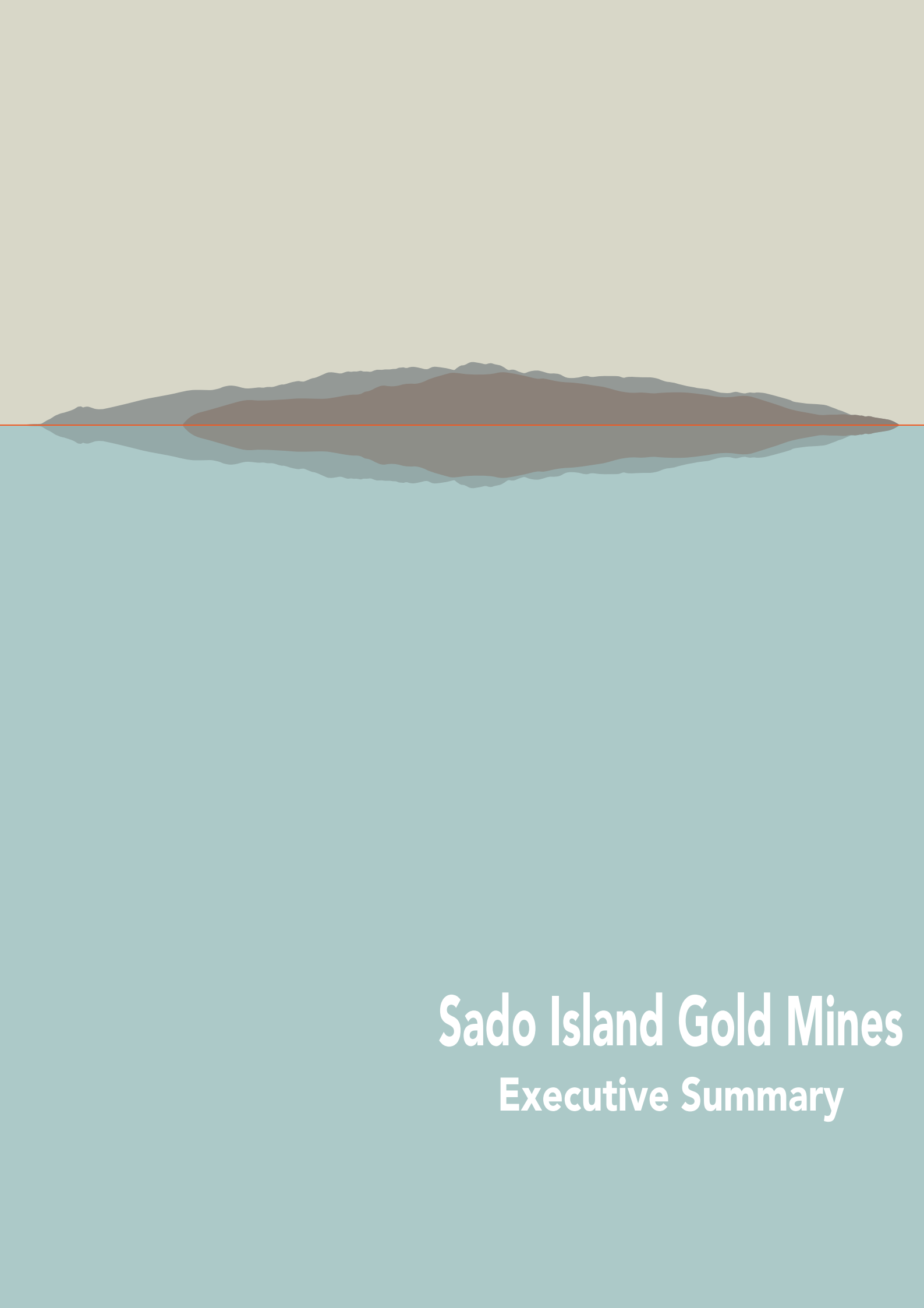


Sado Island Gold Mines

Jan. 2023

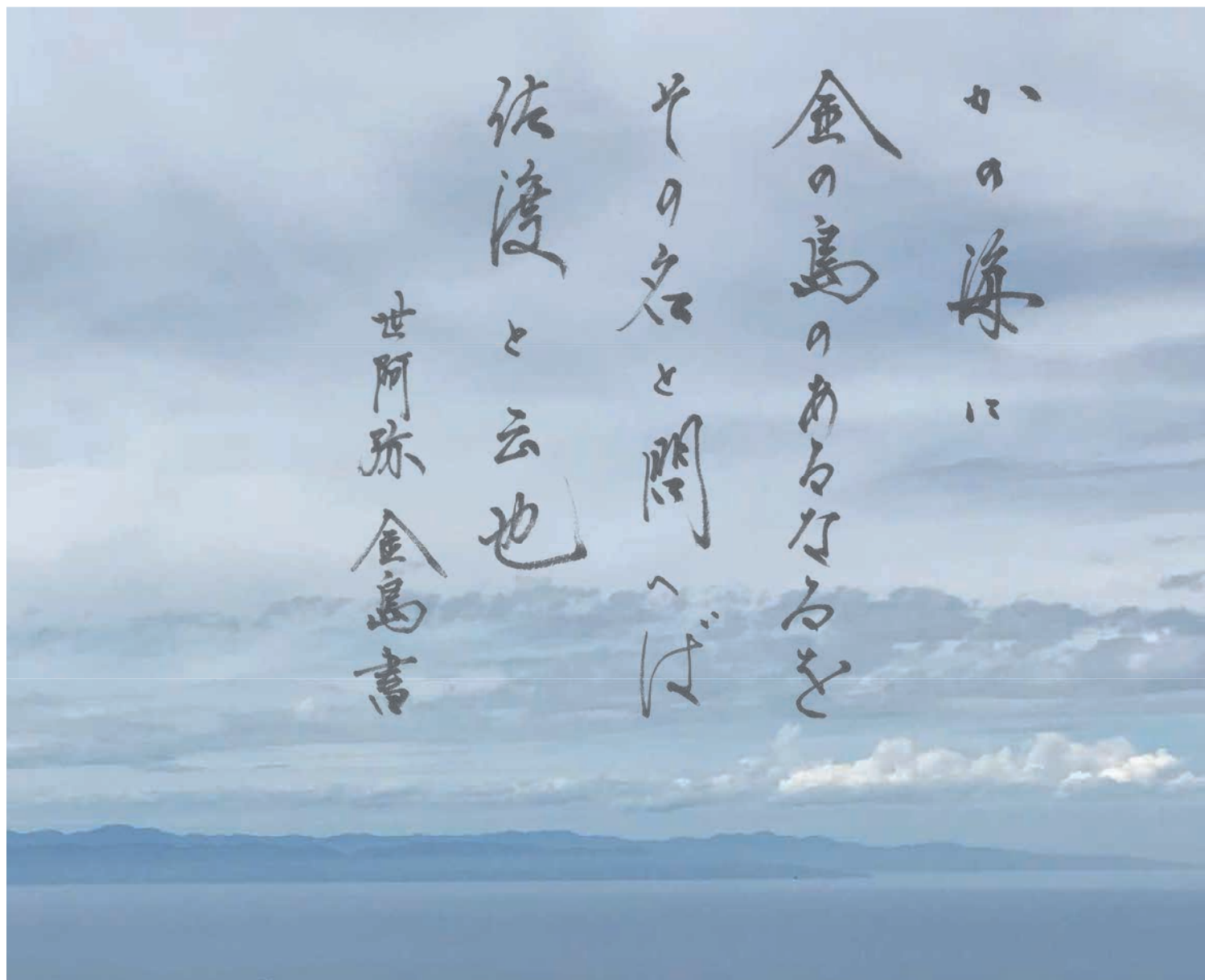
JAPAN



Sado Island Gold Mines

Executive Summary





In that Sea

There is a golden island;

