



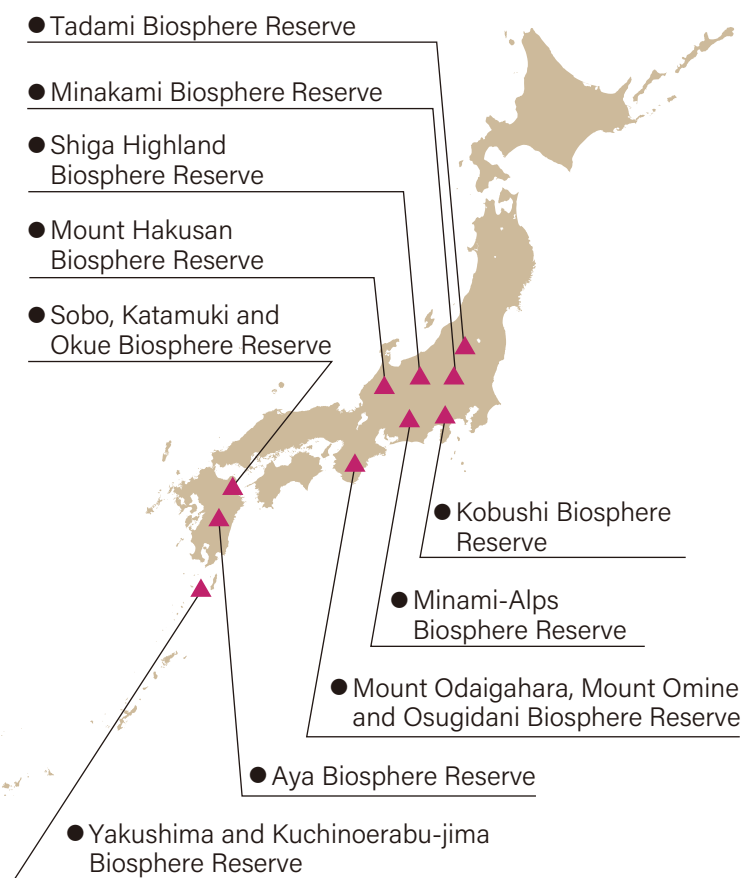
Biosphere Reserves in Japan

Japan's biosphere reserves (known in Japan as 'Ecoparks') can be found in 10 sites across the country: Shiga Highland (Nagano and Gunma prefectures), Mount Hakusan (Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui and Gifu prefectures), Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani (Nara and Mie prefectures), and Yakushima and Kuchinoerabu-jima (Kagoshima prefecture) were registered in 1980; Aya (Miyazaki prefecture) was registered in 2012; Tadami (Fukushima prefecture) and Minami-Alps (Nagano, Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures) were registered in 2014; and Sobo, Katamuki and Okue (Oita and Miyazaki prefectures) and Minakami (Gunma and Niigata prefectures) were registered in 2017; and Kobushi (Yamanashi, Saitama, Nagano and Tokyo) was registered in 2019. The core areas and buffer zones of each reserve are designated as national parks, quasi-national parks or nature conservation forests with a protected status.

The biosphere reserves model aims to protect areas with rich ecosystems and biodiversity, promote learning about nature and enable sustainable development from a cultural, economic and social perspective.



Forest in Yakusugi Land © Tourism & Community Development Section, Yakushima Town



View of Mt. Hakusan from the Dana Highland © Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve Council



Mt. Senjogatake in early summer © Ina City

UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves

There are a total of 714 registered sites in 120 countries all over the world. (as of October 2020)



Gran Pajatén BR, Peru (©UNESCO)

