

## **Appendix 4**

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### **Comprehensive Management Plan**





# Sado Island Gold Mines

## Comprehensive Management Plan

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Jan. 2023

## Comprehensive Management Plan

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## Chapter 1 Purpose and Background

### 1.1 Purpose of Establishing the Plan

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines (hereinafter, the nominated property) represents an exceptional socio-technical system of gold production based on traditional unmechanised mining, which was highly controlled and managed by the national government for obtaining gold sought most after by human beings.

The nominated property consists of two areas that are indispensable to testify the Outstanding Universal Value: the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine (hereinafter, Nishimikawa Area) and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (hereinafter, Aikawa-Tsurushi Area), which contain various kinds of elements demonstrating both technologies and systems of gold production.

The purpose of establishing the Comprehensive Management Plan (hereinafter, the Plan) is to clarify the policies, concrete measures and administrative management system of the protection to ensure comprehensive protection of the nominated property and its surrounding environment. The preservation and management of the individual areas in accordance with existing individual preservation and management plans will make it possible to preserve the value of each property and pass it down to the future generations. On the other hand, for comprehensive protection of the nominated property and the buffer zones, a plan is necessary, and the Plan shall be developed by Niigata Prefecture and Sado City (hereinafter, the Prefecture and the City). In the Management plan, the plans for the protection, conservation, presentation and utilisation of the nominated property and the buffer zones should be developed on the basis of the fundamental principles as follows: (1) to (8). At the same time, maintaining their harmony with the lives of the local residents, the concrete framework should be shown to promote the appropriate acceptance of visitors and facilitate their understanding and satisfactions.

#### (1) Preservation and management framework of the component parts

The two areas are designated or selected as either cultural properties as Historic Sites or Important Cultural Landscapes by the national government under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, constituting an appropriate framework for the protection. Based on "the Preservation and Utilisation Plan," "the Enhancement Plan" and others which were developed according to types of these cultural properties, the Prefecture and the City carry out preservation, management, enhancement and utilisation.

In addition, vegetation including those in the surrounding environment, which can be an important element constituting landscape and also affect conservation of the archaeological remains and so on, should be appropriately managed. Trees with potential adverse impacts are to be felled. At the same time, in the case of felling in forest or afforested areas, restoration of forests is considered such as preventing clear-cutting, afforesting following felling, while avoiding damage on the archaeological remains as a result of felling. The vegetation will be converted into needleleaf-broadleaf mixed forests (quercus serrata-Japanese red pine forest), which are the local autochthonous climax forests, in the longer term.

#### (2) The integral preservation of the nominated property and its surrounding environment

The buffer zones are delineated for protection of the landscapes and the environments formed integrally with the nominated property from natural and cultural points of view in the surrounding area of the nominated property and for comprehensive conservation of the nominated property and

the surrounding areas. In the buffer zones, preservation is undertaken on the basis of the Landscape Act, the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the Sado City Landscape Ordinance and Plan for the Maintenance and Improvement of the Historical Scenic Beauty of Sado City.

### **(3) Elimination and reduction of factors presumably affecting the component parts**

The Prefecture and the City identify various conditions presumably affecting negative impacts on the component parts and take appropriate measures. Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted especially on any kind of projects or actions with negative impact or possibility of having a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, regardless whether it is within or out of the scope of the nominated property or the buffer zones, and efforts should be made to eliminate or reduce the impacts.

### **(4) Promotion of presentation and utilisation**

The Prefecture and the City make an effort to convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value which the nominated property presents as a World Heritage Site, the attributes of the component parts which constitute the aspects of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, and interrelationships between the component parts to visitors in an easy-to-understand manner. On the other hand, since an increase is expected in the number of visitors to the property when it is successfully inscribed as a World Heritage Site, there are concerns of the impacts on the lives of local residents around the property, as well as the value of the property itself. Thus, presentation befitting the status as a World Heritage Site and visitor acceptance shall be improved to conduct orderly utilisation of the World Heritage property area.

### **(5) Sustainment and development of the nominated property**

Sado Island, where the nominated property is located, is a remote island and also depopulated region, having the common problems with other depopulated regions all over Japan, such as depopulation, aging of population, and village survivability (marginal village). Therefore, it is important to ensure the sustainability and development of the surrounding areas of the property for proper sustainment and management of the property and for future succession of the value. Hence, the Prefecture and the City aim to establish a circulating and sustainable system in which promoting preservation and utilisation of the World Heritage Site will contribute to sustainability and development of the local communities, resulting in sustainability of the property protection, in accordance with the various measures of the local residents' activities, vitalisation of the activities and development of the next generation in charge.

### **(6) Development and Implementation of the Plan**

To pass down to future generations the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, a plan for implementation shall be developed depending both on the issues of preservation and utilisation of the property and on the corresponding policy as an action plan. For the implementation, various projects will be planned and carried out, divided into ongoing, mid- and long-term implementation plans according to the implementation status, importance and urgency.

### **(7) Monitoring**

In order to maintain the value of the nominated property through adjustment and responsive actions to negative impacts and changes on the property from a long-term perspective, monitoring shall be conducted to grasp the conservation state of the nominated property and buffer zones, with appropriate monitoring indicators. Information of any issues uncovered from the monitoring results shall be shared among related parties and countermeasures against them are taken such as premeditatedly eliminating the causes of the negative impact or reducing the negative impacts. For implementing these countermeasures, effects of the countermeasures shall be verified and evaluated, periodically reviewing them, and in case there are any problems, improvement will be made by

revising the existing countermeasures or introducing new ones.

## **(8) Preservation and Management System**

The “Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council” consisting of the Prefecture, the City and so on will be established as an organisation to grasp the current state of the property and its surrounding environment, carry out preservation, management, presentation, and utilisation, share information and hold consultations regarding conservation inside and outside the buffer zones, achieve a consensus on important measures, approve implementation of various projects concerning the action plan and manage their progress. The departments of the Prefecture and the City shall take a role of the secretariat for this Council and responsibility for administrative duties concerning preservation, management and utilisation as mentioned above, cooperating with related parties, such as property owners and local residents, as well as receiving instruction and advice from academic experts of the “Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee” and so on.

## **1.2 Background of Establishing the Plan**

The Plan shows policies and concrete measures for preservation, management, maintenance and utilisation of the property and conservation of the buffer zones based on individual management plans and enhancement and utilisation plans for the component parts.

The Plan was developed by the prefectural and municipal World Heritage inscription promotion departments on the basis of preservation and management plans and enhancement and utilisation plans for individual component parts completed by the City by the year 2020 under the instruction and advice of “Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee” consisting of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and academic experts.

On the other hand, regarding the action plan concerning preservation, management, enhancement and utilisation, the “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan” was compiled, while the Prefecture, the City, national governmental organisations, related municipalities and private bodies all together established the “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan Development Council” in 2015, considering various measurements concerning preservation, enhancement and utilisation of the property. The “action plan” described in Chapter 5 of the Plan is based on the “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan.”

### **• Sado Gold and Silver Mine Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee (hereinafter, “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Scientific Committee”)**

(The committee is established to consider the issue on UNESCO World Heritage List inscription of the nominated property, which has already been included on the State Party’s Tentative List, from academic and professional perspective)

Chair: KOKAZE Hidemasa, Dr. (Emeritus Professor, Ochanomizu University)

Vice chair: INABA Nobuko, Dr. (Emeritus Professor, University of Tsukuba)

Committee member:

OKADA Yasuyoshi, Dr. (Emeritus Professor, Kokushikan University, President of ICOMOS Japan)

GOMI Fumihiko, Dr. (Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo)

SAKAI Hideya, Dr. (Emeritus Professor, Nara University)

SHINOHARA Osamu, Dr. (Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo)

SUZUKI Kazuyoshi, Dr. (Former Director of Centre of the History of Japanese Industrial Technology at National Museum of Nature and Science)

NISHIMURA Yukio, Dr. (Professor, Kokugakuin University)

This scientific committee has been held 29 times in total during the period from September 2010 to January 2023, and discussed the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, the component parts, the attributes, the draft of the nomination dossier, and draft of the Comprehensive Management Plan.

• **“Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan” Development Council (Inscription Promotion Meeting)**

It consists of Niigata Prefecture, Sado City, the national governmental organisation, relevant municipalities, and private bodies. In four subcommittees (for “preservation, management and guidance,” “visitor guidance and transportation,” “tourist attraction and tourism” and “promotion of local development”), various measurements such as protection of the property, dissemination of information, improvement of visitor acceptance and increase in momentum toward the World Heritage Inscription were considered and the “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan” was compiled.

It was reorganised into the “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Protection and Utilisation Action Plan Promotion Meeting” after 2016, and responsible bodies for each project set by the action plan take a leading role in each working group for project promotion, which promotes each project and manages its progression.

**[Working teams for project promotion]**

Sado City:	General Affairs Division, Disaster Prevention Division, Policy Planning & Coordination Division, Internal Migration Division, Living Environment Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Division, Architectural House Division, World Heritage Promotion Division, Transport Policy Division, Agricultural Policy Division, Tourism Promotion Division, Industry Promotion Division, Social Education Division (13 divisions)
Niigata Prefecture:	Tourism Planning Division, International Tourism Promotion Division, Culture Division, Sado Regional Promotion Bureau (three divisions and a bureau)
Police:	Sado Police Station (one station)
Private bodies:	Sado Tourism Association, Sado Steam Ship Co., Ltd., Sado Federation of Commerce and Industry, Niigata Kotsu Sado Co., Ltd., Golden Sado Inc. (five bodies)

**1.3 Structure of the Plan**

The structure of the Plan and the summaries of each chapter are as follows:

- Chapter 1 shows the purpose and background of establishing the Plan and its structure.
- Chapter 2 describes the proposed Outstanding Universal Value for nominating the property Sado Island Gold Mines to the World Heritage List and outlines each component part to be protected.
- Chapter 3 discusses the current condition of the component parts and their buffer zones, the factors presumably affecting them and their countermeasures.
- Chapter 4 states the basic policies of preservation and management of the property and comprehensive conservation of the property and its surrounding environment on the basis of Chapter 1, 2, and 3. Based on that established policies, this chapter discusses conservation measures, such as the policy for delineating the buffer zones and the details



of the regulations. In addition, the property enhancement and visitor acceptance which are appropriate as a World Heritage Site and promotion measures for the region in charge of the property protection are described.

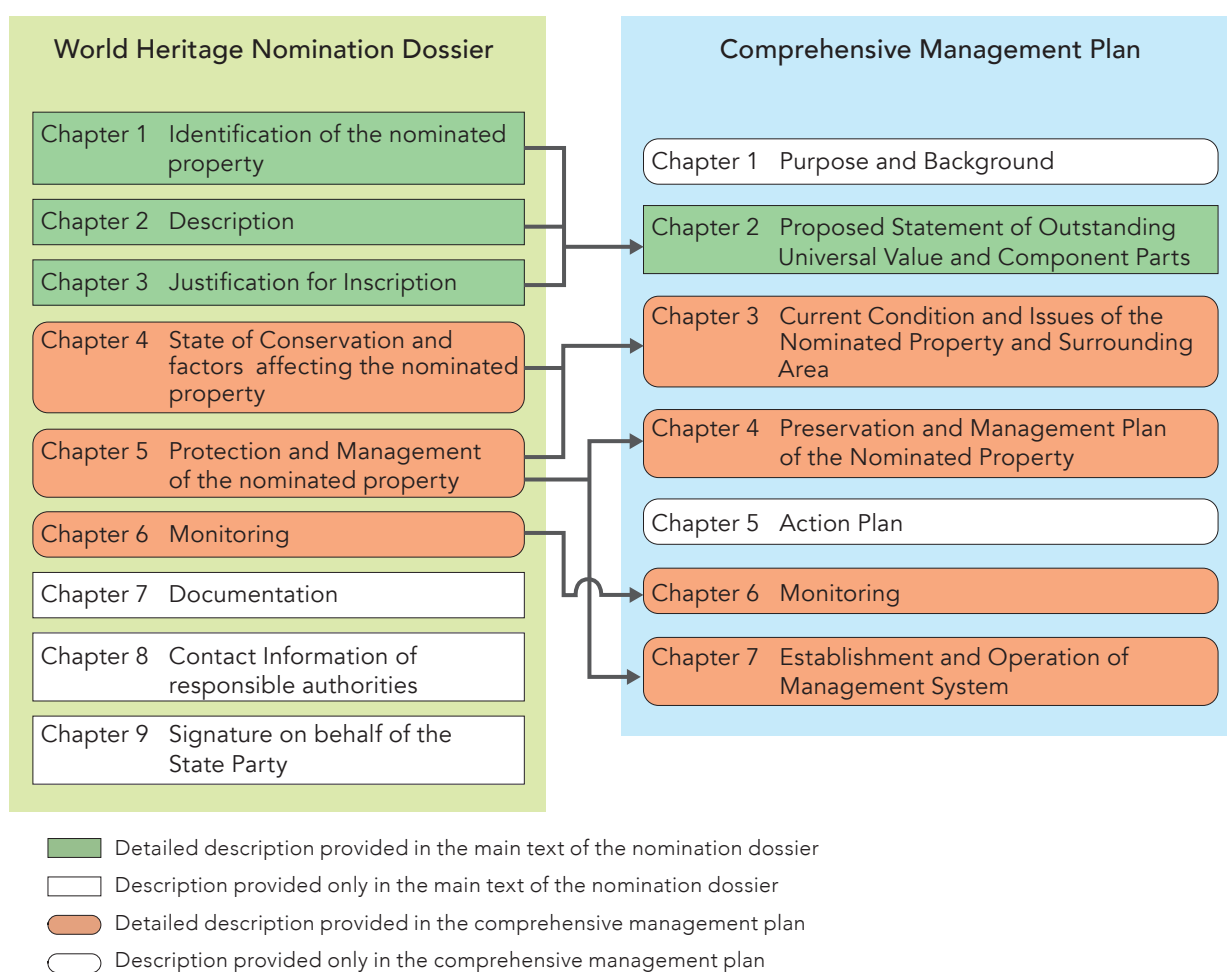
Chapter 5 shows the action plan concerning concrete initiative measures for implementation of the plan, on the basis of the preservation and management plan, which is described in Chapter 4.

Chapter 6 explains monitoring indicators and systems such as an implementation system to assess and improve the preservation state of the property.

Chapter 7 shows the management system and operational measures to ensure implementation of the plan.

The correspondence to each chapter of the main text of the nomination dossier is provided in Figure 1-1.

The Plan will be reconsidered and revised as necessary depending on the situation related to the World Heritage List.



● **Figure 1-1** Correspondence between the nomination dossier and the comprehensive management plan

## **Chapter 2 Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Component Parts**

### **2.1 Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

#### **2.1.1 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.

## 2.1.2 Criteria under Which Inscription Is Proposed

### [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.

### 2.1.3 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 the 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.

### 2.1.4 Statement of authenticity

The nominated property is a serial property comprised of 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.

### 2.1.5 Protection and Management Requirements

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 preservation 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.

## 2.2 Extent of Components

The nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines is located on Sado Island, offshore Niigata Prefecture in the middle of Honshu, a main island of Japanese Archipelago, on the eastern edge of East Asia. Described as follows, 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 2-1].

● **Table 2-1** 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.2-3 Fig.2-4
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.2-5 Fig.2-6 Fig.2-7
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	



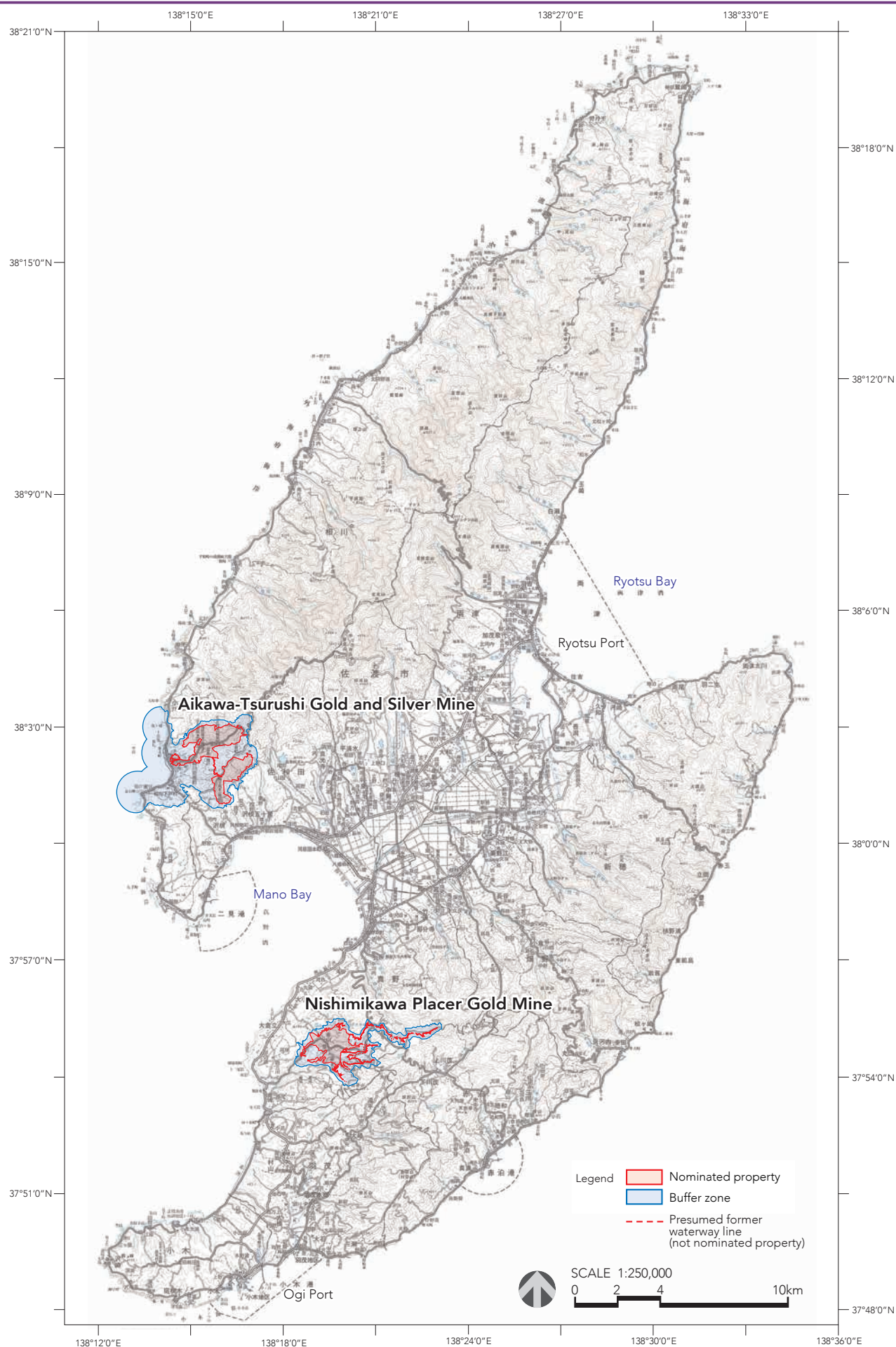
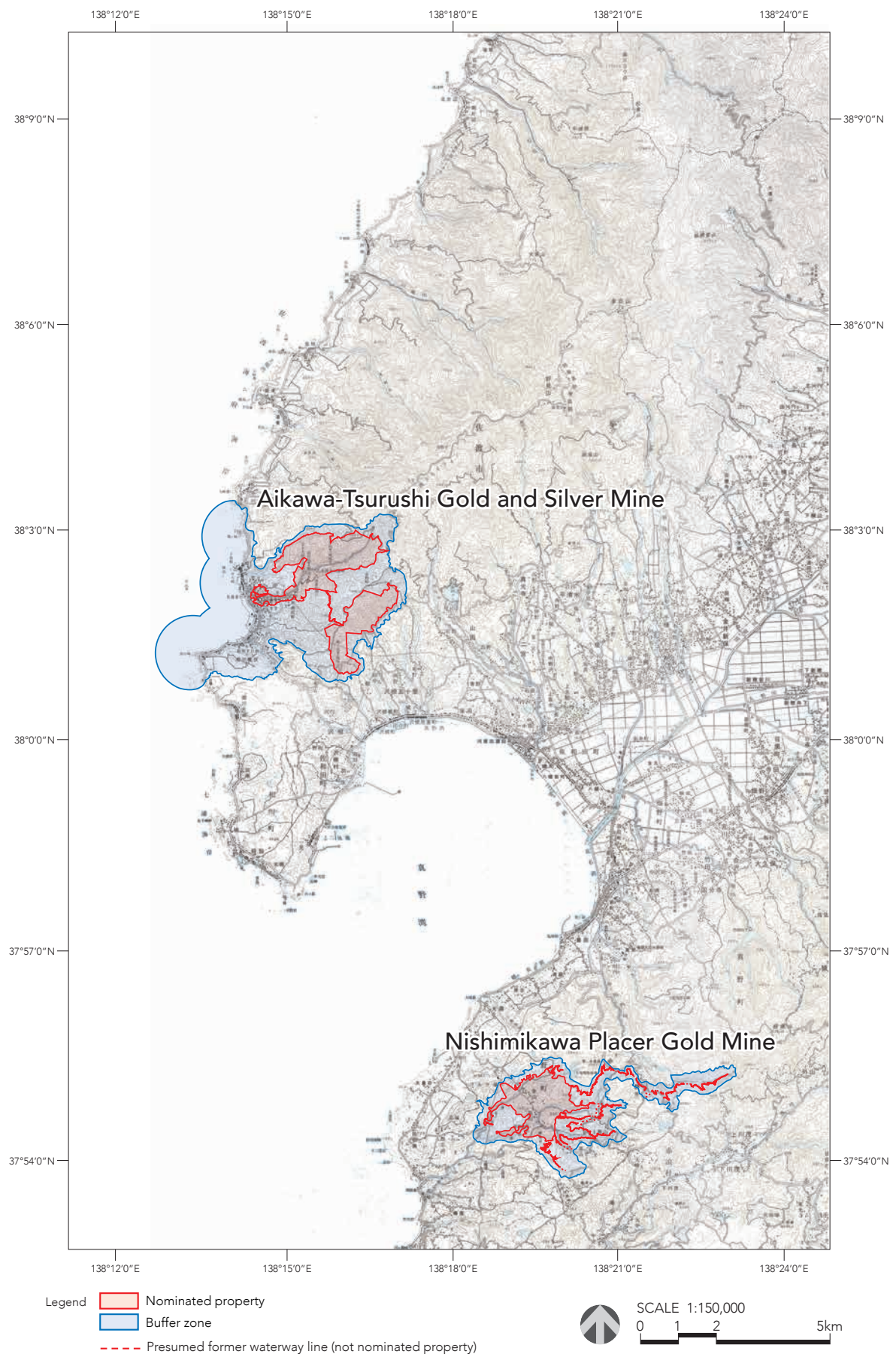


Figure 2-1 Map of Sado Island indicating the location of the nominated property

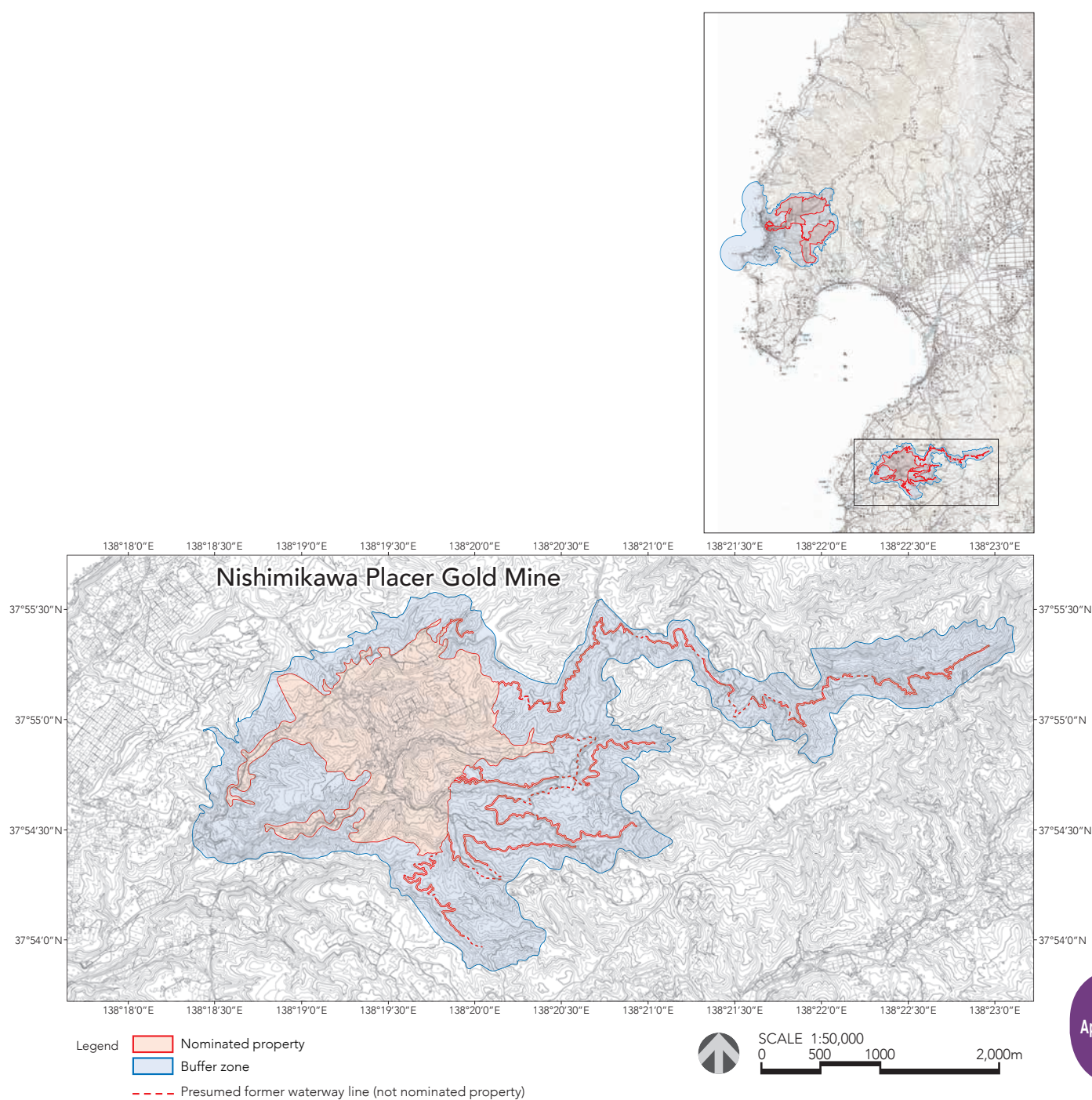


● **Figure 2-2** Map of region indicating the nominated property and the buffer zones

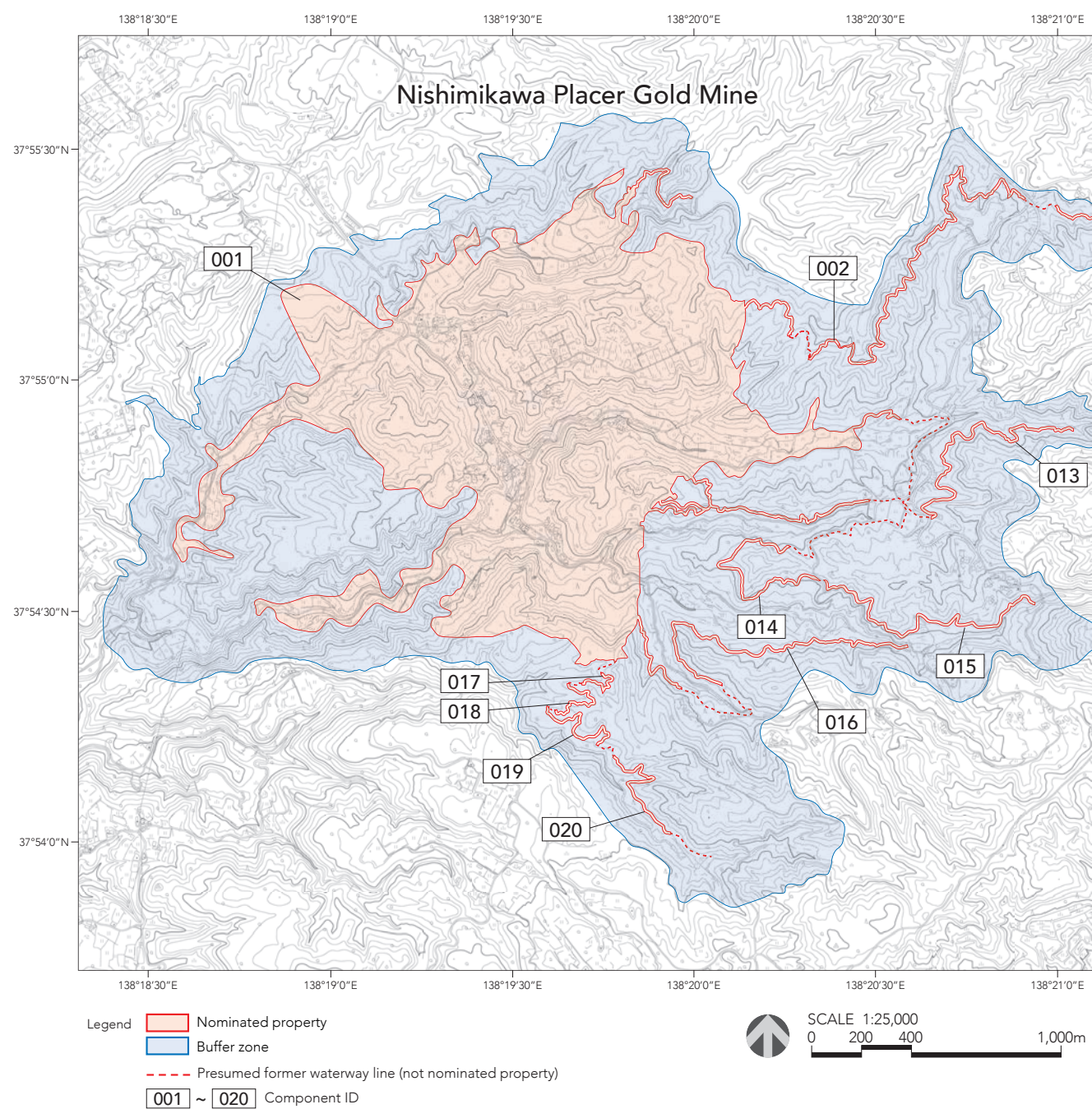


## Maps Showing the Boundaries of the Nominated Property and the Buffer Zone

### Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

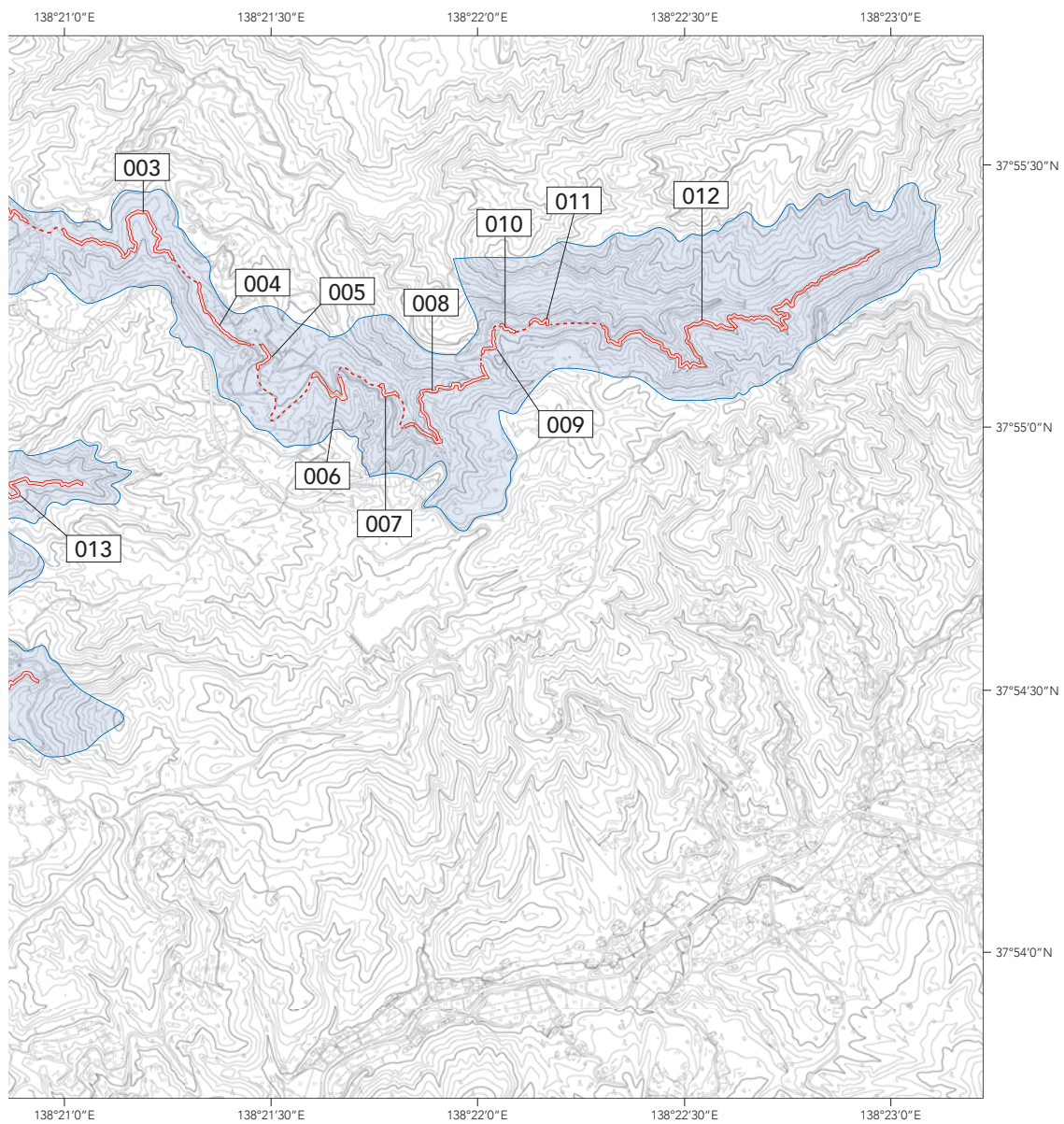


● **Figure 2-3** The boundary of the nominated property and the buffer zone: the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