If you inquire of its name,

It is called Sado,

Kintoshō (The book of Golden Island)

Zeami

Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine



Photo E-1



Photo E-2



Photo E-3



Photo E-4



Photo E-5



Photo E-6



Photo E-7



Photo E-8



Photo E-9

**Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine
(Tsurushi Silver Mine)**



Photo E-10



Photo E-11



Photo E-12



Photo E-14



Photo E-16



Photo E-13



Photo E-15



Photo E-17

Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine)



Photo E-19



Photo E-20



Photo E-21



Photo E-22



Photo E-23



Photo E-24



Photo E-25

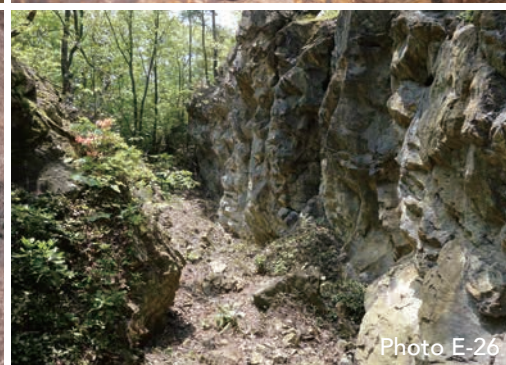


Photo E-26



Photo E-27



Photo E-18



Photo E-28



Photo E-29



Photo E-30



Photo E-31



Photo E-32



Photo E-33

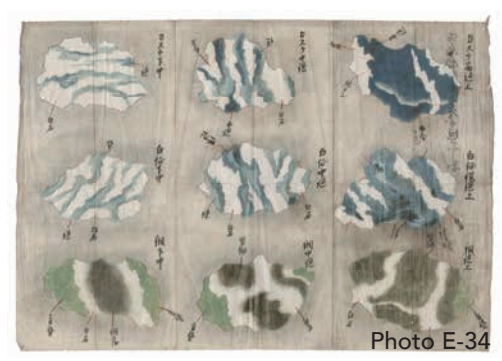


Photo E-34



Photo E-35



Photo E-36

Executive Summary

1. State Party

Japan

2. State, Province or Region

Niigata Prefecture

3. Name of nominated property

Sado Island Gold Mines

4. Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

As described in Table E-1, the nominated property consists of 22 component parts which are located in two areas; components 001-020 in the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine (Nishimikawa Area) and components 021, 022 in the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (Aikawa-Tsurushi Area).

● **Table E-1** Component parts of the nominated property, their location, area, and the buffer zone

| ID | Name of the component part | Region / District | Coordinates of the central point | | Area of nominated component Part (ha) | Area of the Buffer Zone (ha) | Map No. |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Latitude | Longitude | | | |
| 001 | Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine -main | Nishimikawa Area | N37° 54′ 35″ | E138° 19′ 31″ | 273.3 | 577.0 | Fig.E-5 Fig.E-6 |
| 002 | Kinzan-e Waterway a | | N37° 55′ 23″ | E138° 20′ 53″ | 2.7 | | |
| 003 | Kinzan-e Waterway b | | N37° 55′ 09″ | E138° 21′ 25″ | 1.2 | | |
| 004 | Kinzan-e Waterway c | | N37° 55′ 17″ | E138° 21′ 16″ | 0.5 | | |
| 005 | Kinzan-e Waterway d | | N37° 55′ 08″ | E138° 19′ 30″ | 0.2 | | |
| 006 | Kinzan-e Waterway e | | N37° 55′ 05″ | E138° 21′ 38″ | 0.2 | | |
| 007 | Kinzan-e Waterway f | | N37° 55′ 03″ | E138° 21′ 47″ | 0.1 | | |
| 008 | Kinzan-e Waterway g | | N37° 55′ 07″ | E138° 21′ 59″ | 1.1 | | |
| 009 | Kinzan-e Waterway h | | N37° 55′ 11″ | E138° 22′ 01″ | 0.2 | | |
| 010 | Kinzan-e Waterway i | | N37° 55′ 11″ | E138° 22′ 04″ | 0.1 | | |
| 011 | Kinzan-e Waterway j | | N37° 55′ 11″ | E138° 22′ 08″ | 0.1 | | |
| 012 | Kinzan-e Waterway k | | N37° 55′ 20″ | E138° 22′ 56″ | 2.5 | | |
| 013 | Sugihira-yama Waterway | | N37° 54′ 52″ | E138° 20′ 44″ | 1.7 | | |
| 014 | Chikugo-e Waterway a | | N37° 54′ 35″ | E138° 20′ 07″ | 1.4 | | |
| 015 | Chikugo-e Waterway b | | N37° 54′ 33″ | E138° 20′ 24″ | 1.9 | | |
| 016 | Utoge-yama Waterway | | N37° 54′ 25″ | E138° 20′ 03″ | 2.6 | | |
| 017 | Toramaru-yama Waterway a | | N37° 54′ 22″ | E138° 19′ 44″ | 0.4 | | |
| 018 | Toramaru-yama Waterway b | | N37° 54′ 20″ | E138° 19′ 42″ | 0.5 | | |
| 019 | Toramaru-yama Waterway c | | N37° 54′ 15″ | E138° 19′ 36″ | 0.7 | | |
| 020 | Toramaru-yama Waterway d | | N37° 54′ 12″ | E138° 19′ 39″ | 0.9 | | |
| 021 | Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine - Aikawa area | Aikawa-Tsurushi Area | N38° 02′ 27″ | E138° 15′ 28″ | 289.2 | 886.2 | Fig.E-7 Fig.E-8 Fig.E-9 |
| 022 | Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine - Tsurushi area | | N38° 01′ 34″ | E138° 15′ 57″ | 173.3 | | |
| Total area (in hectares) | | | | | 754.8 | 1,463.2 | |

5. Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

The component parts are delineated in order to include all the area which convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. All of them are designated as Historic Site and / or selected as Important Cultural Landscape under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The total area of this nominated property is 754.8 hectares.

The Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine includes both settlement zone and mining zone (001), and the waterways (001, 002-020) each of which was originally connected but some portions were lost in later times.

The Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine is separated into two component parts (021 and 022). The two closely related mining centres are connected by the historical pass, a part of which is excluded from the nominated property due to a loss in later times.

The proposed buffer zone is delineated to identify the area of 1,463.2 hectares, which is needed to prevent outside factors from making negative impact on the value of the nominated property.

6. A4 or A3 size Maps of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone

These are attached to the end of this executive summary.

7. Criteria under which property is nominated

(iii), (iv)

8. Cultural Landscape

NO

9. Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a. Brief synthesis

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines is located on Sado Island in the Japan Sea. The property comprises two areas of different mine types: the Nishimikawa placer gold mine and the Aikawa-Tsurushi hard-rock gold-silver lode mines. Physical evidence of the entire gold production system is present, from mining technology, production processes and administration to town planning and mining culture.