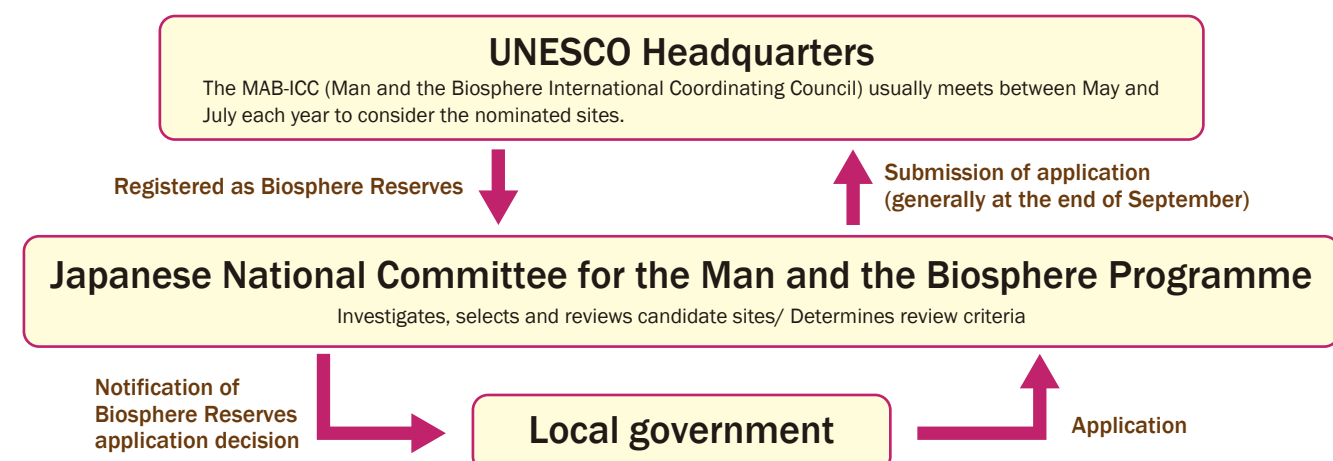


Moer BR, Denmark (©UNESCO)



Gouritz Cluster BR, South Africa (©UNESCO)

Application process for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves



◇ Further information and inquiries ◇

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Biosphere Reserves in Japan

Man and the Biosphere Reserves

People and nature living together



A place where we can feel the Biosphere Reserve's nature, "Osugidani's Shishi-buchi abyss" © Odai Town



Jigokudani Yaen-koen (Wild Snow Monkey Park) © Yamanouchi Town

What are the Biosphere Reserves?

The Biosphere Reserves (BR, or Ecoparks*) are areas that have been granted an internationally recognized status by UNESCO under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme#2.

While the principle behind world heritage is to protect the pristine natural environment, the Biosphere Reserves are part of a framework that aims to reconcile the conservation of ecosystems with their sustainable use (human society co-existing with nature).

It is hoped that these protected areas will proactively engage in various forms of coordination and cooperation both domestically and with other countries as part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and that this will further promote the work and initiatives in which each individual site is involved.



Magatama-no-Oka Hill © Yamanouchi Town

*1 In January 2010, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO officially decided to rename Japan's Biosphere Reserves 'Ecoparks' in order to foster a greater sense of affinity with these sites.
 *2 UNESCO's intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme was launched in 1976 in order to conduct scientific research into the sustainable use and protection of nature and natural resources with the aim of safeguarding biodiversity.



日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Biosphere Reserves Framework

3 Functions

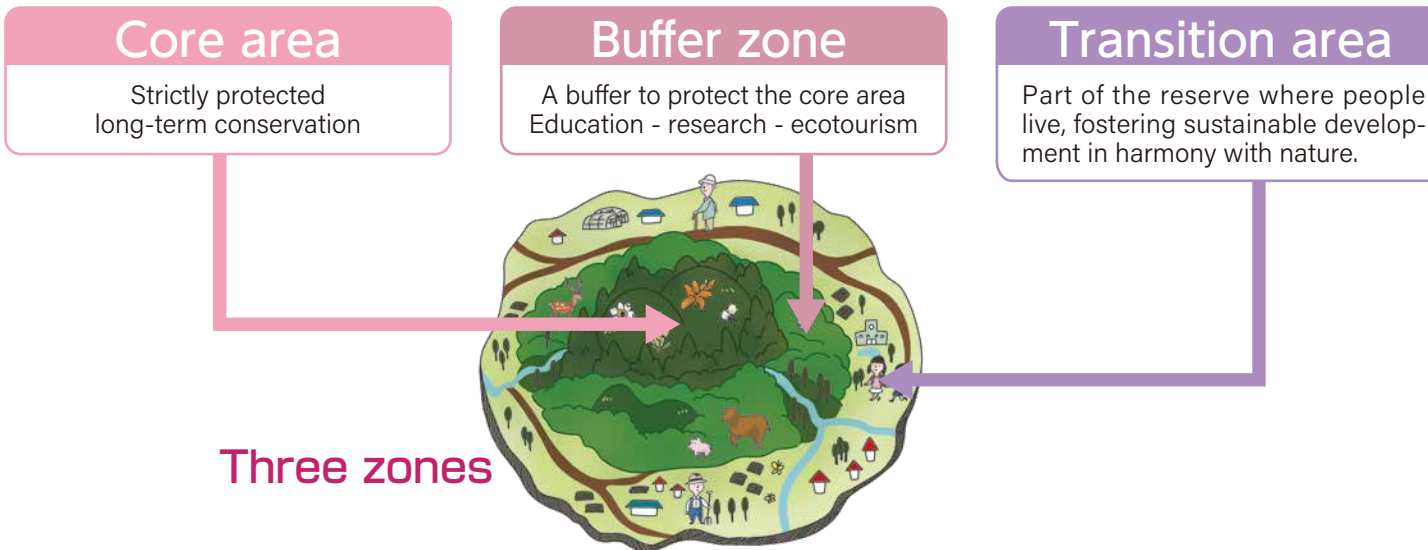
- 1 Preservation (Conserving biodiversity)**
- 2 Scientific research**
- 3 Socio-economic development**