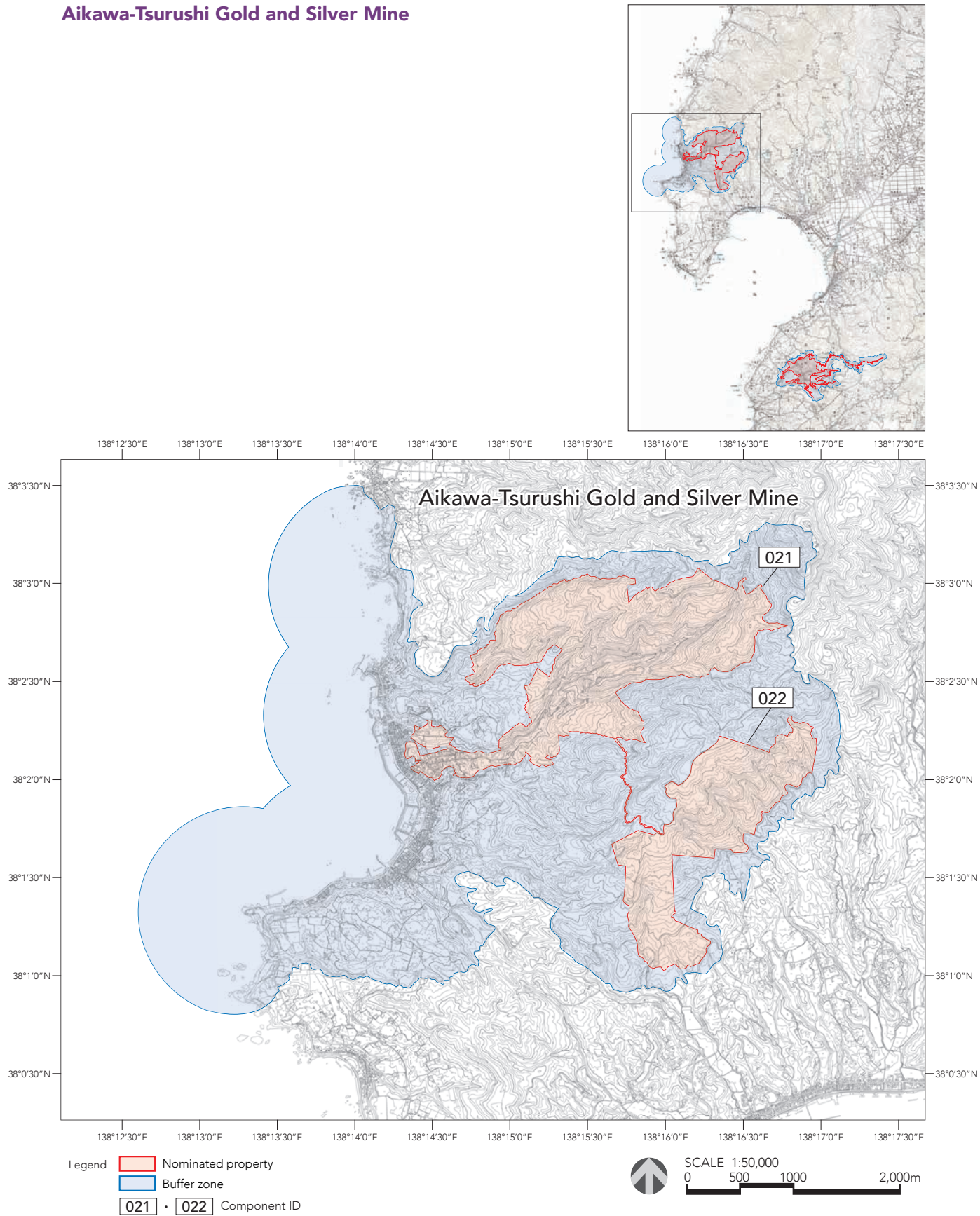


● **Figure 2-4** Enlarged map of the boundary of the nominated property: Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine



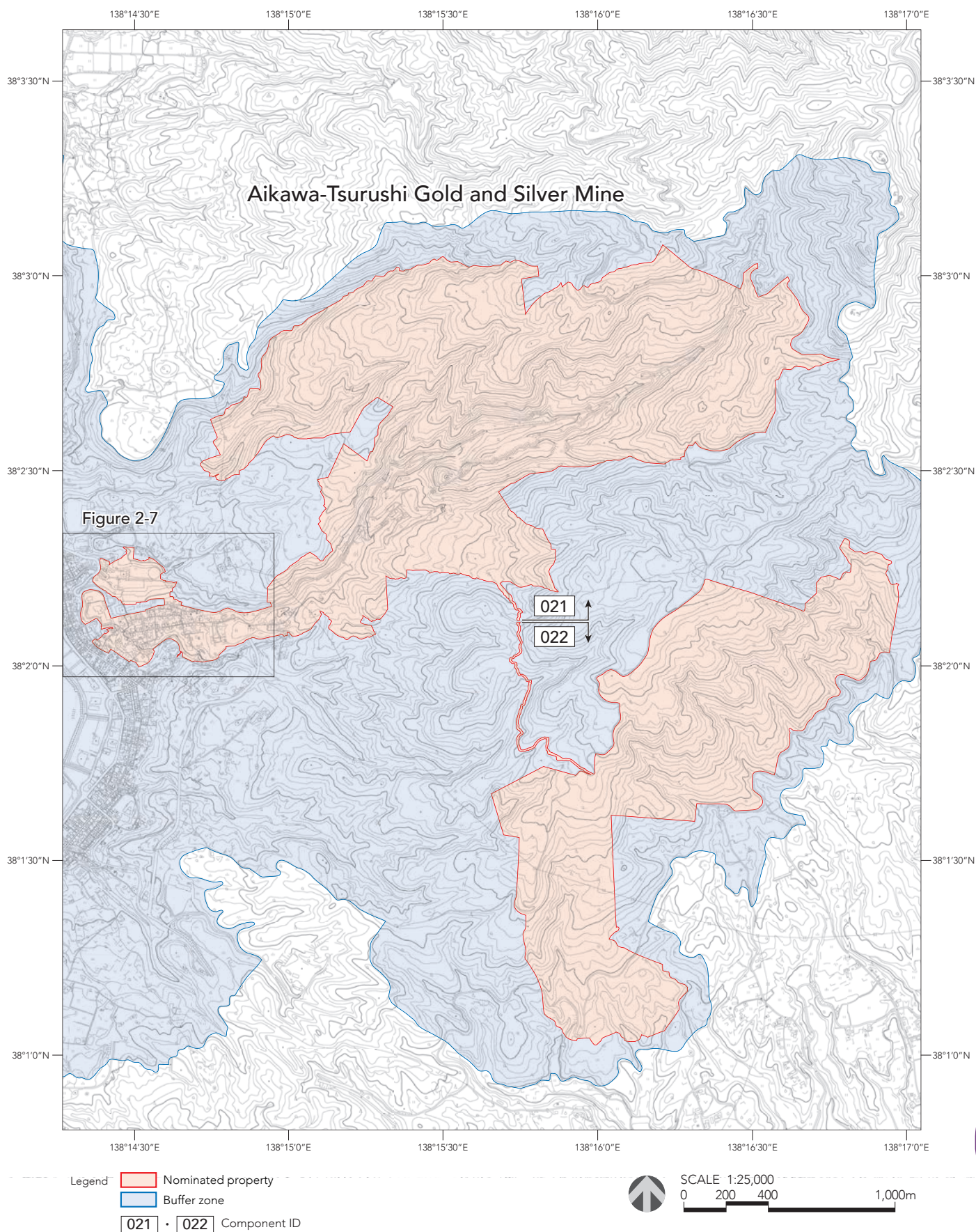


Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine



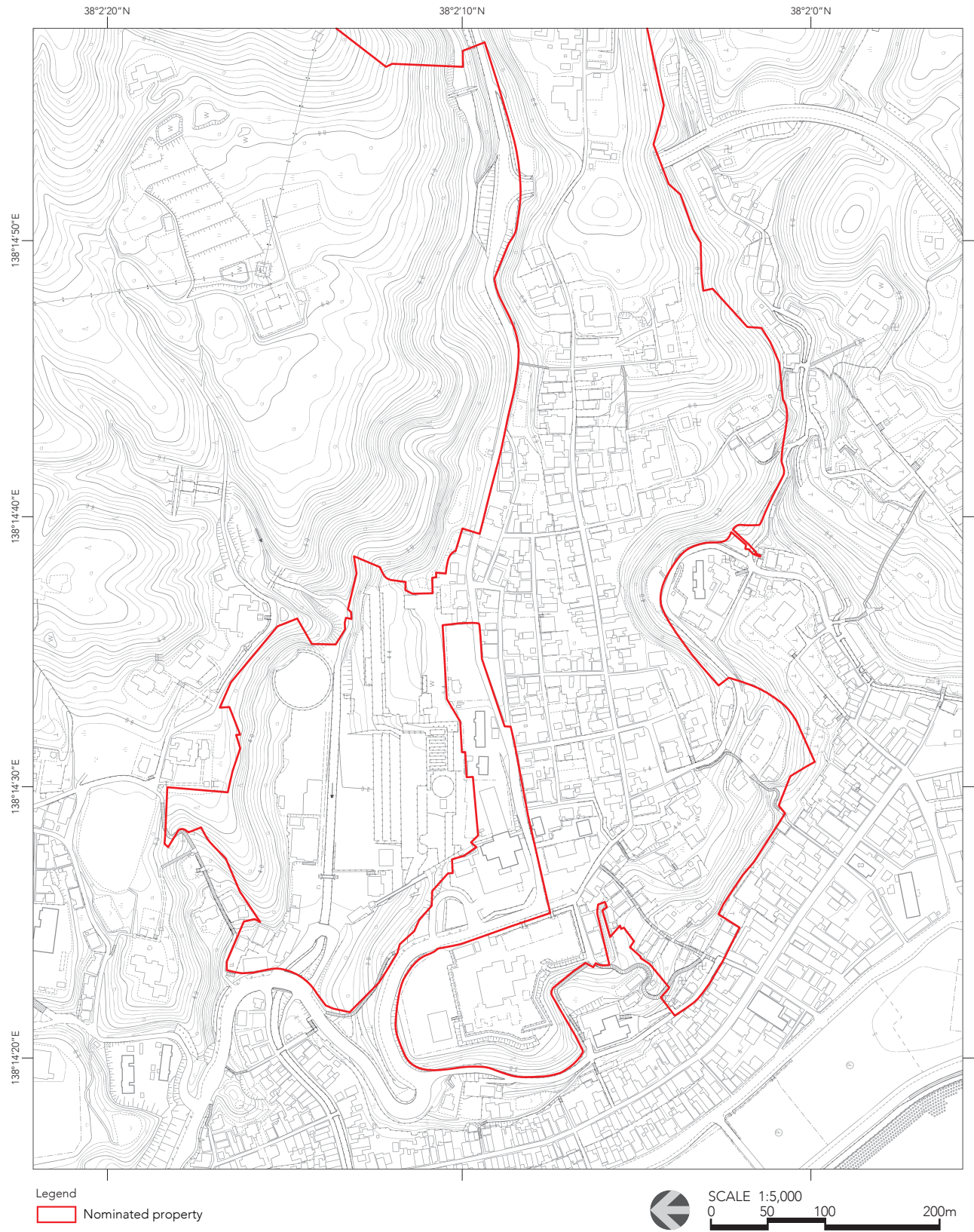
● **Figure 2-5** The boundary of the nominated property and the buffer zone: Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine





● **Figure 2-6** Enlarged map of the boundary of the nominated property: Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine





● **Figure 2-7** Enlarged map of the boudary of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine : Aikawa-Kamimachi Town

## 2.3 Ownership and Inhabitants

### 2.3.1 Stakeholders

The nominated property has a variety of stakeholders, including owners, inhabitants, local communities and administrative bodies such as Sado City, Niigata Prefecture and the national government. Among these, the landowners related to the nominated property, as indicated in 2.3.2, all agree to the legal protection measures that will be taken. Inhabitants take proactive initiatives in conserving the nominated property as indicated in 3.1.3, on p.47. Although the local communities are mainly composed of the inhabitants, the schools and private companies in the vicinity of the nominated property are cooperating to conserve the nominated property. The City and the Prefecture take on a role of the coordinator of these activities (see pp.133-134).

### 2.3.2 Ownership and Inhabitants

The owners and legal status of each component part are as listed below [Table 2-2].

Most of the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine (ID: 001-020, hereinafter, Nishimikawa Area) is privately owned, while most of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (ID: 021, 022, hereinafter, Aikawa-Tsurushi Area) is owned by a private company, Golden Sado Inc. The owners in both Areas have agreed on the conservation of the nominated property and proactively carried out the preservation activities (see p.134). Owners include the national government, the Prefecture, the City, land improvement zones, religious corporations, local residents' association, prefectural public corporations, etc., all of which are cooperating to conserve the nominated property in accordance with the policies indicated in this plan.

The numbers of inhabitants within the nominated property and the buffer zone are as listed below. (as of March, 2022)

The nominated property :	262
The buffer zone :	1,637

● **Table 2-2** Owners and legal status of each component part

ID	Name of the component part	Owner	Type of Designation
001	Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine-main	Niigata Prefecture, Sado City, religious corporation, Mano office for land improvement zone, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
002	Kinzan-e Waterway a	Sado City, Mano office for land improvement zone, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
003	Kinzan-e Waterway b	Niigata Prefecture, Sado City, Mano office for land improvement zone, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
004	Kinzan-e Waterway c	Sado City, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
005	Kinzan-e Waterway d	Sado City, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
006	Kinzan-e Waterway e	Niigata Prefecture, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
007	Kinzan-e Waterway f	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
008	Kinzan-e Waterway g	Sado City, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
009	Kinzan-e Waterway h	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
010	Kinzan-e Waterway i	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
011	Kinzan-e Waterway j	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
012	Kinzan-e Waterway k	Public land of Mano, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
013	Sugihira-yama Waterway	Sado City, private owners	Important Cultural Landscape
014	Chikugo-e Waterway a	Sado City, religious corporation, common land for Shitaguro-yama area, private owners	Important Cultural Landscape
015	Chikugo-e Waterway b	Sado City, private owners	Important Cultural Landscape
016	Utoge-yama Waterway	Niigata Prefecture, Sado City, religious corporation, common land for Shitaguro-yama area, private owners	Important Cultural Landscape
017	Toramaru-yama Waterway a	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
018	Toramaru-yama Waterway b	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
019	Toramaru-yama Waterway c	Private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
020	Toramaru-yama Waterway d	Sado City, private owners	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
021	Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine-Aikawa area	National Government, Niigata Prefecture, Sado City, religious corporation, private owners (corporation, individuals), local residents' association	Historic Site, Important Cultural Landscape
022	Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine-Tsurushi area	National Government, Sado City, prefectural agriculture and forestry public corporation, private owners (corporation, individuals), public land	Historic Site



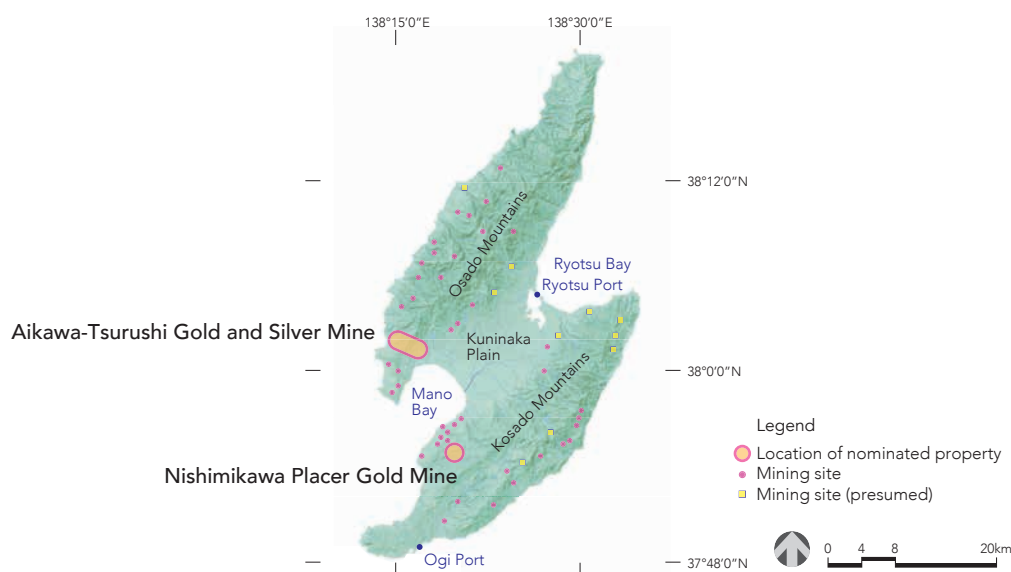
## 2.4 Overview of the Nominated Property

### Geographical location and Geological features

The nominated property is located on Sado Island, approximately 35 kilometres offshore from the northwest coast of Niigata Prefecture. Sado is a remote and isolated island and the sixth largest in Japan. The island has an area of 855.7 square kilometres and a coastline of 280.9 kilometres. It is divided into three distinct topographical areas: two parallel mountain ranges running from the southwest to the northeast of the island, the Osado Mountains in the north and the Kosado Mountains in the south and the Kuninaka Plain between them. The weather is relatively mild in general. The temperatures can rise above 30 degrees Celsius in summer, and winter snowfall is less than that of mainland Niigata, known for heavy snowfall. The mountain system is volcanic and rich deposits are formed. Sado Island once hosted 55 mines (including the presumed), among which 14 are of epithermal gold and silver deposits. Gold appears in the form of electrum, which is natural mineral containing gold and silver, and the electrum in Sado Island contains around 40 percent silver. In the sounding areas of the property, forests are broadly distributed, and the autochthonous climax vegetation is needleleaf-broadleaf mixed forest consisting of *quercus serrata*, Japanese red pine and others. In addition, cedars are widely planted.

The nominated property consists of the most important precious-metal mines (mainly gold mine) and their associated archaeological sites concerning technology and society: the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area located in the Osado Mountains in the north and the Nishimikawa Area in the Kosado Mountains in the south [Figure 2-8].

The Aikawa-Tsurushi Area consists of the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine (hereinafter, Aikawa area) and the Tsurushi Silver Mine (hereinafter, Tsurushi area), which are connected with a mountain path [Figure 2-5, on p. 16].



● **Figure 2-8** Distribution map of the nominated property and other mining sites on Sado Island

## Land Use and Function

The nominated property bears testimony to a large-scale and highly-organised socio-technical system of gold production based on exceptional unmechanised mining, which continued more than 250 years from the late 16th century to the mid-19th century directly under the national control of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

The nominated property is comprised of two areas of different types of deposit: the Nishimikawa Area (placer mining) and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area (hard-rock lode mining). The Aikawa-Tsurushi Area is composed of two sub-areas: Tsurushi area and the Aikawa area [Photo 2-1, on p. 29, Photos 2-2, 2-3, on p. 30].

Each area has both mining zones and settlement zones and they are located in the vicinity of each other. The remains (elements) in the two areas are broadly divided into two functions: a function related to the gold production organisation and society --“social system”-- i.e. management,

● **Table 2-3** Land use and function of the areas and main elements

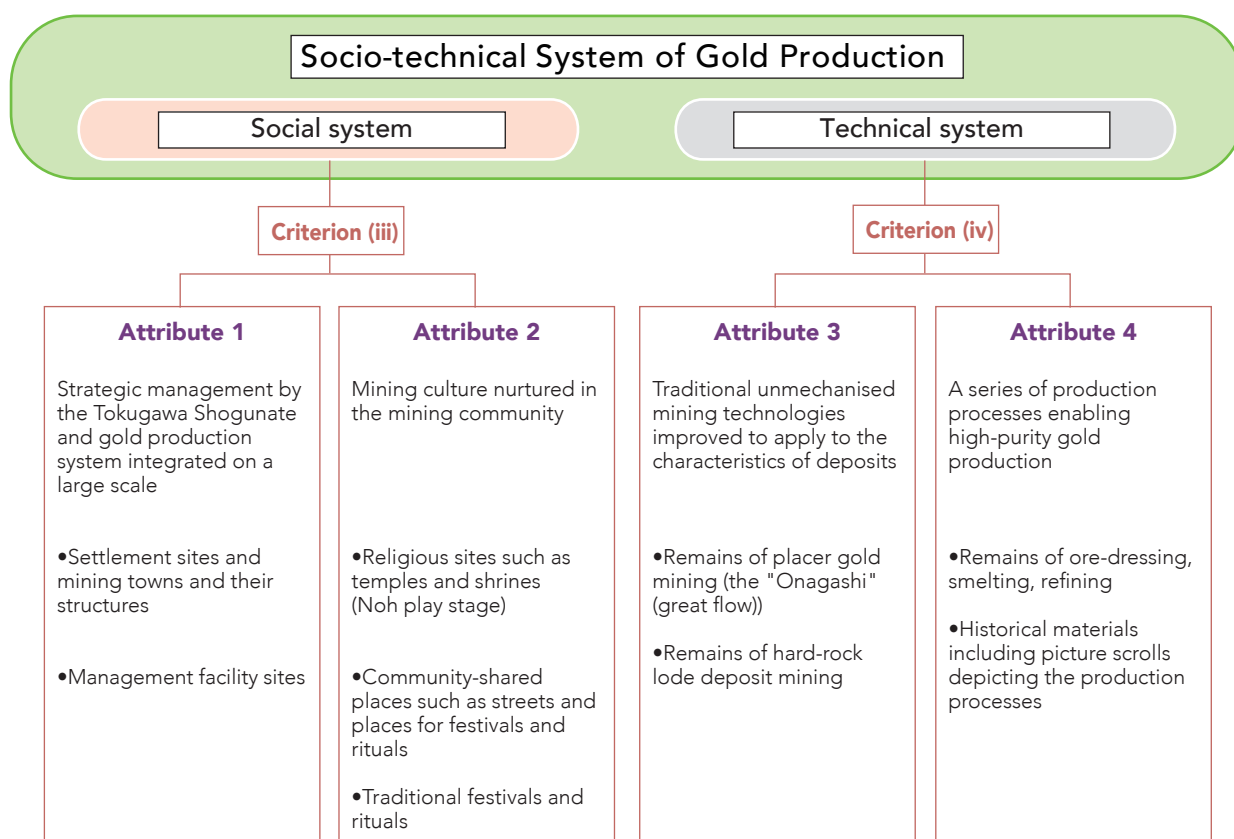
Area		Zone	Function related to social system		Function related to technical system	Main elements (ID)	Attributes
Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine (001-020) (Nishimikawa Area)		Mining Zone			Mining	Goshaya-yama Site (001)	Attribute 3
						Toramaru-yama Site (001)	
						Tatenokoshi-yama Site (001)	
						Kinzan-e Waterway (001-012)	
						Sugihira-yama Waterway (001, 013)	
						Chikugo-e Waterway (001, 014, 015)	
						Utoke-yama Waterway (001, 016)	
						Toramaru-yama Waterway (001, 017-020)	
		Settlement Zone	Management			Kaneko Kanzaburo House (001)	Attribute 1
						Mine Official's Residence Site (001)	
						Residential District: Kinzan (001)	
			Dwelling	Residential District: Sasagawa (001)			
Culture nurtured by mine workers		Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine Noh play stage (001)		Attribute 2			
Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (Aikawa-Tsurushi Area)	Tsurushi Silver Mine (022) (Tsurushi area)	Mining Zones (Scattered)			Mining	Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone (022)	Attribute 3
						Byobusawa and Shidekisawa Mining Zone (022)	
		Settlement Zone	Management		Ore-dressing, smelting	Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site (022)	Attribute 1
			Dwelling		Ore-dressing, smelting	Tsurushi-Aramachi District (022)	Attribute 1, 4
			Historical Pass			Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass (021, 022)	Attribute 1
	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine (021) (Aikawa area)	Mining Zone			Mining	Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site (021)	Attribute 3
						Tete-no-warito Opencut Site (021)	
				Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site (021)			
				Ogiri-yama-mabu Tunnel Site (021)			
				Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site (021)			
		Settlement Zone	Management		Ore-dressing, smelting, refining	Sado Magistrate's Office Site (021)	Attribute 4, 1
Dwelling	Culture nurtured by mine workers		Ore-dressing, smelting, refining	Kami-Aikawa District (021)	Attribute 4, 1, 2		
				Aikawa-Kamimachi Town (021)	Attribute 1		
Culture nurtured by mine workers				Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine Site (021) Kami-Teramachi District (021)	Attribute 2		

administration, dwellings and culture nurtured by mine workers, and a function related to the gold production technology --"technical system"-- i.e. mining, ore-dressing, smelting, refining and "koban" gold coin minting [Table 2-3].

The remains in both functional categories are well preserved and they illustrate collectively the whole picture of the "socio-technical system" of gold production.

## Socio-Technical System of Gold Production

The "socio-technical system" of gold production of the nominated property is composed of the "social system" and the "technical system". Four distinctive attributes of the system are identified as the basis of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value as shown in Figure 2-9. The explanatory diagrams of the physical structure of the nominated property, divided into deposit types, the "technical system" and the "social system", are shown in Figure 2-10 (see p.27).



● **Figure 2-9** Structure of value on socio-technical system of gold production

### **Attribute 1 Strategic management by the Tokugawa Shogunate and gold production system integrated on a large scale**

Under the direct control of the Tokugawa Shogunate, human resources needed for gold production were gathered from all over Japan. According to the output of gold, the Tokugawa Shogunate made necessary investments, conducted measures to improve working conditions, integrated production facilities and reallocated settlements for sustaining production systems from the long-term and strategic perspective.

In two mines of the nominated property, production organisations suited to production technologies in each mine were formed under the direct control of the Tokugawa Shogunate. For rational and efficient management, production organisations for the two types of deposits, placer gold and lode deposits, were integrated into a large-scale production system under the Sado Magistrate's governance.

In the nominated property, settlements were formed adjacent to the mines. Their structures reflect features and the transition of production organisation in each mine.

In the Nishimikawa Area, mining by the "Onagashi" (great flow) method was continuously operated and settlements were formed on terraces which were created through mining and ore-dressing operations. Officials were dispatched to the mine administration office, a branch office of the Sado Magistrate's Office. Villagers (mine workers) were assembled and managed by the head of the village for some production groups. This production organisation of these groups was maintained throughout the Edo Period (1603-1868).

In the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area, successive settlement sites show the evidence of transition from the small-scale division of labour to large-scale specialised production organisation. The Sado Magistrate's Office, a management headquarters office was established in the Aikawa area and a range of production facilities from ore-dressing to smelting were included in the residential districts. It is a distinctive characteristic that the area was formed maintaining a traditional structure of settlements in Sado with the integration of both mining and living areas.

Attribute 1 is demonstrated by the settlement sites such as the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town in the Aikawa area and the management facility sites such as the Mine Official's Residence Site in the Nishimikawa Area.

### **Attribute 2 Mining culture nurtured in the mining community**

People who gathered on Sado Island from all parts of Japan brought various cultures and traditions such as faiths, performing arts and festivals and eventually cultivated them into a unique mining culture. Religious sites such as temples and shrines (including Noh play stages) had reflected these cultural and traditional features. Also, these sites functioned as community-shared places. Festivals and rituals which have been held since the period of mining operation can be seen in the streets and precincts.

With protection and encouragement by the Tokugawa Shogunate, it supported people spiritually, and vitalised them by playing an important role in sustaining long-term production organisation through strengthening human bonds in their organisation.

Attribute 2 is illustrated by the religious sites such as Noh play stage in the Nishimikawa Area and the community-shared place such as the precinct of the Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine in the Kami-Aikawa District.

### **Attribute 3 Traditional unmechanised mining technologies improved to apply to characteristics of deposits**

In the two mines of the Sado Island Gold Mines, traditional unmechanised mining technologies were introduced and optimised through human power alone, according to the characteristics of each deposit.

