

A Country Report: Natural Parks in Japan

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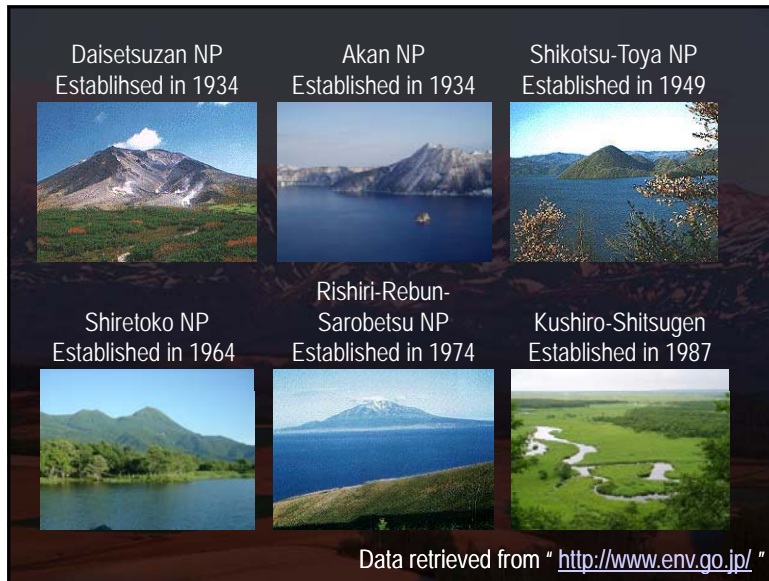
Overview

- Outline of Natural Parks in Japan
 - ◆ Fundamental knowledge
- Problems in Natural Parks in Japan
 - ◆ An example on Daisetsuzan national park
- A case study applying ROS

Outline of Natural Parks in Japan

- Natural Park System
 - ◆ National park: 28 parks
 - ◆ Quasi-national park : 55 parks
 - ◆ Provincial natural park : 308 parks





Outline of Natural Parks in Japan

■ Percentage of NPs in Japanese land use

Park type	Number of parks	Percentage in total land use (%)
National	28	5.5
Quasi-National	55	3.6
Provincial	308	5.2
Total	391	14.2

Data retrieved from " <http://www.env.go.jp/> "

Outline of Natural Parks in Japan

■ A Layer of Multiple Land Use in Japan

- ◆ Ministry of the Environment
 - have an incentive for park management
 - however the Ministry is not landowner
- ◆ Forestry Agency
 - has an incentive for forest management but recreation management
 - Main landowner of park area (especially in Hokkaido)
- ◆ Private Land Owners
 - have almost no incentive for sustainable resource management

Outline of Natural Parks in Japan

■ Landowners of NPs (10,000ha)

Park Type	Government owned		Public owned		Private owned	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
National	128	62%	26	13%	52	25%
Quasi-National	62	46%	20	15%	52	39%
Provincial	51	26%	21	11%	91	46%
Total	241	45%	67	12%	195	36%

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Outline of Natural Parks in Japan

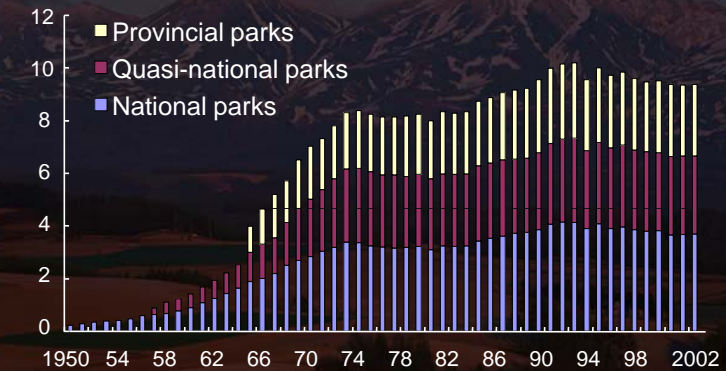
■ Various type of Landownership (100ha)

Park Name	Government owned		Public owned		Private owned	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Daisetsuzan	2,148	95%	99	4%	21	1%
Shiretoko	362	94%	8	2%	17	4%
Towada-Hachimantai	795	93%	12	1%	49	6%
Ise-Shima	2	0.3%	20	4%	534	96%
Saikai	8	3%	19	8%	219	89%
Saninkaigan	1	1%	28	31%	59	68%

Data retrieved from "<http://www.env.go.jp/>"

Problems in Natural Parks in Japan

■ Change in Natural Park Visitors (10 billion)