The fact of being an important region for preserving biodiversity, including ecosystems representative of biological geographical zones involving some human intervention.

Provides places for surveys, research, education and training for the sake of sustainable development.

Undertakes initiatives that will serve as a model in Japan and overseas for sustainable development in harmony with conservation of the natural environment.

These functions are mutually reinforcing rather than independent. The Biosphere Reserves have three zones that aim to fulfill these three functions.



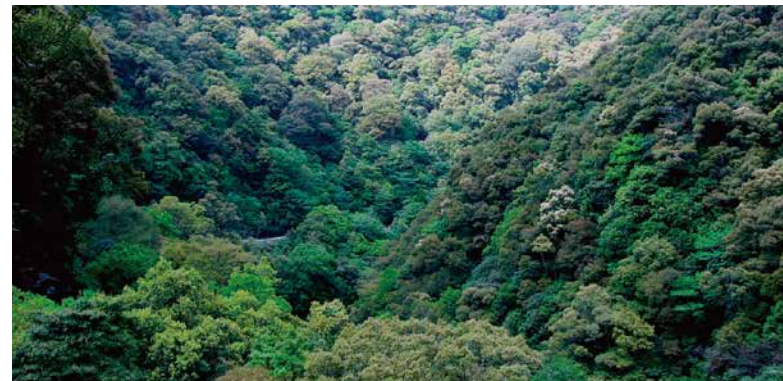
What happens in Biosphere Reserves?

Core area

This zone allows a wide range of flora and fauna to thrive, is afforded strict legal protection and is conserved over the long term.



▲ Tsukazaki Tide Pool © Tourism & Community Development Section, Yakushima Town Office



▲ Aya's lucidophyllous (evergreen broadleaf) forest © Aya town



Buffer zone

This zone surrounds or adjoins the core area and provides a buffer for the core area. It is used for scientific research for the Biosphere Reserves project, but also for activities such as education, training, forest therapy and ecotourism* that increase understanding of conserving ecosystems and their sustainable use as well as educate and train the next generation.



▲ A class on the environment in the Akaya forest © Minakami town



▲ Forest therapy © Council for Facilitating the Kobushi Biosphere Reserve



▲ Canyoning in Fujigawachi Valley © Saiki city

* Ecotourism is an attempt to involve the local community and convey to people the inherent appeal of an area, such as its natural environment or cultural history. The aim is to promote understanding and conservation of the natural environment and the area by increasing awareness of its value.



Transition area

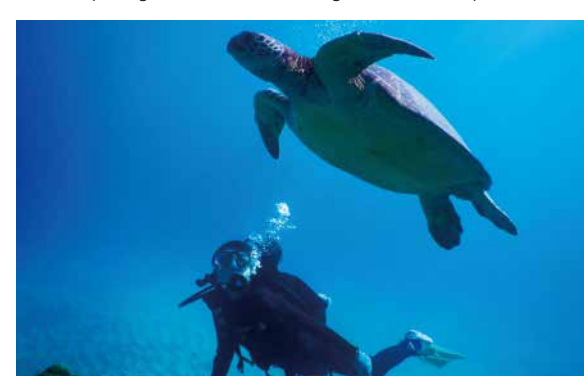
This zone is where people live their lives and where initiatives are undertaken that can serve as a model for sustainable development in harmony with conservation of the natural environment.