In the Nishimikawa Area with sedimentary placer gold deposits, the “Onagashi” (great flow) method was used to deal with the characteristics of the deposits in mountain strata in order to obtain gold more efficiently. This was a specific method for placer gold mining: scraping soil including placer gold off the strata of the mountainside, amassing it in artificial waterways and then conducting gravity separation using bursts of water released from reservoirs where water was drawn from distant places. It was continued for more than 250 years by relocating as required to expand the area of exploitation.

In the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area with lode deposits, tunnels were excavated deep into the ground to obtain gold and silver from veins formed in the extremely hard bedrock on the surface extending as deep as hundreds of metres underground. Issues caused from deep excavation such as drainage and ventilation were dealt with using complex technologies of surveying and excavation.

Various remains on the surface and underground demonstrate the traditional unmechanized mining technologies; these can be seen in waterways, reservoirs, mining sites, stone structures, surface mining sites, chase mining sites, tunnel mining sites, opencut sites and a drainage tunnel site.

Attribute 3 is represented by the remains of placer gold mining such as the waterways in the Nishimikawa Area and the remains of hard-rock lode deposit mining such as Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone in the Tsurushi area.

### **Attribute 4 A series of production processes enabling high-purity gold production**

In the Sado Island Gold Mines, the whole series of processes from mining, ore-dressing, smelting and refining to “koban” coin minting was conducted. For placer gold deposits, a series of placer gold mining processes by the “Onagashi” (great flow) method was carried out cooperatively by the people in the Nishimikawa Area. Its continuity over successive generations made it possible to maintain a high level of skills in production processes and operation.

Meanwhile, for lode deposits which required a series of processes of exploration, exploitation, ore-dressing and smelting, a division of labour was established and the specialisation and skills of workers in each process were enhanced. Though each step of technology was simple using easily-available materials, the same processes were repeated many times to evolve gradually and eventually improve the quality.

A large amount of historical materials including picture scrolls depicting the production processes in detail have been archived.

Attribute 4 is indicated by the remains of the gold production process such as the relics of plants in the Sado Magistrate’s Office Site in the Aikawa area, and the historical materials such as “Sado no kuni kanahori no maki” (Picture of gold production in Sado, see Appendix 2-2) which prove the concrete process and techniques in terms of the gold production on Sado Island.

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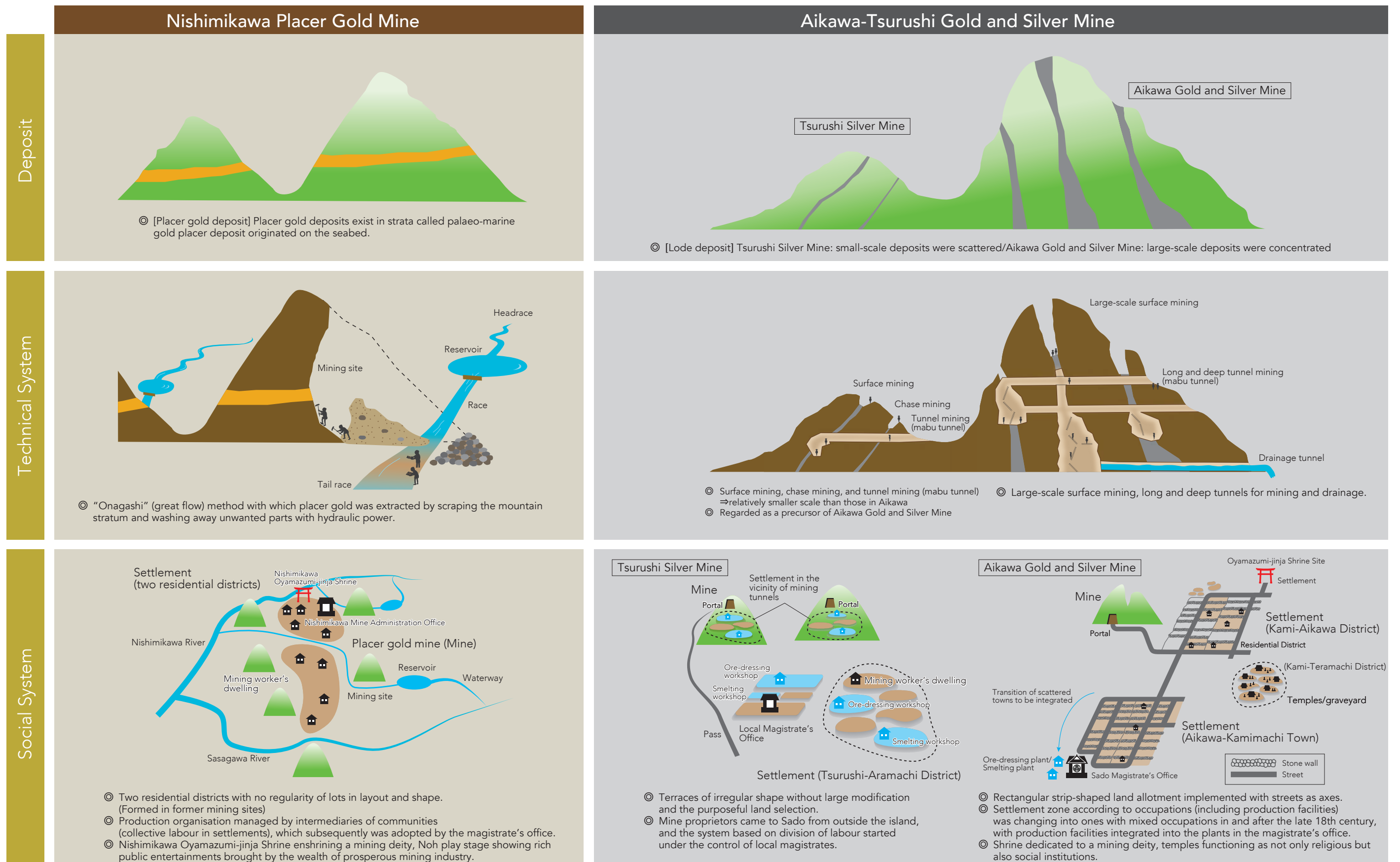


Figure 2-10 The Sado Island Gold Mines —Overview— (conceptual diagram)





● **Photo 2-1** Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine: panoramic view (from the west)  
Red line: the boundary of the property





● **Photo 2-2** Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (from the Tsurushi Silver Mine side)  
Red line: boundary of the property



● **Photo 2-3** Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (from the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine side)  
Red line: boundary of the property

● **Table 2-4** Correspondence table of the structure of the Comprehensive Management Plan (Ch.3 to Ch.6)

Aspects	Chapter 3			Chapter 4			Chapter 5	Chapter 6
	Issue No.	Issue	Applicable chapter/section/item	Issue No.	Issue	Applicable chapter/section/item	Action Plan	Monitoring
1 Preservation and management of the component parts	1-1	Proper Preservation and Management of the property	3.1.1 Protection Status of the Nominated Property	a	Protection of the Property under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties	4.1.1 Protection of the Property under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties 4.1.1.1 Designation (Selection) of the Component Parts 4.1.1.2 Maintenance and Management by the Property Owners and Custodial Bodies	Table 5-1: Issue 1-1	Table 6-1: No. 1-4
				b	Preservation and Management of Each Component Part	4.1.2 Preservation and Management of Each Component Part / Element	Table 5-1: Issue 1-1	
	1-2	Promotion of Scientific Research	3.1.2 Promotion of Scientific Research	a	Promotion of Continuous Survey and Research	4.1.3 Promotion of Survey and Research 4.1.3.1 Promotion of Survey and Research on the Nominated Property 4.1.3.2 Survey and Research on Related Cultural Properties 4.1.3.3 System of Survey and Investigation	Table 5-1: Issue 1-2	Table 6-3: No. 23
	1-3	Participation	3.1.3 Participation					
2 The integral Preservation of the Nominated Property Including Its Surrounding Environment (the Buffer Zones)	2-1	Conservation of the Surrounding Environment of the Property	3.2 Conservation of the Surrounding Environment of the Nominated Property	a	Conservation under Laws and Regulations	4.2.1 Establishment of the Boundaries of the Buffer Zones 4.2.2 Conservation under Laws and Regulations	Table 5-2: Issue 2-1	Table 6-1: No. 1-4, Table 6-2: No. 5-11
	2-2	Landscaping in the Environment of the Nominated Property		b	Landscaping in the Nominated Property and the Environment	4.2.3 Landscaping in the Nominated Property and the Environment 4.2.3.1 Basic Policy for the Implementation of Enhancement Projects 4.2.3.2 Approaches to Landscaping for Each Component Part 4.2.3.3 Enhancement Implementation Processes	Table 5-2: Issue 2-2	
3 Factors Presumably Affecting the Component Part	3-1	Development Pressures and Management Response	3.3.1 Development Pressures and Management Response 3.3.1.1 Provision of Urban Infrastructure (e.g. Roads, Coastal Works) 3.3.1.2 Mining Activity (Mining Activity Associated with Mining Rights) 3.3.1.3 Agricultural Activity (Alteration and Expansion of Agricultural Land) 3.3.1.4 Forestry Activity (Felling in Forests) 3.3.1.5 Wind Power Generation	a	Addressing Factors Affecting the Nominated Property	4.3.1 Appropriate Operation of Regulations under Laws and Systems	Table 5-3: Issue 3-1	Table 6-2: No.5-11
				b	Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment	4.3.2 Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment		
	3-2	Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness	3.3.2 Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness 3.3.2.1 Environmental Pressures 3.3.2.1.1 Air Pollution 3.3.2.1.2 Vegetation Overgrowth 3.3.2.2 Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness 3.3.2.2.1 Gale Force Wind Disasters 3.3.2.2.2 Sediment Disasters (Landslides, Rockfalls) 3.3.2.2.3 Fire Hazards 3.3.2.2.4 Snow (Freezing Damage) 3.3.2.2.5 Earthquakes and Tsunamis	a	Environmental Countermeasure for Preservation of the Component Parts	4.3.3 Environmental Countermeasure for Preservation of the Component Parts	Table 5-3: Issue 3-2	Table 6-2: No.12-14,20
				b	Prevention of Disasters and Development of Crisis Management System	4.3.4 Prevention of Disasters and Development of Crisis Management System		Table 6-2: No.15-19
	3-3	Visitation, Other Human Activities and Sustainable Use	3.3.3 Visitation, Other Human Activities and Sustainable Use 3.3.3.1 Management, Renovation, Repair, Maintenance of the Buildings 3.3.3.2.1 Increase of Visitors 3.3.3.2.2 Publicising Sightseeing Manner (Harmonisation with the Lives of Local Residents) 3.3.3.2.3 Safety Measures	a	Establishing Systems for Receiving Visitors in a Systematic Manner	4.3.5 Establishing Systems for Receiving Visitors in a Systematic Manner 4.3.5.1 Establishing Systems for Receiving Visitors in a Systematic Manner 4.3.5.2 Publicising Sightseeing Manner (Harmonisation with the Lives of Local Residents) 4.3.5.3 Safety Measures	Table 5-3: Issue 3-3	Table 6-2: No.21,22

Aspects		Chapter 3			Chapter 4			Chapter 5	Chapter 6
		issue No.	Issue	Applicable chapter/section/item	issue No.	Issue	Applicable chapter/section/item	Action Plan	Monitoring
4	Promotion of Presentation and Utilisation	4-1	Promotion of Understanding of the Proposed Outstanding Universal Value	3.4.1 Present State and Issues of Public Access and Utilisation 3.4.1.1 Promotion of the Understanding of the Proposed Outstanding Universal Value 3.4.1.2 Cooperation with Other Relating Systems: GIAHS, Geopark, and Other Cultural Properties	a	Promotion of Information Dissemination of Understanding of the Outstanding Universal Values	4.4.1 Basic Policy of Presentation and Utilisation 4.4.1.1 Promotion of the Understanding of the Proposed Outstanding Universal Value	Table 5-4: Issue 4-1	Table 6-3: No. 23, 24, 28
					b	The Integral Preservation and Utilisation Including the Nominated Property and Related Cultural Properties	4.4.1 Basic Policy of Presentation and Utilisation 4.4.1.2 Cooperation with Other Relating Systems: GIAHS, Geopark, and Other Cultural Properties.		
					c	Information Dissemination	4.4.1.3 Information Dissemination		
		4-2	Convenience Provision to Visitors	3.4.2 The Present State and Issues of Convenience Provision to Visitors 3.4.2.1 Standard Method of Access to Properties 3.4.2.2 Museums, Visitor Centre and Satellite Guidance Centres 3.4.2.3 Installation of Visitor Facilities and Signs	a	Enhancing the Access Route to the Nominated Property	4.4.2 Offering Convenience to the Visitors 4.4.2.1 Enhancing the Access Route to the Nominated Property	Table 5-4: Issue 4-2	Table 6-3: No. 25-28
					b	Enhancement of Guidance Function	4.4.2 Offering Convenience to the Visitors 4.4.2.2 Enhancement of Guidance Function		
					c	Establishment of Touring Routes and Maintenance for Utilisation	4.4.2 Offering Convenience to the Visitors 4.4.2.3 Establishment of Touring Routes and Maintenance for Utilisation		
					d	Establishment of a Guide System	4.4.2 Offering Convenience to the Visitors 4.4.2.4 Establishment of a Guide System		
5	Sustainability and Development of Region	5-1	Understanding and Sharing the Value of the Property	3.5.1 Understanding and Sharing the Value of the Property in the Property Area	a	Promoting the Understanding of Local Residents	4.5.1 Promoting the Understanding of Local Residents	Table 5-5: Issue 5-1 ~5-3	Table 6-3: No. 23, 24, 28-30
		5-2	Enhancement of Preservation and Utilisation	3.5.2 Enhancement of Preservation and Utilisation	a	Enhancement of Initiatives and Activities for Preservation and Utilisation	4.5.2 Enhancement of Preservation and Utilisation		
		5-3	Maintenance and Revitalisation of Local Community	3.5.3 Maintenance and Revitalisation of Local Community	a	Conservation and Utilisation of the Nominated Property and the Cultivation of Local Appeal	4.5.3 Conservation and Utilisation of the Nominated Property and the Cultivation of Local Appeal		
6	Development and Implementation of the Plan	Chapter5							
7	Monitoring	Chapter6							
8	Preservation and Management System	Chapter7							

\* Regarding Ch.5 "Action Plan", relations with other chapters are summarised, and regarding Ch. 6, No. of indicators of Table 6-1~3 are shown.

## Chapter 3 Current Condition and Issues of the Nominated Property and Surrounding Area

This chapter highlights the conditions that may negatively affect the preservation of the nominated property, and organises the issues to preserve the nominated property appropriately.

Section 3.1 discusses the current condition and issues on preservation of the nominated property. Section 3.2 discusses the current condition and issues on conserving and developing the surrounding environment of the property appropriately for value of the property. Section 3.3 discusses the factors that may negatively affect the property, and summarises countermeasures for the negative impacts of development, the environment, natural disasters, the disclosing of the property, and the increase of visitors. Section 3.4 discusses the existing state and the issues of the property from the perspective of its enhancement and utilisation and accepting visitors. Section 3.5 discusses the contribution to the local sustainability and the development, and its issues.

### 3.1 Preservation and Management of the Nominated Property

#### 3.1.1 Protection Status of the Nominated Property

The nominated property is one of the vastest heritage sites and comprises the remains showing the socio-technical system of mining such as traces of the gold production technology and mining settlements. The component parts and the elements are shown in Table 3-1. The whole areas of the component parts are designated as Historic Sites or selected as Important Cultural Landscape under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and all possible protection measures are ensured.

It is important for the protection of the component parts that basic guidelines are systematically established for their medium- to long-term preservation and management and for that reason, Sado City has formulated preservation and management plans to lay out specific measures on preservation and management to be taken for each designated and selected cultural property. The plans clearly set out categories and conditions for day-to-day methods of management and permission and non-permission in relation to various anticipated activities that may alter land and structures subject to protection and also basic plan for utilisation of those cultural properties. Appropriate preservation and management of each component part of the nominated property are already being undertaken in accordance with the preservation and utilisation plans. To further supplement preservation and utilisation plans, enhancement plans have been established for the nominated property to clearly set out methods of public access and utilisation, including methods of restoration and repair in case of damage to or decline in the value of the property. The enhancement plans are currently the basis for enhancement work being done to preserve and utilise the component parts and environmental enhancement work being done to receive visitors.

In the areas of the component part and the surrounding area of the Aikawa area, there exist the objects such as structures and remains which are not contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and thus not included in the nominated property. They are the structure of mining facility constructed after the mechanisation in the modern times, modern port facilities for material supply, power generation facility for power supply and so on, as listed in Table 3-8. These objects are designated as cultural properties by the state and also are included as the subject of above-mentioned preservation and utilisation plan.

● **Table 3-1** List of the nominated property and main elements that will be preserved

Area		Classifications of remains	Major features	Main elements	Attribute(s) concerned
Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine		Remains related to placer gold mining	Remains related to placer gold mining: waterways, reservoirs, mining sites, stone structures	Goshaya-yama Site Toramaru-yama Site Tatenokoshi-yama Site Waterways Kinzan-e Waterway Sugihira-yama Waterway Chikugo-e Waterway Utoge-yama Waterway Toramaru-yama Waterway	Attribute 3
		Mining settlements	Above- and under-ground archaeological remains and its landscape in the settlements of placer gold mine: buildings in the settlement, structures such as stone walls, landscape	Kaneko Kanzaburo House Mine Official's Residence Site Residential District: Kinzan Residential District: Sasagawa Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine, Noh play stage	Attribute 1  Attribute 2
Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine	Tsurushi Silver Mine	Remains related to silver mining	Remains related to silver mining: Surface mining sites, chase mining sites, tunnel mining sites	Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone Byobusawa/Shidekisawa Mining Zone Otaki Mining Zone	Attribute 3
		Remains related to management and administration	Above- and under-ground remains related to the management of silver mine	Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site	Attribute 1
		Remains of mining settlements	Above- and under-ground remains of mining settlement related to silver production	Tsurushi-Aramachi District	Attribute 1, 4
		Routes for traffic and transportation between mines	Above- and under-ground remains related to the pass	Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass	Attribute 1
	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Remains related to gold and silver mining	Above- and under-ground remains related to mining	Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site Tete-no-warito Opencut Site Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site Ogiryama-mabu Tunnel Site Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site	Attribute 3
		Remains related to management and administration	Above- and under-ground remains related to ore-dressing, smelting and refining, and flat display of archaeological remains Above- and under-ground remains of administration facility, reconstructed building (Three-dimensional model)	Sado Magistrate's Office Site	Attribute 4, 1
		Remains related to mining settlements	Above- and under-ground remains related to ore-dressing, smelting and refining Above- and under-ground remains and landscape related to lives, residences, and faiths of people who supported the production	Kami-Aikawa District	Attribute 4, 1, 2
		Mining towns	Townscape derived from mining town, above-ground remains and landscape of stoneworks and stonewalls and zoning with them	Aikawa-Kamimachi Town	Attribute 1
		Remains related to mining settlements/ temples	Above- and under-ground remains and landscape related to the faiths of people who supported the production	Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine Site Kami-Teramachi District	Attribute 2



## Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

The Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine (hereinafter, Nishimikawa Area) comprises the waterways, reservoir and mining sites that are features of the “Onagashi” (great flow) placer gold mining technology which nowhere has demonstrated any more, the topography inherited from the time when the mine was operated, and the residential districts of Kinzan and Sasagawa that had realised the technology.

### Mining Zone

In the Goshaya-yama Site, the Toramaru-yama Site, and the Tatenokoshi-yama Site, remains that are exposed above ground are half-buried waterways and reservoirs, stone walls, piled-up stone structures as well as the steep mountain slopes of the mining sites. In these remains, there has been loss of some parts of waterways and some places in which stone masonry waterways have been disrupted due to natural collapse, rice paddy cultivation and road development since the mine closed, but the outcomes of excavation surveys have confirmed that their preservation status is generally good. As the majority of the area over which the remains are distributed is covered in forest and as most is privately-owned, Sado City has obtained the cooperation of the land owners and “the Sasagawa Landscape Protection Volunteers,” which is composed of local residents, to clear undergrowth from the scope that is open to the public and to carry out maintenance and management so the remains are not buried. At the same time, even if not within the scope for being opened to the public, where there are trees about which there is concern for their effect on remains, the City is taking measures, such as tree felling, with the advice and guidance of experts. Among the mining sites and waterways there are some that are located on steep slopes and in some places there are rockfalls and small-scale collapses. Places of this type are subject to follow-up monitoring after necessary emergency measures have been taken.

### Settlement Zone

Settlement Zone comprises two residential districts, the Residential District: Kinzan and the Residential District: Sasagawa. The mining settlement has been maintained without significant change to the scale of settlement or the number of households since the mine closed. It is surrounded by placer gold mining sites and in addition to traditional wooden houses in the settlement there are many elements scattered throughout that carry the hallmarks of a mining landscape, including stone walls built from waste rocks from placer gold mining and piled-up stone structures as the foundations of former work huts. From excavation surveys in 2017, the settlement itself was also found to have been built on a former placer gold mining site.

In the Residential District: Kinzan, in addition to houses, there are the Kaneko Kanzaburo House, the Mine Official’s Residence Site and the Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine and Noh play stage, which illustrate faith traditions and how the mine was administered and managed.

Sado City and “the Sasagawa Landscape Protection Volunteers” jointly manage the settlement environments, including mowing and cleaning. Houses in the settlement are all private residences, and neither the grounds nor the interior of buildings are open to the public. In consideration of the fact that the settlement is where residents actually live, the City established a system and developed rules for guiding visitors, including restricting entry of vehicles through the introduction of park-and-ride services and widely publicising visitor manner associated with entry to private lots and agricultural land. At the same time the City installed the interpretive and guidance signboards.

When maintaining and renewing the townscape of the structures inside the settlement, repairs and landscaping are in accordance with colour and height standards as well as the layout determined in conservation plans, to ensure houses are newly built, extended or renovated, or new manufactured articles are installed in ways that do not cause disharmony with the existing landscape. From 2013 to 2022, supports were provided on 17 repair projects, including repairs to privately-owned houses, roofs of huts and external walls, and repairs to the roof of the community centre.

The Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine in the north of the settlement, the first shrine built on Sado Island in association with mine development, currently has renewed shrine building and the Noh play stage, both of which were refurbished in modern times. Day-to-day maintenance and management are carried out by residents in the Sasagawa District. In recent years rain leaking due to damages to roof tiles of the Noh play stage was apparent, but after Sado City consulted the owner, emergency measures were implemented to prevent leaks. However, there is ongoing long-term deterioration of the overall building and the City is going to survey and investigate repair methods and seismic strengthening with a view to future repairs.

The Mine Official's Residence Site is now privately-owned fallow land, but stone walls that are exposed above ground and flat land have been maintained and no major changes have been made to the shape of the grounds. Excavation surveys will be undertaken to accurately identify distribution of underground remains and there are plans to undertake the protection measures as appropriate to the state of conservation as well as enhancement to enable its utilisation based on the archaeological evidence.

The buildings that incorporate the main building of the Kaneko Kanzaburo House, of which family used to be a guiding light to mine workers, were suffering obvious damage to the roof and structural materials. In 2015 emergency measures were taken, including sheathing the roof of the main house and installing temporary supporting columns. Sado City took public ownership in 2016, beginning in 2017 to investigate by partial dismantling [Photo 3-1] and to design for full scale preservation and repair. The City has progressed repairs and seismic strengthening since 2020. After the repair has finished, the City has plans to enhance and utilise the building, including opening the interior to the public. When the building is repaired, excavation surveys of the surrounding land of the building were conducted and underground remains have been identified to be preserved in a stable condition.



● **Photo 3-1** Partial demolition and investigation of the Kaneko Kanzaburo House



● **Table 3-2** Summary in protection of the component parts (Nishimikawa Area)

	Explanation
Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprised of remains above- and under- ground that show the placer gold mining technology used continuously from the second half of the 16th century to the middle of the 19th century—including waterways, reservoirs, mining remains, piled-up stone structures.</li> <li>After the closure of the placer gold mine in 1872, the descendants of the workers changed their livelihood to agriculture, maintaining a community on the lands of the residential districts of Kinzan and Sasagawa. The settlement includes houses and agricultural lands that maintain original layout and allotment after the mine was closed, as well as properties related to the daily lives, management, and faiths of the placer gold mine workers, such as the mine office active during the placer gold mine's operation; the Kaneko Kanzaburo House, the wooden structure from which the village head managed the workers; and the Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine, transferred there in 1593 to enshrine for the prosperity and safety of the placer gold mine and the Noh play stage.</li> </ul>
Proposed boundary of the component parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the archaeological survey (distribution survey), the proposed areas include placer gold mining remains. In addition, the proposed area also include houses in the mining settlement and agricultural lands that supported the placer gold mining.</li> </ul>
Legal protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remains related to placer gold mining and the management and faiths are designated as National Historic Site.</li> <li>Settlement Zone, including placer gold mining sites, which is related to placer gold mine workers, is selected as a National Important Cultural Landscape.</li> </ul>

● **Table 3-3** Preservation and management issues (Nishimikawa Area)

Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value			Function	Preservation and management issues	
Category	Elements of the component parts	Main objects		Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management issues
Historic Site/ Important Cultural Landscape	Placer gold mining zone Goshaya-yama Site Toramaru-yama Site Tatenokoshi-yama Site Waterways	Remains of placer gold mining Waterways Reservoirs Mining sites Stone structures	Technical system of gold production • Mining, dressing	Maintenance and management	There are concerns of forests and dense undergrowth having an impact on structures both above- and under-ground. In addition, there are concerns of dense growth of vegetation interfering with the visual understanding of the structures.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Upon first glance of the structures on site, it is difficult for visitors to get an image of the "Onagashi" (great flow) method and understand it.
				Disaster prevention	Some mining locations and waterways are on steep slopes, where rockfalls and small-scale collapses sometimes occur.
Important Cultural Landscape	Residential District: Kinzan Residential District: Sasagawa	Above- and under-ground remains and landscape Buildings in the settlement Structures including stone walls Landscape	Social system of gold production • Dwelling • Management	Maintenance and management	When repairing and refurbishing buildings and structures in the residential districts, such as houses, landscape of the settlement should be maintained or enhanced.
				Enhancement and utilisation	As the settlement zone is where the residents carry out their daily lives, it is necessary to maintain a balance between the presentation, the utilisation, and the everyday lives of the local residents.
				Disaster prevention	A secure initial firefighting system utilising existing fire protection facilities has not been established.
Historic Site	Mine Official's Residence Site	Above- and under-ground remains of management facility	Social system of gold production • Management	Maintenance and management	Has not undergone extensive alteration, with the exception of portions of the grounds used as agricultural land. Therefore, a stone wall exposed aboveground that marks the ground's boundary remains in good condition. However, surveys have not been conducted and appropriate protection measures have not been taken.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Visitors have difficulty in understanding the true essence of the remains as only stone walls remain above the ground.
Historic Site/ Important Cultural Landscape	Kaneko Kanzaburo House	Historical structures and underground remains of those in the settlement	Social system of gold production • Management	Maintenance and management	It comprises buildings such as the main house, storehouse, and shed constructed from the late Edo Period to the Meiji Period. A building survey revealed significant damage to the thatched roof and construction material.
				Enhancement and utilisation	It is difficult for visitors to understand the nature of the remains related to management and operation of the placer gold mines, and daily life in the mining settlements. Enhancement began in 2020.
				Disaster prevention	Disaster prevention measures against fire hazards and earthquakes were not taken. Enhancement began in 2020.
	Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine and Noh play stage	Historical structures and the underground remains	Social system of gold production • Mining culture	Maintenance and management	The advancement of deterioration of the roof and construction material has been noted.
				Enhancement and utilisation	It is difficult for visitors to understand the function and nature of the remains.
				Disaster prevention	Disaster prevention measures against fire hazards and earthquakes have not been taken.

## Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

### Tsurushi Silver Mine

The Tsurushi Silver Mine (hereinafter, Tsurushi area) is an early mine in which lode deposits were exploited, and comprises the historical sites of the first organised mining settlement on the island and historical mining sites distributed according to the many small-scale ore veins scattered across the area.

#### Mining Zone

The majority of the historical silver mining sites in the Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone, the Byobusawa and Shidekisawa Mining Zone and the Otaki Mining Zone are on public land, but the strip from the vicinity of the ridge on the northern side of the Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone to the west is plantation land for timber production and the owners of the land and the rightful claimants to the standing timber are different. Sado City has consulted with the owners and the claimants and reached agreement on treatment of timber felling and associated activities so as not to affect the landscape of remains and surrounding forest. At the same time, in places where there are concerns that the growth of tree roots and undergrowth may affect remains, the City is sharing the responsibility of management with owners and stakeholder organisations. At this point in time, there are no locations where effects have extended to remains in the Hyakumaidaira, the Byobusawa and Shidekisawa or the Otaki Mining Zones, nor any locations where large-scale restoration is needed, but places that suffered damage in the past or where there is a high possibility of damage occurring are particularly subject to close follow-up monitoring.

The City has also collaborated with residents to remove fallen trees from the Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass, slash trees and bamboo, and install signposts. The City will continue with excavation surveys and will install multilingual direction signboards and interpretive signboards based on the status of underground remains and archaeological evidence and has plans to put in a walking trail using the Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass.

#### Settlement Zone

The Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site comprises remains associated with the management and administration facility of the silver mine and it is currently covered with mountain forests owned by the City and privately. Aboveground remains on the site of the Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office include a group of square, levelled terraces, earthworks, a former moat and earthen bridges, all of which remain in good condition. Area maps and interpretive signboards have been installed and the City collaborates with local residents to slash trees and bamboo and remove fallen trees to maintain the aboveground remains in readily understandable condition for visitors. Excavation surveys completed between 2010 and 2012 revealed well-preserved underground remains associated with ore dressing and smelting in the site and the buildings central to the management. There are plans for ongoing excavation surveys as necessary.

The Tsurushi-Aramachi District comprises remains of settlements for silver mining. A group of irregularly shaped terraces, created without significant modification of the original sloping topography, remain in their original state. Excavation surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013 confirmed that underground remains such as building sites and smelting remains are in good condition.

Sado City is installing area maps and interpretive signboards, regularly slashing trees and bamboo,

● **Table 3-4** Summary in protection of the component parts (Tsurushi area)

	Explanation
Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value	Comprised of remains related to ore-mining, which reached the peak from the second half of the 16th century to the first half of the 17th century: mining sites (including surface mining, chase mining, and tunnel mining sites), dressing and smelting remains, and the remains of the early mining settlement of the Tsurushi Aramachi District, formed and developed in conjunction with silver production, and the Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site, responsible for the management of the mine.
Proposed boundary of the component parts	The boundary including remains related to ore-mining according to the excavation and distribution surveys, as well as remains of mining settlements and the Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site.
Legal protection	Remains related to ore-mining, mining settlements, and remains related to mine management are designated as National Historic Site.

