

How We Can Select Eco-Friendly Clothes ?

Nov. 2021 @Osaka

The apparel industry causes various problems such as water pollution and waste around the world. Last November, we collaborated with university students in Osaka to hold an event for local elementary school students to learn about the environmental problems caused by the clothing industry.

On the day of the event, we raised children's awareness of the connection between the natural environment and clothing by actually showing them raw materials for clothing such as cotton.



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JAPAN YOUTH BIODIVERSITY NETWORK
- Our activities : Environmental Education -

How We Can Solve the Environmental Issues in Local Fields ?

Mar. 2022 @Okinawa



Recently, the Okinawa Islands, which stretch to the south of Japan, have been experiencing problems with improper farming practices that have caused field soil to run off rivers into the ocean and impact coral reefs. In March of this year, a study tour was actually conducted on Kume Island, Okinawa, using this problem as an example for youth to think about solutions to local environmental problems.

The program consisted of observation of the natural environment of forests and oceans, lectures by instructors, and workshops to think about environmental issues, providing participating youth with opportunities to consider local environmental issues from various perspectives.

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OUR ACTIVITIES

- By holding biodiversity-themed events and workshops for the youth generation at national parks and other field locations, the group is working to convey the importance of biodiversity conservation and how to utilize biodiversity in a sustainable manner. So far, they have held events on Sado Island (Niigata Prefecture), Kasai Rinkai Park (Chiba Prefecture), and Kumejima Island (Okinawa Prefecture), among others.



- Online events are held to build connections among youth organizations involved in biodiversity conservation activities in various fields. In particular, the target audience does not necessarily have to be active in biodiversity conservation, and we actively reach out to organizations that are contributing to biodiversity conservation as a side effect of other activities.



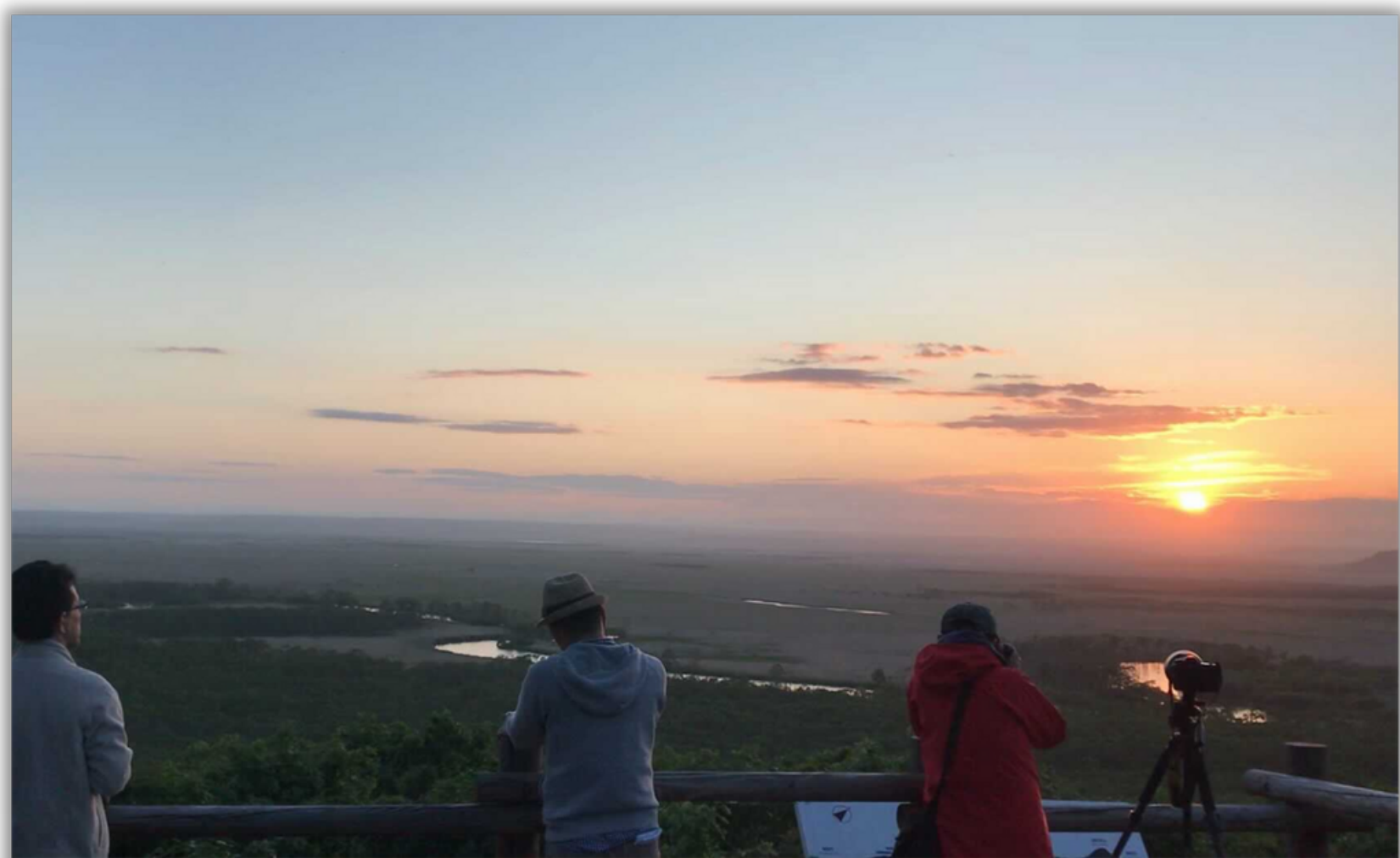
- We collect the opinions of youth groups in each field that are involved in daily activities on issues and biodiversity conservation through questionnaires and other means, compile the opinions, and make proposals at international conferences such as the COP. In this way, we have a relationship with both the youth groups in the field and the international stakeholders, and we play a role in connecting them.