▲ Peach picking © Council for Facilitating the Kobushi Biosphere Reserve



▲ Saotome dance which is a traditional dance praying for a huge harvest passed down to the Saotome Dance Preservation Society in Kobayashi district in Tadami town © Nakano Yousuke



▲ Scuba Diving © Tourism & Community Development Section, Yakushima Town Office

The transition area is designed in a sustainable manner based on a circular economy. Industrial development is also promoted here in such a way as to build on the fruits of nature and the region's unique characteristics without damaging the natural environment.



Biosphere Reserves, Sustainable Development Goals, Education for Sustainable Development and UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network

Biosphere Reserves are valuable as a place to practice ESD for achievement of the SDGs and a synergistic effect is expected to be generated by combining the Biosphere Reserves, ESD and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network with one other.

SDGs : Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all the United Nations Member States at the United Nations Summit held in September 2015. The SDGs consist of 17 international goals in order to realize a sustainable, diverse and comprehensive society under the slogan "Leave no one behind". The Biosphere Reserves will promote more activities as model sites contributing to the SDGs, especially Goal 4 (EDUCATION), Goal 6 (WATER), Goal 13 (CLIMATE), Goal 14 (LIFE BELOW WATER) and Goal 15 (LIFE ON LAND) through focusing on the lives and culture of people who rely on the natural environment and resources.



ESD : Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development is education to nurture people who will be able to build a sustainable society. ESD is key to achieving all 17 goals of the SDGs.

- "Six views" needed in building a sustainable society.
→Based on these six views, teachers and students find problems related to building a sustainable society.

- Concepts for building a sustainable society (examples) -

- I Diversity (variety exists)
- II Interdependence (relating to each other)
- III Limitation (limits exists)
- IV Fairness (valuing everybody)
- V Cooperation (cooperating with each other)
- VI Responsibility (taking responsibility)

- Competencies and attitudes to be emphasized in ESD -

- ① Ability to think critically
- ② Ability to plan with anticipation of a future scenario
- ③ Multidimensional and integrative thinking
- ④ Communication skills
- ⑤ Ability to cooperate with others
- ⑥ Respectful of relations and connections
- ⑦ Proactive participation

National Institute for Educational Policy Research, March 2012, Research on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at schools.

UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network

UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network is a network of schools practising peace and international collaboration in order to realize UNESCO's philosophy stated in UNESCO's Constitution.

There are currently a total of more than 11,000 UNESCO Associated Schools in 182 countries and regions. There are 1,120 UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan (as of November in 2019). The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan defines the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network as a forum to promote ESD. * Website of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network <http://www.unesco-school.mext.go.jp/>

The concept of ESD



It is important to tackle various fields comprehensively in terms of "building a sustainable society".



Development of a model to spread and further ESD and the SDGs in school education through use of the biosphere reserves

Shinshu ESD Consortium which covers the three Biosphere Reserves of the "Shiga Highland", "Minami-Alps" and "Kobushi" has constructed a network with other ESD consortiums practising ESD which also have Biosphere Reserves and works on supporting the practices and research of ESD and the SDGs through collaborating with ESD stakeholders such as the ESD Resource Center of Japan and the National Federation of the UNESCO Association of Japan and UNESCO-related institutions such as the Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network (JBRN) and the Japanese Coordinating Committee for the MAB. In addition to these, it has also been endeavoring to spread and further ESD and the SDGs through interaction and learning with educators and students.

The Shiga Highland Biosphere Reserve whose buffer zone includes every elementary school and junior high school which joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network by 2016 has been practicing ESD based on the theme of the region's environment, culture and community-build-



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
At Yamanouchi junior high school in the town of Yamanouchi, students discuss issues and suggestions they have found through regional studies with the mayor, councilors, civil servants and business operators in order to build an ideal town and this activity is entitled, "Debate on building an ideal town for junior high school students".

15 LIFE ON LAND
Activities to regenerate nature on Takamagahara Moor hosted by a regional organization in the Shiga Highland project as a place for learning through experiences for students who joined these activities.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS