

*Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures
need to be taken to conserve biological diversity*

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

Contracting Party:	Japan
National Focal Point	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Name and title of contact officer:	Administrative Official of Foreign Affairs Hanako Shuda
Mailing address:	Shiba Koen 2-11-1, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8519, Japan
Telephone:	+81-3-3580-4022
Fax:	+81-3-6402-2538
E-mail:	hanako.shuda@mofa.go.jp
Contact officer for national report (if different)	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of the Environment
Name and title of contact officer:	Technical Official of Environment Saori Hirai
Mailing address:	1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo,100-8975, Japan
Telephone:	+81-3-5521-8272
Fax:	+81-3-3592-3228
E-mail:	SAORI_HIRAI@env.go.jp
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	(外務省)
Date of submission:	

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The draft was drawn out by the government consisting of nine Ministries involved with the Convention on Biological Diversity . And after taking procedure for public comment to the draft, this report was decided by the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee.

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					X - See "further comments" and the attached documents
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					X
c) an assessment is being undertaken					
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents					X - See the attached documents
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets					X - See "further comments" and the attached documents

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	X
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	X
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	X - See "further comments"

10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	X - See "further comments"
11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	X
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X - See "further comments"
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	X - See "further comments"
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no いいえ	

b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	X1 - See "further comments"
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	X2 - See "further comments"
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	X
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X - See "further comments"
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	
Nothing is applicable.	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X - See "further comments"

Further comments

A2

There are guidelines set by relevant ministries, for carrying out each protected area system. Some examples are shown below..

<Natural Park>

Ministry of the Environment has set regulations, such as Natural Parks Law, Guideline for selection of Natural Park, Guideline for developing Natural Park Plan and Guideline for developing Management Plan of Natural Park (See the attached document for details).

<Protected Forest in National Forests>

Forestry Agency has set National Forest Management Bylaw and Guidelines for Selection of Protected Forests.

A5

There are Basic Policy for Natural Environmental Conservation and national guidelines for selection, development and management of protected areas under each protected area system, respectively. For example, Guidelines for Selection of Natural Park and Guidelines for Selection of Protected Forests. Regarding a target area or the like, no figure is set.

A9

As main examples, there are National Parks and Quasi-national Parks and so on established based on Natural Parks Law for purposes of conservation of outstanding scenic beauty and promotion proper use of the areas. And Nature Conservation Area and so on are established based on Nature Conservation Law for purposes of preservation of areas almost untouched by human beings and areas with outstanding nature. There are 11 Regional Offices for Nature Conservation, 12 Wildlife Branch and 67 Ranger Offices located throughout the country.

Regarding protected forests in national forests, there are 7 types of protected forest based on Guidelines for selection of Protected Forests, with intentions, such as maintenance of primeval environment, and development of forest management. They are managed by 7 Regional Forest Offices, 5 Branch Offices of Regional Forest Offices and District Forest Offices belonging to those, located throughout the country.

A10

In reviewing Natural Parks and so on, we have input from related local municipalities, the people and so on. In addition to the nation and local municipalities, administrators of Natural Park services manage them, and the people join management, too.

Regarding protected forests in national forests, a committee, which consists of experts, stakeholders, NPO and so on, is set and a forest management implementation plan for a developed protected forest is notified publicly for inspection.

A12

Regarding National Parks out of Natural Parks, there are approximately 200 rangers, and each ranger manages 10,000ha approximately. The area for one ranger is larger than that of foreign countries, thus, it can be said that human resource is not sufficient. And financial resource is also scarce.

A14 : Based on evaluation, the request for budget is implemented.

A15

1. Implementation of monitoring is planned in Green Corridor.
2. Based on Guideline for Revising National Park Plan, it is regulated to evaluate regularly, about every five-year.

A17

We exchange information at every occasion, such as IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas in East Asia.

A21

As a governmental member of Japan Committee for IUCN, we carry out activities, such as conservation of protected areas

Summary of the Natural Parks System

Natural Park

The purpose of Natural Parks is to conserve natural areas of outstanding scenic beauty in Japan, and to promote proper use of the areas for people's health, recreation, and education. Those areas are designated as Natural Parks on the basis of the Natural Parks Law, and classified as follows;

① National Parks

The national government is responsible for the management of National Parks. The size of each park is over 30,000 ha (over 10,000 ha in coastal area). As of 31 March 2001, 28 parks, 2.05 million ha (5.4% of the total land area) had been designated.

② Quasi-National Parks

Prefectures are responsible for the management of Quasi-National Parks. The size of each park is over 10,000 ha (over 3,000 ha in coastal area). As of March 2001, 55 parks, 1.34 million ha (3.6% of the total land area), had been designated.

③ Prefectural National Parks

The prefectures designate and manage under prefectural ordinances. So far, 307 parks, 1.96 million ha (5.2% of the total land area), have been designated.

Park Plans

A Park Plan is formulated for each park for the appropriate protection and the use of the natural park. Regulations for proper park use and development of user facilities are carried out in accordance with the Plans.

System for Park Plan Fig. 1

Special Zones	
Special Protection	— Core areas maintaining the greatest landscapes of particular significance and wilderness status
Class I Special Zones	— Zones requiring the most protection for landscapes and scenic beauty
Class II Special Zones	— Zones requiring coordination with the activities of agriculture, forestry and fisheries
Class III Special Zones	— Zones where ordinary activities of agriculture, forestry and fisheries are allowed
Ordinary Zones	— Zones other than Special Zones, for scenery
Marine Park Zones	— Zones with the greatest seascapes, including tropical fish, coral, other marine life, and features of the seabed
Regulated Utilization Area	— Those who want to enter these areas are required to obtain the approval of the Minister of Environment or the prefectural governors concerned
Facilities for Protection	— Facilities for vegetation restoration, animal breeding, etc
Facility Complex	— Comprehensive facility development for visitor use and park management, as a base for recreational use of parks
Visitor facilities	— Visitor facility area, resting places, hiking trails, cable cars, visitor centers

Japan's System of Natural Parks

Natural Parks in Japan are designated by authorities, irrespective of land ownership, and controlled under certain regulations. This system is effective for the creation of Natural Parks on lands that are already densely used, as is often the case in Japan, and for conservation of not only wild nature but also human landscapes and secondary natural landscapes formed through people's longstanding livelihood activities as well as wilderness landscapes.

On the other hand, management requires consideration of people's property rights and various industrial activities in the area concerned. This demands partnerships between local people and other stakeholders in the areas.

Fig.1 System for Park Plan