The property was the largest and most important national gold mining operation of Japan that contributed to the long stability of the Tokugawa Shogunate, the ruling authority from 1603 to 1868. During this period, due to the Shogunate's national seclusion policy, technological exchange with other countries was limited and a system of gold production based solely on the then-existing

traditional unmechanised mining methods was developed. The Shogunate controlled the island directly, establishing a large-scale unified gold production system. The strategic management system established on the island covered a wide range of arrangements and served a significant role in sustaining gold production over a long period of time. People who gathered on Sado Island from all parts of Japan under this strategy brought with them various cultures and traditions such as diverse faiths, performing arts and festivals and eventually cultivated them into a unique mixed mining culture that is reflected, for example, in the religious sites and community-shared places.

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines bears exceptional testimony to a traditional gold mining complex that in the early 17th century ranked as the leading gold producer in the world. Large-scale production of high-purity gold was sustained for 250 years through the continuous improvement of traditional unmechanised mining technology. The property illustrates the final advanced development stage of the unmechanised traditional gold mining that has been carried on since ancient times.

b. Justification for Criteria

Criterion (iii)

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines bears exceptional testimony to the mining operation system which accomplished remarkable development based on traditional unmechanised mining technology and which was sustained for 250 years under the strategic management of the Tokugawa Shogunate without the introduction of mechanised technology. This also ensured the emergence and development of its own mining culture.

The production organisations were formed adapting to the characteristics of each type of deposit, such as for placer gold mining in the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine, and for hard-rock mining in the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine. The Shogunate integrated those production organisations and eventually a globally exceptional large-scale concentration of mixed mining works and housing was established maintaining the traditional settlement structure in which production and residential areas coexisted, and which was contrastively different from the European mines of this period where the mining towns for workers were developed separately from the mining work areas.

The Shogunate called in skilled mining experts and other professionals from across Japan and secured their involvement to support production improvement and community organisation. Under this policy the stable continuation of the mining community was achieved and the unique mixed island mining culture was able to flourish due to the influx of people who brought diverse cultures and traditions such as faiths, performing arts and festivals.

Criterion (iv)

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines presents exceptional physical evidence representing the culmination of the improvement of traditional unmechanised mining technologies in gold production, and achieved under the condition that the importation of modern mechanised mining technology was restricted due to the national seclusion policy.

In the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine with placer gold deposits, an exceptional and large-scale hydraulic mining method called “Onagashi” (great flow) was conducted, which remains as rare historical evidence of traditional placer gold mining that is the only known surviving example of this method from this era in the world, preceded only by the cases in the Roman period.

In the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine with lode deposits, mining tunnels deep underground and long drainage tunnels were excavated with the improvement of exploitation and surveying techniques illustrating the development of the hard-rock mining method. The “Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site” that changed the mountain shape is spectacular witness to the scale and technology of the mining.

In the nominated property, the high-purity gold that no other mines could achieve at that time was produced by sophisticating the operations of smelting and refining, and the minting of “koban” gold coins was conducted on site. In the 17th century, Sado Island was the world’s largest-class single producer of gold.

c. Statement of Integrity

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines demonstrates full integrity by including all the attributes of the socio-technical system of gold production using traditional unmechanised mining methods which were established under the control of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

The nominated property is a serial property comprising the two areas of the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine. It is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the attributes of the social systems and the technical systems. A significant number of remains of mines, and their associated settlements, survive both on the surface and underground within the nominated property.

The ensemble which still remains within the nominated property well represents the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The proposed Outstanding Universal Value has four primary attributes: (1) strategic management by the Tokugawa Shogunate and gold production system integrated on a large scale, (2) mining culture nurtured in the mining community, (3) traditional unmechanised mining technologies improved to apply to the characteristics of deposits, (4) a series of production processes enabling high-purity gold production. These attributes elaborate the production technologies and processes and are corroborated with authentic historical materials such as drawings and mining picture scrolls, which describe various work processes and the locations of those remains. The sites of mining and settlements within the nominated property are, as a whole, well preserved and managed appropriately by the owners or the custodial bodies. None are under threat.

d. Statement of authenticity

The nominated property is a serial property comprised of 22 component parts with well-preserved archeological sites with a high level of authenticity. The authenticity of the nominated property has been maintained in “form and design,” “materials and substance,” “location and setting,” “use and function,” and “traditions, techniques and management systems.”

Physical evidence retains the original state as archaeological sites from the period of unmechanised mining without being substantially destroyed by subsequent mining activity or by development in modern times. High authenticity has been proven by the relics and remains revealed by archaeological investigations such as excavation surveys and distribution surveys. In addition, all are verified by historical materials including drawings and mining picture scrolls which interpret the socio-technical system of gold production in detail.

e. Requirements for protection and management

The 22 component parts of the nominated property are designated as Historic Site and / or selected as Important Cultural Landscape under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. They are appropriately protected as national cultural properties under the management of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Japanese government. Regarding the buffer zones, the setting of the nominated property is protected by applying the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and / or the Sado City Landscape Ordinance and the Sado City Landscape Plan under the Landscape Act.

From the perspective of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council (scheduled) and the Comprehensive Management Plan, which are both established by Niigata Prefecture and Sado City, will guarantee its integrated protection and management. The purpose of this Council is to share information on the preservation, utilisation, and maintenance of the property and also to sustain the purpose and function of the buffer zones and the conservation of any supporting elements therein, as well as to coordinate the whole combination of works on the properties. The Council is to determine the policy on the protection, receiving advice and guidance from the Agency for Cultural Affairs as the competent authority for the protection of domestic cultural heritage as well as from the experts of the Sado Gold and Silver Mines World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee.

The Comprehensive Management Plan describes methods for preserving, enhancing and utilising the nominated property including resolving issues by undertaking accurate analysis of factors associated with management. In preserving the nominated property, individual presentation and utilisation plans have been formulated to define the basic policy and the specific method or system of preservation and management. In accordance with the policy described in the Comprehensive Management Plan, appropriate management is to be implemented by Sado City as the custodial body and by Golden Sado Inc. as the property owner.

As a long-term approach, measures to maintain the component parts and to accept visitors in accordance with the annual plan will be steadily promoted, taking the features of individual component parts into account and nurturing understanding and cooperation of the local residents, in order to convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the whole nominated property clearly as a single property.

10. Name and contact information of official local institution / agency / organization

- Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Heritages, Cultural Resources Utilization Division, Agency for Cultural Affairs

3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-6734-2877

Fax: +81-3-6734-3820

E-mail: bunikoku@mext.go.jp

Web address: <https://www.bunka.go.jp/>

- World Heritage Inscription Promotion Office, Culture Division, Department of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Niigata Prefecture

