



Kagoshima
International
Conference
on World Natural Heritage
(KICWNH)

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 / Nov. 2002

The Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Concept and Foundation

1. The Yakushima Island Environmental and Cultural Village Concept



This concept is one of the strategic projects of a comprehensive basic plan that Kagoshima Prefecture approved in June 2000. This master plan was announced to the public in November 1992, one year prior to the designation of Yakushima as a World Natural Heritage site. The characteristics of Yakushima's special culture and lifestyle have been cherished and developed over thousands of years and the village concept has been based on this culture, which is represented by relationships between people and nature and can be referred to as "environmental culture". The concept is an attempt to newly appreciate the value of Yakushima's natural environment and to preserve it through study and research, while trying to enrich the lives of the people living there. Through key projects related to the concept, "environmental education" is provided for people to learn everything about forests, rivers, local lifestyles, and industries of Yakushima. This fosters new community development unique to Yakushima.

2. The Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Foundation

The Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Foundation was established in March 1993 as the core organization for the promotion of the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Concept. It is funded by Kagoshima Prefecture, Kamiyaku Town, and Yaku Town.

The major undertakings of the foundation:

- i. "Environmental Education Programs"
 - Planning and implementation of Yakushima nature experience seminars and environmental education programs, Establishment and operation of volunteer networking
- ii. "Environmental Preservation Support Projects"
 - Production and distribution of brochures for education about environmental preservation; Production and distribution of water soluble tissue paper; Support of environmental preservation activities conducted by private organ-

- izations
- iii. "Nature Conservation Activities"
 - Conservation activities for loggerhead turtles; Hosting observations of wild birds and marine life, and conducting nature studies in order to contribute to education about the protection of wildlife
- iv. "Cultural Projects"
 - Publication of the "Yakushima Report", periodicals sent nationwide; Operation of the Yakushima Fan Club; Hosting environmental and cultural arts festivals and other events
- v. "Supportive programs for community development"
 - Support of ecotourism suitable for Yakushima; Support of environmental education at schools; Support for events related to community development of local areas
- vi. "Management of the Core Facilities of the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village"
 - Management of the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Center and the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Learning Center, as well as operation of the commemorative opening events for both centers. This work is consigned by the Kagoshima Prefectural Government.

The Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Foundation
Address: 823-1, Miyanoura, Kamiyaku Town, Kumage-gun,
Kagoshima Prefecture, 891-4205, Japan
Tel: 09974-2-2911 Fax: 09974-9-1018
<http://www.yakushima.or.jp>



CONTENTS

<i>The Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Concept and the Foundation</i>	1
<i>Top 100 locations in Japan</i>	2
<i>Yakushima Now</i>	3
<i>Overview of East Nusa Tenggara Natural Heritage</i>	3

Top 100 locations in Japan - Selected Features Located on Yakushima

In Japan, organizations and associations vote for natural and human-made locations to feature in the "top 100 in Japan". Some of Yakushima's natural attractions have been selected as 100 best selections of Japan. Why not stop by such places when you visit Yakushima?

[Top 100 water features]

A. Running water, Mt. Miyanoura-dake

Yakushima, with the highest peak in Kyushu, Mt. Miyanoura-dake, has a high annual precipitation of over 5,000 mm. In addition, since it is covered with virgin forests, there are abundant water supplies. There are many waterfalls and rivers, most notably Anbo River. Local municipalities are working to protect aquatic environments using natural methods.

[Top 100 spring water locations]

A. National Forest of Mt. Miyanoura-dake

This forest is located at the source of Shiratani River in Mt. Miyanoura-dake and supplies tap water. Yakushima is one of the most famous islands in the world in terms of mild temperatures and abundant rainfall. The forest has many beautiful gorges.

[Top 100 water features in Kyushu]

B. Water at the source of Yodo River

[Top 100 valleys in Japan]

C. Miyanoura River

[Important marshlands of Japan]

D. Yakushima (Miyanoura River)

E. Natural growth area for Podostemales in Isso River

F. West coast of Yakushima

G. Kurio River

H. Area around Yakushima Hananoego

[Top 100 waterfalls in Japan]

I. Ohko-no-taki Waterfall

[Top 100 sounds of Japan]

J. Mountain stream (Chigami River) and trolleys

Railroad tracks of the Yakushima Forest Railway Company are located along Anbo River and its tributary, Chigami River, which flow through mountains full of Yaku cedars. The tracks were constructed in the early 1920s and actively served as a vein for tree cutting on Yakushima. Even now, over 70 years later, they

are still being used to carry domaiboku cedar tree stumps, and serve as a facility for the Yakushima Denko Electric Company, a generation station. This is the only forest railway in service in Japan.

