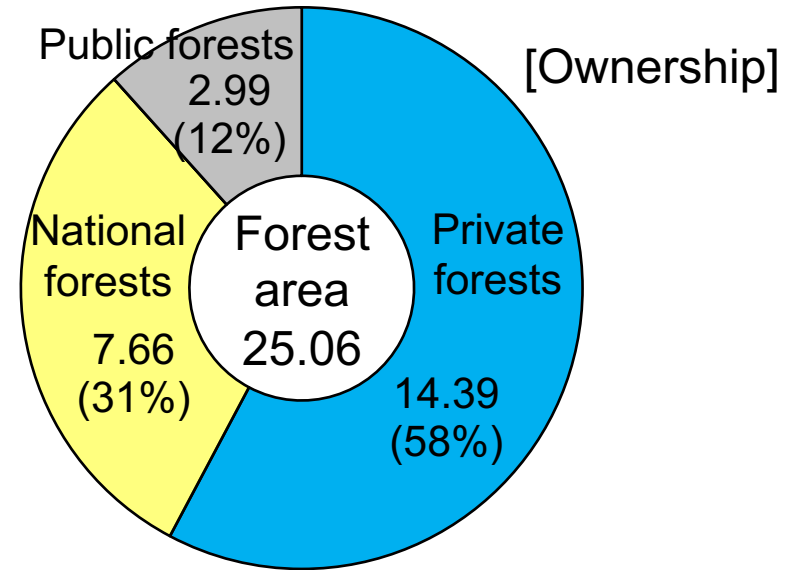
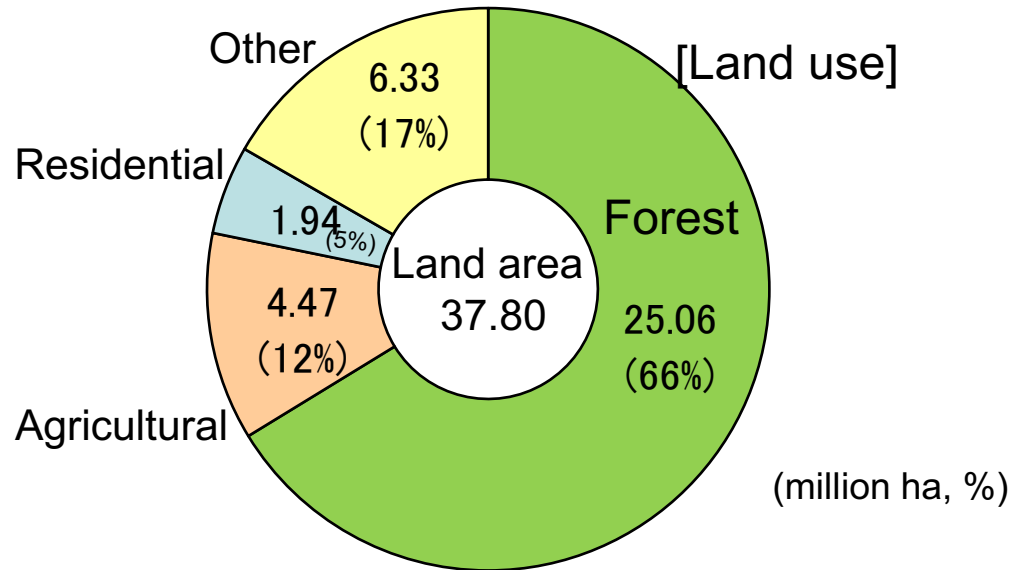


# **Initiatives in Biological Diversity Conservation of National Forest in Japan**

**Ryosuke Ujihashi & Junichi Fujiwara  
Forestry Agency of Japan**

# Introduction of Forests in Japan

- Total forest area: **25 million ha**, or the **two-thirds of national land area**.
- 15 million ha (60%) natural forests, 10 million ha (40%) planted forests.
- **30% of forests** (equivalent to approximately 20% of the land) are national forests,



