# Introduction of Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and Shiretoko National Park

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## Today's topics

- 1. Introduction of Shiretoko
- 2. Management system of the Shiretoko, and the roles of the MOE
- Case study;cooperative management on marine area



#### Shiretoko Peninsula Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site **AREA MAP** Shiretoko National Park (38,633 ha) Utoro Ranger Office for Nature Conservations Shiretoko Wildlife Protection Area Rousu VC Abashiri Ransu Ranger Office for Nature Conservation Lake Tofutsu Wildlife Protection Alea Kitami @ Notsuke Peninsula and Natsuke Bay Kawayu Ranger Office for Nature Conservation Wildlife Protection Area ▲ Kowayu EME Akan National Park (90,481 ha) Mational park Akankahan FMC Lake Furen Wildlife Protection Area Onnebetsu-Dake Wilderness Area Lake Akan Ranger Office for Nature Conservation Nemuro National wildlife protection area Wetland registered under the Ramsor Convention Kushiro Shitsugen National Park (26,861 ha) Akkeshi-Bekanbeushi-Kiritappu Wildlife Protection Area Kushiro Shitsugen. Yururi-Mayururi World Heritage Site Wildlife Protection Area Wildlife Protection Area Kushiro Shitsugen Ranger Lake Toro EMC Office for Nature Conservation Onnesoi VC Nature Conservation Office Akkeshi Waterfowl Observation Center Ranger office for nature conservation Kushiro@ Daikokujima Wildlife Protection Area Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

# Outline of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site

- Date of inscription: 17 July 2005
- Location: Northern latitude of 44 degrees

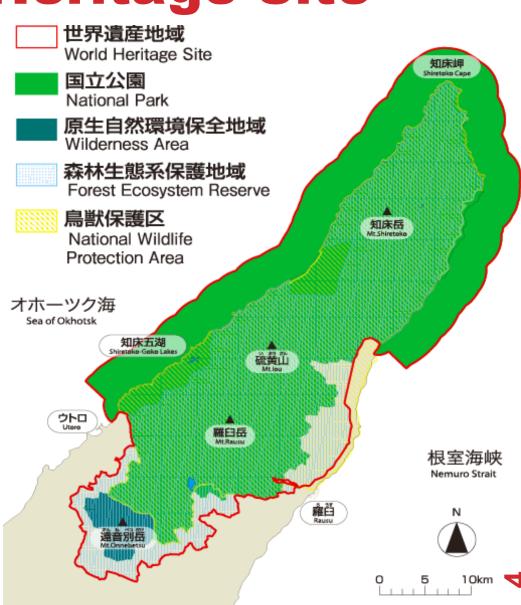
(Shari-town/Rausu-town, Hokkaido)

• Total area: approx. 71,100 ha Land area: approx. 48,700 ha Marine area: approx. 22,400 ha

(within 3km from the coastline)

 Criteria met for listing as a World Natural Heritage Site: Ecosystem, biodiversity