[Top 100 forest giants]

K. Jomon Cedar

L. Yayoi Cedar

M. Kigen Cedar

[Top 100 scents]

N. Evergreen forest and dried mackerel of Yakushima

Large evergreen forests that are adjacent to the World Natural Heritage Site are close to inhabited areas. Flower scents hang in the air, which blows down from the Jomon Cedar forest and the Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine, which was the setting of the movie, "Princess Mononoke." One can also enjoy the scent of dried mackerel, a local specialty product, which is produced using mackerel raised in this area blessed with abundant evergreen forests. The forests have been preserved under laws regulating natural environmental preservation, such as the World Natural Heritage Convention, the Natural Park Law, and the Forest Act. The preservation is also influenced by the Yakushima Island Environmental and Cultural Village Concept. Furthermore local citizens enthusiastically provide input and assistance.

[Top 100 forests for therapeutic walks]

O. Forest of Yaku cedars

[Top 100 natural locations in Japan]

P. Natural Forests of Yakushima

Evergreen forests and Yaku cedars

[Top 100 mountains in Japan]

Q. Mt. Miyanoura-dake

[Top 100 mountains for female in Japan]

Q. Mt. Miyanoura-dake

[Top 100 mountains in Kyushu]

Q. Mt. Miyanoura-dake

[New - Top 100 scenic spots in Kagoshima]

R. Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine

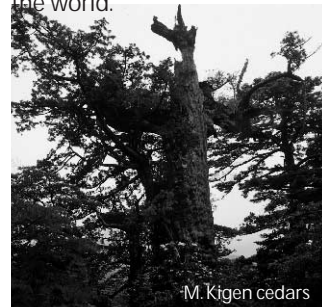
Surrounded by virgin evergreen forests. Limpid streams of Shiratani River fall down the sheer cliffs bordering the gorges.

S. Senpiro-no-taki Waterfall

This is a powerful waterfall that cascades down on huge V-shaped granite bedrock.

T. Nagata Village and Inakahama Beach

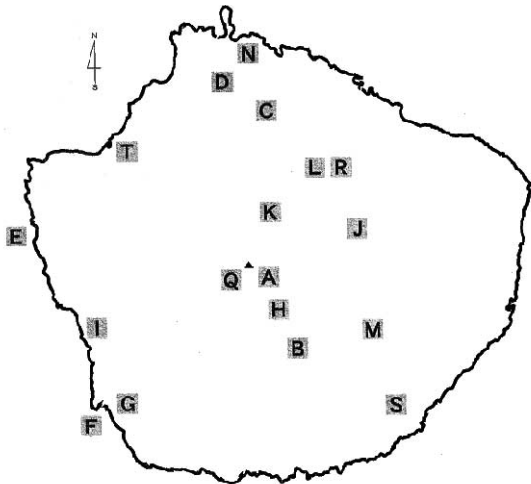
This village is famous for its beautiful golden beach, which is renowned as a nesting point for loggerhead turtles throughout the world.



M. Kigen cedars



T. Nagata village



Yakushima NOW

The Third Summit on the Natural Environment for High School Students

"The Third Summit on the Natural Environment for High School Students" was held for three days beginning July 31, 2002. High school students promoting environmental education gathered from all over Japan to consider the relationships between humankind and nature through experiences in natural places, under the main theme "coexistence with nature"

Approximately 200 students and teachers from 16 high schools, including Yakushima High School, participated in the Summit. High school students organized the Summit where lectures, training sessions, and discussions took place. The Summit closed with the adoption of the "Natural Environmental Declaration by High School Students." Participants passed a resolution to become "human beings who will aim to solve environmental problems and take action by developing initiatives that recognize the 'coexistence between humans and nature.'" Below is a summary of the three-day Summit.

(Day 1)

Mr. Takeshi Noguchi, an alpinist, delivered the keynote address. He talked about his experiences in mountain environments, the value of life, the problem of rubbish in mountain areas, problems caused by global warming, and many other topics. Participants were very impressed by his speech.