4-1 Shinko-cho, Chuo-ku, Niigata City, Niigata 950-8570 JAPAN

Tel: +81-25-280-5759

Fax: +81-25-280-5764

E-mail: ngt150030@pref.niigata.lg.jp

Web address: <https://www.sado-goldmine.jp/>

- World Heritage Promotion Division, Sado City

232 Chigusa, Sado City, Niigata 952-1292 JAPAN

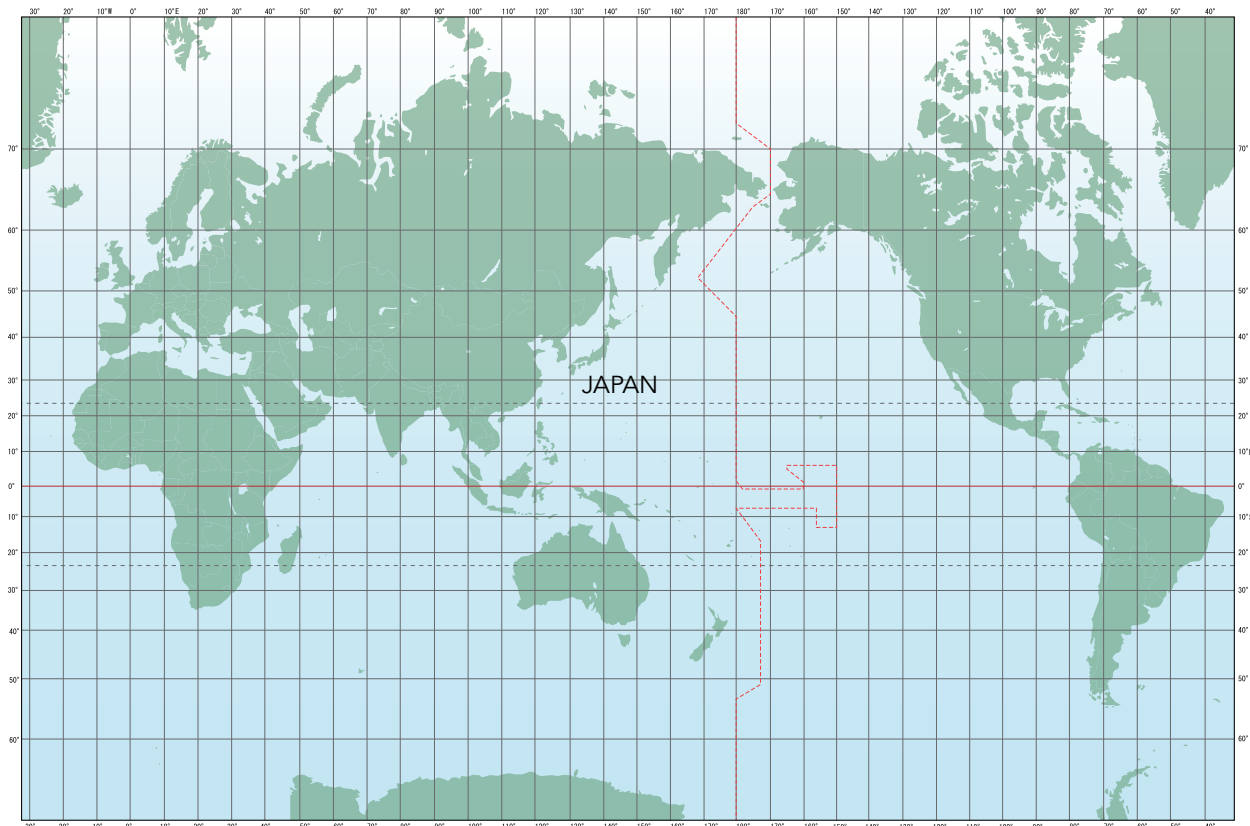
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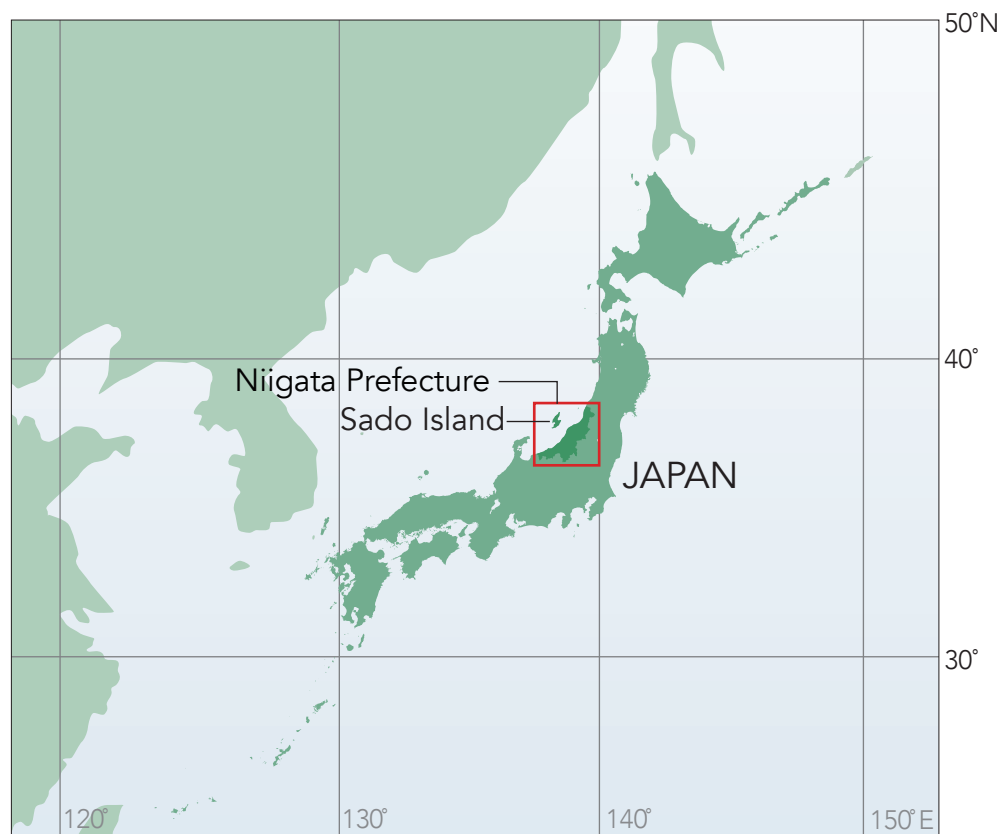
E-mail: k-goldmine@city.sado.niigata.jp