# CRITERIA FOR WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE

7 Natural landscape Exceptionally superb natural beauty

8 Land feature and geology Proof of life and earth's history

9 Ecosystem Advancing biological evolution and

biotic community

10 Biodiversity Highly important habitat for

biodiversity and endangered

species





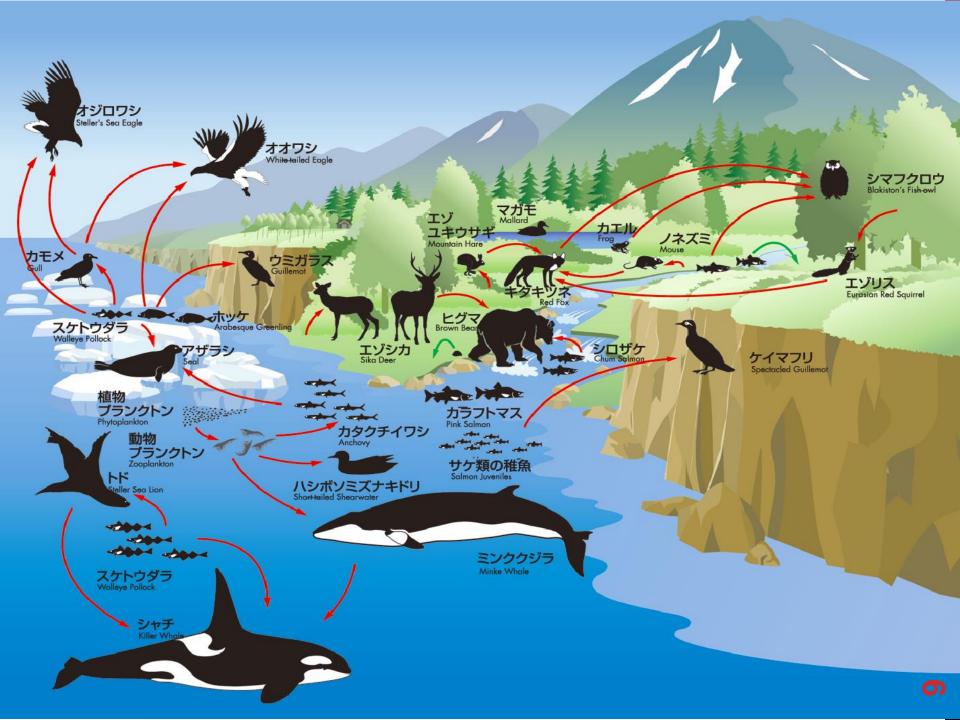




# ECOSYSTEM SEA-RIVER-MOUNTAIN











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# Protection Measures for Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site

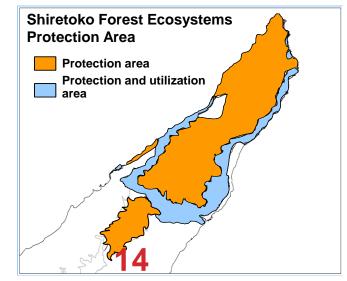
Ministry of the Environment (Kushiro Nature Conservation Office)

**National Park** 

National Wildlife Protection Area Wilderness Conservation Area

Forest Agency
(Hokkaido Regional Forest Office)
Forest Eco-systems Protection Area







## Management of national parks

Shiretoko National Park (land area)

38,636 ha

State land 93.7% ≤

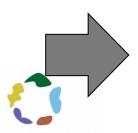
Public land 2.0%

Private land 4.3%

National forest covers more than 90%. MOE controls only a small portion.

Management through planning/ coordination without owning land

Fishermen have fishery rights.



Management is based on cooperation with local parties.

# COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF SHIRETOKO

Administrator

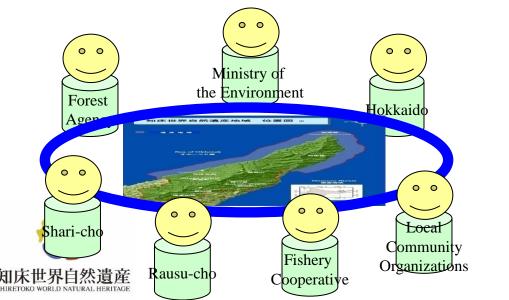
MOE

Forestry Agency

Hokkaido

### Regional Liaison Committee

(Communication, Coordination, and Consensus Building with the local communities)



#### Science Committee

(Adaptive Management based on Scientific Knowledge)

Yezo Deer & Terrestrial Ecosystem WG

Marine Area WG

River Structure AP

Proper Use & Eco-tourism WG

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# COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

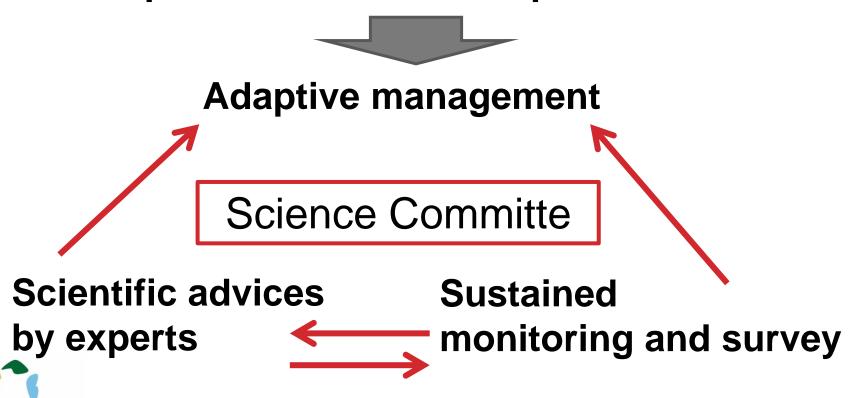
### - REGIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE -

### **Members**

Administrators	<ul><li>MOE</li><li>Forest Agency</li><li>Hokkaido Prefecture</li></ul>
Local Governments	<ul><li>Shari town</li><li>Rausu town</li></ul>
Local Organizations	<ul><li>Fisheries Cooperatives</li><li>Shiretoko Guides' Association</li><li>Utoro Regional Council etc</li></ul>
NGOs	- Shiretoko Nature Foundation

# PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT - SCIENCE COMMITTEE -

Management of ecosystem: complex and uncertain to predict its future



## Today's topics

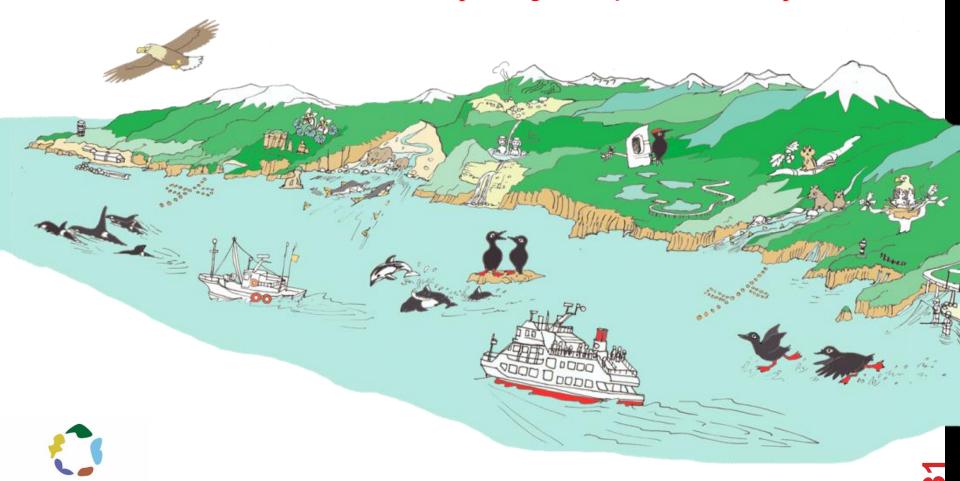
- 1. Introduction of Shiretoko
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- 3. Case study;

cooperative management on marine area



# PROTECTION OF SEABIRDS AND EFFORTS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE AREA

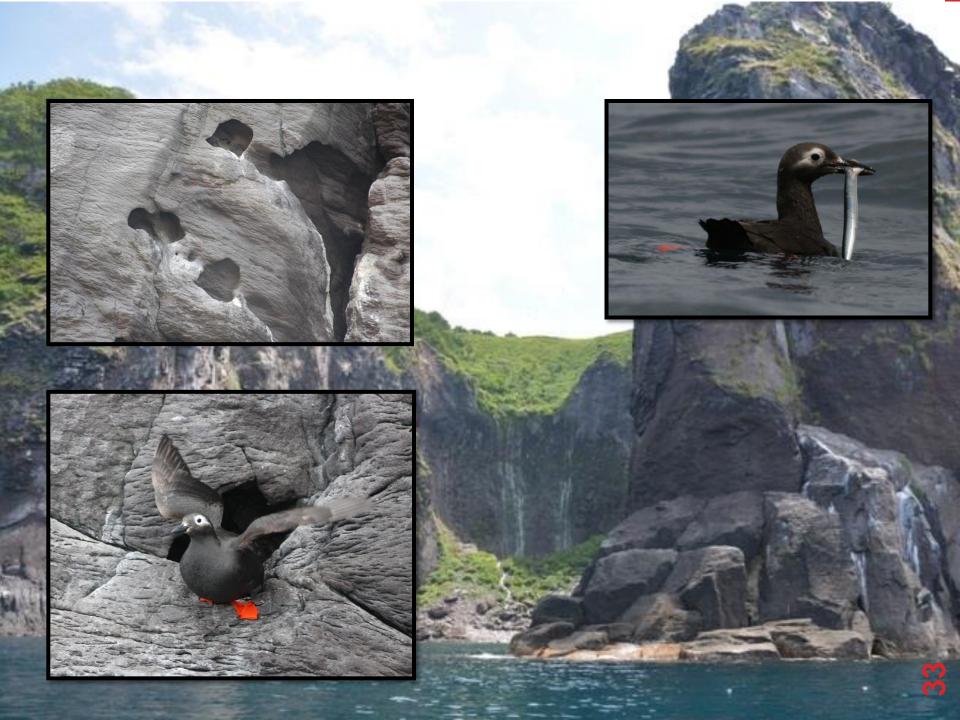
- Toward a win-win relationship, using Keimafuri as an example -



## Keimafuri (Spectacled guillemots)

meaning "red feet" in the indigenous language of Japan





## inhabited by various species



nests of
Japanese cormorants,
Slaty-Backed Gull,
Black Tailed Gull,
Keimafuri, etc...