Problems in Natural Parks in Japan

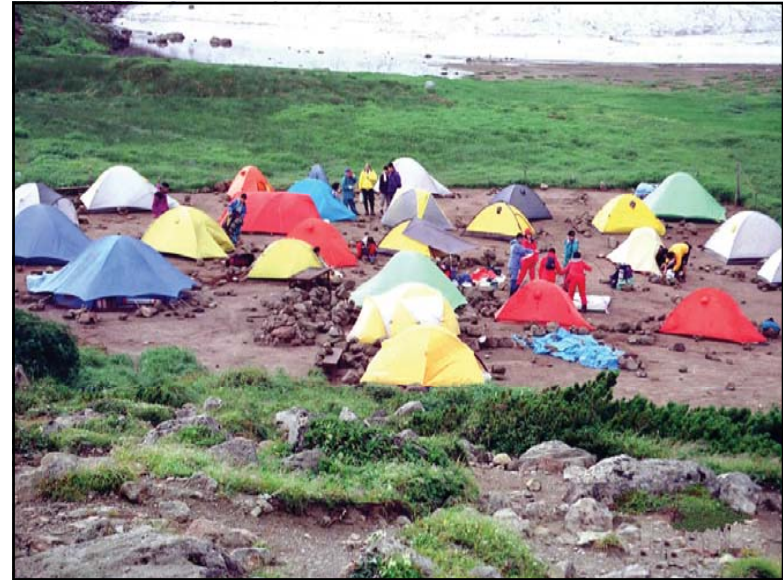
■ Daisetsuzan National Park

- ◆ The largest terrestrial National Park in Japan (226,764ha)
 - Alpine plant communities are widely distributed
 - Habitats for various species of wildlife (e.g. brown bears, pika and Blakiston's fish owl)



Mt. Tomuraushiyama seen from Numanohara





Problems in Natural Parks in Japan

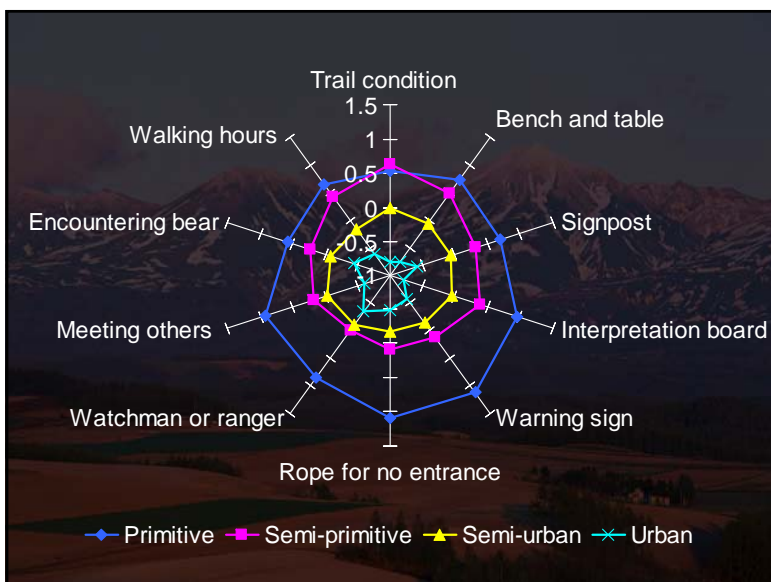
- Destruction of Natural Resources
 - ◆ Destruction of alpine vegetation and erosion alongside trails
- Deterioration of visitors' satisfaction
 - ◆ Increase in visitors
 - Congestion and crowding
 - ◆ Mismatched facilities
 - e.g. Boardwalks in primitive area

A case study applying ROS

- What kind of recreational settings and facilities should be provided?
 - ◆ Traditionally the Ministry of Environment tended to provide all kind of recreation settings and facilities in all areas
- To establish a guideline for providing diverse recreational experiences using ROS
 - ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum): a framework for recreation planning, and its objective is to provide diverse recreational experiences

A case study applying ROS

- Variables used in the questionnaire and exploratory investigation
 - ◆ Trail condition
 - ◆ Bench and table
 - ◆ Signpost
 - ◆ Interpretation board
 - ◆ Warning Sign
 - ◆ Rope for no entrance
 - ◆ Watchman or ranger
 - ◆ Frequency of meeting others
 - ◆ Possibility of encountering bears
 - ◆ Walking hours from trailhead to destination



A case study applying ROS

- Results
 - ◆ The park trails were classified according to visitor preferences
 - ◆ Park plan can be improved applying ROS
 - ROS is useful to understand current situations and to discuss the future of the park