

# Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan

Fiscal Year 2021

(Summary)

Forestry Agency

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan



The Annual Report on Forest and Forestry is a report which the Government of Japan (GOJ) submits to the Diet every year, in accordance with article 10 of the Forest and Forestry Basic Act. This document is a summary of the annual report for fiscal year (FY) 2021.

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Note: The maps of Japan included in this summary report do not necessarily represent the territory of Japan comprehensively.

# Forests and Forestry Topics for FY2021

## Topic 1: Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry Aiming to Realize “Green growth” with a View to Achieving Net-zero by 2050

The GOJ revised the Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry in June 2021. The plan aims to realize “Green growth” that contributes to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 through continuing efforts to transform forestry and wood industry into a growth industry by promoting appropriate management of forests including reforestation and sustainable use of forest resources such as wood use in buildings.

### Five points of measures in the Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry

- Appropriate management and use of forest resources
- Development of initiatives for “New forestry”
- Strengthening the competitiveness of the wood industry
- Creation of the "Second forests" in urban areas that means increasing buildings with wood
- Creation of a new value for rural communities in hilly and mountainous areas



## Topic 2: Enforcement of “Act for Promotion of Use of Wood in Buildings to Contribute to the Realization of a Decarbonized Society” -Toward “Wood Change\*”-

To promote wood use in buildings further, the Act for Promotion of Use of Wood in Public Buildings was amended and renamed the Act for Promotion of Use of Wood in Buildings to Contribute to the Realization of a Decarbonized Society which came into force in October 2021.

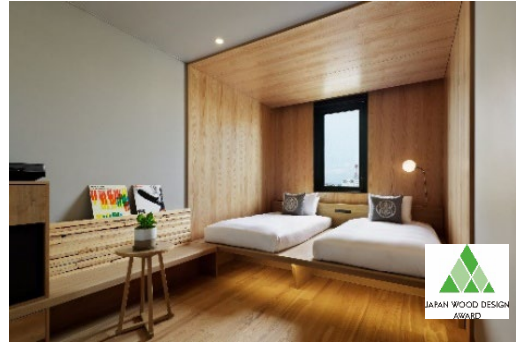
In the Act, the scope of basic national policies was expanded from public buildings to buildings in general. In addition, “Wood Use Promotion Day” (October 8<sup>th</sup>) and “Wood Use Promotion Month” (October) were established. Furthermore, the GOJ created a headquarters for wood use promotion and an agreement system for wood use promotion in buildings.

The “Wood Change Council”, including wide range of stakeholders such as organizations of suppliers, processors and consumers of wood, was also launched to create environment conducive to the use of wood.

The GOJ has developed a guideline that shows a standard calculation and indication method for the carbon storage of wood used in buildings.



docomo Shop Tamba Sasayama  
(TambaSasayama City, Hyogo)  
(©SWING Co., Ltd.)



The Royal Park Canvas - Sapporo Odori Park  
(Sapporo City, Hokkaido)  
(©Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd.)

\* Wood Change is the change to sustainable society through the activities as followings; change commodities into wood products, utilize wood in daily life and construct buildings and houses with wood.

### Topic 3: Inscription of "Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island" on the World Heritage List

In July 2021, "Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island" was newly inscribed as UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites. The islands are the fifth site in Japan, following Shirakami-Sanchi, Yakushima, Shiretoko and Ogasawara Islands.

Most of the heritage area is covered with evergreen broadleaf subtropical rainforests. In the area, numerous rare species grow and inhabit, including 95 endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, such as the Amami Rabbit.

The Forestry Agency has designated almost all the area of the national forest, which accounts for approximately 70 % of the heritage area, as a "Forest Ecosystem Reserve" to protect and manage the area strictly.

The GOJ, prefectural governments, local municipalities and related parties work together to respond to the requests such as tourism management, issued by the World Heritage Committee.



Mangrove forests (Iriomote Island)



Guided tours conducted by the Ecotour  
Guide Liaison Council (Tokunoshima Island)  
(©Tokunoshima Niji no Kai)



#### Topic 4: Countermeasures against Mountain Disasters from Heavy Rains in July and August in 2021

The heavy rains caused mountain disasters in various regions of Japan in July and August 2021. Especially in the Shimokita Peninsula of Aomori Prefecture, from August 9<sup>th</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup>, localized heavy rains caused mountain disasters simultaneously and resulted in sediment and driftwood runoff.

The Forestry Agency supported the affected prefectures by conducting emergency observations using satellites based on an agreement with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The Forestry Agency also implemented an investigation for the damage from the sky using helicopters in cooperation with the affected prefectures.

In addition, technical staffs from the Forestry Agency and experts from the Forest Research and Management Organization have provided technical support in assessing the disaster situation and for the recovery.

In response to the mudslide disaster in the Izusan district of Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture, in July 2021, the GOJ carried out a comprehensive inspection to prevent embankment disasters and provided the necessary support in collaboration with related organizations. The GOJ also submitted the Proposed Act Partially Amending the Act on the Regulation of Housing Land Development that comprehensively regulates dangerous embankments to the Diet in March 2022.



Disruption of national roads due to mainly runoff sediment  
(Kazamaura village, Aomori Prefecture)



Control of sediment and driftwood runoff by forest conservation facilities  
(Kazamaura village, Aomori Prefecture)



Joint helicopter investigation with affected prefectures  
(Kagoshima Prefecture)