# Various people use the sea of Shiretoko

Researchers





Fishermen

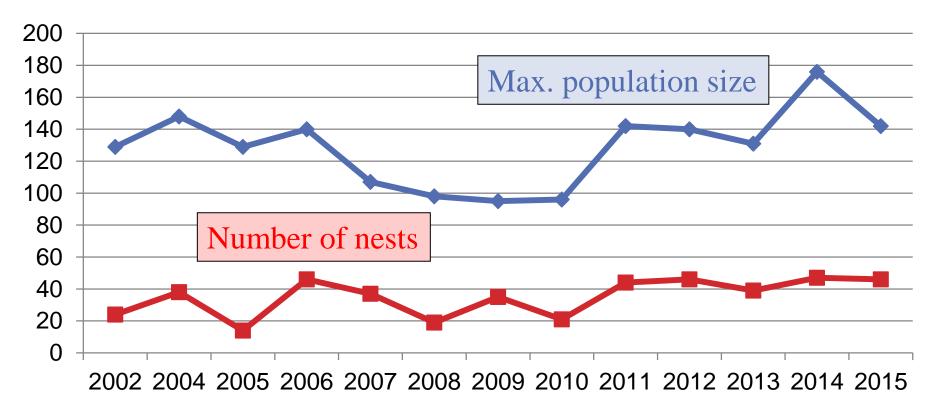


Sea kayakers



Large tourist ships

# Changes in the status of *Keimafuri* in Shiretoko



(Although past data is insufficient...)

- No marked fluctuations in the past 10 years
- likely to have experienced a significant reduction in size in the past.
- close to the minimum level required to stably sustain the population.



## To protect Keimafuri in Shiretoko:

- increasing tourist ships run at a high speed near the cliffs.





- the main cause for the decline?



- local experts held a meeting, explained the current situation and problems to tourist ship operators.

Tensions ran high.



## To protect *Keimafuri* in Shiretoko:

- local experts and tourism experts discussed countermeasures.
- emphasize merits of see seabirds in Shiretoko rather than the necessity of the protection of seabirds
  - The sea around Shiretoko is important for Keimafuri
  - Keimafuri can become an important local tourism resource
  - We all should protect them while utilizing them.
  - Everyone would be worse off without them.

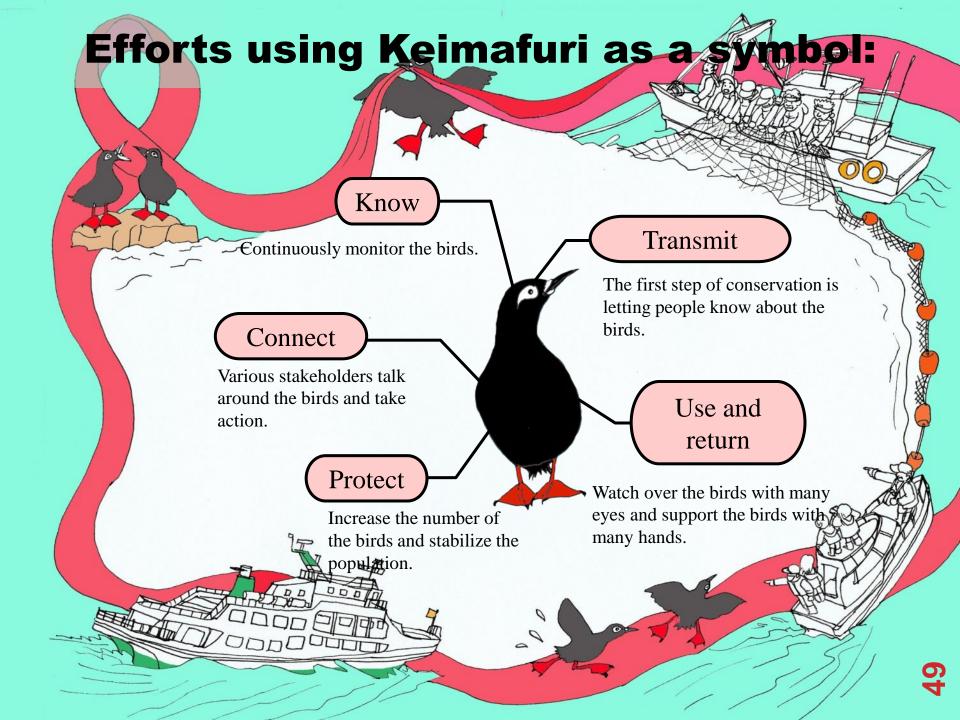


## **BASIC CONCEPTS**

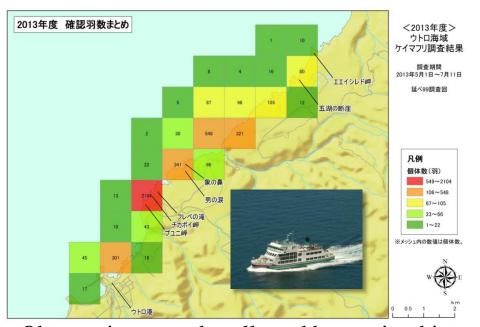
- if the population has declines significantly, MOE will have to implement regulations.
- MOE wants to avoid the cost of implementing new regulations.
- New regulations will further limit the activities of tourist ship operators.
- Once significantly declined, it will be difficult to restore their population size.

