Periodic Report - Second Cycle

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Yakushima

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details State(s) Party(ies)

Japan

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

662

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)		Inscription year
Yakushima	30.333 / 130.533	10747	0	10747	1993
Total (ha)		10747	0	10747	

Comment

Coordinates (longitude / latitude): 130.30.31E / 30.18.54N The correct coordinates have already been reported at first cycle of periodic report.

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Yaku-shima Recommended Area	14/10/1992	

Comment

Japanese Government plans to submit updated map to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2012.

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

The Ministry of the Environment Godochosha No.5, 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975 TEL: +81-3-3581-3351 FAX: +81-3-3591-3228 The Forestry Agency 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8952 TEL: +81-3-3502-8111 FAX: +81-3-3502-2887 The Agency for Cultural Affairs 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 TEL: +81-3-5253-4111 FAX: +81-3-6734-3822

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

• Fuyo KOTANI Kyushu Regional Environment Office

Comment

Kyushu Regional Environment Office Keiji NAKASHIMA Address 1-6-22 Onoue, Kumamoto city, Kumamoto, Japan Japan TEL: +81-96-214-0336 FAX: +81-96-214-0354 Email: KEIJI2_NAKASHIMA@env.go.jp Kyushu Regional Forest Office Kazuya OKAMURA Address 2-7 Kyomachi-Honcho, Kumamoto city, Kumamoto, Japan Japan TEL: +81-96-328-3612 FAX: +81-96-325-3804 Email: kazuya_okamura@rinya.maff.go.jp

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

Natural site datasheet from WCMC

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Comment

http://www.env.go.jp/park/kirishima/ywhcc/english/eng.top/eng.index.htm

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

UNESCO/MAB Biosphere reserve

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

Japanese Government has submitted draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value on January 31, 2011.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(vii)(ix)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Japanese Government has submitted draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value on January 31, 2011.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact				Origin
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities			9		•	F
3.5	Biologica	l resou	rce use	/modifica	ation	
3.5.6 Commercial wild plant collection					•	
3.7	Local co	nditions	affecti	ng physic	cal fab	ric
3.7.7 Pests					•	(A)
3.7.8 Micro-organisms				9	((5)
3.8	Social/cu	iltural us	ses of h	eritage		
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	0		A			(A)
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	0		A			C.
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	0		A			C
3.9	Other hu	man act	ivities			
3.9.1 Illegal activities					•	
3.10	Climate o	hange a	nd sev	ere weat	her eve	ents
3.10.1 Storms						F
3.10.6 Temperature change						9
3.12	Invasive/	alien sp	ecies o	r hyper-a	bunda	nt species
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species					•	F
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species			A		((5)
3.13	Managen	nent and	linstitu	tional fac	ctors	
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities	0		A		•	G.
3.13.3 Management activities	0		9		()	F
Legend Current Potential Negative OPositive	•	Inside)	₹ o	utside	,

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

		Spatial scale	Temporal scale	•	Management response	Trend
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	restricted	frequent	minor	medium capacity	static
3.12	12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species	widespread	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the **Property**

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, and it is not needed

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's **Outstanding Universal Value?**

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's **Outstanding Universal Value?**

The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

National Forests and Natural Parks surrounding the property are managed to avoid any drastic environmental change to the property.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Comment

Most of the areas are the National Forests. The property includes the following protected areas: National Park (designated in 1964; building of new structures, taking of plants and animals, etc. requires permission), Wilderness Area, and Forest Ecosystem Reserve (1992; area in principle left to take its natural course without human intervention), etc. Some species of the wildlife in the site have been designated as Natural Monuments.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an adequate or better basis for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had no buffer zone at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides an adequate or better basis for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The national and prefectural governments communicate and coordinate through the Yakushima World Heritage Area Liaison Committee established in September 1995 and implement the

The measures taken by each administrative body are as follows; National Government: Ministry of the Environment and Forest Agency collaborate in patrol, monitoring of number of visitors and research on monitoring methods. Ministry of the Environment implement the regulations of Nature Conservation Law, Forestry Agency implement the regulations of the Forest Ecosystem Reserve in accordance with Forest Law and Protected Forest System, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs implement the regulations of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Properties. The Area is strictly conserved. The national government also maintains the mountain trails and shelters. Kagoshima Prefecture: It assists the Ministry of the Environment and the Agency for the Cultural Affairs in implementing the legal restrictions. It also maintains mountain trails and shelters, and contributes to the strict protection of the Area. Kamiyaku-cho Town and Yaku-cho Town: They maintain mountain trails, shelters and public lavatories, and contribute to the protection of

the Area

Comment

The Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs developed the Management Plan for the Heritage Site and manage the property integrally on the