● **Table 3-5** Preservation and management issues (Tsurushi area)

Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value			Function	Preservation and management issues	
Category	Elements of the component parts	Main objects		Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management issues
Historic Sites	Mining zone Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone Byobusawa and Shidekisawa Mining Zone Otaki Mining Zone	Mining sites Surface mining site Chase mining site Tunnel mining site (Mabu-tunnel)	Technical system of silver production • Mining	Maintenance and management	There are concerns of forests and dense undergrowth having an impact on remains both above- and under- ground. In addition, there are concerns that this dense growth of vegetation interferes with the visual understanding of the structures. There is a section of the afforested area where a superficies is established to fell trees at a prescribed period. Maintaining a balance between economic activities and preservation of the structures is an issue.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Structures and remains are below ground, making it difficult to convey the value to visitors. Tour routes have been established in the Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone, but none are established in the Byobusawa/Shidekisawa and the Otaki Mining Zone that enable visitors to walk safely around the confines of the property.
				Disaster prevention	Large-scale landslides have yet to occur within the areas where the structures are distributed. However, there have been incidents of small-scale collapses and rockfalls along the side slopes of the woodland paths leading to the property.
	Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site	Above- and under-ground remains related to management of mine	Social system of production • Management Technical system of silver production • Ore-dressing, smelting, refining	Maintenance and management	As there are several terrestrial structures and earthworks where soil from terraced land form developments is exposed, maintenance measures against small-scale collapses and dirt piling are necessary.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Structures and remains are below ground, making it difficult to convey the value to visitors. Accompanied tours are available to take visitors from the base of the mountain to the mining area, utilising the old pass. However, there is a shortage of guidance boards and direction signs installed to offer commentary on underground structures for allowing visitors to better picture the structures on site.
	Tsurushi-Aramachi District	Above- and under-ground remains of mining settlement	Technical system of silver production • Ore-dressing, smelting Social system of silver production • Dwelling • Management	Maintenance and management	As there are several terrestrial structures exposing the soil from terraced land form developments, maintenance measures against small-scale collapses and dirt pilings are necessary. While the dense undergrowth prevents dirt from flowing out of the dirt structures, appropriate management is required to prevent this dense growth of vegetation from interfering with the visual understanding of the structures.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Structures and remains are below ground, making it difficult to convey the value to visitors. Currently, there is an insufficient number of explanatory boards and guide signs that offer explanation on mining settlement conditions at the time and on the structures below ground. There is a shortage of tour routes established that enable visitors to walk safely around the property to view the series of terraced, flat parcels of land along the slopes.
	Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass	Above- and under-ground remains related to pass	Social system of production • Management	Maintenance and management	There are concerns of forests and dense undergrowth having an impact on remains both above- and under-ground. In addition, there are concerns that this dense growth of vegetation interferes with the visual understanding of the structures.
				Enhancement and utilisation	There is a shortage of explanatory boards that offer explanation on the value as a pass, making it difficult to convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value to visitors. Given that there are some points where the remains of the pass go through dangerous places such as steep slopes, it is necessary to take safety measures including fall prevention.
				Disaster prevention	Given that the remains of pass are vulnerable to rain and running water, maintaining the current state against small-scale collapses and sediment runoff and the like is necessary.

removing fallen trees and maintaining the shaped terraced topography in readily understandable condition. There are plans to conduct ongoing excavation surveys as necessary.

The Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass linking the Tsurushi area and the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine (hereinafter, Aikawa area) is a structural remnant that shows the link between the two in the early stages of development. The shape of the pass formed by scraping the slopes remains in good condition. There are places where some of the pass has collapsed, but it is possible to estimate the route with high accuracy and this does not affect assessment of the remains. The City and preservation groups regularly mow the pass and are maintaining and managing it.

### Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine

The Aikawa area is a mine area in which hard-rock veins were exploited in the introductory and developing period. It comprises large-scale gold and silver mining sites developed through traditional unmechanised industry, remains related to management in which an organised and specialised production system that extends to ore dressing, smelting, refining and minting of “koban” gold coins is apparent, and the remains of mining settlement.

Scattered across the extent of the property are historical sites, remains and structures associated with contemporary and more recent mining, ore dressing, smelting and transport after mechanisation. While these are not the elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, they speak to the smooth transition from a traditional production system to a modern mechanised system and the development of the mine. Therefore, their preservation and utilisation will be enhanced together with those elements that contribute directly to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property as the physical evidence in the value of the whole nominated property.

### Mining Zone

A part of the historic underground mining network is currently open to the public as a tourist facility by the owner (Golden Sado Inc. hereinafter, Golden Sado), but the other parts are not open to the public. Measures for visitor safety include fencing to prohibit access and installation of rockfall prevention netting along the prefectural road that runs parallel to the Nigorikawa River. In recent years, however, a section of bedrock on the slope of the Nigorikawa River basin has suffered natural collapse. Sado City and Niigata Prefecture held talks with disaster prevention experts, the owner, and stakeholder organisations, about putting disaster prevention facilities in place, such as bedrock



● **Photo 3-2** Countermeasure against rockfall with pro-environmental construction method (Geo Rock Wall method)



● **Photo 3-3** Countermeasure construction against rockfall

collapse prevention measures and protective walls. As a result, protective netting was installed in 2018 and 2019 to implement safety measures using construction methods that are considerate to the preservation of remains and the landscape [Photos 3-2, 3]. The state of each element in the Mining Zone will be described below:

The Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site is a massive opencut from the early days of mine development, a mountain top dug out in a V-shape with exposed bedrock in which there remain extensive traces of mining. Small-scale rockfalls occur in the exposed bedrock portion and are subject to follow-up monitoring, but the falls have not caused any major change in the shape of remains. The owner (Golden Sado) has created a sightseeing route open to the public through to a place directly below the former mining site where there is no risk of rockfall. In February 2011 there was bedrock collapse on the slope adjacent to the northern side. Therefore, a temporary rockfall prevention wall was built and follow-up monitoring has been conducted. A permanent low-impact preventive facility in place of the temporary facility was designed with the guidance and advice of experts (municipal expert advisory committee) with a view to property protection and landscape conservation. Works were carried out between 2017 and 2019.

The Tete-no-warito Opencut Site, like the Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site, is a surface mining site from the early days of development. No significant changes in the shape of remains on the bedrock wall surface have been confirmed, but investigations are underway with the guidance of experts in bedrock conservation and tree management methods.

The Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site is a mining site of tunnel mining. It has been opened to the public as a tourist facility by the owner (Golden Sado) since before mine closure in 1989 to show what it was like working in mines in the Edo Period. To safely open the interior of the tunnel to the public, a new tunnel was dug to be used as an accessway and moving robots have been positioned in the original tunnel to replicate mining as depicted in picture scrolls of the time [Photo 3-4]. The new tunnel and the exhibit associated with opening the mining site to the public involved thorough understanding of the historical mining site and consideration of ease of sightseeing, and care has been taken not to confuse original and modified sections. Day-to-day management is done by the owner (Golden Sado) and no major preservation problems have arisen.



● Photo 3-4 Inside the Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site

The Ogiriyama-mabu Tunnel Site is a tunnel which had been excavated from the Edo Period to the modern period. It is conserved in as good condition as it was at the time operation ceased. The owner (Golden Sado) currently provides limited public access to the tunnel through guided tours and it is utilised as a place to learn about transitions in mining techniques. Usually the portal is locked, and the owner manages water drainage from the tunnel and maintains and manages the scope that is open to the public as a sightseeing route.

The Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site has stayed in good condition with its original shape since the opening of the mine in the latter half of the 17th century and it still functions as a drainage tunnel. The owner (Golden Sado) manages the water quality (pH adjustment) of the water discharged along the drainage tunnel, and to date there have been no incidences of water quality contamination by mine drainage. In principle the tunnel is not open to the public and the portal for management use is locked.

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## Settlement Zone

The Sado Magistrate's Office Site is a site associated with the management and administration facility of the Edo Period. It was protected with embankments and is being appropriately preserved after underground remains were discovered in excavation surveys conducted between 1994 and 1998. Sado City has been managing facilities restored using traditional construction methods with reference to the results of excavation surveys and historical documents. It has become necessary to repair facilities and update exhibit content, as about 20 years have passed since the facilities were restored for exhibition. Plans were therefore formulated in 2016 for repairs and for revision of enhancement and use guidelines, which will be progressively implemented commencing in 2023.

In the Kami-Aikawa District, the main street that forms the axis of the remains of the mining settlement for mine workers including plants for ore-dressing, smelting, and workplace as well as the terraces in the environments are open to the public through guided tours. The extent is maintained by Sado City which clears undergrowth, prunes trees and removes fallen trees to make sure that remains are not buried. In the future, those areas not open to the public will also be managed by the City with the cooperation of the owners, by clearing of undergrowth and trees that give rise to concern for their effect on remains. Staged public ownership is also being progressed with priority given to areas that are important in terms of preservation and utilisation. The Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine Site is located on the highest point of this District, and currently there remains the stone lanterns and the foundation stones of the shrine on the terrace and the stone steps to the shrine. The City maintains and manages the site integrally with this District by clearing the undergrowth and fallen trees. However, stone steps are inclined due to the effect of tree roots. There is a plan to install interpretive signboards and appropriately manage trees integrally with this District. The City carried out a distribution survey and installed interpretive signboards in 2021.

The Aikawa-Kamimachi Town has been a mining town since the Edo Period and the land allotment and street layout around the axis of the main street constructed in the founding days of the Edo Period have been maintained to this day. Buildings in the district include traditional townhouses and shops from the Edo Period mixed in with mine workers' houses, company-owned houses and health and welfare facilities built since the mechanisation period, which have created a unique atmosphere formed in association with mine operations. Some new buildings have been rebuilt in place of old ones since operations ceased. Sado City has data on all buildings in the area, including when they were built, their features and their state of conservation. When buildings are newly built, or buildings are extended or renovated, or new manufactured articles are installed, the work is to be done in accordance with preservation plans to ensure there is no disharmony with the unique landscape of the mining settlement. This is progressed through a system of checks at every stage of survey, design and construction to ensure that repairs and landscaping comply with a certain set of standards. When sewage improvement works were done in the period from 2007 to 2011, the main street in the area was paved. At that time, consideration was given to burying or relocating the power cables and power poles that were prominent along the roads, but there were technical and other problems that were not solvable in the short term, and consultation with businesses and local residents on the matter will be ongoing as a medium to long term issue.

There are many wooden houses, which makes fire prevention important, and fire drills are done once a year using the existing fire prevention facilities. As of 2011 the City started a subsidised project to repair traditional buildings and to landscape the streets, and since 2016 has been providing support for the especially important privately owned houses as well as the temples and shrines [Photo 3-5].

Many of the houses are privately owned residences and therefore not open to the public. In recent years, in accordance with the decrease of the population in the area, teardown of some buildings and



deterioration of the preservation status due to the increase in numbers of vacant houses has been an issue. An incorporated nonprofit organisation (NPO) has been set up to preserve townscapes through the purchase of vacant houses and repairs to houses, and there are more and more examples of the City and the NPO using repaired townhouses and mine workers' houses as shops and rental properties. In addition, small-scale development activities associated with day-to-day resident living and enhancement of public facilities are likely to happen from time to time. When they do, there is a system of prior consultation and coordination with stakeholders in the planning stage of the project to minimise the effect on peripheral landscape and underground remains.

The Kami-Teramachi District comprises temple sites and a mine workers' residential district. Sado City, who is the custodial body of the Historic Site, currently slashes undergrowth from around the temple site and major roads. When planned excavation surveys have been completed, there are plans to install an interpretive signboard based on the results.

Some stone walls are collapsing due to the effect of tree roots [Photo 3-6], therefore, the maintenance of the trees, approach to repairs and priorities for addressing them were constituted in the Basic Maintenance Plan in 2020, following investigations on the preservation status of all stone walls in the Kami-Teramachi District. In the future, appropriate tree management and repairs will be undertaken in order of priority. There are also many remaining tombstones and other stone structures on site which in the long-term need measures to counter weathering. It is planned to address the issue after necessary surveys have been conducted and records created.



● Photo 3-5 Building harmonised with surrounding environment



● Photo 3-6 Trees growing on stone walls

● **Table 3-6** Summary in protection of the component parts (Aikawa area)

	Explanation
Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value	Comprise archaeological remains related to the production of gold and silver including mining zone where remains of mining such as mabu-tunnel sites, and surface mining sites exist; the Sado Magistrate's Office Site, which was associated with the operation and management of the mines; archaeological remains of the early mining settlements of the Kami-Aikawa and Kami-Teramachi Districts; and the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, established as a mining town upon discovery of the mines, whose townscape continues to this day.
Proposed boundary of the component parts	The boundary including remains related to the production of gold (mining, dressing, smelting, refining) according to an archaeological survey (distribution survey), as well as the facilities related to its operation and management; mining settlements; and the townscape that retains the historical atmosphere of the mining towns.
Elements not directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value	Include the quarries for the materials of mining millstones in the pre-modern times, structures related to mining, ore-dressing, smelting, transportation and power supply in the modern times, and the structure of the Imperial Household Agency Sado Branch Office related to management of the gold production in the modern times.
Legal protection	Mining settlement sites and archaeological remains illustrating gold and silver production technology, and the archaeological remains of the Sado Magistrate's Office, related to administration during the Edo Period, are designated as national Historic Sites. The Aikawa-Kamimachi Town has been selected as an Important Cultural Landscape.

● **Table 3-7** Preservation and management issues (Aikawa area)

Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value				Preservation and management issues	
Category	Elements of the component parts	Main objects	Function	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management issues
Historic Site/ Important Cultural Landscape	Gold and silver mining zone Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site Tete-no-warito Opencut Site Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site Ogiri-yama-mabu Tunnel Site Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site	Mining sites Surface mining sites Tunnel mining sites (Mabu-tunnel)  Drainage tunnel Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site	Technical system of gold and silver production • Mining, drainage	Maintenance and management	There are concerns of the obvious effects forests and dense undergrowth are having on the remains above ground. In addition, there are concerns that dense growth of vegetation interferes with the visual understanding of the remains. In the vicinity of the Nigorikawa River located in the heart of mining zone, the owner of the property, Golden Sado, Inc., carries out everyday maintenance of part of mining-related remains.
				Enhancement and utilisation	The proposed Outstanding Universal Value is difficult to be conveyed to visitors because of the large number of underground remains. There is presently a lack of explanatory boards and signs to help visitors gain a clear picture of the remains. Setting areas open to the public and tour routes, as well as taking and developing safety measures and their development, are necessary.
				Disaster prevention	There have been rockfalls and slope collapses near the mining remains.
	Sado Magistrate's Office Site (and Bell Tower)	Above- and under-ground remains related to management facility, reconstructed building, ore-dressing, smelting and refining, reconstructed building (solid model), plane display of remains	Technical system of gold and silver production • Ore-dressing, smelting, refining Social system of gold and silver production • Management	Maintenance and management	There is little physical threat to underground remains as they have been buried in one-metre embankments after the excavation surveys in 1994-1998 and 2000. There is a guidance facility within the confines of the component part reconstructing the magistrate's office and dressing and smelting plant from the Edo Period, using traditional techniques and adhering to the layout at the time of operations. However, they have deteriorated over time.
				Enhancement and utilisation	There must be a repeated review of the methods for their exhibition and utilisation.
				Disaster prevention	Fire prevention systems must be further improved utilising the existing fire-extinguishing systems.
		Structure related to management: Bell Tower	Social system of gold and silver production • Management	Maintenance and management	Good condition has been maintained as no issues that have a great impact on the preservation status have occurred since the repairment of the roofs and the external walls in 2003.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Electric poles and electric wires around the structure are impeding the good views to the structure. It is necessary to consider the measures such as relocating on a mid- or long-term basis.
				Disaster prevention	Given that the structure is located in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, it is necessary to protect the buildings in the townscape and enhance the fire-prevention systems.

Elements contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value				Preservation and management issues	
Category	Elements of the component parts	Main objects	Function	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management issues
Historic Site/ Important Cultural Landscape	Kami-Aikawa District Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine Site	Above- and under-ground remains related to ore-dressing, smelting and refining Above- and under-ground remains and landscape related to the lives, residences, faiths of the people who supported the production	Technical system of gold and silver production • Ore-dressing, smelting, refining Social system of gold and silver production • Management • Mining culture	Maintenance and management	There are concerns of the effects forests and dense undergrowth are having on the remains above ground (including stone walls and stone structures). In addition, there are concerns that dense growth of vegetation interferes with the visual understanding of the remains. Remains with exposed dirt, such as the developed land of mining settlements, are vulnerable to small-scale collapses and sediment outflow, thus maintenance measures are necessary.
				Enhancement and utilisation	The proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the component part is difficult to be conveyed to visitors because of the large number of underground remains. There is a lack of explanatory boards and signs to help visitors gain a clear picture of the remains.
				Disaster prevention	Some stone walls have collapsed due to the overgrowth of the tree roots. The installation of protective fences is needed for tunnel portals and wells.
	Kami-Teramachi District	Above- and under-ground remains related to faiths of people who supported the production and their landscape	Social system of gold and silver production • Dwelling • Mining culture	Maintenance and management	There are concerns of the effects forests and dense undergrowth are having on the remains above ground (including stone walls and stone structures). In addition, there are concerns that dense growth of vegetation interferes with the visual understanding of the remains. Remains with exposed dirt, such as the developed land of mining settlements, are vulnerable to rain and running water, maintenance measures for small-scale collapses and sediment outflow are necessary.
				Enhancement and utilisation	The proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the component part is difficult to be conveyed to visitors because of the large number of underground remains. There is a lack of explanatory boards and signs to help visitors gain a clear picture of the remains.
				Disaster prevention	Some stonewalls and gravestones have fallen due to the overgrowth of tree roots. The installation of protective fences is needed for tunnel portals and wells.
	Aikawa-Kamimachi Town	Above- and under-ground remains (land plot, stone walls, stone structures, and remains of waterway), including buildings and structures which compose the townscape of mining town and their landscape	Social system of gold and silver production • Dwelling • Mining culture	Maintenance and management	Maintenance and landscaping of townscape is necessary when repairing, landscaping and newly building of the houses or structures in the boundary of the component part. The number of vacant houses is increasing due to depopulation of the settlement resulting from the decrease in population, and declining birthrate and a growing proportion of elderly people. There is a concern that demolition and deterioration of the houses and buildings.
				Enhancement and utilisation	It is necessary to stipulate the rules for touring in order to balance the lives of residents with the presentation to visitors. The proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the component part is difficult to be conveyed to visitors because there is a lack of explanatory boards and signs to interpret the values as a mining town. Establishment of a satellite guidance facility is necessary as a base for daily maintenance and interpretation of the component part.
				Disaster prevention	Fire prevention systems must be further improved utilising the existing fire-extinguishing systems.

● **Table 3-8** Preservation and management issues (Aikawa area: not directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value)

Objects not directly contributing to the OUV			Functions	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management issues
Category	Main objects				
Important Cultural Property/ Historic Site	Mining facilities after mechanisation	Structures related to mining, ore-dressing, smelting, refining, transportation, and power of mechanised gold production technology after mechanisation	Technical system of mechanised gold production (after mechanisation) • Mining, ore-dressing, smelting	Maintenance and management	Deterioration of reinforced concrete, steel structures, stone structures and other structures is obvious. There are concerns of the effects forests and dense undergrowth are having on the buildings and structures. In addition, there are concerns that dense growth of vegetation interferes with the visual understanding of the remains. It is necessary to appropriately preserve the surrounding facilities such as stone walls and stone structures, which are integrated with the buildings or structures.
				Enhancement and utilisation	It is necessary to install the explanatory board which interpretes the relation with the mines in the Edo Period. There is a lack of explanatory boards and signboards which indicate the functions of buildings and structures in the period of operation. Setting the presentation range and establishing the tour routes as well as safety countermeasures are necessary.
				Disaster prevention	Some collapses are found on the stone walls around the buildings. Countermeasures for fire hazards and earthquakes are necessary (e.g. fire alarms, seismic strengthening).
Historic Site	Mine offices after mechanisation	Management facilities of mechanised gold production after mechanisation	Social system of mechanised gold production (after mechanisation) • Management	Maintenance and management	Deterioration of both of Imperial Household Agency Sado Branch Office and Mitsubishi Sado Mine Office is progressed. Therefore, implementing the appropriate repair is needed.
				Enhancement and utilisation	Currently, it is open to the public as the Aikawa Folk Museum, however, it is necessary to consider the internal display including the relation with the mines before the Edo Period.
				Disaster prevention	Fire prevention systems must be further improved utilising the existing fire-extinguishing systems.

### 3.1.2 Promotion of Scientific Research

Niigata Prefecture and Sado City have disclosed the value of the nominated property by conducting various researches on mines, mining sites, and associated facilities, and excavation and exploration surveys around the settlements and surrounding area, and measurement, as well as conducted the research on the historical documents such as archives and picture scrolls and together with the result of archaeological and geographical survey, certified the authenticity of the nominated property. Excavation surveys are conducted by the professional staff from the Prefecture and the City with advice from the Agency for Cultural Affairs and other experts and the results are published as research reports. The results of these researches have disclosed the technology of mining, ore-dressing, smelting and refining, management system, and lives and culture of local people including mine workers of the Sado Island Gold Mines.

In addition, since there are historical remains and documents which require more detailed research and study, continuous scientific research has been conducted in order to deepen the understanding of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. Also, the results of the research including the past ones have been disseminated.

### 3.1.3 Participation

In order to ensure the inheritance of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, it is essential that local residents well understand the value of the nominated property and participate in various protection and conservation activities.

In the past, local communities have participated in the preservation and utilisation of the nominated property in cooperation with the administrative body. Efforts are being made actively by exchanging opinions with the administrative body in designating and selecting the property as national cultural properties, cooperating in surveys and research, formulating management plans, and exploring methods and utilisation of repair and maintenance projects. These activities are led by private sectors organised by the local communities related to each property.

At the Nishimikawa Area, "Sasagawa Landscape Protection Volunteers," a community outreach group for landscape upkeep consisting of all the residents of the Sasagawa Residential District, is carrying out conservation and beautification activities such as mowing and cleaning within the area of the nominated property that is open to the public, including the Goshaya-yama Site, and disseminating information on the value of the nominated property by providing visitors with guided tours.

In the Tsurushi area, part of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area, the "Let's Walk the Road to Tsurushi Silver Mine" preservation group, consisting mainly of residents of the surrounding area, conducts conservation and beautification activities such as mowing and cleaning within the property which are open to the public. After the activities, the group holds a study meeting with city staff as lecturers in order to understand the value of the nominated property. Besides this, "Walk along the Historic Pass," a preservation group consisting mainly of the local residents, is implementing the initiatives to convey the value of the nominated property through providing walking tours along the historic pass from the Tsurushi area to the Aikawa area, which are held regularly.

In the Aikawa area located in the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area, the "Aikawa Second Division", a community organisation consisting of residents of the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, has organised a voluntary disaster prevention organisation to carry out conservation and beautification activities such as

mowing and cleaning in the area and to protect buildings from fire. “Aikawa Kurumaza,” a private organisation consisting of young local businesspeople, is working to sustain and revitalise the local community by holding events (concerts, strolling in Kamimachi, festivals, etc.) in the historical buildings and utilising vacant houses to maintain the townscape.

In addition, the Aikawa Elementary School became a member of UNESCO Associated Schools Network and continues its activities for the inheritance and dissemination of mine-derived culture through learning about World Heritage sites and local cultural property.

As mentioned above, the private organisations that form the local community, in cooperation with Niigata Prefecture and Sado City, continue the protection and preservation activities to properly understand the value of the nominated property and pass it on to the future generation.

### **3.2 Conservation of the Surrounding Environment of the Nominated Property**

The nominated property of Sado Island Gold Mines consists of two mines; the Nishimikawa Area and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area, which are located in one single island, Sado Island. Most of the component parts have been covered into the vast forest, part of which is open toward the sea. In the Nishimikawa Area, a residential district lies on the narrow terrace surrounded by the mountains which used to be mining sites. Since the terraces are scarce at the Aikawa area, there exist the settlement remains of the Kami-Aikawa District and the Kami-Teramachi District on the developed land of the hilly areas, and the mining settlement of the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town on the ridge at the tip of the plateau.

In order to maintain the favourable landscape in the property and surrounding environment and to prevent negative impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property in advance, buffer zones have been delineated surrounding the component parts from an integrated perspective of “views from the property,” “view to the property,” and “topographical continuity and points of variation.” In the buffer zones, regulations and prior consultations on activities such as installation of new structures or artefacts, alterations in shape of land, or felling of trees and bamboo, are regulated under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the Landscape Act, and municipal ordinances. These regulations and prior consultations make it possible to maintain the landscape and guide to more desirable landscape and so on in the buffer zones, and conserve the natural environment.

Also, rural landscape derived from placer gold mining at residential district in the Nishimikawa Area and the mining town landscape at the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town have been designated as the Important Cultural Landscape by the national government. Cultural landscape is a living cultural property, the value of which is inherited only by the lives and livelihoods of local residents. Therefore, through the consideration on the lives and livelihoods of the local residents, the landscape has been maintained and improved with the understanding and cooperation of local people.

A discussion of the location of each component part and the features on landscape formation, the current state and issues of conservation in the property, and the surrounding environment are stated as below.



## Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

### [Location and features on landscape formation]

- The Nishimikawa Area forms a rural landscape with mountains of mining sites, by which residential district and farmland in the basin of the Nishimikawa River and the Sasagawa River in the mountainous area are surrounded.
- In the residential district, the occupation was converted from placer gold mining to agriculture after the closure of the placer gold mine, and the settlement structure (house building layout) at the time, the landscape derived from placer gold mining such as stone walls and waterways built with waste stones, remain to this day.

### [State of conservation and issues around the property]

- The surroundings including the property were selected as the Important Cultural Landscape in 2011. Additionally, in 2016, the scope of the Important Cultural Landscape was designated as “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Landscape Conservation Area” under Sado City Landscape Plan.
- In 2009, road repairs that had been planned in the residential district were carried out under consideration of the balance between the daily lives of local residents and property protection; taking the impact on the property into account, widening of the roads was scaled down, and the construction methods by considering the landscape were adopted. Regarding the repair of two roads that lead from the coastal area to the residential district, considering the property and surrounding environment, no large-scale alteration will be conducted.
- Upon repairs to existing facilities (road equipment, such as guard rails, and river revetments), the colour, construction methods, specifications have been reviewed and the surrounding landscape has been improved from a long-term perspective.

## Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

### Tsurushi Silver Mine

### [Location and features on landscape formation]

- The component part and its surrounding area are in mountainous or hilly areas, and are covered in forests including plantations.
- Both the farmland on the marine terraces and the sea can be viewed at a distance from the slopes in the southern side of the mountains or the Local Magistrate’s Office Site located on the tip of the hill; however, extensive distant landscape is viewed from few points.

### [State of conservation and issues around the property]

- In 2016, the surrounding area of the property was designated as “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Landscape Conservation Area” under the Sado City Landscape Plan.
- Since the area is a forest land, no large development is expected, with the exception of forest management activities. However, there is a plan of felling in the government afforestation area in the scope, therefore consultation and coordination are in progress in order not to cause any effect on the property.

## Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine

### [Location and features on landscape formation]

- Forest covers the mountains and mountainous areas where remains and structures related to the gold production are distributed. On the other hand, land allotment of the Sado Magistrate's Office Site, located at the tip of the hills near the coast, and of the nearby mining town of the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town has remained largely unchanged since their establishment in the 17th century, and a townscape has developed where traditional "machiya" (town houses) have coexisted with mine workers' houses since modernisation. Accommodation facilities for tourists, public facilities, and commercial facilities are concentrated from the foot of the plateau to the Shitamachi Town of the coastal region, forming the downtown area of Aikawa.
- Due to the lack of terraces, land was filled in the coastal region to secure sites for public facilities from the latter half of the 1970s to the late 1980s, including the construction of a gymnasium, community centre, and public housing.
- From the plateau of the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, visitors can view the sea area including the Shitamachi Town, and the marine terraces running north to south along the city area. In addition, from the marine terrace in the southern part of Aikawa, visitors can view the mining and city areas related to Aikawa area in their entirety.

### [State of conservation and issues around the property]

- The entire area encompassing the Aikawa area and its city areas was selected as an Important Cultural Landscape in 2015.
- As the property and its surroundings include public facilities—such as prefectural roads, river revetments, and coastal facilities—regular maintenance and repairs are expected. Public facilities, commercial facilities, accommodation facilities, and other large buildings taller than one story dot the Shitamachi Town, the coastal downtown district of Aikawa. Upon the maintenance, repair, and renewal of the buildings in these facilities and city areas, guidance to ensure design and material are to be in harmony with the surrounding landscape has been sought.
- The construction of public facilities such as the Sado City Aikawa Branch Office and fire station, Visitor Centre and parking lots in the surrounding area of the reclaimed land was carried out, considering that the appearance and colour of these facilities could be in harmony with the surrounding environment.

### 3.3 Factors Affecting the Nominated Property

All component parts are currently in good condition, but better preservation measures will be planned by considering factors that may otherwise negatively affect property preservation.

The Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council will conduct follow-up monitoring of factors that may negatively affect the nominated property. In case that it finds the possibility of a negative impact on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, it will conduct Heritage Impact Assessment. In the entire process of Heritage Impact Assessment, the Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee and expert committees that Sado City established will provide the Council with guidance and advice.

#### 3.3.1 Development Pressures and Management Response

##### 3.3.1.1 Provision of Urban Infrastructure (e.g. Roads, Coastal Works)

All component parts are legally protected under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. Therefore, there is no risk of development activity that would impair the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property as the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties strictly controls actions, such as alterations, that could otherwise affect the nominated property.

In the environments of the settlement zone in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town of the Aikawa area and settlement zone of the Nishimikawa Area, there have been construction and provision of urban infrastructure and facilities necessary for resident living, such as road repairs and provision of sewers. In constructing and improving such facilities, based on standards for handling alterations to the existing state of Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscapes, and based on the townscape control standards in Sado City Landscape Ordinance, actions that would have adverse effects on component parts are regulated and controlled (refer to Chapter 5, 5.b, 5.c of the nomination dossier and Chapter 4, 4.1.1 "Protection of the Property under the Law for the Protection of the Cultural Properties," and 4.2 "Integral Conservation Including the Surrounding Environment" of this Comprehensive Management Plan.

In relation to construction of particularly large-scale public facilities, the departments of World Heritage site and of development are to join forces at the project planning stage to examine construction methods with guidance and advice from an expert committee. Development projects currently planned in the component parts and their surrounding environment are shown in Figures 3-1 and 3-2. These projects are sufficiently examined and coordinated so as not to adversely affect the property and the surrounding environments.

##### 3.3.1.2 Mining Activity (Mining Activity Associated with Mining Rights)

There are zones at the Nishimikawa Area and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area in which mining rights have been established. However, the nominated property has been nationally designated as the Historic Sites and permission is required to change the current state. Therefore, development such as mining activity will not be allowed in principle. The mining rights holder (Golden Sado) has agreed to remain non-operational and to protect the property as a cultural property, eliminating the possibility of a large-scale development activity associated with mining.