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JAPANESE NATURE PARKS

- Nature parks in Japan include national parks (designated and managed by the national government), quasi-national parks (designated by the national government and managed by the prefectures), and prefectural nature parks (designated and managed by the prefectures).
- Although the subject of protection is the natural landscape, the system results in the conservation of biodiversity and preservation of the natural environment. The purpose is to provide a place for health, recreation, and education for the public by promoting the use of the park.
- There are two types of natural parks: structured and regional. In contrast to the former, in which national parks are limited to protected areas only and the central government manages the entire area, Japan takes the latter. Parks can be designated regardless of land ownership. In other words, there are often cases where the landowner and the administrator are different. The parks include a variety of land uses, and thus involve a variety of stakeholders (landowners, land managers, residents, tourists, volunteers, etc.). When preparing a natural park plan, it is necessary to build consensus with diverse entities, otherwise the plan will become a mere skeleton.

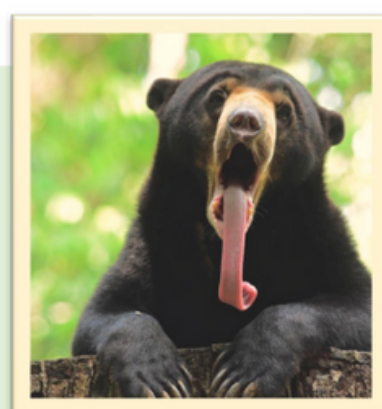


ACTIVITIES IN NATURE PARKS BY JAPANESE YOUTH

BSBCC Japan

WHAT IS A SUN BEAR?

Sun Bears (*Helarctos Malayanus*) are the **world's smallest bear**. They are also the most **arboreal** bear species, foraging and sleeping on top of high trees. They have long tongues and claws, enabling them to forage various insects.



The name "sun" comes from their yellow chest patch.

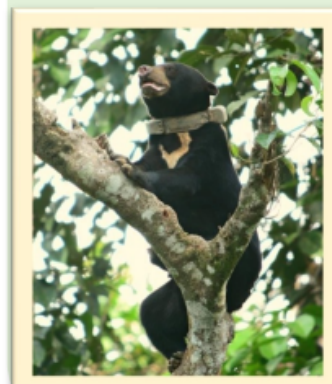
WHY ARE THEY THREATENED?

Sun bears are often the victim of **illegal poaching** and **pet trades**. Due to recent deforestation, they are losing their habitat, making them vulnerable against human exposure.

They are said to have **declined over 30% in the past 30 years**.

WHAT WE DO

The Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC) is the world's largest sanctuary for sun bears. BSBCC rescues sun bears from all over Sabah and rehabilitate



them back into the wild.