Later, participants visited the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Center, a core facility of the Yakushima Island Environmental and Cultural Village Concept Promotion. Students of Yakushima High School presented their activities related to environmental education, including preservation of Yakushima's natural environment. At the "Evening Gathering", participants were able to develop close friendships.

(Day 2)

Participants climbed Mount Tachu from Yakusugi-land, guided by students of Yakushima High School. It took them about five and a half hours to reach their destination. They were able to truly experience the nature of Yakushima by climbing the mountain.

After returning to the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Learning Center, Mr. Masaaki Hyodo, who lives on Yakushima, gave a talk about the significance of Yakushima's designation as a World Natural Heritage Site, as well as the basic concept of protection of natural areas. The high school students earnestly listened to his talk.

(Day 3)

On the final day, five representative schools gave presentations. They introduced innovative ideas conceived by the high school students themselves, about the current situation and problems in their own communities. Each presentation was followed by an enthusiastic, in-depth discussion with questions and expressions of opinion, which reflected the students' deep interest and increasing awareness about environmental education. It was decided that discussions on certain topics would continue among high school students via the internet.

It is very significant that by participating in this Summit high school students experienced the power and gentleness of nature while surrounded by Yakushima's wonderful natural environment. They actively held discussions about their role in inheriting the natural environment to protect it for future generations, and about the relationships between humankind and nature. This helped develop their awareness of nature and natural processes.



Kagoshima International Conference on World Natural Heritage - Participating Regions Heritage Corner

Overview Of East Nusa Tenggara Natural Heritage

East Nusa Tenggara is one of the provinces of Indonesia with 566 islands. About 42 of its islands are inhabited. The main islands are Flores, Sumba, Timor and Alor. These islands have a lot of land-hinterland ecosystem potencies as well as marine. These create a management network which lies from Flores island known for its Komodo National Park where found the giant lizards (*Varanus komodoensis*), Kelimutu National Park known for the natural exotic and three colored lake, Seventeen Islands Marine Nature Recreation Park to the Mutis Timau Nature Conserve in Timor that is on the process of shifting function towards National Park.

KOMODO NATIONAL PARK

Established 1980, Komodo National Park was one of the first Indonesia National Park and considered as the world's natural heritage. It is situated between the islands of Sumbawa and Flores. The area is 173,300 ha in extent. The park's most famous inhabitant is Komodo lizard (*Varanus komodoensis*), the world largest terrestrial reptile. These animals known locally as "Ora" can grow up to 3 m in length and 90 Kg. The national park also protects a large area of coral reefs which are a home to a vast array of underwater marine life.

Increasing activities in the sea, particularly fishing activities will give tremendous impact on its inhabitants and the environment.



Spot of Komodo Island



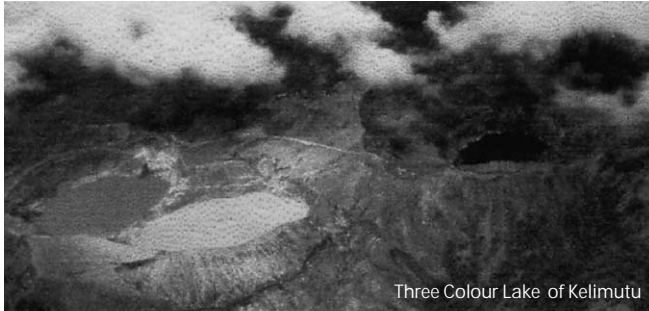
Komodo lizard

KELIMUTU NATIONAL PARK

This 5,000 ha park is situated in south central Flores, approximately 53 km to the south west of the town of Maumere. The most notable features of this park are three colour volcanic lakes which lie at the 1,690 m peak of mount Kelimutu. Each lake has different colour due to the volcanic activities and the colour periodically changes. The lakes are culturally important to local people and are named in accordance with the spiritual importance. Tiwu Ata Mbupu is the lake of the spirits of older people. Tiwu Nuwa Muri Koo Fai is the lake of the spirit of the young people, while Tiwu Ata Polo is the lake of the spirits of local fortune tellers.

However, deforestation and sand mining activities its surrounding communities will create a serious problem for the local government

in term of environmental management.



Three Colour Lake of Kelimutu

Aside from Komodo and Kelimutu National Parks which has been recognized as the world natural heritage, two nature conserve to be worth notice are The Seventeen Islands of Marine National Recreation Park and Mutis-Timau Nature Conserve .