At the same time, it is a statutory obligation for the mining right holders to drain water from

mining tunnels and to maintain the tunnels. Therefore, retaining mining rights ensures the conservation and management of abandoned tunnels and other facilities. Also, some parts of mining related facilities in the Aikawa area are opened to the public as the tourist facility under the safety measures set by the mining right holder, which means the preservation and utilisation of the property and management of the mine are integrally implemented by one single company.

### **3.3.1.3 Agricultural Activity (Alteration and Expansion of Agricultural Land)**

With regard to alteration and expansion of agricultural land in the property and buffer zone, adverse effects on the landscape and the value of the nominated property will be avoided as the protection measures are to be taken under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and the Landscape Act. For many years, policies to control the expansion of agricultural land have been implemented in Japan. These policies are expected to be continued in the future, therefore there is no possibility of implementing the project of altering or expanding the agricultural land in a significant way. Sado City is considering Designated Rice Terraces Regional Promotion Action Plan to conserve the rice field of well-preserved rice terrace landscape including within the nominated property.

On the other hand, there is concern that depopulation might cause abandonment of cultivation and diversion of the agricultural land into some other purposes. Therefore, a system is to be established that protection of the World Cultural Heritage will contribute to the promotion of agriculture and the conservation of agricultural land in the nominated property.

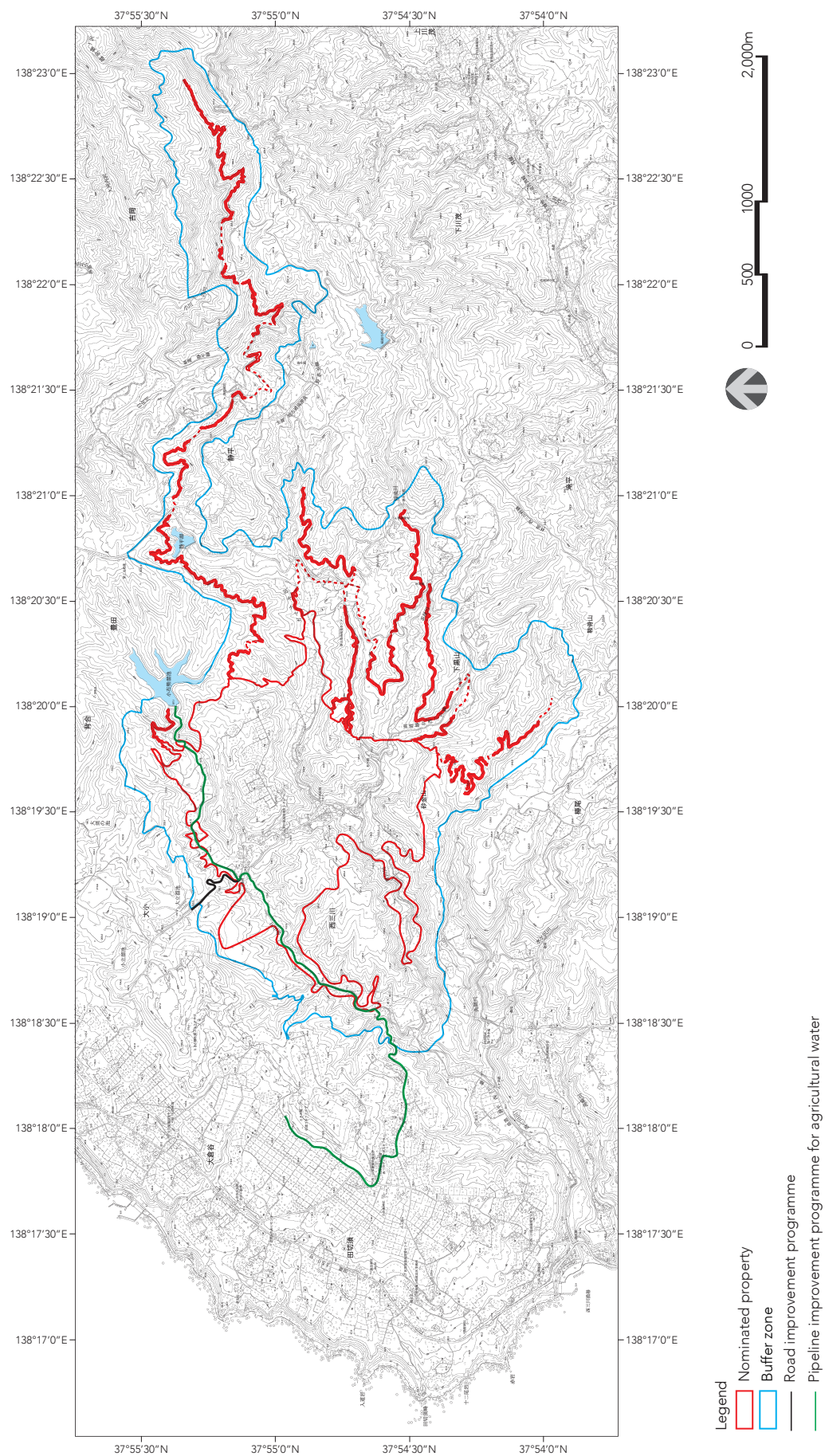
### **3.3.1.4 Forestry Activity (Felling in Forests)**

There is a plan to fell part of the forests within the scope of the Tsurushi area and consultations and coordination on whether to allow the plan and on how to implement it are underway from the viewpoint of possible effects on the remains and landscape [Figure 3-2]. There are no other plans for large-scale felling. Consultations have been held with property owners and others that felling of trees must be done in such a way that will not affect the remains by the building of transport roads or removal of roots, that clear felling will be avoided, and that there is a principle to induce a desirable vegetation through deciding forest recovery methods after felling.

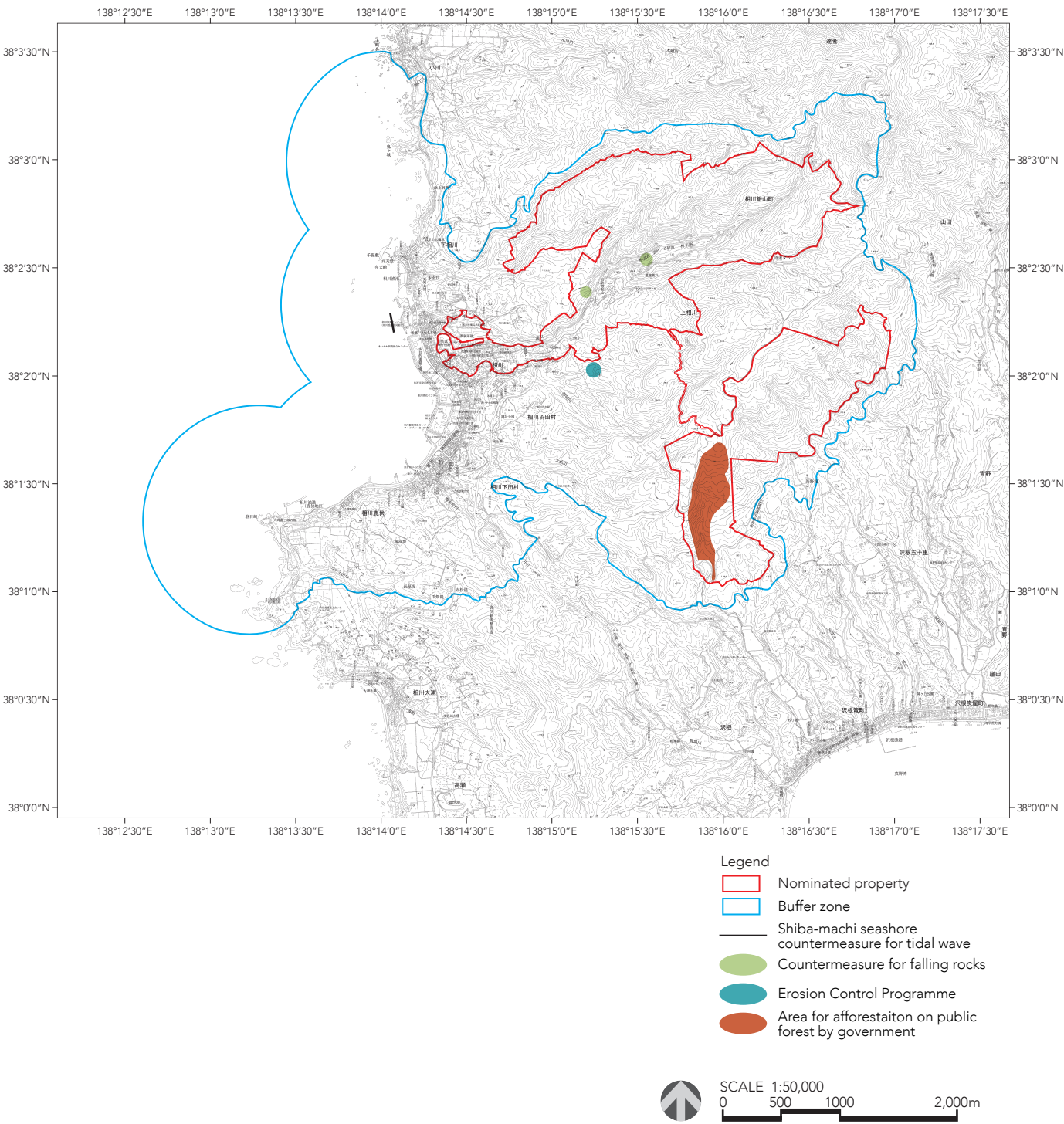
### **3.3.1.5 Wind Power Generation**

In “Zoning related to offshore wind power generation in Niigata Prefecture” formulated in 2020, from the viewpoint of conserving the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and the surrounding environments of the nominated property, the extent of the property and the buffer zones in the sea were zoned as a conservation area where it is difficult to install the facility. From the viewpoint of protecting the coastal landscape in the property and the surrounding environment, even outside the buffer zones, in the event of proposed constructions of offshore wind power generation facilities, it will be clarified whether Heritage Impact Assessment is necessary to determine impact on proposed Outstanding Universal Value.





● **Figure 3-1** Improvement and disaster prevention programmes under planning (Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine)



● **Figure 3-2** Improvement and disaster prevention programmes under planning (Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine)



## 3.3.2 Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness

### 3.3.2.1 Environmental Pressures

Air pollution and vegetation overgrowth are among environmental pressures that may affect the preservation of the nominated property. At this point in time, no decline in the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property has been identified as a result of these factors, but in the long term there is a possibility of adverse effect on the nominated property and the surrounding environments. Therefore, environmental changes will be observed.

#### 3.3.2.1.1 Air Pollution

There have so far been no reports of direct effect on the nominated property from air pollution (e.g. sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, PM2.5). However, from the long-term perspective, air pollutants may progress deterioration, corrosion and defacement of buildings and stone structures and there is a need to monitor trends in observation data. Data is surveyed year-round from observation posts established in 28 locations in Niigata Prefecture including one in Hatano Region on Sado Island, based on the provisions of the Air Pollution Control Law, and trends in harmful air pollutants are monitored. In future, the monitoring data, the progress of any impact on the nominated property, and the relationship between them will be monitored and examined involving experts as needed.

#### 3.3.2.1.2 Vegetation Overgrowth

In Sado City, bamboo was once used in a variety of ways as a traditional industrial material, but in recent years, expansion of bamboo forests which are no longer managed is a matter of concern. Overgrowth of bamboo, trees, and liane is also apparent within the boundary of the nominated property such as in Mining Zone in Aikawa, in parts of the Kami-Aikawa and the Kami-Teramachi Districts, and there is a danger that stone walls and underground remains may be damaged. Sado City is cooperating with community preservation groups and others to fell and clear the withered bamboos and trees from area to area.

### 3.3.2.2 Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness

Possible natural disasters in the regions where the nominated property and its environments are located include damage from gale force winds, sediment disasters, fire (including human-caused fire), snow, earthquake, or tsunami. Niigata Prefecture and Sado City settled each Regional Disaster Plan, based on which countermeasures and action policies in occurrence of such natural disasters have been decided.

#### 3.3.2.2.1 Gale Force Wind Disasters

At the Aikawa area, which is close to the coast, winter winds from the north-west are strong (average wind speed from December to February 7.7 metres per second), and as the Sado Magistrate's Office Site and the townscape in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town are on a plateau facing the ocean, they are directly subject to salty winds, which is a factor to promote deterioration of and damage to the

buildings. Therefore, regular repairs involving re-painting methods and replacement of boards are continuous.

### **3.3.2.2.2 Sediment Disasters (Landslides, Rockfalls)**

Within the boundary of the nominated property and its environments, there are places where there is concern that damage may arise due to loosening of ground by heavy rains, sudden rising of rivers, or rise of groundwater levels. Based on the aforementioned Regional Disaster Plans, Niigata Prefecture and Sado City are implementing works to sediment disasters such as landslides or debris flow in places where disasters have occurred in the past, or where there is a risk they may occur in the future. Danger zones are monitored and information disseminated to local residents.

Rockfall prevention nets and other slope protection facilities have been applied to slopes and faces. Erosion control facilities in the form of sand-trap dams and sediment-retarding basins for sediment disaster prevention have been installed at the foot of mountains. Thus preventive measures have been implemented for topographical collapse and sediment run-off to downstream areas.

In addition, in 2011 there was a slope failure to the north side of the Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site, some remains of mining tunnels and other were damaged or lost, and rockfall reached the road at the foot of the slope. The Prefecture implemented emergency measures, removing rocks fallen on the road and installing temporary rockfall prevention walls, continued follow-up monitoring, and has involved experts of disaster prevention and landscapes in investigation of the history of slope failures in the environments, analysis of mechanisms that led to the collapse and implementation of countermeasures for stabilising the slopes. As of 2018, the Prefecture installed rockfall prevention walls using construction methods that will completely prevent rockfall and are considerate of the surrounding landscape.

There have also been small-scale rockfalls in other places, and safety measures additional to existing prevention facilities are being taken as necessary.

### **3.3.2.2.3 Fire Hazards**

Outbreak of fire in the nominated property or its environments may be anticipated in the wooden mining-related facilities, townhouses that are part of the townscape and mountain forests that are not subject to close monitoring. Sado City has installed fire extinguishing equipment, including water tanks, fire hydrants and fire extinguishers, and is working to create a volunteer fire prevention organisation that includes owners and local residents, based on the Regional Disaster Plan. Aikawa, where there is a particular concentration of houses, has several times in the past been engulfed by major fire outbreaks, which makes fire prevention and early-stage fire extinguishing particularly important for property protection. Regular patrols have been strengthened and work is being done to heighten fire prevention awareness through fire drills and to strengthen the initial fire extinguishing system. There are currently places where fire alarms and fire extinguishers are not installed in cultural property buildings and there are plans to progressively install them in association with repairs and maintenance.

Volunteer fire prevention organisations have been formed in Settlement Zone in the Nishimikawa Area and the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, where a number of residents are still living. In these districts, existing fire extinguishers and other fire prevention facilities are used when conducting fire drills once a year [Photo 3-7], but many residents are elderly, and it can be difficult for them to use fire prevention facilities. For that reason work is being done to re-configure a system that will facilitate



early fire extinguishing, including installing automatic fire alarms in every building and more fire extinguishers.

More visitors are expected if the nominated property is successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List, which means it is important to take more measures for fire prevention. Recent statistics show that most causes of fires in cultural property buildings in Japan are from arson, failure to extinguish fires and playing with fire, so there is also a need to pay attention to fires attributable to humans. Therefore, publicity activity is carried out and information is disseminated for fire prevention and awareness raising. Further, the Sado City Weed Burning Ordinance has been established to restrict burning off, which is a cause of forest fires, and measures are being implemented for a system of mayoral permits to burn the weeds within one kilometre of forest or forest environments.



● Photo 3-7 Fire drill in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town

#### 3.3.2.2.4 Snow (Freezing Damage)

The component parts are not only distributed along the coast and plains, but also in mountainous areas, which means snowfall and accumulation of snow may cause fallen trees, breakage and damage to weak structures like the roofs and walls of buildings. To date no damage to properties has been identified to have been directly caused by snow or freezing. However, the aforementioned slope failure that occurred on the north side of the Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site is conjectured to have been due to expansion in cracks occurring in joints of the bedrock in the area or along the boundary surfaces of strata, and one factor could have been water (snow) entering into cracks in the bedrock that repeatedly froze and thawed, resulting in the collapse. For that reason, seasonal follow-up monitoring such as checking the changes through photographing from fixed points will be continued to elucidate the cause and effect relationship between snow and freezing and slope failures.

#### 3.3.2.2.5 Earthquakes and Tsunamis

According to documentation made public by the Japanese Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion (Chief Director, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), the epicentres of damaging earthquakes and tsunamis that have occurred in the past several hundred years in the environments of Sado Island are concentrated along the eastern edge of the Japan Sea. Specifically, offshore northern Sado (no records, but said to occur in 500- to 1000-year cycles); offshore Sado (1762 and 1802); offshore Yamagata Prefecture (1833, magnitude 7.7, tsunami damage in Ryotsu Bay); offshore northern Niigata Prefecture (1964, magnitude 7.5, tsunami damage in Ryotsu Bay); and offshore south-west Niigata Prefecture, reported in 1998 in the Niigata Prefecture Earthquake Damage Estimation Report.

On 18 June 2019, there was an earthquake (magnitude 6.8) with epicentre offshore Yamagata Prefecture, neighbouring prefecture to Niigata, but there was no damage on the island, including to the nominated property. Estimates by the aforementioned Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion are that the probability of a major earthquake in the next few decades in epicentre areas around Sado Island is low.

Niigata Prefecture and Sado City are systematically progressing disaster prevention works such as enhancing earthquake resistance of buildings including designated cultural properties, and coastal enhancement, based on projections (a hazard map) of building damage and damage from tsunami inundation in the event of an earthquake. While there are no component parts anticipated to be inundated by a tsunami, evacuation routes and evacuation sites have been established and disseminated, and disaster response drills are being conducted to secure the safety of visitors to the visitor centre, Kirarium Sado, which is the focal point of property visits.

### **3.3.3 Visitation, Other Human Activities and Sustainable Use**

#### **3.3.3.1 Management, Renovation, Repair, Maintenance of the Buildings (Including Privately-owned Houses and Small-scale Development by the Private Sectors)**

In newly constructing and renovating the buildings including privately-owned houses, protection measures same as the aforementioned urban infrastructure projects are to be taken under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. Also, the Landscape Act stipulates that prior consultation should be made to ensure construction methods and specifications are based on townscape control standards. Thus activities that would adversely affect component parts are controlled. Also, repair, maintenance, and prevention of decline of the buildings in the nominated property are implemented as the national subsidised project through the consideration in the expert meeting on Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscape. The system of appropriate preservation and financial support is prepared.

On the other hand, in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, the increase of vacant houses according to depopulation has caused issues that private houses, which compose the landscape, are demolished and that the preservation status is declining. Sado City is trying to confirm the vacant houses and carry out repairs to some of them. The City has been promoting the construction and repair based on the townscape control standard which are carried out as subsidiary projects through obtaining the thorough consensus with the residents.

#### **3.3.3.2 Opening to the Public and the Visitors' Effect**

##### **3.3.3.2.1 Increase of Visitors**

More visitors are expected to Sado Island if the nominated property is successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List. Visitors will be welcome for promoting deeper understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its wider utilisation. Moreover, an increase of visitors is hoped to contribute to vitalising the region. However, at the same time it has a potential to bring negative effects, such as accelerated physical deterioration of the nominated property and its surrounding environments, damages caused by inconsiderate visitors, environmental deterioration from more garbage, and effect on the residents' lives and occupation due to intrusion without permission to private properties.

In as much as Sado Island is a remote island location, its gateways are limited to two sea routes, and transport can be in no way said to be convenient. More vessels operate at peak times, but there is a limit to the capacity of vessels and thus the number of visitors can be controlled.

Concerning the carrying capacity, the number of tourist arrivals to Sado Island in recent years peaked at 1.83 million in 2012 and has been declining since, and in 2019 was 1.23 million [Table 3-9].

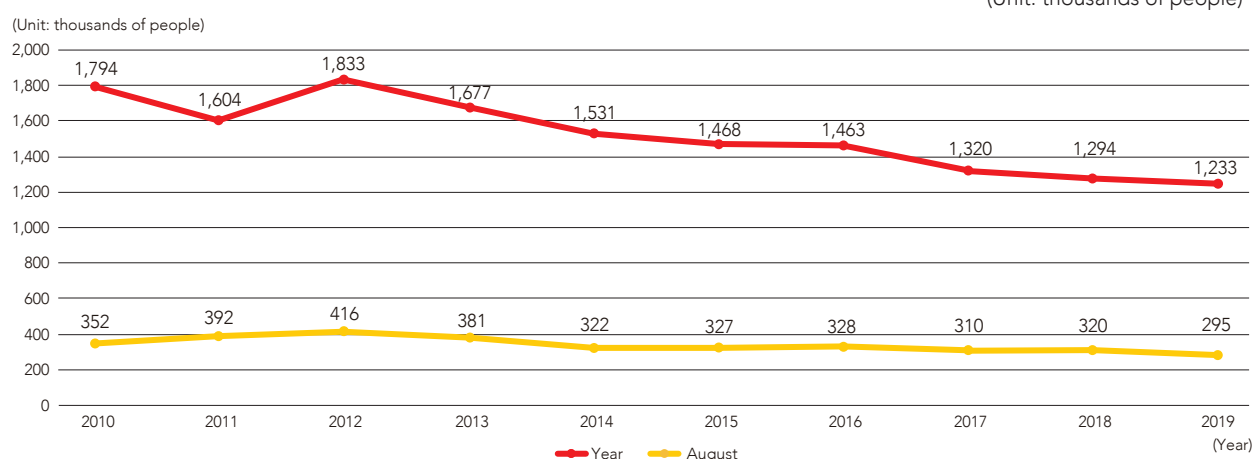
Trends in the timing of visits show a maximum of over 300,000 in August, which accounts for over 20 percent of the annual total, and between 150,000 and 200,000 visitors monthly from May to October, while during winter (December to March) many vessels are cancelled from ocean routes when the weather is stormy and monthly numbers fall to some tens of thousands. At this point in time, the risk of visitor numbers increasing chaotically and falling into a state of overuse is estimated to be relatively low. There will be close follow-up monitoring of trends in visitor numbers and the effect on the component parts, and the issues will be coped with by receiving visitors in a systematic manner. The number of visitors can be controlled by management of vessel frequency. The relationship between the number of arrival by ferries and that of visitors for the nominated property is monitored for the time being.

It is important to convey readily understandable value to visitors and to be able to provide adequate information and services for efficient visiting, because the nature of the nominated property as historic sites associated with mining means their value at first glance can be difficult to understand. With the exception of a portion of tourism facilities, such as tunnels for tourists, large numbers of people cannot be received in many places. Work is being done on information provision and an enhanced reception system, centring on the visitor centre, Kirarium Sado constructed in the Aikawa area. In the Nishimikawa Area, it is recommended that visitors use guided tours. Many elements such as the Goshaya-yama Site and others are in the mountain area, the Settlement Zone is a place where residents are still living, and facilities such as parking lots are restricted. Likewise in the Tsurushi area, guided tours are essentially recommended when it is opened to the public because the elements are concentrated in a remote mountain area, there are a few information facilities for visitors, and parking lots are restricted. However, according to the anticipated increase of the numbers of visitors in the event of a successful inscription on the World Heritage List, it is expected that many visitors will not use the guided tours. Therefore, efforts are being made to ensure convenience and security by the appropriate installation of directional and interpretive signboards.

● **Table 3-9** Transition in annual numbers of tourists to Sado and monthly numbers in August (the month which has the largest number of tourist in a year)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Year	1,794	1,604	1,833	1,677	1,531	1,468	1,463	1,320	1,294	1,233
August	352	392	416	381	322	327	328	310	320	295

(Unit: thousands of people)



Source: Niigata Prefecture Statistics of the Number of Visitors

### **3.3.3.2.2 Promoting Sightseeing Manner (Harmonisation with the Lives of Local Residents)**

The component parts of the nominated property are geographically distributed in two separate areas in the island and comprise diverse elements, from archaeological sites related to mining and settlement now covered in forests, to historical buildings, and modern-day settlements and townscapes in which local residents still live. For that reason, things that must be observed when visiting the component parts are different for each, and there is a need to publicise sightseeing manner to ensure there is no damage to the nominated property or impact on the lives of local residents. In the sites of mining settlement such as the Kami-Aikawa District, millstones and pounding stones are scattered on the ground, therefore, measures to prevent theft and so on will be considered. A variety of means are being used to disseminate and publicise information about rules that should be observed at each component part, including communication via the property website, instructions posted on vessels, buses and information centres, distribution of pamphlets, and awareness-raising posters and information boards provided on property sites [Photo 4-1, on p.100]. However, further countermeasure according to the increase of visitors will be taken.

### **3.3.3.2.3 Safety Measures**

The nature of the nominated property as “old mines” means there are places where there is risk of rockfall, collapse and falls within the boundary of component parts. Sado City has taken measures to prohibit entry to dangerous places by erecting fences and signs. In the area where tunnels and mine facilities are open to the public as tourist facilities, the owner, Golden Sado, has implemented reinforcement and other enhancements and also conducts regular maintenance inspections. Therefore, no major problems have arisen in the tourist facilities. In other places that are open to the public including the sightseeing routes, for purposes of both property protection and securing visitors’ safety as the highest priority, restriction signs to alert and warn of dangerous places [Photo 4-2, on p.100], fencing to prevent falls, and signboards displaying contact details in the event of emergency are being progressively installed, to clearly identify dangerous places and areas to which entry is prohibited. In 2017, inspections were carried out to identify areas in which there is signal for mobile phones, the primary means of communication in emergency, and it was confirmed that there is signal across all areas open to the public in the nominated property (except inside tunnels). Tour guides also play an important role in safety management. Information on dangerous places and emergency contact procedures are being communicated to the tour guides through training courses and regular seminars.

In the future, in anticipation of a possible increase in the number of visitors, it is expected that more visitors will not use the guided tours. In the element which is easier to access, it is necessary to consider the possibility of visitors entering areas which are not actively opened to the public. The security in those areas will be ensured and information about the local situation will be disseminated.



## 3.4 Promotion of Public Access and Utilisation

### 3.4.1 Present State and Issues of Public Access and Utilisation

#### 3.4.1.1 Promotion of the Understanding of the Proposed Outstanding Universal Value

Niigata Prefecture and Sado City are sharing responsibility for initiatives to educate about the value and protection of component parts. The Prefecture initiatives are whole-of-prefecture or cross border, while the City initiatives target Island residents. The Prefecture stages seminars in the Prefecture and events in locations in and outside the Prefecture including the Tokyo Metropolitan area, and distributes and spreads information about the value of the property and protection initiatives. The City supports the study sessions and study tours organised by the local residents as well as stages the seminars and the site visits. It also disseminated the information such as releasing the movies for introduction of the nominated property on the video hosting website, and publishing the public relations brochure “Sado Gold and Silver Mine Newsletter” and other pamphlets, as well as disseminating information through websites and SNS. In addition, the City stages the symposiums and seminars for the local people in the Prefecture and the City, and dispatched lecturers to the assemblies of local people or various groups and elementary schools approximately 100 times per year. The Prefecture and the City have made efforts to make the property better known and to deepen the understanding of the value through placer gold panning experience and screen panel exhibitions at large shopping malls and events for visitors in and outside the prefecture. By continuing and enhancing these initiatives, efforts will be made to disseminate more information regarding the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

On the other hand, on Sado Island, abundant cultural properties exist, indicating various cultural aspects such as remains related to mining represented by the nominated property, tradition and culture derived from mining, roads to transport the gold product, landscape of export ports, and cultural assets imported from various places by marine trades in the environment of being an island. There are also intangible cultural properties such as picture scrolls depicting the state of mines in the period of traditional unmechanised mining, drawings and mining-related plans which were drawn after mechanisation, as well as some intangible traditional events including festivals of shrines related to mines and conveying the prosperity of florescence. By integrally interpreting the cultural properties relating to arts and faiths which people involved in gold mining brought and formed, is promoted as it will lead to the increase of the attractiveness of the nominated property.

#### 3.4.1.2 Cooperation with Other Relating Systems: GIAHS, Geopark, and Other Cultural Properties

A number of various cultural properties which have no direct relation to mining such as historic or archaeological sites, structures, tangible cultural properties, and folk entertainment exist on Sado Island. Initiatives of presentation and utilisation of the component parts by linking with these various cultural properties have not been fully promoted so far. However, those initiatives will highlight historical background of Sado Island, multidimensional features of cultures, and natural environment behind the component parts. Therefore, the initiatives will be promoted proactively.

Sado City is registered as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and certified as one of Japan Geoparks. In promoting the understanding of the values as a potential World

Heritage Site, it is important to be linked with these relating systems. In fact, it is widely known that food supply to the Aikawa area was a factor of the development of the terraced rice field on Sado Island. Utilising the Sado Island Gold Mines with GIAHS and Geopark is expected to promote the perception regarding the connection of the environment and history of Sado Island with local residents as well as to lead to the deeper understanding of the relationship between the Sado Island Gold Mines, agriculture, and geological environment of Sado. In addition, from the viewpoint of sustainable development of the local community, it is important to promote the cooperation with other various local economic activities related to not only World Cultural Heritage, GIAHS and Geopark, but also proactive reception of visitors and so on. The main initiatives so far have been the introduction of the value of World Cultural Heritage in the seminars of GIAHS and Geopark or by the tour guides. Therefore, a wider variety of cooperation will be a future issue.

### 3.4.2 The Present State and Issues of Convenience Provision to Visitors

#### 3.4.2.1 Standard Method of Access to Properties

The main method of visiting Niigata Prefecture, to which Sado City belongs, is by air routes that use Niigata Airport, which is an international airport, and the Shinkansen bullet trains linking Tokyo and Niigata stations, and Kanazawa and Joetsu-Myoko stations.

Traffic access to Sado City from inside Niigata Prefecture is limited to sea routes; between Niigata Port and Ryotsu Port and between Naoetsu Port and Ogi Port [Table 3-10]. Also, the maximum daily personnel transport capacity is limited to approximately 10,000 people.

Visitors arriving in Sado City move to each area using public transport (regular route buses), regular tourist buses, taxis, private vehicles and rental cars. Along the national, prefectural and city roads as routes for tourists, road improvement and installation of traffic and guide signs are underway. Parking capacity in the vicinity of the property is limited. Therefore, parking space is under construction in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town and visitor guidance focused on a newly built visitor centre in the Aikawa area has been started, and sightseeing routes have been established. Introduction of shuttle buses for using park-and-ride with the visitor centre as the focal point is being considered. Also, in the Nishimikawa Area, introduction of buses for using park-and-ride with the Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park as the focal point is being considered.

● **Table 3-10** Information about main access to Niigata and Sado

Route	Means of transportation	Time required	Note
Tokyo sta. – Niigata sta.	Joetsu Shinkansen trains	1h40min.– 2h20min.	
Kanazawa sta. – Joetsumyoko sta. – Naoetsu sta.	Hokuriku Shinkansen trains	1h30min.	Osaka to Kanazawa by limited express train
Itami Aprt., Osaka – Niigata Aprt.	Airplanes	1h	
Fukuoka Aprt. – Niigata Aprt.	Airplanes	1h30min.	
New Chitose Aprt., Sapporo – Niigata Aprt.	Airplanes	1h20min.	
Niigata Port – Ryotsu Port	Ferryboats	2h30min.	plus bus or taxi etc. from Niigata sta. or Niigata Aprt. to port
	High-speed boats	1h7min.	
Naoetsu Port – Ogi Port	High-speed boats	1h15min.	plus bus or taxi etc. from Naoetsu sta. to port

### 3.4.2.2 Museums, Visitor Centre and Satellite Guidance Centres

As the Sado Island Gold Mines is a serial property which comprises two areas, it is essential to have visitors understand the value of the nominated property as a whole in a unified way. To this end, Kirarium Sado, a visitor centre opened in April 2019, was established in the Aikawa area, the centre of the property, to explain the mines and mining technology, which are unfamiliar to ordinary people, in an easy-to-understand manner, and provide visitors with information related to the visiting the sites [Photo 3-8~11].

In addition, in the Nishimikawa Area and the Aikawa area, there are existing museums within the boundaries of the property and in nearby areas, which are positioned as 'Satellite guidance facilities' and provide interpretation and information about the functions and the nature of each place [Tables 3-10, 11].

The location of visitor facilities and parking for each area is as shown in Figures 3-3 to 3-4.

Today, there are visitor facilities dispersed across the Aikawa area, such as the Gold Mine Museum, the Sado Magistrate's Office Site and the Aikawa Folk Museum. Each of the facilities features the location and characteristics of the particular place and provides information about gold mining techniques and the lives of the people who were involved in mining activities [Photos 3-12, 13]. In mining sites distributed across a wide area, Golden Sado, which is the holder of mining rights, has opened a part of a typical tunnel to visitors [Photo 3-14]. Guidance signboards (approximately 100) have already been installed to encourage visits to these facilities and properties, but provision of interpretive signboards shall be continued.

Area maps and guidance and interpretive signboards have been installed in the Nishimikawa Area [Photo 3-16]. Enhancement of visitor facilities and exhibitions is being promoted at the Former Sasagawa Branch School of Nishimikawa Elementary School as an information base where local guides are stationed and detailed information is provided. The Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park (private facility) on the western side of the placer gold mine functions as a satellite guidance facility and in addition to an exhibition featuring general information about gold and the history of the placer gold mines, there are facilities where placer gold mining can be experienced [Photo 3-15]. Going forward, plans are being progressed to provide information and interpretive content at the Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park and at the Former Sasagawa Branch School and also to utilise it as a tour base to guide visitors (park-and-ride tours). At the Kaneko Kanzaburo House, which is being repaired (since 2020), repairs and enhancements have been done in such a way as to enable its utilisation as a facility which will convey the atmosphere and people's way of life in a placer gold mining settlement.

● **Table 3-10** Museum facility

No.	Name	Address	Associated properties	Content	Visitors (2019)
1	Sado Museum	2041 Yahata, Sado City	Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine Tsurushi Silver Mine Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Information on each area, exhibition on how gold deposits are developed, and display of unearthed artefacts.	7,110

● **Table 3-11** Visitor centre (No.1), satellite guidance facilities (No.2-7)

No.	Name	Address	Associated properties	Content	Visitors (2019)
1	Kirarium Sado	18-1 Aikawa Sanchome-Hamamachi, Sado City	Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine Tsurushi Silver Mine Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Exhibition, mainly through films. Interpretation on the value of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine and pre-modern and modern gold production techniques.	20,638 (Apr. 20th, 2019–Mar. 31st, 2020)
2	Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park Museum	835-1 Nishimikawa, Sado City	Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine	Exhibition of placer gold deposits, history, production techniques and real objects from the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine. Alluvial gold panning experience.	69,881
3	Former Sasagawa Branch School of Nishimikawa Elementary School	462-7 Nishimikawa, Sado City	Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine	Panel exhibition of history and cultural landscape of the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine and of the lives in placer gold mine.	Opened in Nov. 2020
4	Gold Mine Museum	1305 Shimo Aikawa, Sado City	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Exhibition of gold production during the Edo Period, interpretation of gold veins and shaft, display of tools used in gold production.	148,176
	Repair station	1-1 Aikawa Sotokumachi, Sado City	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Exhibition of actual machinery since the Meiji Period and film and old photographs from when the mine was operated.	
5	The Sado Magistrate's Office Site	1-1 Aikawa Hiromamachi, Sado City	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Restored structures and exhibition of restored facilities for ore dressing.	19,060
6	Aikawa Folk Museum	20 Aikawa Sakashitamachi, Sado City	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Exhibition of unearthed artefacts from excavation surveys, mine documents and old photographs using the former mine offices.	4,194
7	Aikawa Traditional Skills Museum	2 Aikawa Kitazawamachi, Sado City	Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine	Introduction to and experience of mining culture.	4,809



● **Photo 3-8** "Kirarium Sado" (Visitor centre)



● **Photo 3-9** "Kirarium Sado" Theatres interpreting the whole property





● **Photo 3-10** "Kirarium Sado" Interpretation with videos and projection mapping. (Technology of "Onagashi" method in the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine)



● **Photo 3-11** "Kirarium Sado" Information board for visitors to the property



● **Photo 3-12** Gold Mine Museum, Golden Sado Inc.



● **Photo 3-13** Sado Magistrate's Office Site, Guidance in dressing and smelting plant

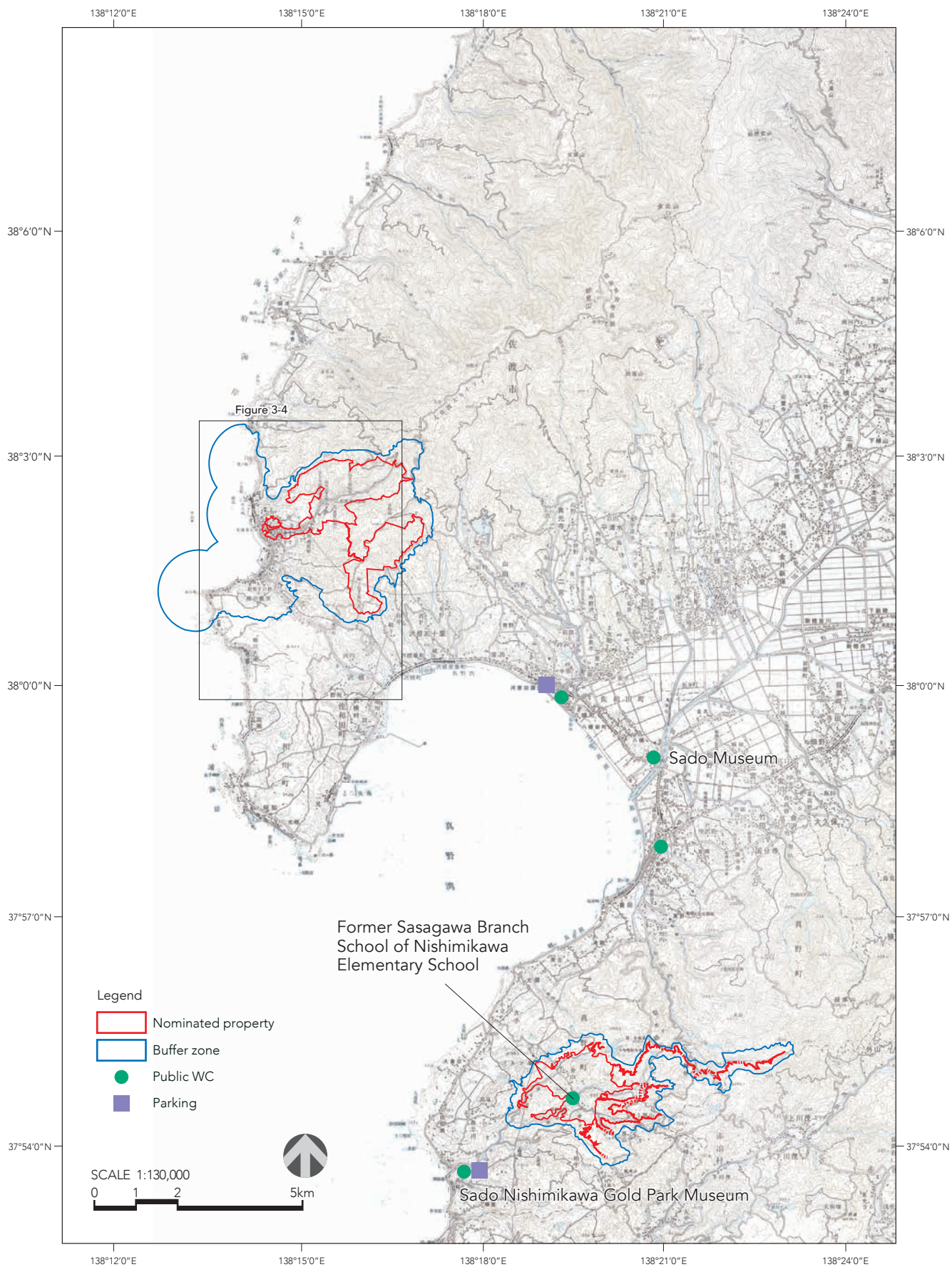


● **Photo 3-14** Tunnel facility open to the public, Golden Sado (in the Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site)



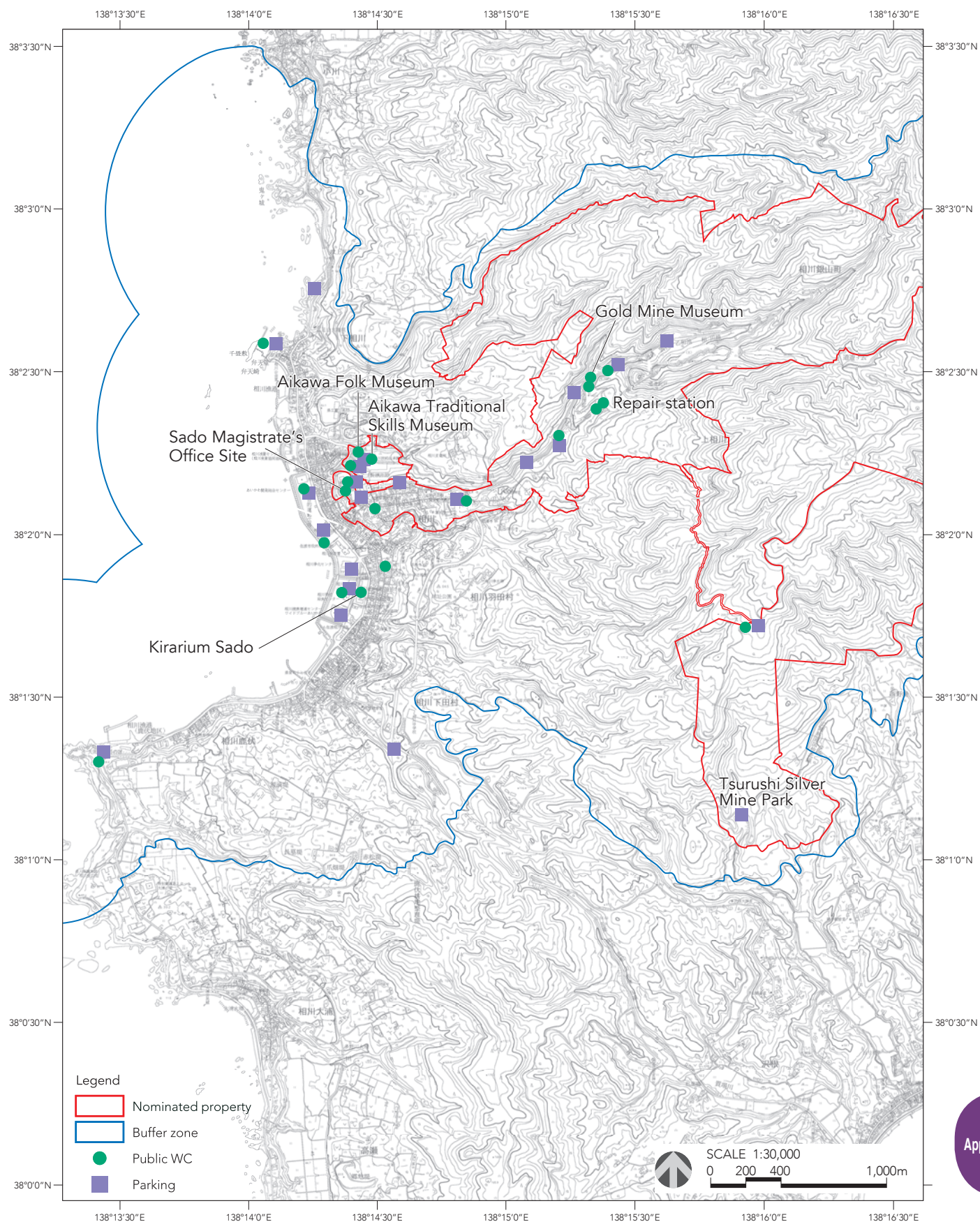
● **Photo 3-15** Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park Museum (gold panning experience facility)





● Figure 3-3 Visitor facilities



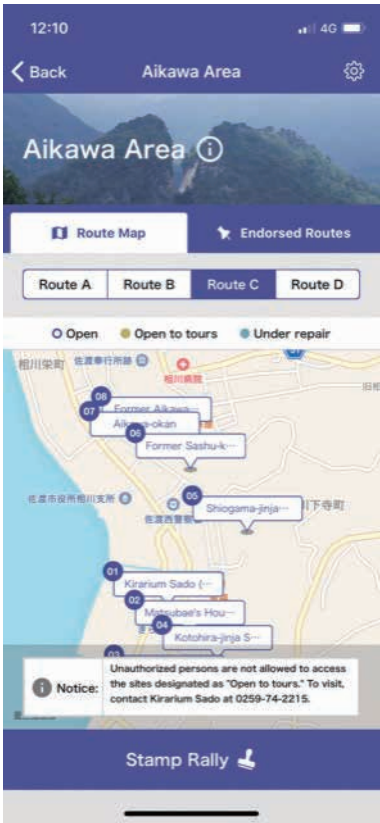


3.4.2.3 Installation of Visitor Facilities and Signs

In addition to parking and toilets necessary for public access and utilisation installed in each area and the surrounding region, interpretive signboards about the property and guidance signs have been installed [Photo 3-16]. Still, some plans for installing them have not been implemented yet, therefore, work of installation shall be continued. Initiatives to appropriately guide visitors are being progressed through the creation of guide apps (Sado Gold and Silver Mine Navi) linked to interpretive and guidance signs [Photo 3-17].



● Photo 3-16 Guidance sign (left) and interpretive signboard (right); Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine



● Photo 3-17 Guide app



## 3.5 Current State and Issues of Sustainability and Contribution to the Development

### 3.5.1 Understanding and Sharing the Value of the Property in the Property Area

Sado City is implementing various initiatives in the whole area of the island in order to have local residents and companies understand and share the value of the property [see: 3.4.1 Present State and Issues of Public Access and Utilisation]. Concretely, the City has staged seminars and site visits and supported resident study groups and tours. Also, for capacity building for the next generation and fostering love in hometowns, the City has linked with school education to encourage engagement in study of the natural attributes and culture of Sado including the component parts as 'Sadology'. The City is also implementing initiatives to increase opportunities for communication between visitors and local residents, to have the visitors stay longer on the island, and to promote participation by visitors in local events. The City is promoting the local residents' understanding by taking advantages of those opportunities.

Fostering the perception of local people that continuing these initiatives with the contribution to the local sustainable development in mind will have the appropriate preservation and management of the Sado Island Gold Mines lead to the formation of comfortable environment suitable for local people's lives, especially the perception that the presentation and utilisation of the nominated property as the World Heritage Site and appropriate preservation and management by the groups such as local companies will bring the maintenance and revitalisation of the local community, will be important and the initiatives will be taken.

### 3.5.2 Enhancement of Preservation and Utilisation

In the areas of Nishimikawa, Tsurushi and Aikawa, there are conservation groups organised by local residents that do day-to-day mowing and cleaning. "The Associations of Sado World Heritage Promotion (Sado, Niigata area, metropolitan area)," organisations of individuals and groups on the island, individuals on mainland Niigata, and people in the Tokyo Metropolitan area who hail from Sado, spread awareness of the value of the property and preserve it, such as convening study groups and events, undertaking conservation and beautification activities. To encourage participation by local residents in passing down property value to future generations, the Prefecture and the City support the creation of a framework of groups and training. They are also seeking to enhance the effectiveness of activities by linking a network of activities of groups and individuals, encouraging sharing of issues relating to preservation and utilisation of property, and by sharing and cooperating the content of activities.

In the meantime, "the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Inscription Promotion Council" was established in 2015 in order to make the nominated property inscribed in the World Heritage List and to carry on the value in the next generation. Currently, 1,467 organisations and groups in the prefecture have joined the Council (as of September 2022), and with the intent of "doing what they can" as appropriate to their business circumstances, are engaging in a variety of activities for promulgating value and conservation.

### 3.5.3 Maintenance and Revitalisation of Local Community

It is essential that local residents understand the value of the nominated property and the surrounding environment properly and take pride in the natural attributes and culture of Sado Island in order to securely protect, maintain and manage the nominated property in the future while appropriately utilising it. To that end, it is important to maintain the local community and revitalise it more. However, "depopulation," "the decreasing birthrate and aging population," and "stagnation of local economy" are the issues common to many local communities in Japan. Sado Island is also facing the continued depopulation. In the island, problems on townscape and security arise due to deterioration of historical buildings which people have difficulty in maintaining and increase of vacant houses. Also, it is getting difficult to maintain and succeed the folk entertainment, traditional events, and traditional industry and so on. In the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, which is a part of the component part, taking measures against increasing vacant houses is an urgent issue.

Furthermore, for maintenance and revitalisation of local community, taking measures not only for vacant houses but also for "depopulation" and "the decreasing birthrate and aging population," such as promoting economies and improving living environment are large issues. The recycling and sustainable cycle will be established as follows: activities related to preservation and management of the nominated property could contribute to the maintenance and revitalisation of local community and promotion of local economy, which will bring the maintenance and revitalisation of local community. Accordingly, that will promote the preservation and management of the nominated property.

It is inevitable to foster the next generation human resource necessary for maintaining the community. Sado City aims to build an island with cultural properties at the core of the island in their supreme plan, "Sado City Master Plan -Basic Plan-(Late period) (2010)". In the plan, regarding the development of the next generation, the City is "to enhance "Sadology," in which they learn the nature, history and culture unique to Sado, the study of local industry in order to learn the history and culture of nature and to foster the spirit of cherishing the nature and environment," as well as "promoting the education to adjust to the society of information and globalisation." Efforts are being made so that the nominated property will be utilised as a material for education through diverse values together with GIAHS, Geopark, and various cultural properties and with natural environment on the island.



## Chapter 4 Preservation and Management Plan of the Nominated Property

In this chapter, the specific measures and policies required to take the necessary steps will be explained on the basis of the current conditions and the issues facing the property and its surrounding areas described in Chapter 3.

### 4.1 Preservation and Management of, and Research on the Component Parts

#### 4.1.1 Protection of the Property under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties

The intrinsic elements which constitute the value of all component parts including archaeological sites, structures and landscape, have been identified, and the zones that include all of them have been designated as Historic Sites or Important Cultural Landscapes under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties [Table 4-1]. All component parts are being appropriately preserved [Table 4-2].

The existing state of land and structures designated as Historic Sites may not be changed without national government permission (Article 125 of the Law) [Table 4-3]. The Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs consults with the Subcommittee of Cultural Properties of the Council for Cultural Affairs established by the national government about alterations to the existing state of Historic Sites and grants permission based on its response. The examination of the application to change the existing state of component parts is scientific and stringent.

● **Table 4-1** Summary of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties regarding the protection of the component parts

Legislation name	Objectives	Overview
Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This law aims to preserve and utilise cultural properties, so that the culture of the Japanese people may be further developed and a contribution will be made to the progress of world culture.</li> <li>The two areas are selected or designated as Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscapes, meaning that protection of the areas which have the proposed Outstanding Universal Value is legally guaranteed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to preserve, maintain and utilise cultural properties, this law defines permission or notification of actions altering the existing state or affecting the preservation of the properties (hereinafter “alterations to existing state and so on” in all tables).</li> <li>For the areas that are selected or designated as Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscapes, custodial bodies under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties or municipal governments design preservation and utilisation plans and determine policies and methods for preservation and management according to locations, forms, and characteristics of individual cultural property. They also define the standard for dealing with any alterations to existing state or other actions.</li> </ul>

● **Table 4-2** Designation and Selection under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties

Name of area	ID	Target of protection	Type of cultural property	Name of cultural property (designation)
Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine	001-012, 017-020	Remains (including historical buildings and structures within the area), relics	Historic Site	Sado Gold and Silver Mine Site
	001-020	Sasagawa Area land use forms and topography of vestiges of mining, buildings	Important Cultural Landscape	Rural Landscape from Placer Gold Mining at Nishimikawa, Sado
Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine	021, 022	Remains (including historical buildings and structures within the area), relics	Historic Site	Sado Gold and Silver Mine Site
	021	Aikawa-Kamimachi Area land use forms, buildings	Important Cultural Landscape	Cultural Landscape of the Mine and Mining Towns in Aikawa, Sado

● **Table 4-3** Summary of legal and regulatory permission under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties

Legislation name	Type of cultural property	Permission and others	Actions requiring permission	Penalties
Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties	Historic Site	Permission of or notification to the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Part of affairs belonging to the authority of the Commissioner is delegated to the prefectural or municipal Board of Education.)	Alterations to existing state, etc. require permission.	Penal servitude or imprisonment, or fine or administrative fine
	Important Cultural Landscape	Notification to the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs	Alterations to existing state, etc. require prior notification.	Administrative fine, or written advice or order regarding management

As a general principle, the owner or custodial body must undertake preservation, management and repair of Historic Sites and grant public access to them in accordance with the provisions of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (Articles 113, 115, 118 and 119 of the Law). In relation to preservation and repair of Historic Sites, the national government will subsidise part of costs as necessary and will provide technical guidance (Articles 35, 47 and 118 of the Law). Furthermore, the prefecture will subsidise part of the balance.

At the same time, settlement zone of the Nishimikawa Area and the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town of Aikawa area, are important elements of the Important Cultural Landscapes and appropriate conservation measures have been devised in accordance with the Landscape Act and municipal ordinance based on the Landscape Act, including the provisions for a notification in relation to alterations to their existing state to be lodged under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (Article 134 and 139 of the Law). To engage in activity that would change the existing state of important elements of Important Cultural Landscapes, there must be prior discussion in accordance with standards set by agreement between administrative body and residents, and after adjustment to construction methods and specifications to make sure there is no impact on preservation, if impact on preservation cannot be avoided, a notification must be lodged with the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. In relation to repairs and landscaping of important elements privately owned, costs, as necessary, may be subsidised by the national government (Article 141), and the prefectural or municipal governments will subsidise part of the balance.

● **Table 4-4** List of management plans

Name of area	Designation status	Title of management plan
Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine		
Goshaya-yama Site Toramaru-yama Site Tatenokoshi-yama Site Waterways Kaneko Kanzaburo House Mine Official's Residence Site Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine, Noh play stage	Historic Site	Sado Gold and Silver Mine Historic Site Preservation and Management Plan Phase 2 (formulated in March, 2016)
Residential District: Kinzan Residential District: Sasagawa	Important Cultural Landscape	Rural Landscape from Placer Gold Mining at Nishimikawa, Sado – Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan (formulated in March, 2011)
Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine		
All except Aikawa-Kamimachi Town	Historic Site	Sado Gold and Silver Mine Historic Site Preservation and Management Plan Phase 2 (formulated in March, 2016)
Aikawa-Kamimachi Town	Important Cultural Landscape	Cultural Landscape of the Mine and the Mining towns in Aikawa, Sado – Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan (formulated in March, 2017)

The Commissioner can request the owners, etc. to report on the existing state of the Important Cultural Landscapes, or on the state of the management (Article 140). In case the Commissioner concludes that the Important Cultural Landscapes are in danger of destruction or damage because of its inappropriate custody, he or she can issue recommendations to the owners, etc. with regard to the improvement of management practices or other necessary management measures. In case the owners, etc. who were given the recommendations fail to take the recommended measures without justifiable reasons, the Commissioner can order the owners, etc. in question to take the recommended measures (Article 137).

Sado City has stipulated guidelines and standards for handling such alterations to the existing state in “The Sado Gold and Silver Mine Historic Site Management Plan (Period II)” (formulated in 2017), “The Cultural Landscape of the Mine and Mining Towns in Aikawa, Sado Preservation Plan” (formulated in 2017), and “The Rural Landscape from Placer Gold Mining at Nishimikawa, Sado Preservation Plan” (formulated in 2011) [Table 4-4]. As a general rule, alterations are limited to actions which are necessary or have a high degree of necessity in relation to investigation, preservation, enhancement or utilisation of properties. Approval is limited to the minimum necessary alterations to the existing state.

In addition, regarding enhancement projects of cultural properties for the purposes of preservation and utilisation, for projects that are likely to have an impact on attributes which convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, Sado City, which is a project implementing body, will first undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment in advance [see Chapter 4, 4.3.2 Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment]. Normally, the department responsible for World Heritage draws on the views of scientific and expert committees to develop project plans for enhancement projects. Therefore, the department shall ensure to implement the plan regarding Heritage Impact Assessment as part of the project planning process. After implementation, it shall verify the content of the project, consider the points to be improved, accumulate the information and provide appropriate guidance to assist decision-making.

#### 4.1.1.1 Designation (Selection) of the Component Parts

All component parts are designated as Historic Sites or as Important Cultural Landscapes under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The designated protection status of all property is as hereafter described.

##### - Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

2011 (21 September)	“Rural Landscape from Placer Gold Mining at Nishimikawa, Sado” was selected as a national Important Cultural Landscape (Official Notice No. 149 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2015 (7 October)	Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine was added to the Sado Gold and Silver Mine national Historic Site designation (Official Notice No. 173 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2023	Parts of Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine are to be added to the national Important Cultural Landscape (Scheduled).

### - Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

1929	The Sado Magistrate's Office Site was designated as a National Historic Site.
1942	The Sado Magistrate's Office building burned down.
1943	The national Historic Site designation of the Sado Magistrate's Office was cancelled.
1958 (March 22)	The Sado Magistrate's Office Site, the Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site, the Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site, the Kawamura Hikozaemon's grave, the Okubo Nagayasu's grave, the Shizume Ichizaemon's grave and the Imperial Household Agency Sado Branch Office were collectively designated as a Niigata Prefecture Historic Site; "the Aikawa Mine site" (Official Notice No. 11 of the Niigata Prefectural Board of Education).
1994 (24 May)	The Sado Magistrate's Office Site, the Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site, the Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site, the Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site, the Bell Tower, the Kawamura Hikozaemon's grave, the Okubo Nagayasu's grave and the Imperial Household Agency Sado Branch Office were collectively designated as a national Historic Site; Sado Gold Mine historic site (Official Notice No. 73 of the Ministry of Education).
2010 (22 February)	The Odate, the Takato-Ainoyama and the Kitazawa Districts were added to the national Historic Site designation of the Sado Gold Mine site (Official Notice No. 18 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2011 (20 January)	Sado City was designated as the local custodial body for the national Historic Site (Official Notice No. 9 of the Agency for Cultural Affairs).
2011 (7 February)	The Tsurushi Silver Mine site was added to the national Historic Site designation of the Sado Gold Mine site and the name was changed to Sado Gold and Silver Mine site (Official Notice No. 15 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2012 (28 December)	Mitsubishi Sado Mine mining facilities in the scope of the Historic Site designation (the Odate vertical shaft headframe, the Odate vertical shaft winch house, the Doyu and Takato adits, the Takato crushing plant, the Takato ore storehouse and conveyor yard, the Ainoyama Kamibashi arched bridge, the Ainoyama Shimobashi arched bridge and the train depot (Repair Station)) were designated as national Important Cultural Properties (Official Notice No. 178 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2013 (27 March)	The Kami-Aikawa District was added to the national Historic Site designation of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine site (Official Notice No. 46 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2014 (6 October)	The Kami-Teramachi District was added to the national Historic Site designation of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine site (Official Notice No. 142 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2015 (10 March)	The Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine site was added to the national Historic Site designation of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine site (Official Notice No. 44 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
2015 (7 October)	"Cultural Landscape of the Mines and Mining Towns in Aikawa, Sado" was designated as a national Important Cultural Landscape (Official Notice No.

2021 (11 October) 173 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).  
The Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass was added to the national Historic Site designation of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine site (Official Notice No.169 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).

#### 4.1.1.2 Maintenance and Management by the Property Owners and Custodial Bodies

Most areas designated or selected as Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscape are privately owned. Sado City is designated as the custodial body on the basis of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (Articles 32-2 and 113 of the Law), and is carrying out maintenance and management with coordination and cooperation with the owners. The City regularly undertakes preservation and management in cooperation and role assignment especially with Golden Sado, which owns most of the mining facilities and the land within the boundary of the Aikawa area. Golden Sado implements the statutory obligation such as water drainage and maintenance in the mining tunnel sites as mining rights holder, as well as regular inspection and cleaning of the mining facilities, small-scale repairs not directly affecting the value of the nominated property, and operation and safety control of facilities that are open to the public as tourist facilities. On the other hand, the City as the custodial body implements large-scale repairs of the mining facilities obtaining financial support, and instruction and advice from the state and the prefectural government.

Within the selected areas as Important Cultural Landscape, there exist a number of private-owned houses and buildings, and thus many cases of altering the existing state such as regular maintenance and repairs are occurring. In cooperation with the "Association of Heritage managers," which is approved as organisation of architects who are approved to have technique of repairing historic architecture and knowledge of utilisation method, the City establishes the backup system from the technical point of view relating to investigation of repairing property, prior consultation and planning of execution with the owners, and supervision of construction, so as to decide construction method based on the value and the state of preservation of the buildings.

Local residents' groups engaged in conservation activities in three mining zones of Nishimikawa, Tsurushi, and Aikawa are regularly involved in maintenance activities such as weeding and cleaning.

#### 4.1.2 Preservation and Management of Each Component Part / Element

The preservation and management of each component part are based on the rigorous cultural property protection systems regulated under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. In addition, based on the policies of the preservation and management plan, which was formulated according to the type of the property, necessary measures will be implemented to issues such as maintenance and management (cleaning, vegetation management, minor repairs, inspection, etc.), presentation and reception of visitors (enhancement of sightseeing route, installation of signs, etc.), disaster prevention measures (fire prevention facilities, seismic strengthening), conservation of landscape and repairs (depletion and improvement of landscape obstruction factors), planned public ownership of the land, establishment of system for smooth management (promotion of linked management with local residents, property owners, and related parties), promotion of continuous survey and investigation and so on, which are shown in Chapter 3.