Web address: <https://www.city.sado.niigata.jp/mine/>

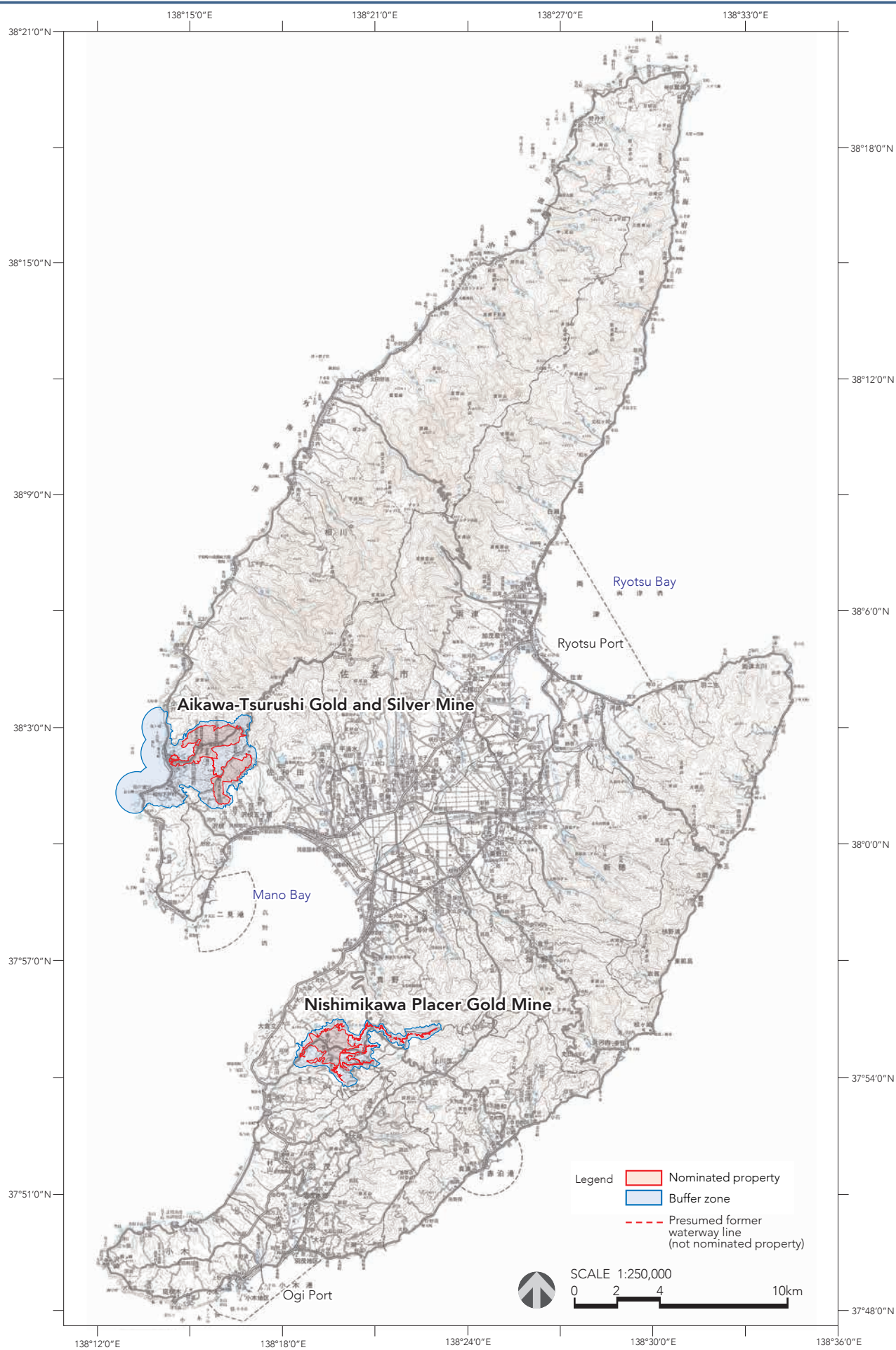
Location of the Nominated Property

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

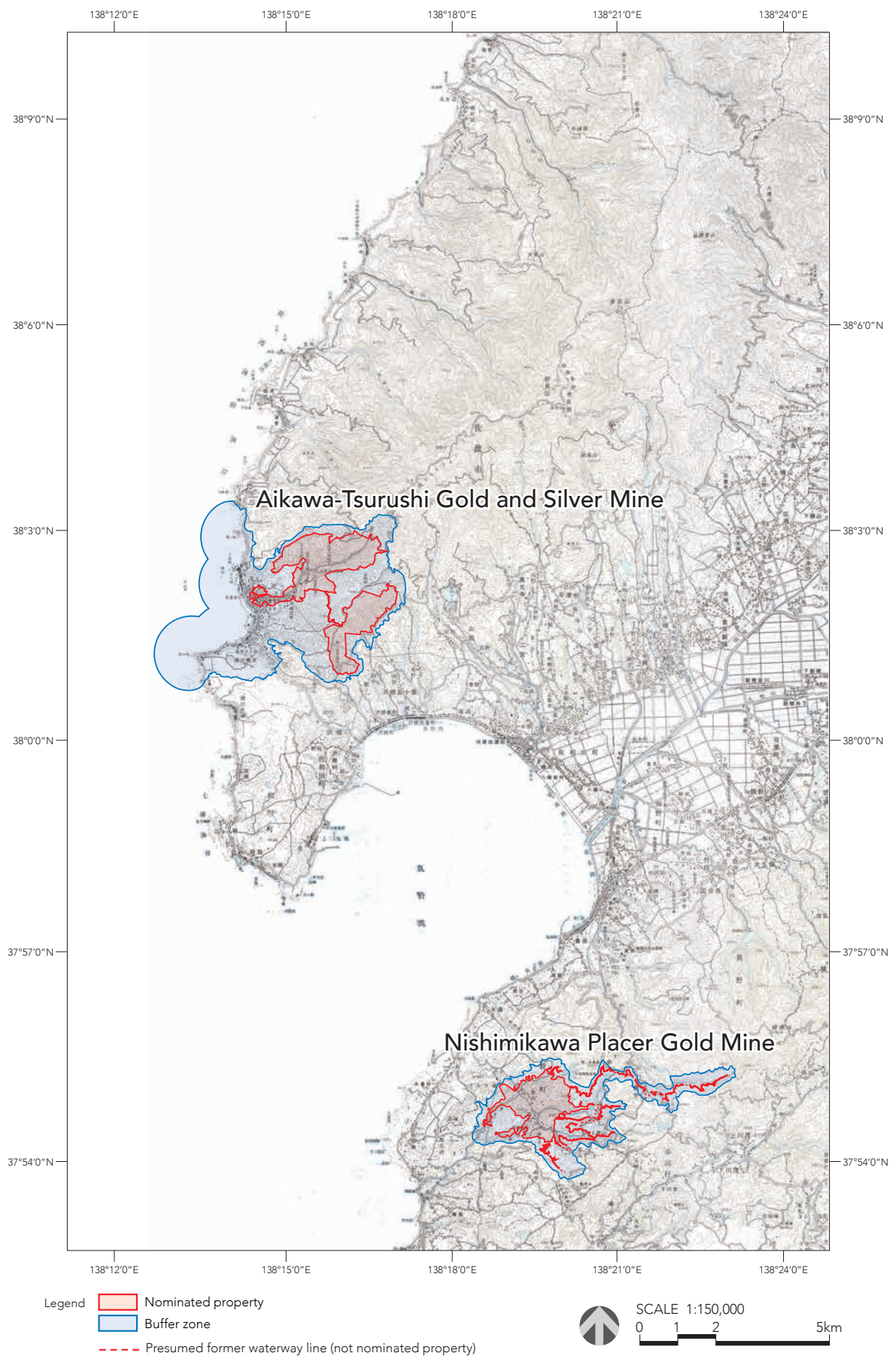
● **Figure E-1** World map indicating the location of Japan



● **Figure E-2** Map of Japan indicating Niigata Prefecture in which the nominated property is located



● **Figure E-3** Map of Sado Island indicating the location of the nominated property