SEVENTEEN ISLANDS OF MARINE NATURE RECREATION PARK

This terrestrial part of marine park is situated on the island of Flores. The reserve is 9,900 ha in extent and lies about 70 Km to the north of the Bajawa Town (Ngada Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia). It protects a number of small patch of reefs of high diversity in terms of coral and marine fish and large expanses of mangrove forest. On the island of Ontoloe (one of the Seventeen Islands) there is a large number of fruit bat colony (*Pteropus veropirus*) which roosts in the taller mangroves on the northern side of the island. There are thousands of bats which are believed to forage as far afield as Bajawa for food.

Seventeen Island of Marine Nature Recreation Park is a typical dry forest with mixed vegetations. They are almond tree (*Terminalia cattapa*), spades (*Hibiscus tiliacius*), pandanus (*Pandanus tectonia*), teak (*Tectona grandis*), tree yielding wood for charcoal (*Schleichera oleosa*), sandalwood (*Santalum album*), cinnamon (*Mangivera indica*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*). In most of these islands there is mangrove forest with predominant species of *Rhizophora* sp. , *Bruguiera gymnoriza*, and *Sonneratia* sp.



Spot of Seventeen Islands

Kinds of fauna found in these areas are the giant lizard (*Varanus komodoensis*) porcupine (*Zaglossus* sp), monkey (*Macaca* sp), civet (*Paradoxurus haemaphysalis*), dekus (*Phalanger*, sp), monitor lizard (*Varanus timorensis*), jungle fowl (*Gallus* sp), crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and various kind of bird such as eagle (*Elanus*,sp), white egret (*Egretta sacra*), black egret (*Ciconia episcopus*), parrot (*Lorius domicella*), large turtledove (*Streptopelia*

lia chinensis), and cave bat (*Pteropus veropirus*) , etc.

The Seventeen Islands sites also preserve various kind of coral reef and marine biota ecosystem. Approximately, 27 kinds of reef are found in these sites where live marine mammals like dugong (*Dugong dugon*), cetaceous mammal (Dolphin) and whale (*Physister catadon*) and many other fishes.

Apparently, significant environmental depletion because of fishing habit of the local people using explosive material (dynamite fishing) becomes serious problem for the local government of East Nusa Tenggara Province, particularly.

MOUNT MUTIS NATURE CONSERVE

This site is situated in Timor Island. Its about 140 Km distance of eastern side of Kupang Town. The total area is approximately 12,000 Ha.

This nature forest grows homogenous vegetation of upperland forest characterized by predominant growth of *Eucalyptus urophylla*. It grows naturally in a large extent area including sandalwood (*Santalum album*) which is a famous tree for East Nusa Tenggara. Various kinds of fauna found in this site are Timorese deer (*Cervus timorensis*), dekus (*Phalanger orientalis*), wild boar (*Sus vittatus*), monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*), Timorese python (*Phyton timorensis*), etc. Aside from its fauna and flora diversities, this area plays an important role as catchment area for West Timor water supply since it is being on the upper land of several rivers, Noelmina, Benenain and Oebesi, respectively.



Spot of Mount Mutis

It has eloquent beauty of natural view to be developed for nature recreation and tourism activities. Reasonably, this site had been established as nature conserve site and now on the process of upgrading function toward National Park. The local Government together with World Wild Fund for Nature Kupang had been conducted a number of meetings at all level to meet the needs and interest of parties involved.

Therefore, the local government of East Nusa Tenggara Province rely its hope on the International Community to consider these unique and peculiar nature to be part of the world's nature heritage perhaps through the coming International Conferences.

Paul Nyoko

Environmental Impact Controlling Agency of East Nusa Tenggara Province

Jl. Untung Surapati No.07 Tel. (0380) 826580 Fax. (0380) 822 1 80

Editor's note

"Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Concept" and "Yakushima Environmental Culture Foundation" are included in this issue. The Kagoshima Prefectural Government plans to further the understanding of the basic concept of the Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village. Activities of the Foundation conducted at two key facilities "Yakushima Environmental and Cultural Village Center" and "Yakushima

Environmental Culture Learning Center" will be presented in the next issue.

Published by

Nature Conservation Division,

Kagoshima Prefectural Government

10-1, Kamoike Shin-machi, Kagoshima City 890-8577

<http://chukakunet.pref.kagoshima.jp/home/kanhogoka/heritage>