The area within the boundaries of the the Aikawa area and its immediate vicinity, as shown on Table 4-8, includes mine facility buildings dating from after mechanisation including modern port facilities for bringing in supplies and power generation facilities for supplying power. Although these



buildings and sites do not contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, they are nevertheless heritage to be conserved. Many of the above-ground remains can be viewed in person, thereby attracting the interest of visitors. They shall be protected also (see 3.1.1 Protection status of the Nominated Property).

Basic policy for preservation and management is described below.

● **Elements Directly Contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value**

Stringent protection shall be afforded to characteristics and attributes that directly demonstrate the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. In addition, in the event that these elements suffer any damage or decay, repairs and recovery efforts shall be undertaken without delay. Also, appropriate preservation and management shall be implemented based on the utilisation policy.

● **Objects not contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value**

They shall be appropriately preserved and managed based on their utilisation policy considering their significance and other aspects including their scale, nature, and use, as well as relationship to the nominated property.

● **Conditions Affecting the proposed Outstanding Universal Value**

Efforts will be directed to monitoring conditions negatively affecting the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property as well as to their removal or improvement in a systematic fashion.

Based on the existing state of each of the component parts and associated issues presented in Chapter 3, basic policies for management of the property are mentioned and specific measures from the viewpoints of “maintenance and management,” “enhancement and utilisation,” and “disaster prevention” of individual elements are described in the table below.

**- Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine**

**[Policies for management]**

- To maintain the multilayered land use forms that can be traced from the era of placer gold mine operations, through the closure of the mine and the shift to agricultural livelihoods, down to the current generation, including aboveground and underground remains such as the reservoirs, waterways, and mining sites demonstrating the series of processes involved in the “Onagashi” (great flow) placer gold mining and dressing technology, and aboveground and underground remains on sites relating to management and operation and a topography that has been altered by its exploitation in the component parts.
- Given that much of the component parts are largely covered in forests, to carry out management that strives to harmonise the preservation of archeological sites and maintenance of the forest environment.
- Given that a substantive understanding of archaeological remains is important for appropriate preservation, management and utilisation, to determine specific methods based on the results of continuous excavation surveys.
- With regard to residential districts that maintain the atmosphere of the period of the closure of the mine, to endeavor to improve landscape by means of landscaping and the removal of objects obstructing the landscape while maintaining the current situation with regard to land use. In addition, when maintaining or repairing buildings and structures in the residential

● **Table 4-5** Measures of preservation, management and utilisation of the elements (Nishimikawa Area)

Elements directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value			Functions	Measures of preservation, management and utilisation		
Category	Elements	Main objects		Preservation and management policy	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management methods
Historic Site/ Important Cultural Landscape	Placer gold mining zone Goshaya-yama Site Toramaru-yama Site Tatenokoshi-yama Site Waterways	Remains of placer gold mining Waterways Reservoirs Mining sites Stone structures	Technical system of gold production • Mining, dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain existing land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of remains and artefacts, carry out excavations, etc., to the minimum extent necessary.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Appropriately manage the forest, including through the regular felling and removal of trees and undergrowth. When carrying out these activities, collaborate and cooperate with Sado City and local resident preservation organisations.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Install interpretation signboards and guide maps, while reflecting the results of excavation surveys on the waterways, reservoirs and stone structures. Also on the steep slope in the mining sites, develop the place for viewing the whole property. In addition, introduce ICT such as VR and AR.
					Disaster prevention	For the places covered with forest on steep slopes in mining remains, maintain the current condition by managing trees appropriately. In addition, implement to construct the fence against rock-fall and collapse with a method in consideration of the protection of the remains and of the landscape.
Important Cultural Landscape	Residential District: Kinzan Residential District: Sasagawa	Above- and under-ground remains and surrounding landscape Buildings in the settlement Structures including stone walls Landscape	Social system of gold production • Dwellings • Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When refurbishing and repairing buildings and structures, etc., guide the actions in such a way as to maintain a favorable landscape.</li> <li>• Determine and disseminate the rules for visits to the settlement.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	When repairing buildings and structures, maintain their appearance in harmony with the surrounding landscape. Work to maintain the positioning of buildings and stone walls using unwanted stones from mining, etc. from the period of mining operation.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Manage the number of visitors and their traffic lines through presentation with guided tours as a main method, and also, harmonise with the lives of local residents by disseminating the appropriate visitors' manner.
					Disaster prevention	Establish initial fire extinguishing system by local residents, carry out regular fire fighting drills and install fire prevention facility such as fire alarm systems, etc.
Historic Site	Mine Official's Residence Site	Above- and under-ground remains of management facility	Social system of gold production • Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of the underground remains and artefacts, carry out excavations, etc., to the minimum extent necessary.</li> <li>• Carry out enhancement and utilisation based on the results of the excavation surveys.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Carry out excavation surveys on zoning, stone walls, etc. as they were when the placer gold mining was in operation as necessary, and based on the results of the surveys, take measures for protection.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Carry out partial excavations in order to clarify the scope of the property, the remains and artefacts. Implement the enhancement for presentation of the underground remains revealed by the excavations and installation of interpretation signboards, etc.
Historic Site/ Important Cultural Landscape	Kaneko Kanzaburo House	Historical structures and underground remains of those in the settlement	Social system of gold production • Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current conditions so as not to damage the design features and shapes of the buildings.</li> <li>• Aim for presentation, utilisation and enhancement, while also aiming to change private land to public land and to take appropriate protection measures</li> <li>• Install fire prevention and crime prevention equipment and carry out seismic reinforcement work.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	After making private land into public land, implementing emergency measures, conducting a detailed survey of damage conditions and planning the repair since 2016, started preservation and repair works in 2019. After repair works, Sado City shall preserve and manage the property with the cooperation and collaboration of local residents.
					Enhancement and utilisation	After the repair works, aim for the presentation and utilisation as a facility that interprets the management and administration of the placer gold mine and the way of life in the mining settlement, etc.
					Disaster prevention	In conjunction with the repair works, install crime prevention and fire prevention equipment and carry out seismic reinforcement work. In addition to establishment of fire extinguishing system and patrol by the local residential district, Sado City staff will carry out regular patrol.
Historic Site	Nishimikawa Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine, Noh play stage	Historical structures and the underground remains	Social system of gold production • Mining culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain current conditions, including those of buildings within the precincts.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Daily maintenance will be carried out by the residents of the settlement. Should a damage occur, contact Sado City and consult with it to determine a countermeasure. For the time being, maintain the current conditions while continuing with partial repairs such as measures for leaking roofs, and conduct a detailed survey and carry out appropriate repairs.
					Enhancement and utilisation	After repair works, consider holding explanation meetings and events which make an appeal about the values and so on of the elements.
					Disaster prevention	In addition to installing the fire prevention and crime prevention facility and patrol by the residents of Sasagawa residential district, Sado City staff will carry out regular patrol.

district, to implement surveys in advance and to conduct appropriate repair with a view to the preservation of the value. When necessary, to confirm in advance the situation of aboveground and underground remains by means of excavation surveys and the like and to consult and coordinate the implementation of construction methods so as not to affect any remains.

- Given that the settlements continue to be places of life and livelihood for local residents, to direct and manage visitors appropriately so as not to interfere with the lives of residents and to educate visitors on proper behavior.
- With regard to historic buildings within the boundary of the property, such as the Kaneko Kanzaburo House, given that the deterioration progresses greatly, to effect repairs systematically and promptly, as well as endeavoring to preserve configurations and designs, to carry out maintenance keeping in mind public access. Also, when repairing, in parallel, to carry out disaster prevention methods such as by implementing earthquake protection measures, installing crime and fire prevention equipment.
- Given that there are a number of wooden houses and population aging is advancing in the settlement, to formulate the fire protection planning reflecting the current state of the settlement triggered by the consideration to cope with the fires on the historical buildings. In addition to continuing efforts at fire prevention using existing fire prevention equipment, to raise people's awareness of disaster prevention by conducting regular fire prevention drills based on the fire protection planning and to secure a reporting and first-response fire extinguishing system.

#### **- Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine**

##### **[Policies for management]**

- To securely preserve sites demonstrating the value of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine (hereinafter, Aikawa-Tsurushi Area), including sites and structures related to gold and silver production, sites and townscapes related to the mining settlements, sites related to the management and operation of gold and silver production, and sites related to religious faith.
- Given that the boundaries of the component parts encompass many archaeological remains both on the surface and underground, and that many of these are covered in forests, to carry out management that strives to harmonise the preservation of archeological sites and maintenance and improvement of the forest environment.
- Given that a substantive understanding of archaeological remains is important for appropriate preservation, management and utilisation, to determine specific methods based on the results of continuous excavation surveys. In addition, to implement excavation surveys only to the minimum extent in order to protect the underground remains. Moreover, to promote utilisation based on the results thereof, by expanding and enhancing the scope of public access.
- To promote maintenance from perspectives including those of the land use situation, the distribution of remains, and the development/maintenance of routes that allow visitors to safely tour the site. At the Aikawa area, to focus efforts on areas including the section of the Nigorikawa river basin open to the public as tourist facility, the immediate vicinity of modernisation facilities, and districts of the Kami-Aikawa and the Kami-Teramachi. On the other hand, at the Tsurushi Silver Mine (hereinafter, Tsurushi area), to develop touring routes along the Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass connecting Aikawa and Tsurushi, including those in the vicinity of the Hyakumaidaira, the Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site, and the Tsurushi-Aramachi District.

● Table 4-6 Measures of preservation, management and utilisation of the elements (Tsurushi area)

Elements directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value			Functions	Measures of preservation, management and utilisation		
Category	Elements	Main objects		Preservation and management policy	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management methods
Historic Site	Mining zone Hyakumaidaira Mining Zone Byobusawa and Shidekisawa Mining Zone Otaki Mining Zone	Mining sites Surface mining site Chase mining site Tunnel mining site (Mabu-tunnel)	Technical system of silver production • Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of remains and artefacts, carry out excavation surveys, etc., to the minimum extent necessary.</li> <li>• Carry out enhancement, presentation and utilisation based on the results of the excavation surveys.</li> <li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	In the scope of the presentation, remove trees and undergrowth for preservation and recognisability of remains. For visible remains on the ground, such as earthworks and terraces, as there are concerns that the excessive removal of undergrowth may cause an outflow of soil, take measures for dealing with rainwater and preventing the outflow of soil, as necessary. On felling in the afforested area, implementation of work taking the protection of the remains into account, avoidance of clear-cutting for preventing the outflow of soil and ground surface protection by tree planting are required.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Aim to make private land into public land in a planned manner, while taking into consideration the order of priorities for enhancement and utilisation. Carry out excavations and distribution surveys, and consider installing interpretation signboards, exhibiting the remains and developing the sightseeing routes that reflect the result of the surveys.
					Disaster prevention	Based on the grasp and monitoring of the places where damage has occurred in the past and the places where collapses, etc. are forecast in the future; consider the necessary steps and measures at a stage when the changes are still small and implement them. Carry out safety measures, including erecting no-entry fencing at surface mining sites and entrance of mining tunnels.
	Tsurushi Silver Mine Local Magistrate's Office Site	Above- and under-ground remains related to management of silver mine	Social system of production Management Technical system of silver production • Ore-dressing, smelting, refining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of remains and artefacts, carry out excavation surveys, etc., to the minimum extent necessary.</li> <li>• Carry out enhancement, presentation and utilisation based on the results of the excavation surveys.</li> <li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	In the scope of the presentation, remove trees and undergrowth for recognisability of remains. For visible remains on the ground, such as earthworks and terraces, because there are concerns that the excessive removal of undergrowth may cause an outflow of soil, take measures to deal with rainwater and prevent the outflow of soil, as necessary.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Aim to make private land into public land in a planned manner, while taking into consideration the order of priorities for enhancement and utilisation. Carry out installment of interpretation signboards, etc. to interpret underground remains revealed by the excavation surveys.
					Disaster prevention	Based on the grasp and monitoring of the places where damage has occurred in the past and the places where collapses, etc. are forecast in the future; consider the necessary steps and measures at a stage when the changes are still small and implement them.
	Tsurushi-Aramachi District	Above- and under-ground remains of mining settlement	Social system of production • Dwelling • Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of remains and artefacts, carry out excavation surveys, etc., to the minimum extent necessary.</li> <li>• Carry out enhancement and utilisation based on the results of the excavation surveys.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Aim to maintain the constructed remains such as terraces through maintenance of the undergrowth by fixing the sight seeing traffic route. In the scope of the presentation, remove trees and undergrowth for recognisability of remains. Even for those parts that will not be presented, carry out tree felling, etc., so there are no harmful effects on the remains.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Aim to make private land into public land in a planned manner, while taking into consideration the order of priorities for enhancement and utilisation. Carry out installment of interpretation signboards, etc. and development of the sightseeing routes to interpret underground remains revealed by the excavation surveys.
					Disaster prevention	Based on the grasp and monitoring of the places where damage has occurred in the past and the places where collapses, etc. are forecast in the future; consider the necessary steps and measures at a stage when the changes are still small and implement them.
	Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass	Above- and under-ground remains related to pass	Technical system of silver production Social system of silver production • Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Grasp the places where damage has occurred in the past and the places where collapses, etc. are forecast in the future in advance and take necessary steps and measures at a stage when the changes are still small through regular monitoring.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Make the shape of the pass recognisable by removing the undergrowth, develop sightseeing routes and install signboards.
					Disaster prevention	Take measures to dispose the rainwater and prevent the outflow of soil, as necessary.

● **Table 4-7** Measures of preservation, management and utilisation of the elements (Aikawa area)

Elements directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value			Functions	Measures of preservation, management and utilisation		
Category	Elements	Main objects		Preservation and management policy	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management methods
Historic Site	Gold and silver mining zone Doyu-no-waruto Opencut Site Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site Ogiyama-mabu Tunnel Site Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site	Mining sites Surface mining sites Tunnel mining sites (Mabu-tunnel)  Drainage tunnel Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel Site	Technical system of gold production • Mining/drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Ascertain in advance the places where damage and collapses, etc., are forecast to occur in the future and implement the necessary steps and measures by carrying out regular monitoring at a stage when the changes are still small. In the scope of the presentation, regularly fell trees and remove undergrowth with the aim of making the remains recognisable. Even for those parts that will not be opened, fell and remove trees appropriately, so there are no harmful effects on the remains. Sado City and the property owners shall conduct the maintenance and management of the remains by having a close contact with each other and sharing information.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Utilise the tunnel mining sites (Mabu-tunnels) that can be exhibited. On the aboveground remains, establish sightseeing routes and implement safety measures as well as install direction signboards.
					Disaster prevention	As there are places where rock falls and collapses of steep slopes have occurred in the area around the Doyu-no-waruto Opencut Site and prefectural road No.463, after consulting with the related institutions including the facility managers, etc., implement rock fall prevention measures that take into account the protection of the remains and the landscape. Given that the steep slopes in the mining sites are covered in forest, and the trees play the role of preventing the collapse of slopes and rock falls, manage the forests by liana-cutting and undergrowth removal.
	Sado Magistrate's Office Site (and Bell Tower)	Above- and under-ground remains related to management facility, reconstructed building Above- and under-ground remains related to ore dressing, smelting and refining	Social system of gold production Management Technical system of gold production • Ore-dressing, smelting, refining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Carry out repair work on the reconstructed model of which deterioration is progressing.</li> <li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Regarding reconstructed buildings in the Sado Magistrate's Office Site, consider the repair work and re-enhancement, while consulting with experts.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Given that a utilisation plan was formulated in 2016, in conjunction with the re-enhancement of the reconstructed buildings, consider strengthening the guidance facility functions (some parts of the plan have already been implemented).
					Disaster prevention	Work to prevent fires using the currently installed fire-prevention equipment. Also, carry out regular fire-prevention drills to ensure initial fire extinguish system.
		Structure related to management: Bell Tower	Social system of gold production Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	After the building was dismantled and restored in 2003, maintain the current condition while carrying out necessary repairs in future.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Implement the relocation of the electric poles and electric cable in the medium- and long- term. Regarding the existing interpretive signboards, renovate them into the ones of unified design for each property.
					Disaster prevention	Bell tower is located in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, so fire prevention measures will be taken integrally with the buildings in the townscape. Also, carry out regular fire-prevention drills to ensure initial fire extinguish system.
	Kami-Aikawa District Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine Site	Above- and under-ground remains related to ore-dressing, smelting and refining	Technical system of gold production • Ore-dressing, smelting, refining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	Ascertain in advance the places where damage and collapses, etc., are forecast to occur in the future and implement the necessary steps and measures by carrying out regular monitoring at a stage when the changes are still small. In the scope of the presentation, fell trees and remove undergrowth with the aim of making the remains recognisable. Even for those parts that will not be opened to the public, fell and remove trees appropriately, so there are no harmful effects on the remains.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Establish routes and install signboards.
					Disaster prevention	Given that the steep slopes in the Kami-Aikawa District are covered in forest, and the trees play the role of preventing the collapse of slopes and rock falls, manage the forests by liana-cutting and undergrowth removal.
		Above- and under-ground remains and landscape related to the lives, residences, faiths of the people who supported the production	Social system of gold production • Dwelling • Mining culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of remains and artefacts, carry out excavation surveys, etc., to the minimum extent necessary. Also, carry out distribution survey of stone structures related to faiths.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	In the scope of the presentation, regularly fell trees and remove undergrowth with the aim of making the remains recognisable. Even for those parts that will not be opened, fell and remove trees appropriately, so there are no harmful effects on the remains. Take measures to dispose the rainwater and prevent the outflow of soil, as necessary.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Install the interpretation signboards, etc. to interpret underground remains revealed by the excavation surveys. Establish routes and install signboards and carry out safety measures for visitors as necessary.
					Disaster prevention	Given that the steep slopes are covered in forest, and the trees play the role of preventing the collapse of slopes and rock falls, manage the forests by liana-cutting and undergrowth removal. Regarding steep slopes along the roads, where human damages are concerned, implement rock fall prevention measures that take into account the protection of the remains and the landscape.



Elements directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value			Functions	Measures of preservation, management and utilisation		
Category	Elements	Main objects		Preservation and management policy	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management methods
Historic Site	Kami-Teramachi District	Above- and under-ground remains regarding the faith of people who supported the production Landscape	Social system of gold production • Dwelling • Management • Mining culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li> <li>• Manage the forests, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li> <li>• In order to ascertain the conditions of remains and artefacts, carry out excavation surveys, etc., to the minimum extent necessary. Also, carry out distribution survey of stone structures related to faiths.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	In the scope of the presentation, regularly fell trees and remove undergrowth with the aim of making the remains recognisable. Even for those parts that will not be opened to the public, fell and remove trees appropriately, so there are no harmful effects on the remains. Take measures to dispose the rainwater and prevent the outflow of soil, as necessary.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Establish sightseeing routes and installing signboards on the aboveground, and implement visitor safety measures as necessary. Carry out installment of interpretation signboards, etc. to interpret underground remains revealed by the excavation surveys.
					Disaster prevention	Given that the steep slopes are covered in forest, and the trees play the role of preventing the collapse of slopes and rock falls, manage the forests by liana-cutting and undergrowth removal and maintain the current state. Regarding steep slopes along the roads, where human damages are concerned, implement rock fall prevention measures that take into account the protection of the remains and the landscape.
Important Cultural Landscape	Aikawa-Kamimachi Town	Above- and under-ground remains such as buildings and artefacts consisting the townscape of mining town (zoning, stonewalls, stone structures, remains of waterway etc.) Landscape	Social system of gold production • Dwelling • Management • Mining culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When repairing buildings and structures within the town, aim for harmonisation with the surrounding landscape, while maintaining the external appearance.</li> <li>• Aim to protect the remains recognisable above ground.</li> <li>• Aim for harmonisation with the lives of residents when carrying out the presentation and utilisation.</li> </ul>	Maintenance and management	When repairing, landscaping and building houses newly, maintain their external appearance while aiming for harmonisation with the surrounding landscape. For vacant houses, aim to maintain the landscape, such as by making private land into public land. Aim to make remains recognisable by regularly felling trees, removing undergrowth, etc. Aim to ensure the function on the stonewalls and stone structures, and implement the restoration work as necessary. In restoration, select the construction method according to the current role.
					Enhancement and utilisation	To protect the daily lives of residents, consider restricting the entry of vehicles through the introduction of a park-and-ride system. In addition, disseminate information to visitors on appropriate sightseeing manner. Establish the satellite guidance facilities and the bases for the daily management of the property through using the miners' residences and houses.
					Disaster prevention	Work to improve the ability for initial fire extinction and proper fire fighting by newly installing seismic storage tank and auxiliary tools for fire hydrant as well as the currently installed fire-prevention equipment. Implement fire-prevention drills regularly, and in addition to ensuring the initial fire-fighting system and work to foster an awareness of fire prevention among local residents.

● **Table 4-8** Measures of preservation, management and utilisation of the objects (Aikawa area: not directly contributing to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value)

Objects not directly contributing to the OUV			Functions	Measures of preservation, management and utilisation		
Category	Main objects			Preservation and management policy	Preservation and management items	Specific preservation and management methods
Important Cultural Property/ Historic Site	Mining facilities after mechanisation	Structures related to mining, ore-dressing, smelting, refining, transportation, and power of mechanised gold production technology after mechanisation	Technical system of mechanised gold production (after mechanisation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mining, ore-dressing, smelting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain the current land forms and shapes.</li><li>• Manage the vegetation, while aiming for harmonisation with the preservation of the remains.</li><li>• Consider repair methods according to the characteristics of each structure (e.g. materials).</li><li>• Carry out countermeasures for the collapse of slopes and safety measures.</li></ul>	Maintenance and management	In the spot where there is no easy access to the mining sites, carry out regular observing of the places where damage and collapses, etc., are forecast to occur in the future and implement the necessary steps and measure at a stage when the changes are still small. In the scope of the presentation, fell trees and remove undergrowth with the aim of making the remains recognisable. Even for those parts that will not be opened, fell and remove trees appropriately, so there are no harmful effects on the remains. Conduct detailed surveys on reinforced concrete structures, stone structures, and iron structures, carry out the repair work while consulting the experts.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Establish the boundary of presentation and take safety measures. Utilise the tunnels which can be opened to the public. Regarding aboveground remains, establish routes and install signboards and carry out safety measures for visitors as necessary.
					Disaster prevention	Repair and restoration work on the stone structures and river rivetments around the modernised facilities shall be carried out after consulting with the operators, dividing them into the parts requiring repair or restoration as Cultural Property and the parts requiring landscaping. With a view to opening the inside of the buildings in the future, implement the necessary seismic investigation and seismic strengthening, in accordance with repairs and restorations. Install fire prevention facilities and carry out seismic strengthening on the thermal power plant.
Historic Site	Mine offices after mechanisation	Management facilities of mechanised gold production after mechanisation	Social system of mechanised gold production (after mechanisation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain current land forms and shapes.</li><li>• Appropriately maintain and manage wooden buildings.</li></ul>	Maintenance and management	Regarding repair and restoration work, restore the buildings to their original condition as much as possible. The deteriorated wooden buildings are to be repaired or restored after detailed investigations on current state.
					Enhancement and utilisation	Take safety measures for visitors such as seismic strengthening which are necessary as satellite guidance facilities. Restore the buildings to their original condition, and carry out the presentation and exhibit taking into account the function of the buildings those days.
					Disaster prevention	Work to prevent fires using the currently installed fire-prevention equipments. Also, carry out regular fire-prevention drills to ensure initial fire extinguish system.

- With regard to other areas, to identify danger sites particularly susceptible to problems for the preservation of remains, due to natural disasters and others, and the scope which requires ensuring the visitors' safety, and to focus efforts to maintain those sites in their existing state by implementing periodic inspections and post-disaster inspections.
- When repairing buildings and other structures in the townscape of Aikawa, basically maintaining the existing state while paying attention not to affect either aboveground remains such as allotments and stone walls or underground remains, as well as keeping in mind Aikawa's multi-layered cultural landscape. In addition, to conduct investigations of structures as necessary and, after due consideration of the repair policy and with respect to the historical transitions undergone by individual houses, to undertake careful repairs that as much as possible retain original parts.
- Given that wooden houses are concentrated in townscapes in Aikawa, for preventing outbreak and spread of fire, in addition to using existing fire prevention equipment, to install more fire prevention equipment including seismic storage tanks. Through conducting regular fire prevention drills, to continue efforts for reinforcement of fire prevention equipment and raising public awareness of disaster prevention, and to secure a reporting and first-response fire extinguishing system.
- With regard to the historical buildings and structures of post-mechanisation, to carry out preservation and utilisation with the relationship to the nominated property in mind. Many of them are in need of repair due to age-related deterioration, and in terms of their composition, a variety of materials, which are rarely used for repairs even in Japan, have been used including wood, steel, concrete, and brick. Recognising this, to conduct repairs while maintaining the original parts as much as possible, keeping in mind the nature of the materials and their current state. In conjunction with this, to implement the necessary earthquake protection measures and installation of fire prevention equipment.

### 4.1.3 Promotion of Survey and Research

#### 4.1.3.1 Promotion of Survey and Research on the Nominated Property

The Prefecture and the City have been carrying out the surveys and researches on the component parts (see 6.4 "Reports on Existing Conservation Status"), and further continuous survey and research shall be carried out in order to implement the preservation and management, and enhancement and utilisation of the component parts appropriately.

At the archaeological sites, distribution survey, topographic survey and excavation survey will be initiated in the uninvestigated areas, and efforts shall be made to unravel the intrinsic value of the remains deeply by studying unearthed remains and relics. Enhancement and utilisation shall be promoted based on the results of these surveys.

Townscapes and historical buildings comprising the settlements have been investigated continuously in accordance with the designation of Important Cultural Landscape or building repair project. In repairing buildings or landscaping, surveys shall be carried out in advance to identify the structures of buildings, historical transition, and deterioration status, and so on. On the assumption that the revealed value of the buildings is preserved, repair work shall be appropriately carried out.

Regarding the repair and enhancement project of the component parts, in the event it is necessary to identify the underground remains, efforts will be made to collect the information showing the intrinsic value of the property by carrying out excavation surveys. Repair and enhancement work, and

subsequent presentation and utilisation will be implemented after adjustment based on the result of the surveys.

#### **4.1.3.2 Survey and Research on Related Cultural Properties**

In Sado City, there also exist a number of tangible and intangible cultural properties related to mines, mining settlement, and mining town from the Edo Period through modern times.

The Prefecture and the City have already carried out the surveys on historical documents including picture scrolls depicting the scenes from mines and associated mining towns, and also proved the integrity of the nominated property with the remains and relics revealed by the archaeological and geographical survey. Privately-owned historical documents and ones overseas still remain unidentified. Given that the related cultural properties such as these unidentified materials are the ones which help us to understand the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, and also precious cultural properties which tell the local community its history, continuous exploration, survey and investigation shall be carried out.

#### **4.1.3.3 System of Survey and Investigation**

The Prefecture and the City shall secure the system of implementing continuous surveys on the nominated property and the associated cultural properties. In the survey, guidance and advice from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Expert Meetings, and Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee shall be asked for and networks shall be established with research institutes and researchers in and outside Japan, and information shall be exchanged so as to promote the academic surveys and accumulate the results of the surveys.

### **4.2 Integral Conservation Including the Surrounding Environment**

#### **4.2.1 Establishment of the Boundaries of the Buffer Zones**

The boundaries of buffer zones of the nominated property have been established to prevent otherwise potentially negative effects on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property and to form and maintain the surrounding environment of the component parts and the good landscape, with consideration for the following points.

- 1) From the perspective of conserving views, buffer zones should cover landscapes visible from the component parts, and boundaries should be established in consideration of the natural topographic features, including mountain ridges and points where the topography changes.
- 2) Buffer zones shall have sufficient boundaries to enable conservation of the environments such as topographic features, vegetation and the like which support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. Boundaries supporting the integration of dispersed elements are to be the buffer zones.

The detail of the buffer zones in each area is as below.



### **- Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine**

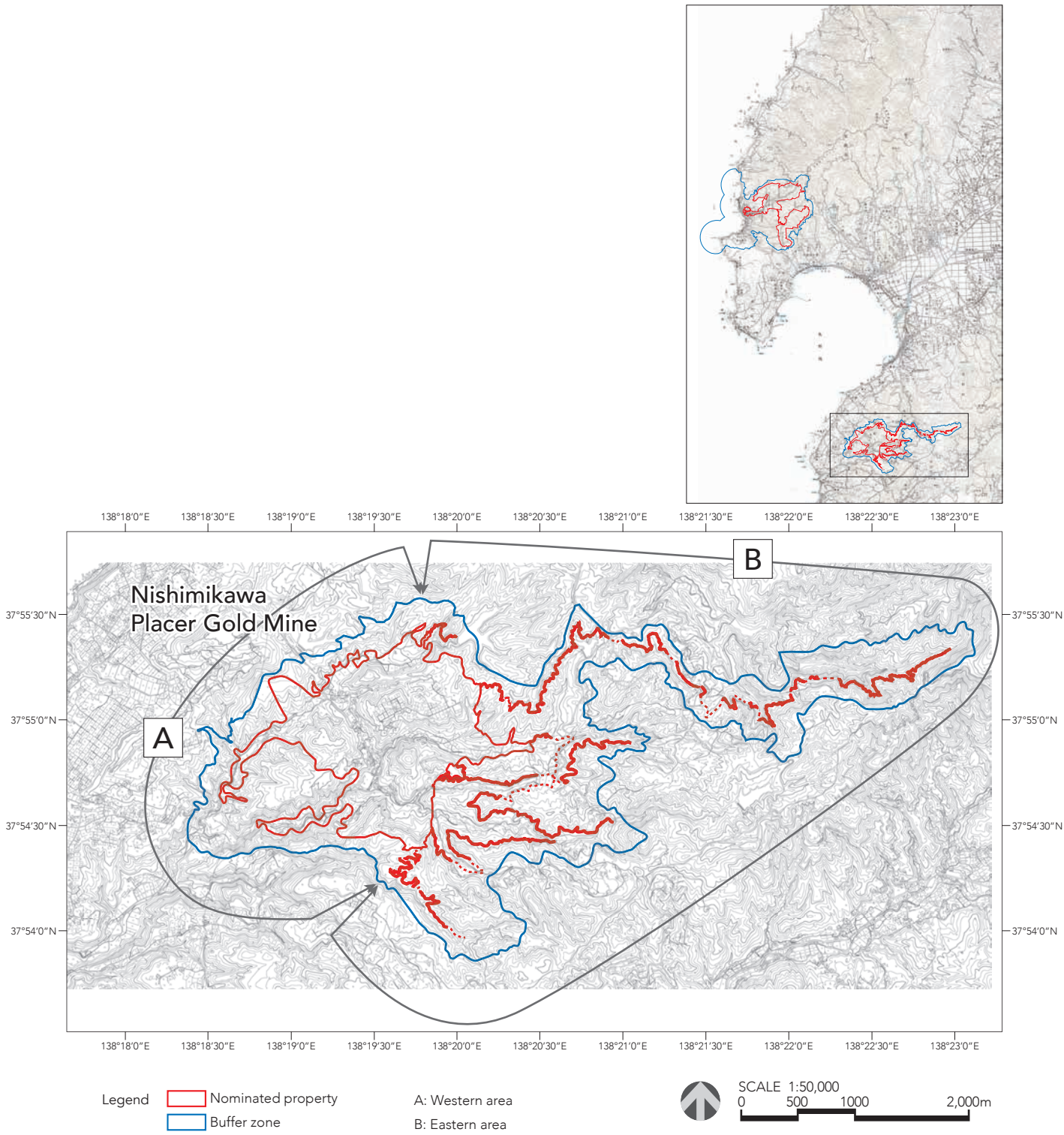
The boundary of the buffer zone is based on the scopes necessary to conserve the surrounding environment of the property, good views of the property and the view from the Historic Sites and the settlements that are the elements of the property, and to maintain and improve the mountainous, rural landscapes that form a unit with the Nishimikawa Area [Figure 4-1].

