

エコシステム

Ecosystem
Conservation
Society-Japan

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エコロジカル・ネットワーク

社会・経済の土台をつくる

- | 重要性を増すエコロジカル・ネットワーク
- | エコネットとは
- | 海外のエコネット事情
- | さまざまな資金確保
- | エコネットの「実現」に向けて

私たちの生存の基盤である自然環境が損なわれています。持続可能な国づくり・まちづくりの最重要テーマとして、エコネットを実現する必要があります。

Our natural environment, the foundation for our survival, has been continuously damaged. We must create the theme of 'Ecological Networks' in order to build a sustainable country and her communities.

Ecological Networks

Building a Foundation of Society and Economy

It is necessary to protect and restore natural areas for us to keep receiving ecological services. There is an idea called 'Ecological Networks' that consists of core areas of important ecosystems and biodiversity and corridors that connect those core areas nationwide. Ecological Network is an important guideline for building a sustainable country. This idea has been promoted and implemented in European countries and in the United States.

For the last twenty years in Japan, the idea of ecological network has been accepted in important national strategies and plans such as the National Land Plan of 1998, the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan of 2002 and the National Eco-Net Concept (Proposal) of 2009 discussed in the Ministry of the Environment. Encouraged by these activities of the national government, many local municipalities also have accepted this concept. But in Japan, the idea of ecological network is generally just an idea and has not been implemented such as including forests and wetlands in actual city plans.

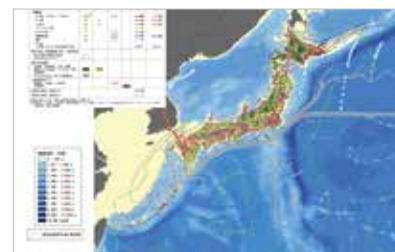
In other countries, various programs for ecological networks have been implemented. For example in recent years in the EU, another idea called "Green Infrastructure" has become very popular. Green Infrastructure usually is implemented in urban areas and utilizes remaining natural areas for their functions to prevent natural disasters and to provide clean water. This concept is gradually spreading in Japan, too. But we should not miss the point that the main purpose of green infrastructure is to protect and restore local natural areas. It is important to increase ecological networks nationwide that work as green infrastructure as well.

Funding is needed to implement ecological networks beyond merely the idea stage. Countries in the EU and the USA with advanced concepts of ecological networks already have various systems to secure funds. In the State of Florida, USA, the Florida map of important natural areas has been already established. Based on the map, the Florida Forever Program has been acquiring lands using funds from real estate transaction taxes. In England, the national government has been the leading organizer of competition for establishing excellent local ecological networks by funding and encouraging partnership among local stakeholders to build better ecological networks.

Based on these overseas examples, we propose the following so that Japan can put the idea of ecological networks into practice to establish actual and concrete ecological networks based on natural areas such as forests and wetlands:

- 1) Establish a head quarter within the Cabinet Office to promote ecological networks throughout Japan.
- 2) Establish a new tax to raise funds to acquire lands for ecological networks.
- 3) Establish a new system organized by multiple ministries and agencies across the bureaucracy in order to financially help and encourage excellent examples of local ecological network projects.

We must raise the funds needed to actually build ecological networks throughout Japan so we can keep receiving benefits from natural ecosystems that are the foundation for our survival.



Japanese National Ecological Network Concept (Proposal) of 2009



In the Free State of Thuringia, Germany, NGOs along with Federal and State Governments have been collaborating to restore more than 1,000 hectares of forest as a core area of an ecological network.



The Wakulla Spring in Florida has been acquired by Florida Forever Program and has become part of an ecological network.



In England, the National Government has organized a competition for funds among local NGOs to encourage and assist creation of local ecological networks.

禁無断転載 海外との情報交流促進のため、要約を英文で掲載しています