



Spatial conservation priority



Japan, as east Asian archipelago, harbors a number of endemic species, and its biota in the present day are under various types of threats by socio-economic activities and climate changes.

To protect the region specific biota, it is essential to evaluate the importance and functions of ecosystems and biodiversity, and to inform spatial arrangements of protected area networks and land use regulations for conservation. The Aichi target by Convention on Biological Diversity aimed several effective conservation actions including expansion of effective protected areas to at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas per each nation, protections of fragile ecosystems, as well as protections of endangered species from extinction and significant population declines.

When it comes to Japan, however, the coverage of protected areas, that satisfy globally accepted conditions (strict regulations against human activities), is just 2% - 11% of the country's land area. Moreover, purposes of establishing protected areas have been often to preserve their esthetic values, to protect particular landscape types, and/or to preserve historical values of land uses. The effectiveness in terms of protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and endangered species, therefore, are not fully incorporated, and thus it remains as a nation's unsettled assignment to spatially rearrange protected area networks based on scientific evidences.

In J-BMP, we provide the current status of area protections, and maps of priority areas for conservation identified using the high resolution biodiversity data.

■ References ■

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