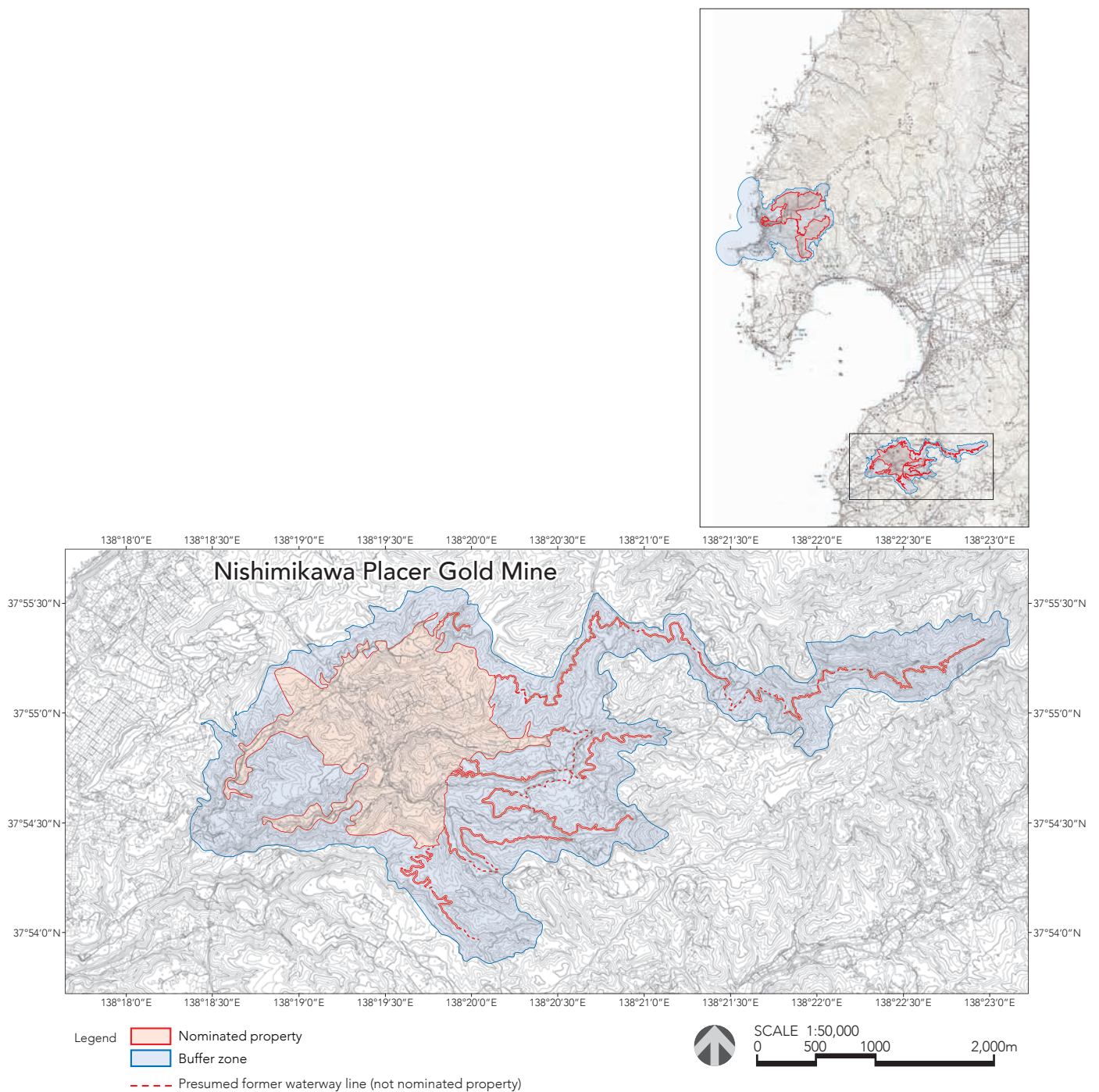


● **Figure E-4** Map of region indicating the nominated property and the buffer zones

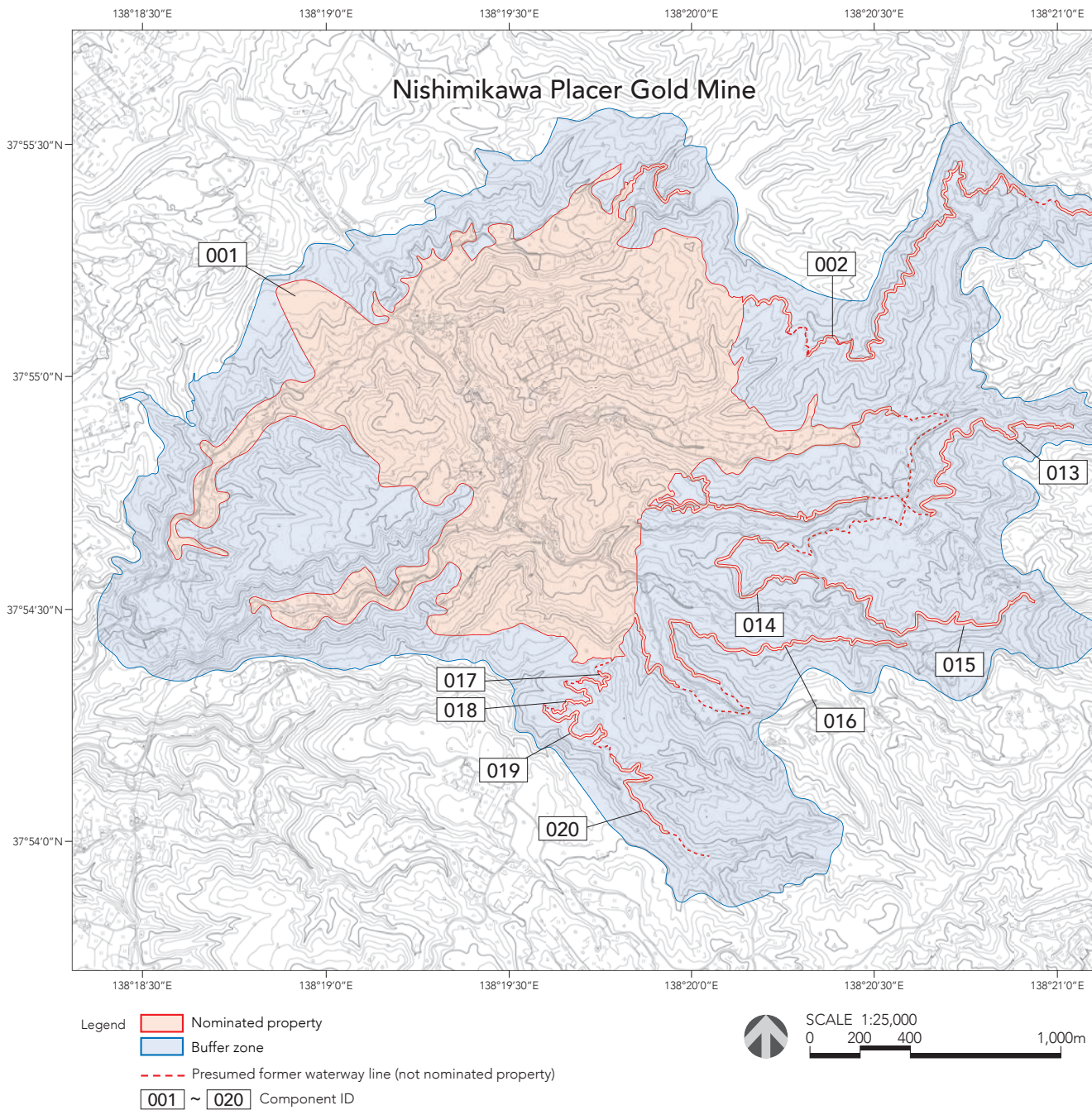
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Maps Showing the Boundaries of the Nominated Property and the Buffer Zone

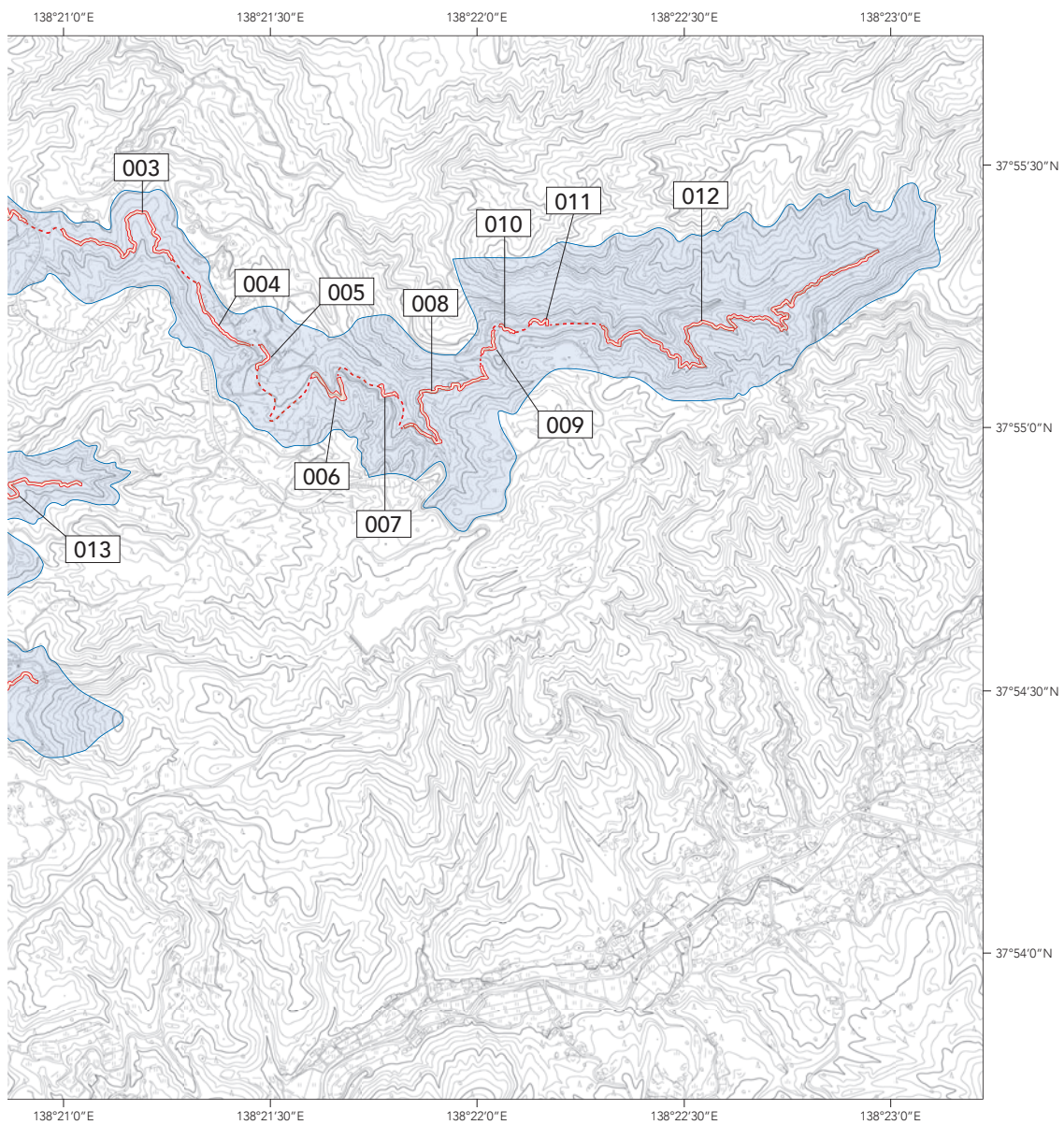
Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

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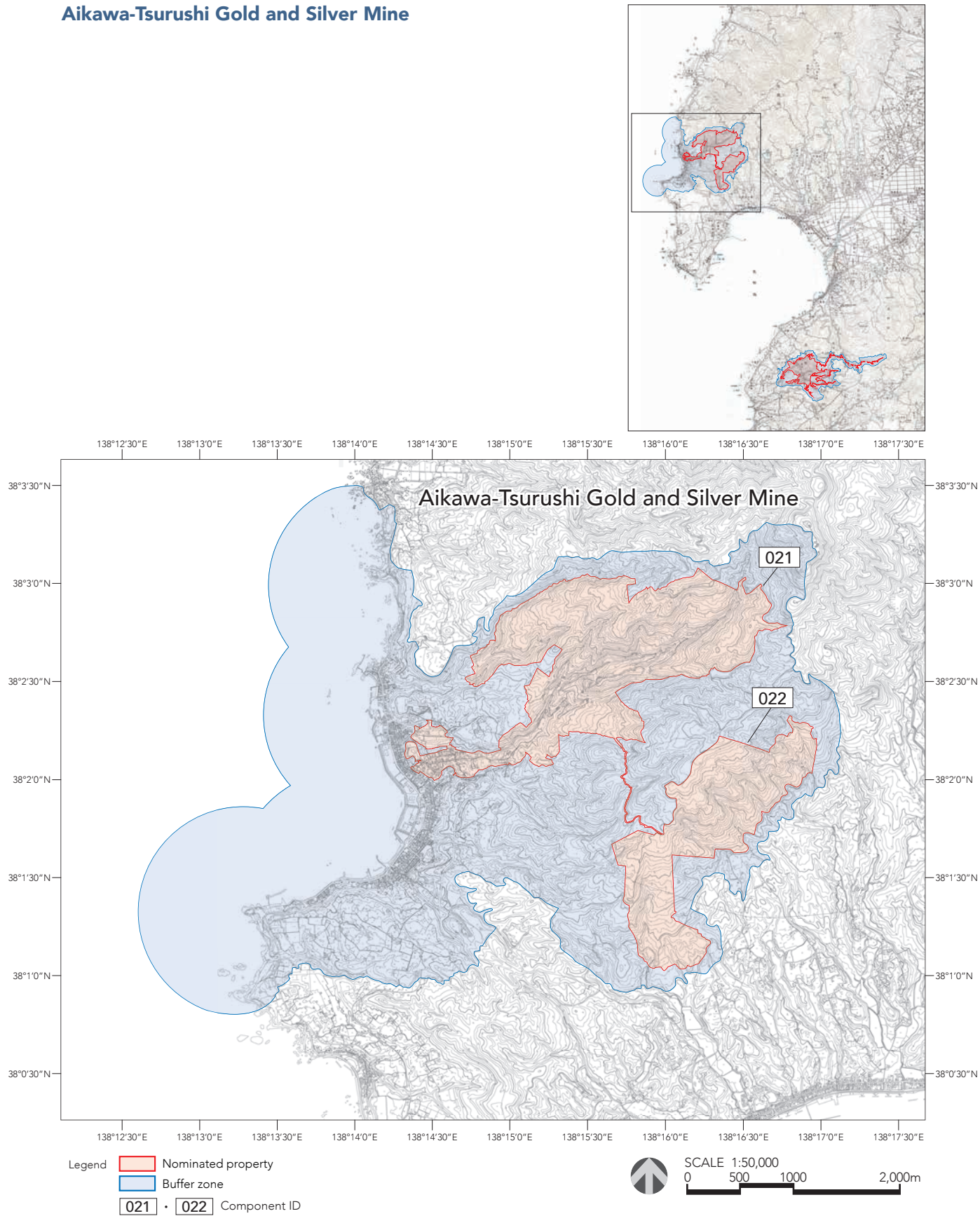
● **Figure E-5** The boundary of the nominated property and the buffer zone: Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine



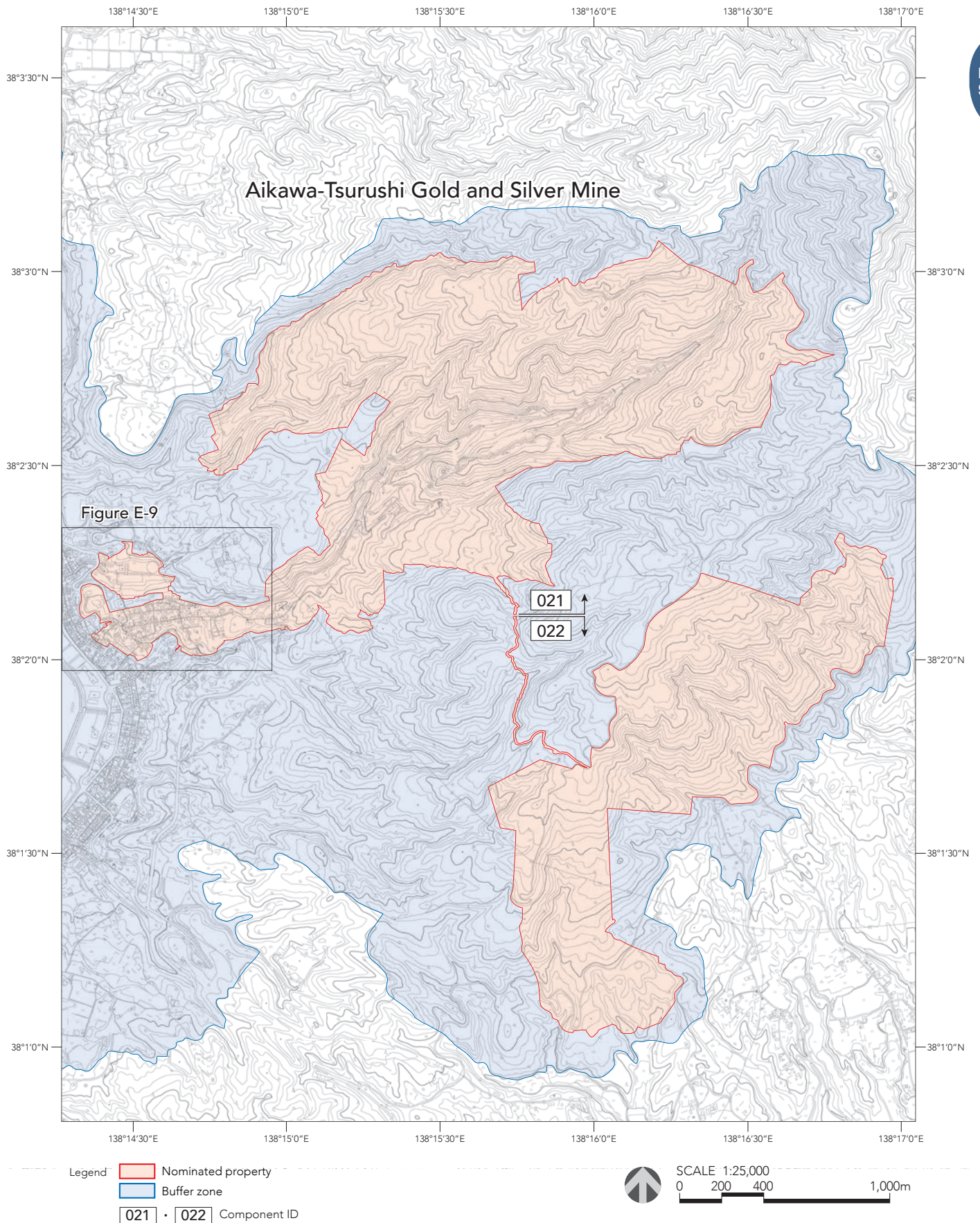
● Figure E-6 Enlarged map of the boundary of the nominated property: Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine



Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

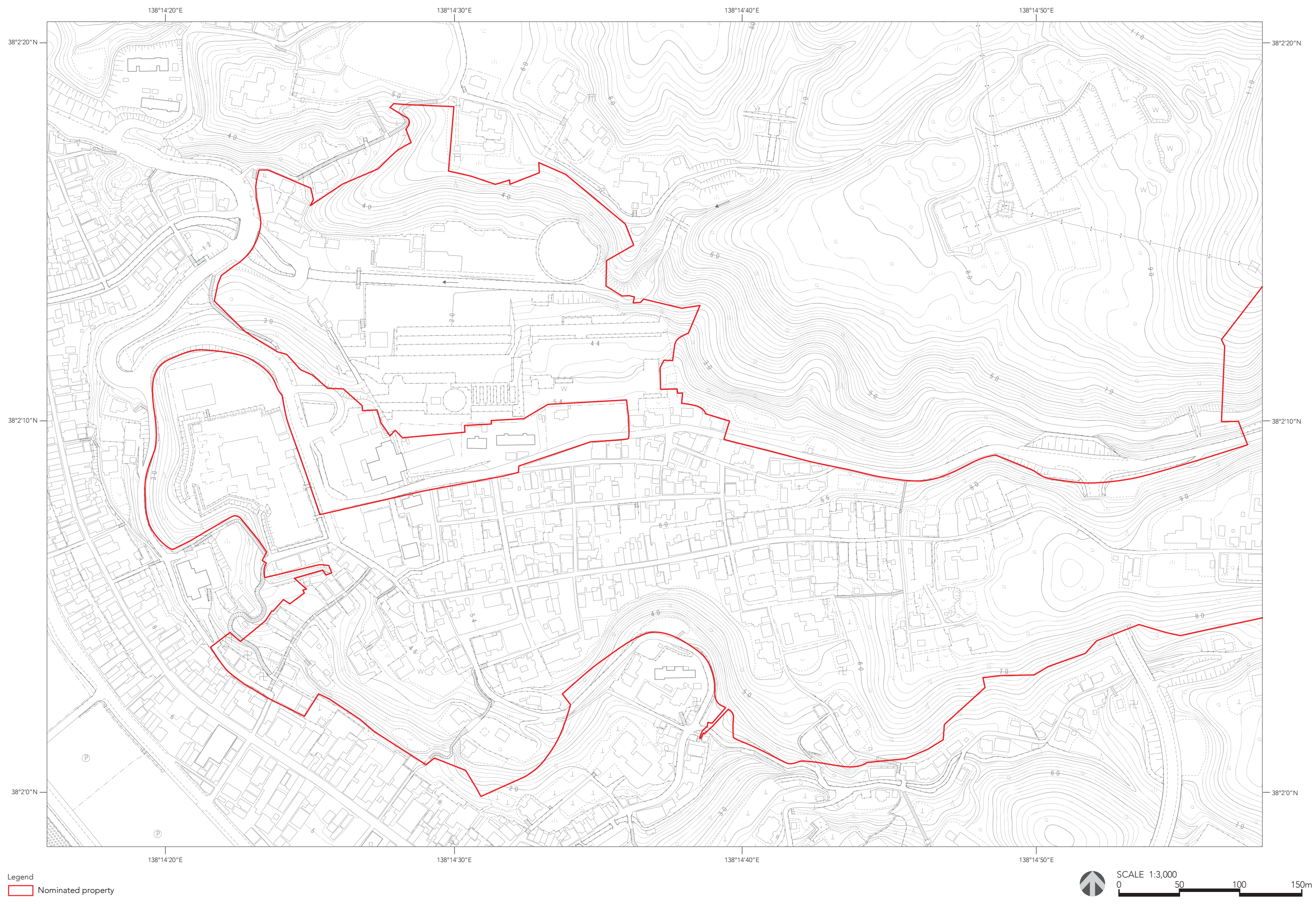


● Figure E-7 The boundary of the nominated property and the buffer zone: Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine



● **Figure E-8** Enlarged map of the boundary of the nominated property: Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

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● **Figure E-9** Enlarged map of the boundary of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine: Aikawa-Kamimachi Town