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basis of the plan. The Regional Liaison Committee was established and promotes conservation management through collaboration and cooperation with the local community. The Scientific Council was established and promotes adaptive conservation management that reflects scientific knowledge.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Yakushima World Heritage Area Management Plan

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Not applicable

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the

management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is **regular contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone and **substantial co-operation** on management

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

The areas neighboring the property, including where largediameter old-age cedar trees grow, were upgraded to a Special Protection Zone of a National Park status in 2002 to strengthen the property's protection. For the areas where negative impacts on vegetation posed by deer overpopulation are seen, a working group has been set up in the Scientific Council and countermeasures have been taken based on the scientific advice from the group.

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

0%
0%
72%
7%
12%
1%
8%
0%
0%

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

Not applicable.

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the mediumterm and planning is underway to secure funding in the longterm

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

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4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are adequate equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	84%
Part-time	16%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	84%
Seasonal	16%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	92%
Volunteer	8%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Good
Good

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

ge property in the remaining and opposite		
Medium		

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Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Medium

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive**, **integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are shared with local participants and some national agencies

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Matsuda H, Ohta A, Tatsuzawa S, Takahasi H, Tokita K: A risk management model for Deer population in the Yakushima World Natural Heritage, 5 August 2007, Ecological Society of America, San Jose There are many other papers about the Yakushima World Heritage.

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

On the basis of discussions at the Scientific Council meetings, relevant administrative organisations, local governments, related bodies, and experts are collaborating to conduct research and studies and accumulate scientific knowledge.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Average

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Excellent
Site museum	Excellent
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Static
Two years ago	Static
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Tourism industry	
Visitor surveys	

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **not being actively managed** despite an indentified need

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected, and makes **some contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

We have set up a Ecotourism Promoting Council of Yakushima (the participants in which include relevant administrative organisations, and concerned local bodies) to develop and review the necessary plans and rules of use in order to hand down pristine natural environments to future generations by promoting the appropriate use of nature and ecotourism.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management

needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is considerable monitoring but it is **not directed towards management needs** and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but monitoring the status of indicators could be improved

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Average
Local communities	Non-existent
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Not applicable
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

In the Scientific Council, we are are deliberating a monitoring plan to evaluate whether the values of the World Heritage site are maintained as expected.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.8	Social/cultural	uses of heritage					
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	(vii) (ix) The heritage site's natural environment.	The Ecotourism Promoting Council of Yakushima are deliberating on the comprehensive plan for Ecotourism in Yakushima, including establishing of utilization rules, introduction of regulated utilization area for avoiding excessive use.	We are monitoring the behaviors of visitors and their impacts on vegetation.	We will continue taking these measures.	Yakushima town, the Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, Kagoshima Prefecture, relevant local bodies are cooperating in promoting proper use and ecotourism.	
3.12	Invasive/alien s	species or hyper-abund	ant species				
3.12.5	Hyper- abundant species	(ix) Forest vegetation, endangered species.	In accordance with the advice of menber of the Sika Deer Working Group of the Scientific Council, we are conducting counter measures such as controlling the population of sika deer and are setting up protective fences for vegetation.	We are monitoring the status of vegetation and the population of sika deer.	We will continue taking these measures.	The Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, Kagoshima Prefecture, Yakushima town are jointly taking these measures in cooperation with relevant local bodies.	

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.7 Vis	4.7 Visitor Management				
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
4.7.4	the property is not being	comprehensive plan for Ecotourism in Yakushima, including visitor		The Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, Kagoshima Prefecture, Yakushima town.	

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is intact

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **impacted** by factors described in this report, but this situation is being **addressed through effective management actions.**

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values are being **partially degraded** but the state of conservation of the World Heritage property has not been significantly impacted

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Positive
Research and monitoring	Very positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Very positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Very positive
Security	Not applicable
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property	
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff	
External experts	

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

no

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

It is hoped the terms in the questions should be defined clearly.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Fair
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Fair

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

All required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: Japanese Government has submitted draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value on January 31, 2011.

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: Coordinates (longitude / latitude): 130.30.31E / 30.18.54N The correct coordinates have already been reported at first cycle of periodic report.

Map(s)

Reason for update: Japanese Government plans to submit updated map to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2012.

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise