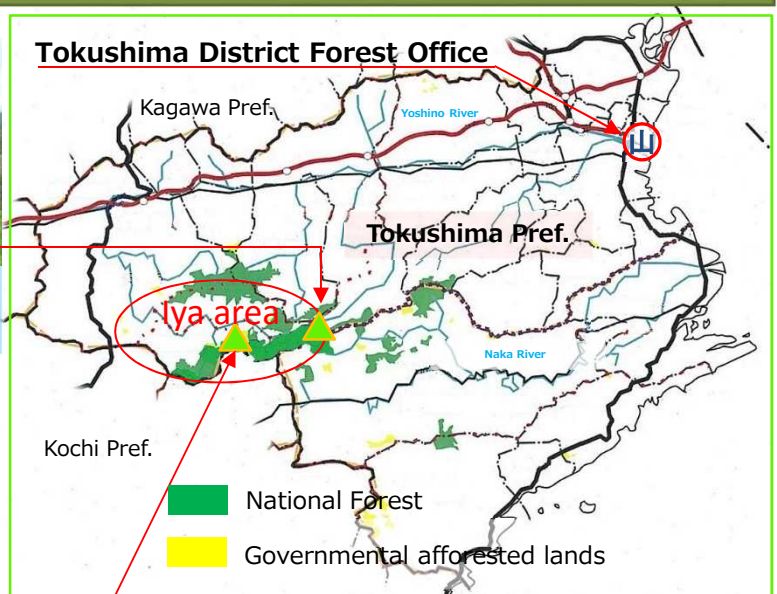


Stable supply of woods

National forests also contribute to a stable supply of woods.



Mt. Miune



Tokushima District Forest Office

Kagawa Pref.

Yoshino River

Tokushima Pref.

Iya area

Naka River

Kochi Pref.

National Forest

Governmental afforested lands



Preserve precious forest resources and eco-system

Illustration: Hirata, Misako

Protect local life-style

To increase local community's resilience to natural disasters and for people to live without fear, tree-felling are regulated as see fit, and precautions to prevent landslides have been taken.



Preventing landslides

Areas prone to landslide hazards are constantly monitored, with corrective measures taken.



Mountain management measures

At a landslide site, trees are planted to repair the damage and barriers were built to prevent landslide from happening again.

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