Everyone, including government and operators, Keimafuri, visitors, will be better off if Keimafuri are protected as well as utilized as a tourism resource.

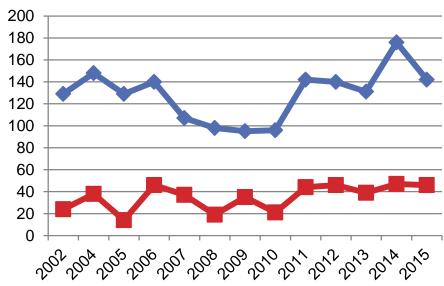
知床世界自然遺 SHIRETOKO WORLD NATURAL HERIT







Observation records collected by tourist ships



surveys conducted by researchers



As valuable ecological data (also utilized for watching by ships)







Researchers talking at ship tours



Display of a decoy bird at inns





Facebook page describing conservation efforts

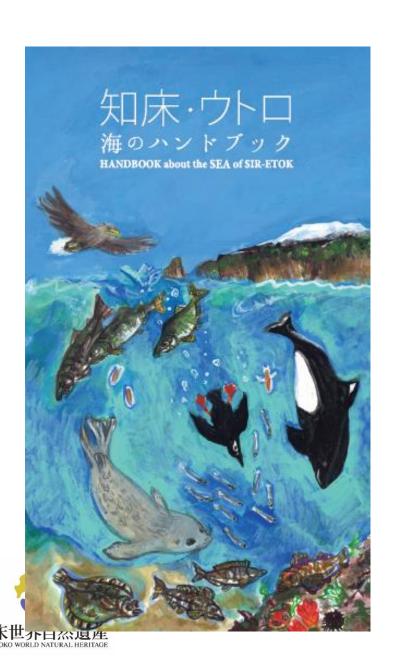
A video on Keimafuri and conservation efforts

Let visitors know about the birds and the current situation



Installation of decoys on the sea  $\rightarrow$  As sea route signs (for seabird-friendly navigation)

Creation of environment suitable for the breeding of the birds

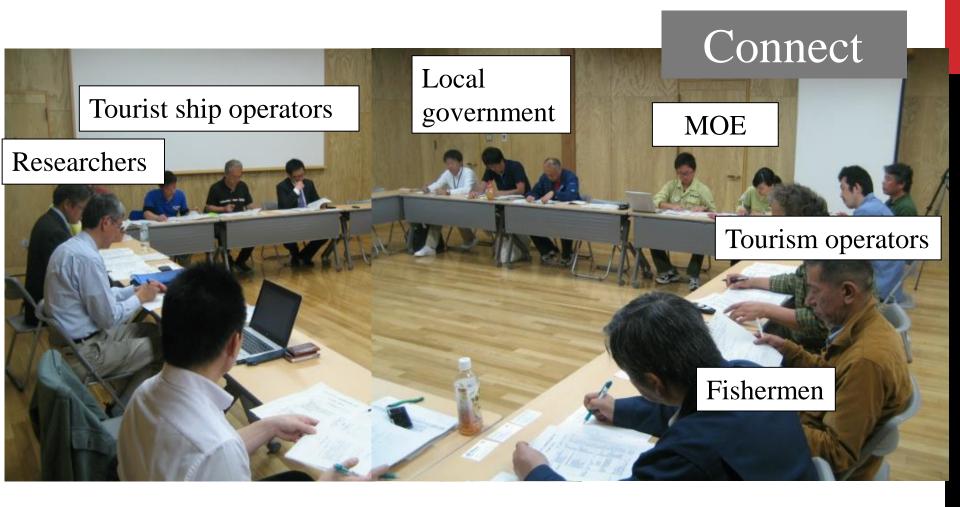


Use, return

#### Making a HANDBOOK

- Full of information on the sea of Shiretoko
- With illustrations which can also make the handbook a souvenir
- $\rightarrow$  Sold to the visitors







# Factors that have made this journey a success

- Existence of a platform
- No finger-pointing (i.e. no criticisms of others' activities)
- Seeing endangered species as a resource
- Discovery of the enjoyment of collaboration across boundaries
- Balance between scientific knowledge and local knowledge