BSBCC JAPAN aims to spread awareness about sun bears and their conservation efforts to the Japanese people



Our activity

- Daily social media updates
- Raised over RM 40K for BSBCC
- Several appearances at radio & seminars



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CHARACTERISTICS OF JAPANESE NATURE

- Japan is an island nation located near the Eurasian continent and is not connected by land. Hence, Japan has a unique biota. It consists of small and large islands with a wide range of climates from subtropical to subarctic. Geographically, the islands were connected to the continent in various regions, such as the Ryukyu Archipelago, Kyushu, and Hokkaido, resulting in a high biodiversity of organisms with various phylogenetic backgrounds, including some species that have become extinct on the continent.
- Japan is characterized by relatively mountainous and rainy landscapes, with steep mountains alternating with narrow plains. Each environment has a different biota, and their complex interaction results in a region of high biodiversity as a whole.
- The eastern coast of the Japanese Islands is the end of both the warm and cold currents that circle the North Pacific Ocean, making it a unique marine region where organisms of northern and southern origin can be seen simultaneously. The coastline is as complex as the mountains, so the coastal environment is also diverse. Tidal flats, sandy beaches, coral reefs, and rocky reefs are home to a variety of organisms in each of the coastal environments.
- Few areas remain pristine natural environments. However, diverse anthropogenic environments serve as alternative environments. For example, some organisms use rice patches instead of floodplain environments, ski slopes and grasslands instead of prairie environments, and so on.



SATOYAMA, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LIFE, CULTURE AND NATURE

What's Satoyama ? (Satoyama has traditional culture and high biodiversity)

In Japan, people have long lived in harmony with nature. People have thinned trees for fuel and burned fields to revive the soil fertility of farmlands. The timing and frequency of these activities have been traditionally inherited, and a good balance has been maintained. People living in satoyama have lived with the nature of the area, receiving benefits from the mountains, rivers, and the sea, and feeling the changing seasons. This has led to the formation of diverse cultures in each region. In satoyama, not only culture, but also moderate human intervention in nature creates a diverse ecosystem and an environment in which a wide variety of creatures can coexist. Moderate disturbance by humans allows for the coexistence of not only species that are resistant to competition, but also species that are resistant to disturbance. The entire area that maintains this exquisite balance is called satoyama.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF JAPANESE NATURE

In Japan's natural parks, stakeholders need to carefully consider how to build consensus among themselves and how to live in harmony with nature. The reason for this is that in Japan, the natural environment and cities are very close, and a diverse range of stakeholders are involved.

Experts, government, local residents, youth, and all stakeholders should be involved to conserve the natural environment while also ensuring scientific knowledge and sometimes having fun.

The environment around strictly protected areas should foster a sense of respect for nature among visitors while allowing them to enjoy and access the protected areas. A movement to pass on local nature and culture to the next generation should be created throughout the communities.

In mountainous areas where weather is severe, footpaths and public toilets are not adequately maintained in the area to cope with the concentration of climbers, mainly middle-aged and older people. As a result, vegetation around mountain trails has been devastated and environmental degradation has occurred due to human waste.

Currently, the solution is mainly to meet human demand in the city, such as renewing facilities, installing Wi-Fi and public restrooms, etc., and securing resources, such as personnel and budget, for maintenance.

However, rather than conducting maintenance work, it may be better to have climbers do the work of restoring vegetation in exchange for transportation fees and tickets that can be used at mountain lodges.

In the mountains, rather than pursuing the same level of convenience as in the cities, it is necessary to protect the natural environment, and to keep facilities to the minimum necessary, with a moderate amount of human intervention. It is necessary to involve users in this process and have them enjoy and be involved with nature at a moderate distance.



WHAT CAN YOUTH DO IN THIS PROCESS?

While visiting various protected areas and surrounding living areas in Japan, we heard from local residents who are facing declining birthrates, aging population, and depopulation that they want young people to join their communities.

Knowing the needs of the residents of the protected areas, doing what the youth themselves want to do in the protected areas, and having the youth enjoy nature, are all valuable in themselves.

If we can conduct various activities in nature around protected areas in a way that inspires the enthusiasm, awareness of issues, and desire to learn of the young people, we believe that this will lead to conservation in a way that brings people and nature closer together.

Youth should not just appeal to adults to change their behavior.

They need to recognize the advantages of being young people, have a sense of responsibility and be moderately involved in the work site.

Our group has organized study tours around protected areas for our generation and events to deepen children's attachments to nature.

We plan to continue to conduct study tours in the future, and are planning activities in which young people can think for themselves about green infrastructure development in satoyama areas.

Youth should absorb local nature and culture in dialogue with local residents and act to maintain an appropriate balance between protection and utilization.