



Protected areas



Area-based conservation measures, such as nature reserves and national parks, aim to preserve natural environments and features that bear a variety of intrinsic and functional values from a range of threats posed by socio-economic activities and environmental changes. As area-based conservation comes along with land use regulations, practitioners have to mediate various stakeholders with different interests. Planning process of zoning areas and types of regulations, therefore, should think of local scale socio-economic aspects, and may have to compromise to a certain extent by reshaping optimal conservation plans.

Traditionally Japan's nature reserves have been established often in consideration of esthetic values and economical uses (e.g., silviculture) of the sites. One of the consequences of this tradition in the site selection supposedly accounts the fact that the current spatial arrangements of protected area networks in Japan fail to capture important sites for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services (Kusumoto et al. 2017). Nonetheless, recent improvements in civic awareness of environmental crises lead to the shift in functions of nature reserves, that are paid particular attentions by local governments, with more emphases on sustainable society by incorporating aspects of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services. Therefore, newly established protected areas and spatial rearrangements of existing reserves are to be adequately designed to prevent further biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

In J-BMP, we provide a distribution map of nature reserves with a range of protection purposes and authorities (Wilderness area, Nature conservation area [Special protection zone, Class I - III special zones], Forest ecosystem reserve, Wildlife protection area [Special protection zone]).

■ References ■

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