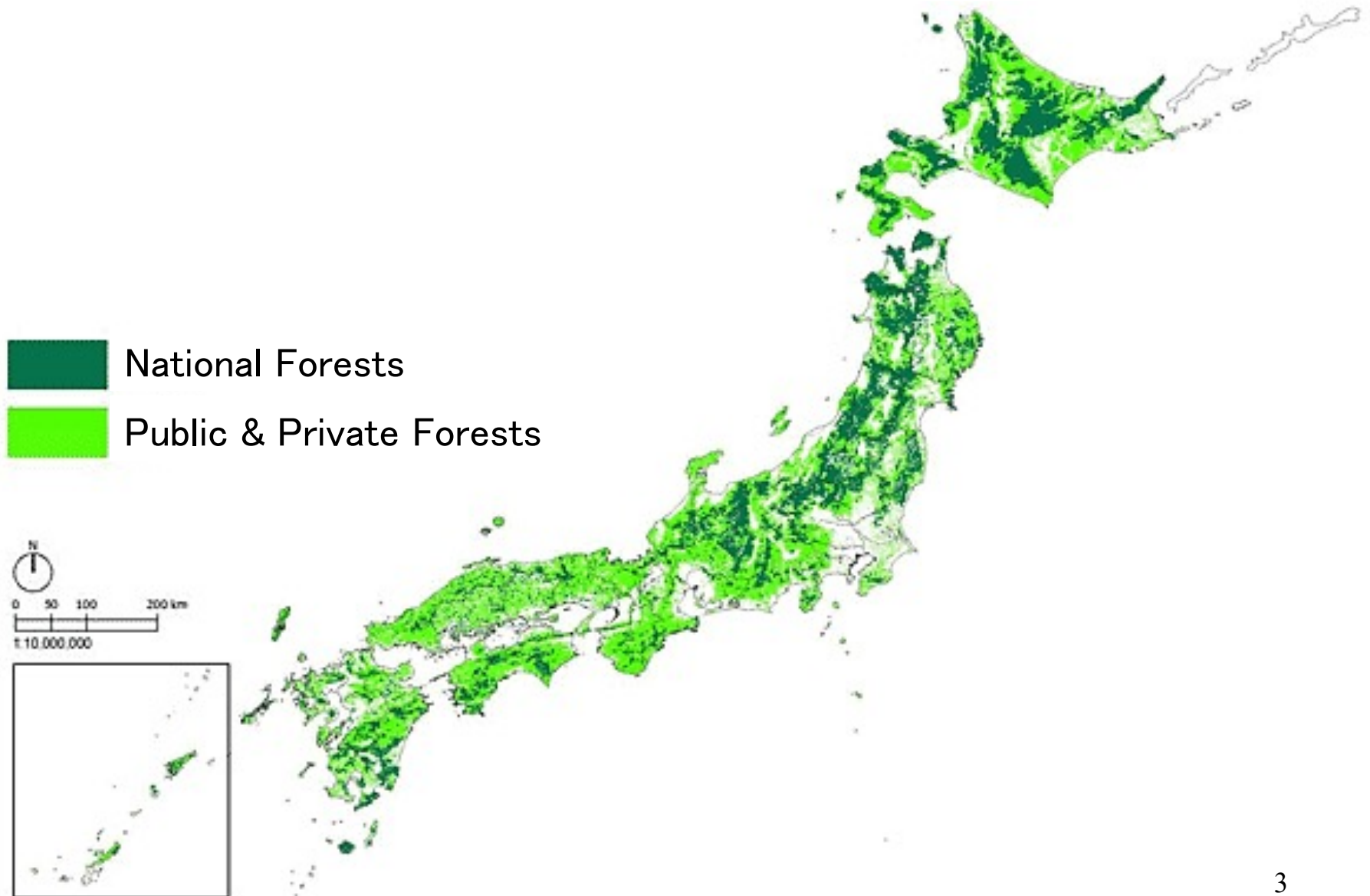
Source: "Land-Related Trends in FY2016," Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Land area as of 2015)  
 "State of Forestry Resources," Forestry Agency (as of March 31, 2017)

	Forest coverage	Naturally regenerated	Planted	Publicly owned*
World (avr.)	31%	93%	7%	71%
Asia (avr.)	20%	78%	12%	77%
Japan	68%	59%	41%	41%

Source: FRA2020

( \* in 2015 )

# Distribution of National Forests and Public&Private Forests



# National forests in Japan

## ○ National forests

- covers 30% of total forest
- distributed in mountainous backbones and reservoir areas
- widely distributed across Japan.



