

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Shirakami-Sanchi

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Japan

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

663

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Shirakami-Sanchi	40.47 / 140.13	16939	0	16939	1993
Total (ha)		16939	0	16939	

Comment

Coordinates (longitude / latitude) : 140.06.56E / 40.27.09N
 Property (ha) : 16,971 Total(ha) : 16,971 The correct coordinates have already been reported at first cycle of periodic report and the correct area is described in the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Area Management Plan developed in 1995.

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Shirakami-Sanchi 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 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

- Michio MATSUYAMA
Tohoku Regional Environment Office

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [The Shirakami Mountain Range \(AKITA Prefectural Government\)](#)
2. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

Comment

<http://tohoku.env.go.jp/nature/shirakami/>

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

Comment

No other designations/Conventions

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

(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						
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage						
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community						
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation						
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.6 Temperature change						
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.4 Avalanche/ landslide						
3.13	Management and institutional factors					
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities						
3.13.3 Management activities						
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

No factor is both current and negative.

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

3.17.1 - Comments

"Temperature change" is the only factor which is predicted to cause negative impacts to the property at the moment. Monitoring programs regarding this factor have been conducted as a part of management activities. In order to enhance the quality of management, it is necessary to further strengthen management activities with local stakeholders commitment such as monitoring and ecotourism.

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. Management activity in surrounding area involves nature restoration projects. It is pointed out that the property should be managed considering the wider range of wild animals.

4.2. Protective Measures

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

The property is a Forest Ecosystem Reserve by Order of the Director General of Forestry Agency. Virtually all the property is a Nature Conservation Area, under the Nature Conservation Law. The remaining northern strip is a Natural Park under the Natural Parks Law.

Comment

All the area are the National Forests. The property includes the following protected areas: Nature Conservation Area (designated in 1992; building of new structures, etc. requires permission), Quasi-National Park, National Wildlife Protection Area, and Forest Ecosystem Reserve (1990; 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 Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison

Committee established in July 1995 and implement the legislations. Also, since 2000, several meetings were held to exchange information with local municipalities.

The measures taken by each administrative body are as follows; National Government: Ministry of the Environment implements the regulations of Nature Conservation Law. It also conducts, together with District Forestry Office of Forestry Agency, patrols to assess the state of the Area and to direct visitors, monitoring of number of visitors, research on monitoring methods, collection of meteorological data by monitoring unit, promotion of public awareness on nature conservation through the World Heritage Center and maintenance of signboards in the Area.

Forestry Agency implements the regulations of Forest Ecosystem Reserve. It also conducts patrols by volunteers, research on monitoring methods together with Ministry of the Environment, maintenance of signboards, and promotion of public awareness on forest function and conservation through Forest Center. Agency for Cultural Affairs implements the regulations of Law on the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Prefectures: Prefectures implement the regulations of Quasi-National Park based on the plans set by the national government, appoint patrols, maintain the awareness raising facilities such as a Visitor Center and maintain footpaths. Aomori and Akita prefectures jointly established Shirakami-sanchi Charter, and are promoting the public awareness of nature conservation.

Municipalities: Municipalities conducts maintenance of parking and public lavatories in main entry areas, and established visitor information centers.

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 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

Shirakami-sanchi 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	Good
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 membership of the Liaison Committee has been extended to include relevant municipalities in response to the IUCN state of conservation report (1997), and the committee coordinates the management of the property including information sharing, awareness raising, instructions to visitors, and maintenance of facilities.

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)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	23%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	62%

Governmental (Local / Municipal)	8%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	7%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	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 medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

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

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

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

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	52%
Part-time	48%

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

Permanent	55%
Seasonal	45%

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

Paid	68%
Volunteer	32%

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

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Good
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Good
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Good

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

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	Medium
Education	High
Visitor management	High
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	High
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

Matsui, T., Tanaka, N. and Yagihashi, T. (2007) Predicting changes in suitable habitats for beech (*Fagus crenata* Blume) forests under climate warming in Shirakami Mountains World Heritage area, Northern Japan. *J.Jpn. For. Soc.* 89: 7-13. (in Japanese with English summary) There are many other papers about the Shirakami-Sanchi 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	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Excellent
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	Excellent
Guided tours	Excellent
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	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Decreasing
Four years ago	Static
Five years ago	Decreasing

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

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys
Other

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 managed **but improvements could be made**

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

There is **limited 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 Shirakami-sanchi (the participants in which include relevant administrative organisations, and concerned local bodies) 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 to define key indicators, **but this has not been done**

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	Average
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 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

No factor is both current and negative.

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.8 Monitoring		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
4.8.2	Key indicators have not been defined	We plan to define key indicators for measuring the state of conservation as soon as possible.	Key indicators are planned to be determined by the end of Fiscal Year 2013.	The Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, Aomori Prefecture and Akita Prefecture will deal with this matter in collaboration with municipalities.	

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 maintained.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are predominantly intact

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) : 140.06.56E / 40.27.09N Property (ha) : 16,971 Total(ha) : 16,971 The correct coordinates have already been reported at first cycle of periodic report and the correct area is described in the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Area Management Plan developed in 1995.

• **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