Important role for land conservation of biological diversity, providing valuable habitats for wildlife.

## National forest in various forms of nature

(As of April 1, 2019)

	Area (1,000 ha)	% of national forest land
National forest (managed by the Forestry Agency)	7,590	
National forest land	7,580	
Protection forest	6,850	91%
Protected forest	980	13%
Green corridor	580	8%
Forest zone for recreation	290	5%
World Natural Heritage	80	1%
Natural park	2,210	29%
Wildlife protection area	1260	17%

# Protected forest system

- Protecting primeval natural forests (≡primary forests, old-growth forests) by three types.
- 978,000 ha (13% of national forest) as of April 2020. (Initially set up in 1915)
- IUCN Protected Area Category: Ib (Ecosystem Reserve), IV (the other two)

Type	Objective
Forest Ecosystem Reserve (Ib)	Protect and maintain <b>primeval natural forests which represent Japan's climatic zones or forest zones</b> , thereby contributing to maintaining natural forest ecosystems, protecting wildlife, preserving genetic resources, advancing forest management, forest control technology and academic researches. (A measure to ensure and maintain the value of the forests as the UNESCO World Natural Heritage to the future)
Biocenosis Protected Forest (IV)	Protect and maintain <b>forests with endemic biological community</b> , thereby contributing to maintaining natural forest ecosystems, protecting wildlife, preserving genetic resources, advancing forest management, forest control technology and academic researches.
Rare Population Protected Forest (IV)	Protect and maintain <b>forests necessary as inhabitation of rare wildlife</b> , thereby contributing to increasing the sustainability of such species, protecting wildlife, preserving genetic resources and academic researches.

# World National Heritage Sites

- Four World Natural Heritage sites are registered Japan.
- Almost all of the terrestrial World Natural Heritage areas are within national forests, which are protected as **Forest Ecosystem Reserves**.

Note: Graphs show the percentages of national forest in the World Heritage area (terrestrial area). Figures in ( ) are percentages of forest reserve.

## Shirakami-Sanchi

Date of inscription: 1993

Criterion for inscription:  
Ecosystem

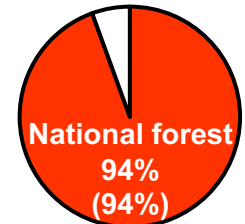
Fagus Crenata forest which is globally distinct due to its high purity, preservation of old-growth trees and biodiversity



## Shiretoko

Date of inscription: 2005

Criteria for inscription: Ecosystem and biodiversity  
Seasonal sea ice at the lowest latitude in the world and the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems

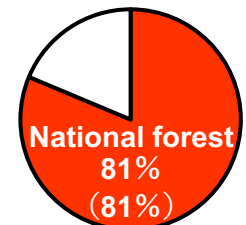


## Ogasawara Islands

Date of inscription : 2011

Criterion for inscription: Ecosystem

Never connected to any continent, the ocean islands are presenting ongoing evolutionary processes in oceanic island ecosystems, with its high levels of endemism and speciation through adaptive radiation

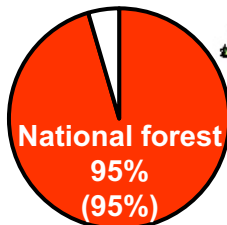


## Yakushima

Date of inscription: 1993

Criteria for inscription: Natural landscape and ecosystem

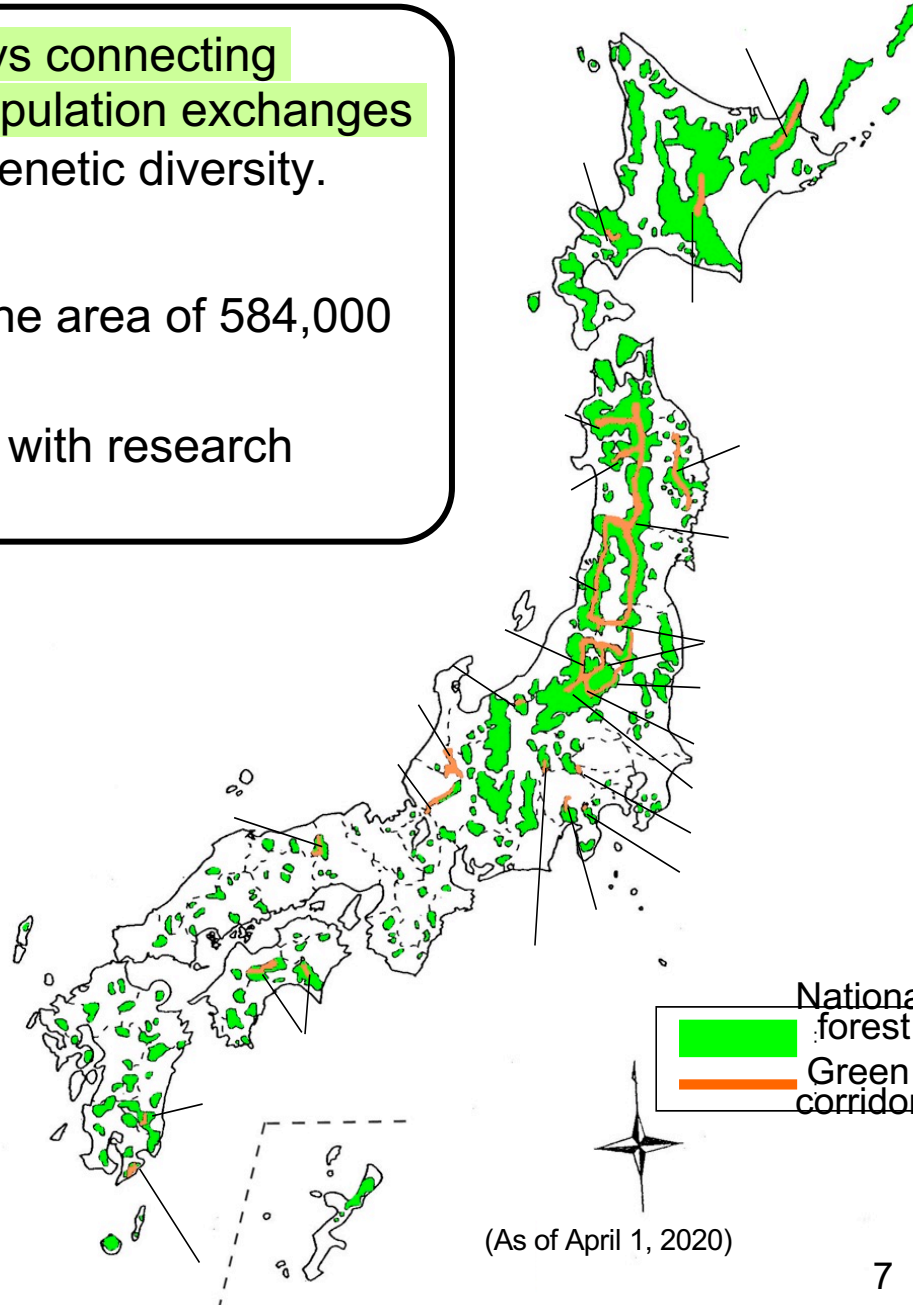
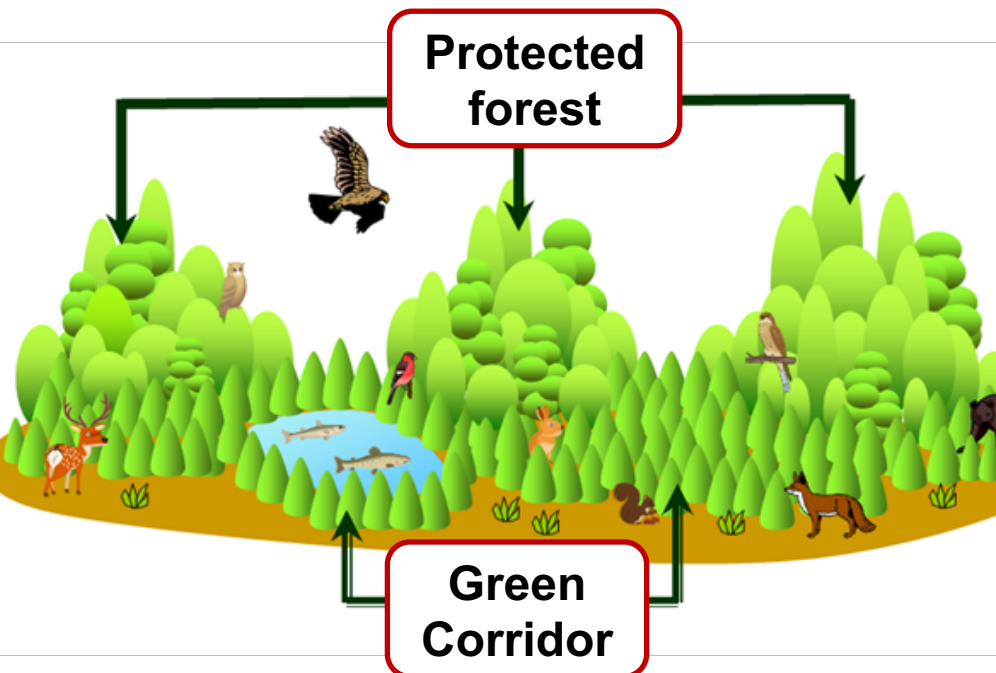
A biota composed of Japanese cedar, globally distinct forest called "Yakusugi", which are over 1,000 years in age, and many endemic subspecies. Vertical plant distributions extending from coastal area up to a central peak, which is a typical distribution of vegetation



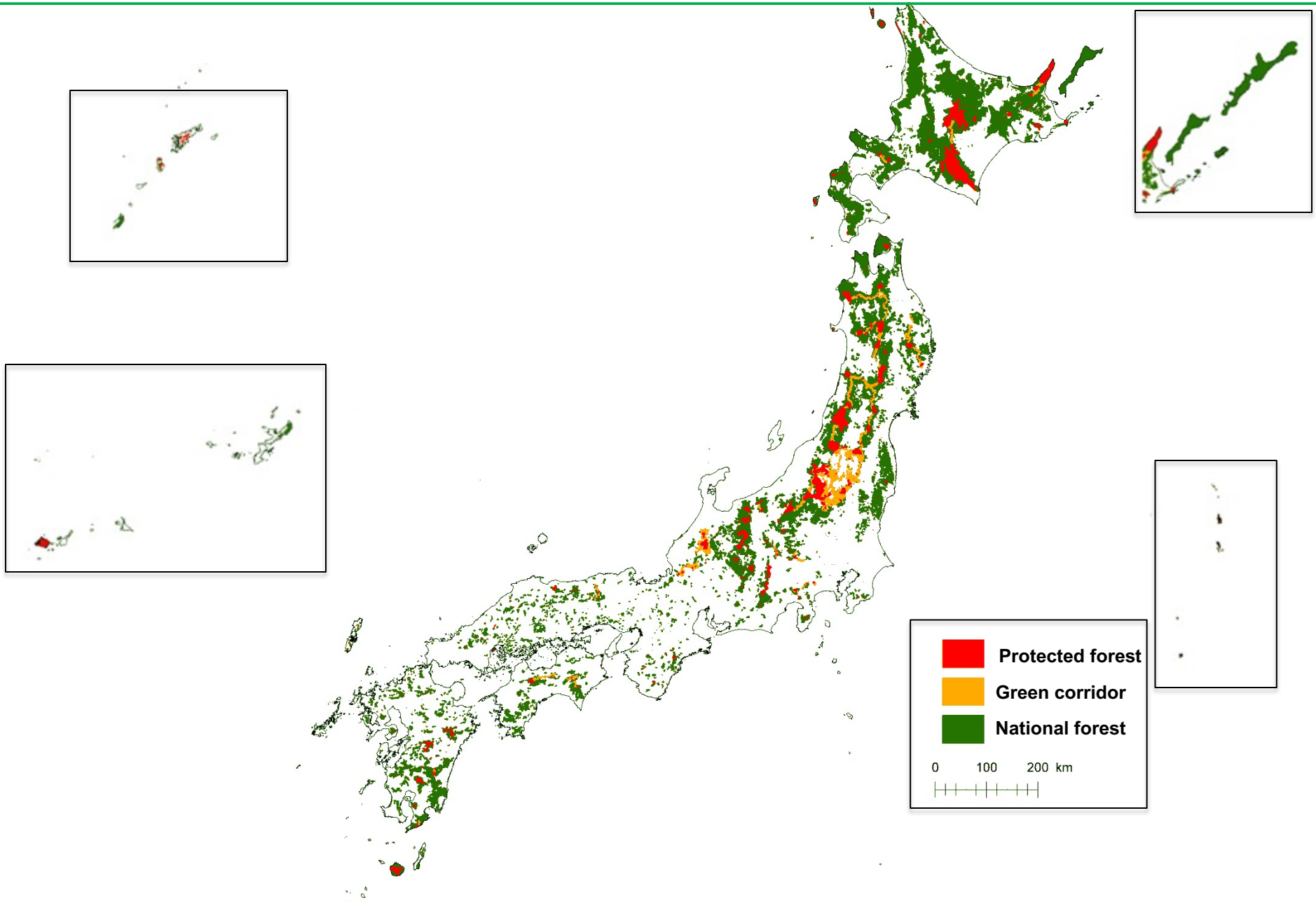


# Green corridors

- a network to secure the wildlife passageways connecting different habitats of wildlife for promoting population exchanges to secure the conservation of species and genetic diversity.
- IUCN Protected Area Category: V
- 24 green corridors in national forests, with the area of 584,000 ha (8% of national forest) as of April 2020.
- Maintaining efforts are made in cooperation with research institutes.



# Protected forest & Green corridor





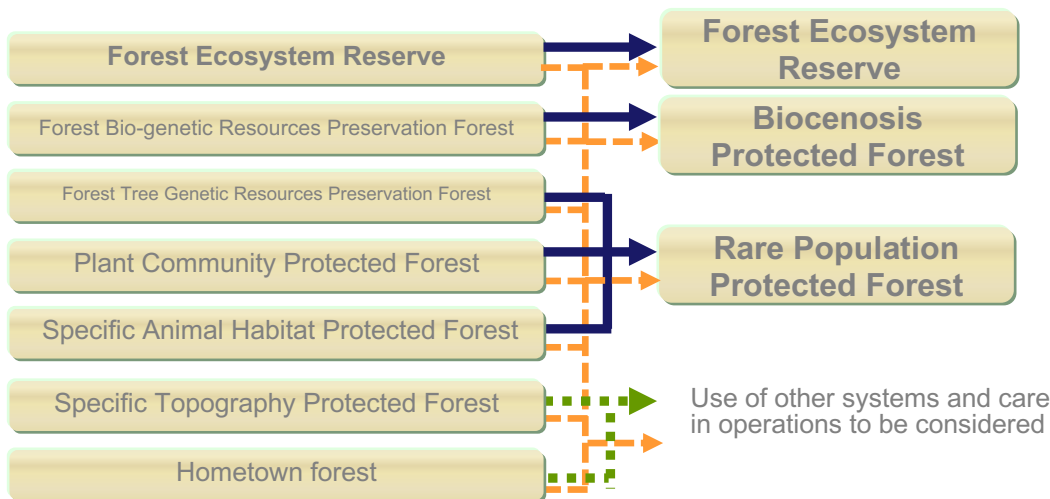
# Reform of the Protected Forest System (2015)

## Purpose:

- 1) Adapt new methodologies for administration in line with **advancement of scientific knowledge on conservation of biodiversity**
- 2) Replace with a **simplified and more efficient administration system** for conservation of biodiversity

### Simplified & Efficient administration system

## 1. Re-classification of protected forests: 7 → 3



## 2. Restructured administration scheme

- (1) Reorganization of committees
- (2) Modification in intervals between monitoring surveys

### advancement of biodiversity conservation methods

## 3. Introduction of restoration

(Biocenosis Protected Forest)



## 4. Introduction of wildlife conservation & administration methods (RPP Forest)

- (1) Human interventions for creating habitats, etc.
- (2) Conservation of a group of populations (meta-population) needed for the wildlife to survive



Thank you!