#### **A) Western area [Figure 4-1: A]**

In order to conserve the mountainous, forestry and agricultural environment and landscapes that form a unit with the elements adjacent to the placer mining sites distributed throughout mountains, forests and agricultural land in the environments of the settlement zone, the boundary has been set to the mountain ridgeline visible from within the settlement zone and to the confluence of the Nishimikawa River and Sasagawa River from which agricultural land is visible.

#### **B) Eastern area [Figure 4-1: B]**

The boundary shall include the area adjacent to the cluster of placer gold mines associated with mining and ore-dressing and waterway that carried water to them. To conserve these elements and the mountainous, forestry and agricultural environment and landscapes linked to and extending from the elements, the boundary shall be sufficient to conserve the view from and to the elements.



● **Figure 4-1** Map of established buffer zones: the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

## - Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

The boundary of the buffer zone is based on the scope necessary to protect the Historic Sites, facilities and townscapes of the property, and to maintain and improve the mountain, forest, agricultural land, townscapes and coastal landscapes that form a unit with the Aikawa-Tsurushi Area.

Furthermore, a range of one kilometre radius of key points has been included in the buffer zone in order to control possible development of offshore wind farm [Figure 4-2].

### A) Western area (ocean surface and coast) [Figure 4-2: A]

The buffer zone boundary has been set to include areas readily visible from the points ① to ⑤ and to a range of one kilometre ready to be developed, to conserve surrounding environment of the property including the townscape, which need to be conserved integrally with the property, and the coastal landscape linking to and extending from the property. The reason why including the point ① to ④ as well as one kilometre radius is to consider potential development of offshore wind farm. It is difficult to assume that offshore wind power plants will be constructed further than one kilometre from the coastline in this area as the seafloor deepens sharply around this point. Surrounding coastal areas and good landscape of the sea are visible from all the points ① to ⑤. The whole of the Aikawa area is easily visible from the point ④.

### B) Northern area [Figure 4-2: B]

The mining zone for gold and silver, including Historic Sites and facilities associated with mining and ore-dressing remain in good condition. For this reason the boundary has been set to the slope that includes the property and to the ridgeline of the mountain as well as to the edge of the coastal terrace, which is easily visible from the property, to conserve the property and the mountainous and forestry environment and landscape that is linked to and extends from the property.

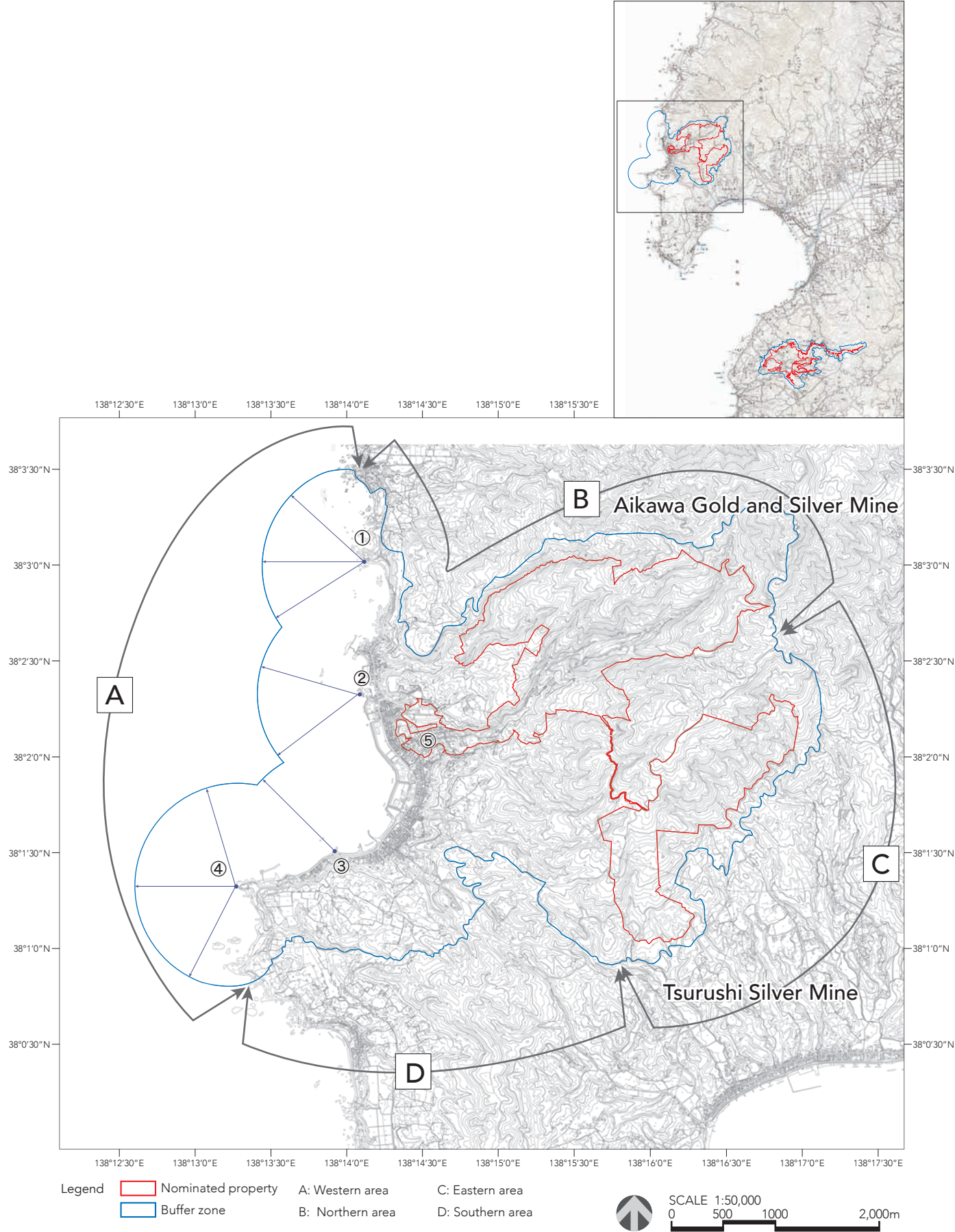
### C) Eastern area [Figure 4-2: C]

Historic Sites including mining sites, remain in good condition in the Tsurushi area. For this reason the boundary has been set to a point at which the topography changes, which is easily visible from the property and from northern line of the Kuninaka regional forest road, to conserve the property and the mountainous and forestry landscape and agricultural environment and landscape linked to and extending from the property.

### D) Southern area [Figure 4-2: D]

To conserve the environment of mountain forest, agricultural land and townscape extending to the south of the element, the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town and landscape to the south from the property, the boundary has been set to the Aikawa City district visible from the point ④ and to the coastal terrace side visible from the property (e.g. point ⑤).





● **Figure 4-2** Map of established buffer zones: the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

## 4.2.2 Conservation under Laws and Regulations

For conservation of the buffer zones, activities such as installation of structures or artefacts, alterations in shape of land, or felling of trees and bamboo, are regulated by applying the laws applied to the buffer zones such as the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the Landscape

● **Table 4-9** Legislation and regulation of properties and buffer zones

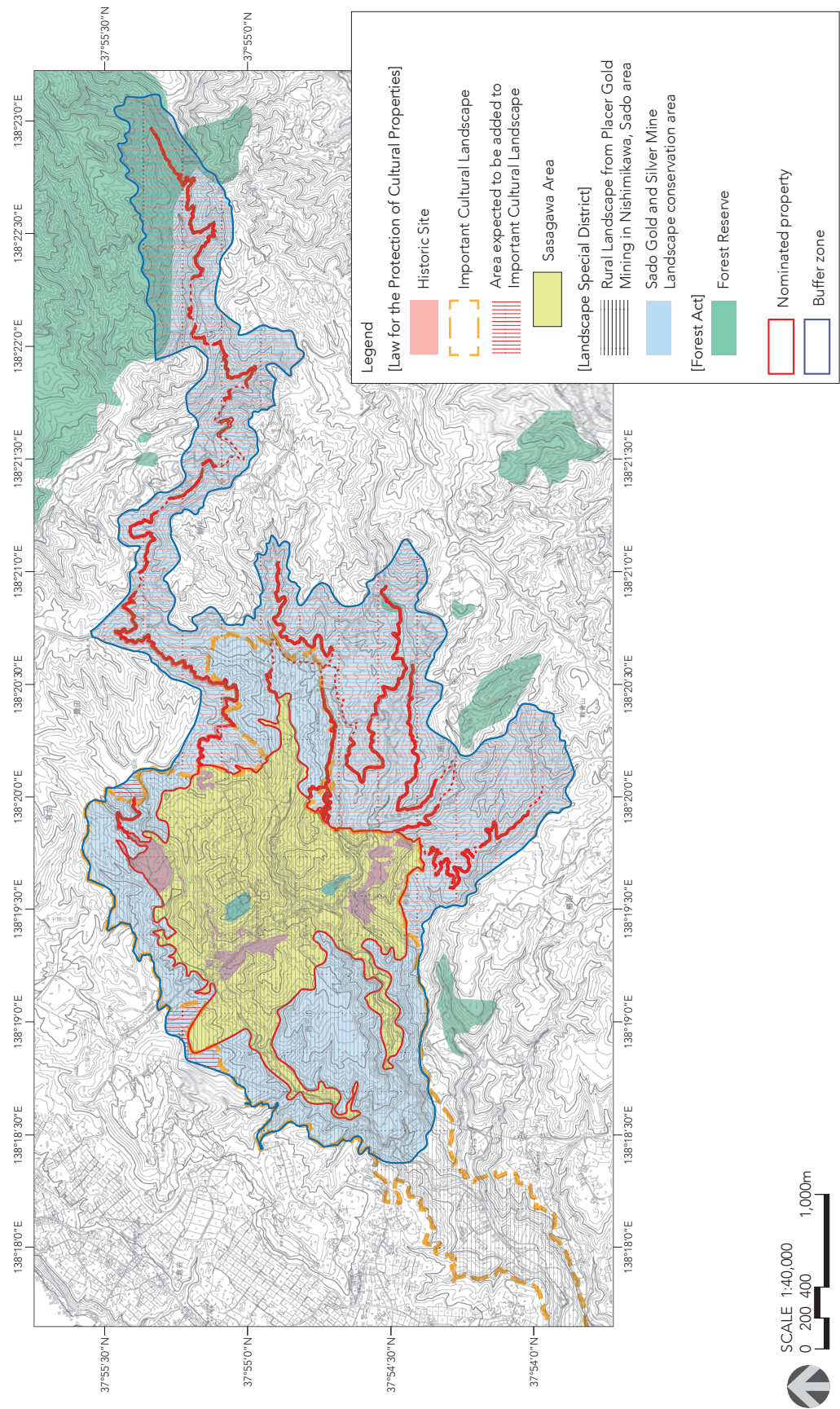
Legislation and ordinances		Regulated scope	Permission, lodgement of notifications	Permission issuing entity/ notification recipients	Regulated activities	Penalty	Areas to which applicable	
							Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine	Atkawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine
Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties		Historic Sites	—	—	• Destruction, damage, or decay	Imprisonment, incarceration, or fine	●	●
			Lodgement of notification	National government (Agency for Cultural Affairs)	• Destruction, damage, or decay	—		
			Permission	National government (Agency for Cultural Affairs)	• Alteration to existing state • Action that would affect preservation	Fine, administrative fine		
		Important Cultural Landscapes	Lodgement of notification	National government (Agency for Cultural Affairs)	• Destruction, damage, or decay • Alteration to existing state • Action that would affect preservation • Inappropriate management	Administrative fine	●	●
Landscape Act	Sado City Landscape Ordinance	Landscape Special District	Lodgement of notification	Sado City	• New construction, extension or refurbishment of structure or artefact larger than a certain size • Repair to or change of colour of exterior • Planting or felling of trees or bamboo • Stacking objects outdoors • Alteration to land form and its characteristics • Infill or drainage of water surfaces • Installation of automatic vending machines	Imprisonment or fine, or administrative fine	●	●
Outdoor Advertisement Act	Sado City Outdoor Advertisement Ordinance	Prohibited district	Permission	Sado City	• Display of advertising • Installation of object for display of advertising	Fine	●	●
Forest Act		Forest reserve	Permission	National government (MAFF)	• Felling of standing trees • Alteration to land form and its characteristics	Imprisonment or fine	○	○
		Privately owned forest	Permission and lodgement of notification	Niigata Prefecture	• Development activity beyond one hectare (forestry development permission) • Felling of standing trees in regional forest planning area	Imprisonment or fine	○	○

Legend:

● Basic legislation or regulation

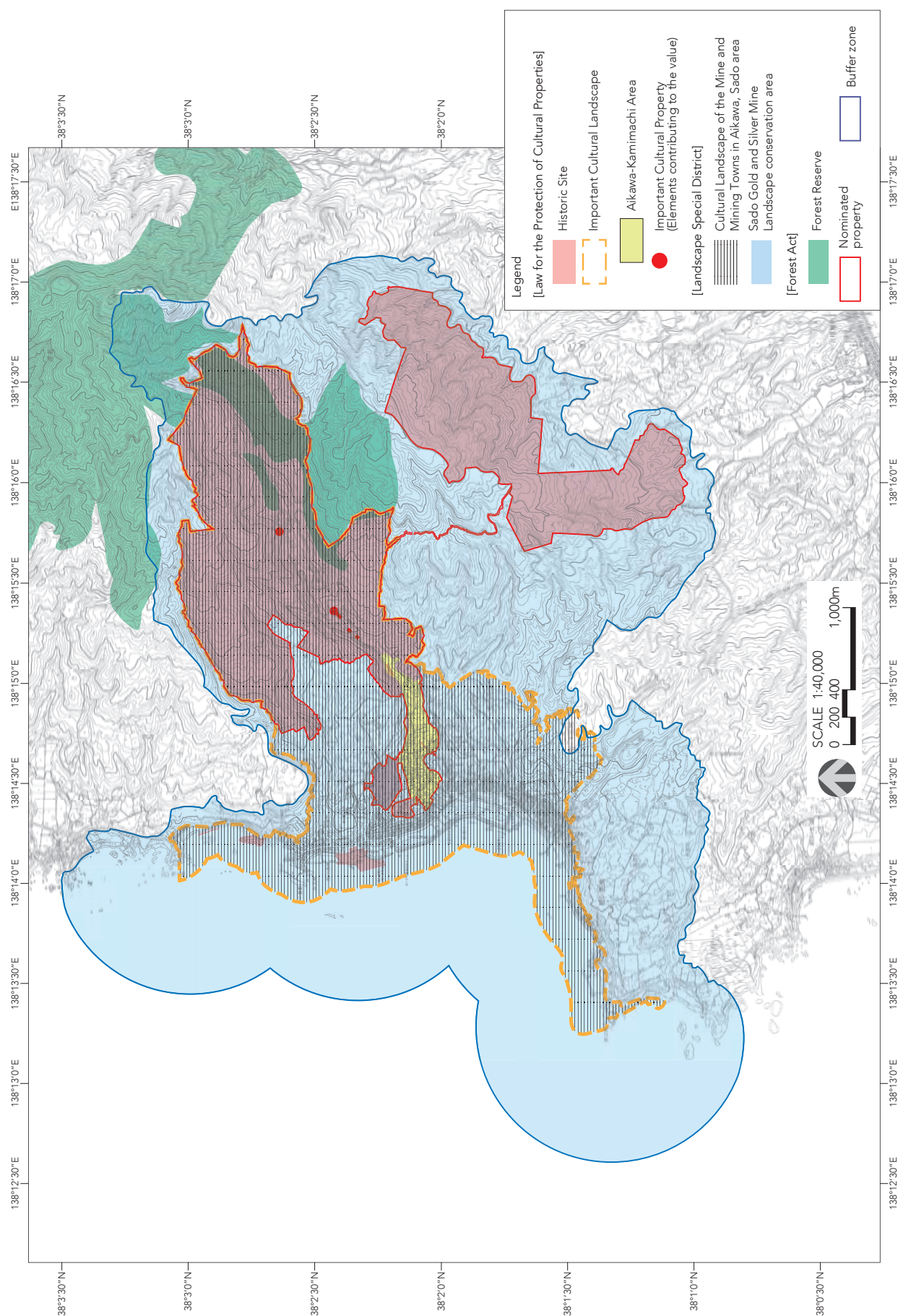
○ Supplementary legislation or regulation





● Figure 4-3 Map of legal restrictions on the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine





● **Figure 4-4** Map of legal restrictions on the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

Act, the Forest Act and the municipal ordinances and various related plans stipulated based on these laws. The legislation and regulation applied to the property and buffer zones and their state of application are shown in Table 4-9.

The Landscape Act requires that when activity is to be undertaken that is subject to notification, the notification must be lodged no later than 30 days before starting the activity. The Landscape Ordinance and the Landscape Plan enacted by Sado City on the basis of the Landscape Act position the buffer zones as "Landscape Special District". In respect of such activities as new construction of buildings or structures in excess of a particular size, refurbishment, alterations to the shape of land, or felling of trees or bamboo, there is a system for discussion between the City and the project proponent in advance of lodging a notification. The City has created townscape control standards relating to the height of structures and artefacts, colours, shapes and design, outdoor advertisement, tree felling and so on. The proponent is guided to execute a project to ensure that the lodged activity will not affect landscape conservation through the prior discussion with the proponent.

In order to protect the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, the Niigata World Heritage Council (see Chapter 7, 7.2. p.133) has responsibility for judging whether Heritage Impact Assessment will be necessary or not, and for consultation and coordination with related organisations with regard to projects that will have an impact on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the component parts and buffer zones.

"The Advisory Committee on the Maintenance of Sado Gold and Silver Mine Historic Site" and "the Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Maintenance of Cultural Landscapes in Sado City" will provide guidance and advice on review of the plans or remediation measures to the Sado City World Heritage Promotion Division from an academic point of view. "The Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee" (see Chapter 7, 7.2.2 p.133) will provide guidance and advice to "the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council" with regard to Heritage Impact Assessment.

### 4.2.3 Landscaping in the Nominated Property and the Environment

#### 4.2.3.1 Basic Policy for the Implementation of Enhancement Projects

Sado City has set up “the Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Maintenance of Cultural Landscapes in Sado City” to implement landscaping and landscape enhancement in the vicinity of the component parts with expert advice on formulation of preservation and utilisation plan and enhancement plan or project plan based on them. In the enhancement plan, concrete project plans have been formulated by considering five-year cycles [short-term (5 years), medium-term (10 years), long-term (more than 10 years)]. A Cultural Landscape Enhancement Plan for the Aikawa area is formulated in 2020 and a Cultural Landscape Preservation and Utilisation Plan for the Nishimikawa Area was revised in 2023.

Regarding the enhancement projects, as for interpretation signboards and guide maps installed in each component part, given that the nominated property is widely ranged and various elements are scattering, the City formulated a signboard plan in 2018, to design signboards well-balanced between uniformity and individuality, utilising the features of each component part and taking landscape conservation into account. Signboard enhancement is supposed to be promoted according to this plan.

When implementing projects related to the repair and landscaping, efforts shall be made at coordination in consideration of progress status, so as to ensure that no variances, in the selection of enhancement targets, the setting of priorities and so on, arise in the component parts. Project results shall be reviewed each cycle, so that efforts shall move forward with consideration and review of content of the enhancement plan and how to proceed based on changes in the social situation and in the consciousness of local residents.

#### 4.2.3.2 Approaches to Landscaping for Each Component Part

In the two areas and the vicinities, their respective characteristics and in the necessity, urgency, and priority of repair, landscaping, and landscape enhancement are different. The following summarises the basic policy on the landscaping and landscape enhancement common to both areas. Based on the following policy, the preservation plan and the maintenance and utilisation plan, implementation of landscaping and landscape enhancement of each component part is to be carried out while listening to the needs and views of local residents in keeping with the features of each component part.

- 1 The component parts include sites associated with residents' livelihoods such as farmland and forests, and sites associated with residents' daily life, such as towns and farming villages. Accordingly, landscaping and landscape enhancement shall be implemented giving consideration to the succession of these lives and livelihoods.
- 2 The repair and landscaping of historic mining towns and mining settlements that have been passed down since the Edo Period shall be carried out while respecting the many layers of this diverse history.
- 3 The symbolic terrains formed by mine development (e.g., the Doyu-no-warito Opencut Site and placer gold mining sites at the Toramaru-yama Site) shall be maintained. Efforts will be made to remove and ameliorate obstacles so as not to obstruct visibility from the view points.
- 4 The facilities and other things necessary for utilisation shall be constructed using proper location, scale, design, colour tone, and materials compatible with the surrounding landscape.
- 5 In building/maintaining the infrastructure necessary for public interest (e.g., roads, power poles, electricity wires, steel pylons, agricultural waterways, guardrails and other roadside facilities, riverbank protections, forest facilities, and disaster prevention facilities), landscaping and landscape enhancement of their character (e.g., shape, scale, and material) shall be implemented while also giving consideration to improving convenience.

#### 4.2.3.3 Enhancement Implementation Processes

With regard to the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties and their immediate vicinity, it will be necessary to conduct not only landscaping and landscape enhancement, but also research and study for clarifying their value, as well as measures for sustaining the local community, who take initiative in maintenance and management. In order for the surrounding environment, which forms an integral landscape in conjunction with the component parts, to be permanently protected in a form suitable to World Heritage by the local residents, beyond simply considering the landscape in terms of superficial design, it is important also for the local residents and government to give thorough consideration to the content of the enhancement project and the effects of enhancement to utilise advantages of their value and characteristics.

It is crucial to build systems of cooperation between local residents and the government as well as between departments within the government and implement the landscaping and landscape enhancement projects while achieving consensus on them.

In Sado City, landscaping and landscape enhancement projects are conducted, so that the landscape is directed and controlled through consultation according to the content and stage of a given enhancement project.



### 4.3 Addressing Factors Affecting the Nominated Property

This section describes a policy shared across the entire property with regard to negative impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value as described in Chapter 3, Section 3.3. The details of individual disaster prevention measures to be taken in connection with the preservation and management of each component part are described above in Section 4.1.2 (Preservation and Management of Each Component Part / Element).

#### 4.3.1 Appropriate Operation of Regulations under Laws and Systems

In the component parts and buffer zones, application for permission or notification is mandatory when undertaking modifications such as the installation of buildings or structures, the alteration of land features, or the felling of trees or bamboo. Restrictions on such activities are imposed according to their scale, form, structure, and so on (including restrictions on the height of buildings and structures, outer walls). Relatively large-scale development activities that might be envisioned in the future in the component parts or their immediate vicinity, for example, could be the maintenance and repair of infrastructure that is essential for residents' lives. In the vicinity of the component parts, the relevant organisations shall provide appropriate guidance and advice to the development operators so that the regulations on the height, scale, colour tone, configuration, and design of the buildings and other structures (Landscape Control Standards) shall be observed, and the value of the properties shall be conserved. In the event there is a possibility that a component part or its surrounding environment will be affected, the views of experts on the advisory committees on Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscapes set up by Sado City shall be heard, whereupon consultation and coordination shall be undertaken to ensure that project contents will be appropriately suited to a World Heritage Site.

#### 4.3.2 Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment

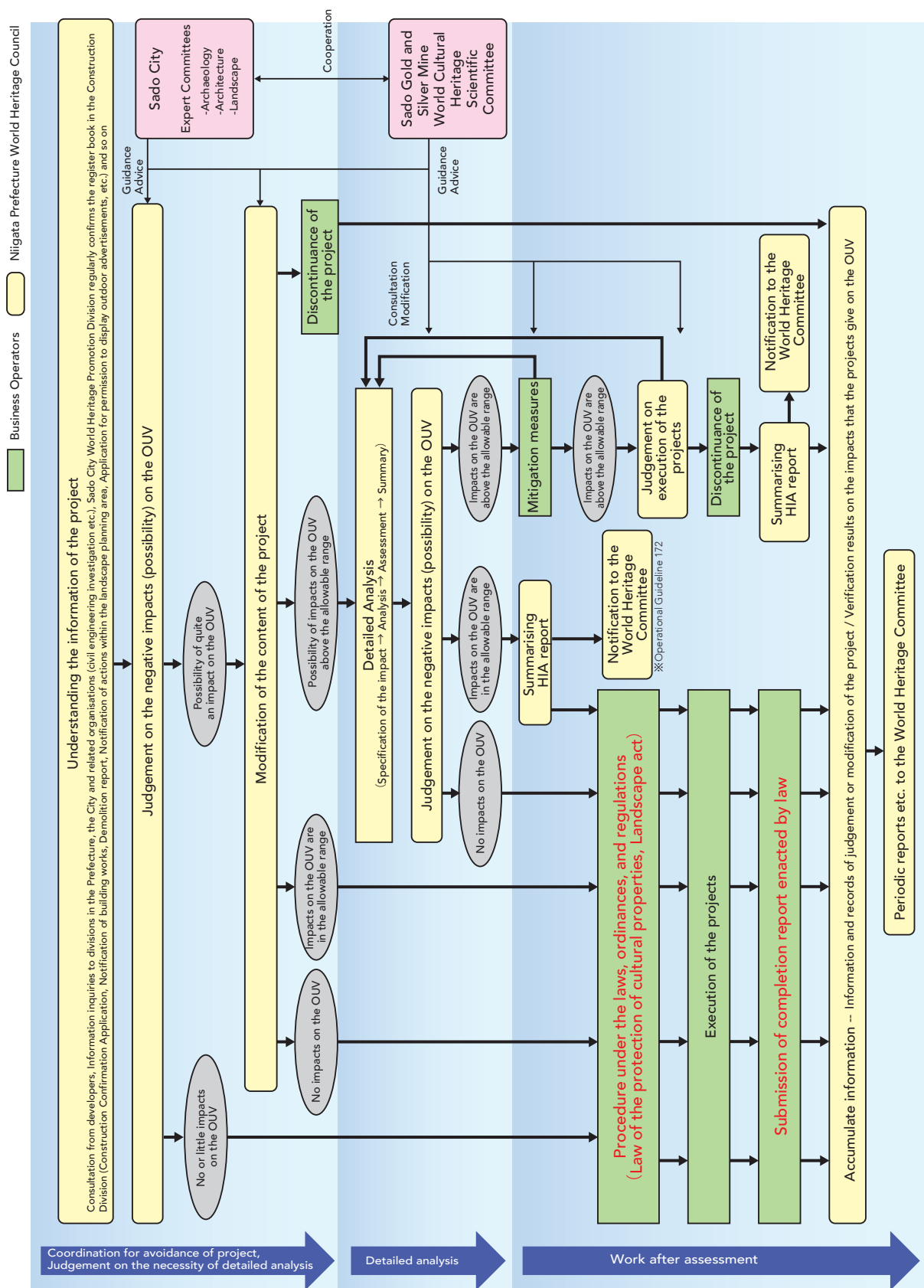
The Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council shall conduct consultation and coordination for mitigation of impact with project undertakers, in the event that a planned project in the component parts, the buffer zones and the vicinities is clarified to have a significant impact on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property from the viewpoint of the specification, scale, positional relationship with the nominated property, project period, regulatory strength under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties or the Landscape Act, and so on. In the case that the implementation of the project have certain impact on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, the Council will determine whether Heritage Impact Assessment shall be conducted or not [Figure 4-5]. In the whole process of Heritage Impact Assessment, the Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee shall arbitrarily provide necessary guidance and advice to the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council.

When implementing Heritage Impact Assessment, project undertakers shall specify and assess the impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and so forth through detailed analysis. Based on the results, in the event that the impact of the project on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value is considered to exceed allowable range, the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council shall hold discussions and make adjustments with project undertakers on the matters including mitigation of impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and cancellation of the

project, receiving guidance and advice from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee, and expert meetings established by the City on Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscape. In the case of admitting the implementation of the project the impact of which is considered or modified to be within the allowable range, based on the paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the Council shall make reports on Heritage Impact Assessment prior to undertaking basic design and the like of the project and notify the World Heritage Committee via the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

All of the record or information of judgement and adjustment on the Heritage Impact Assessment targeted projects shall be accumulated. To make it for a future Heritage Impact Assessment reference, the content of the project shall be verified after implementation of the project and the information shall be accumulated as well. The information shall be provided, as necessary, on the periodic report which is submitted to the World Heritage Committee every six years.

The Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council creates an Heritage Impact Assessment implementation manual describing the procedure of Heritage Impact Assessment and various criteria right after its establishment. In creating the manual, efforts will be made to obtain wide understanding of the conservation of the component parts and the surrounding environment including Heritage Impact Assessment by disseminating the information appropriately to the local residents, undertakers and so on (including potential undertakers). By developing a shared understanding between the Council, local residents, and development undertakers, the development in the property and the surrounding environment will be initiatively avoided.



● **Figure 4-5** Heritage Impact Assessment flowchart

### 4.3.3 Environmental Countermeasure for Preservation of the Component Parts

To grasp the impacts which environmental change has on the property, basic information on climate, weather, humidity, wind speed and so on shall be continuously collected based on the observation data from the Meteorological Agency. Niigata Prefecture established a general atmosphere observation station in Hatano Region on Sado Island and regularly observes air pollutant which has a negative impact on the nominated property (e.g. sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, PM2.5). The observation data will be utilised for assessment of the impacts which environmental change and air pollutant have on the property, and for preservation and management of the property. Other administrative bodies and institutions such as universities, are conducting surveys and investigations related to the assessment and countermeasures on the impact from the environmental change and air pollution on the cultural properties. The information from these surveys and investigations shall also be collected and utilised for preservation and management of the property.

On the other hand, much of the boundaries of the property is covered in forests and vegetation will grow thickly in the environments where people do not enter on a daily basis. Therefore, in order to preserve and manage the property appropriately, it is necessary to expose above-ground remains, protect above- and under-ground remains, improve landscape, secure safe sightseeing environment, and secure prospect by managing the vegetation appropriately. Sado City has been felling trees, and clearing undergrowth through entrustment to property owners or private preservation groups and voluntary activity. These activities will be continued systematically.

### 4.3.4 Prevention of Disasters and Development of Crisis Management System

Sado City shall make efforts to prevent the natural disasters on the property such as storm and flood damage, earthquake, tsunami, fire and the like based on the "Sado City Regional Disaster Prevention Plan" and to respond promptly in the event of natural disaster. On natural disasters, disaster information such as amount of rainfall (snowfall), river level, tide level, landslide disaster, seismic intensity, and so on are collected by utilising the disaster information system established by national, prefectural and city government, and appropriate disaster prevention measures are taken.

Past disaster history in the property, its surroundings and the spots where there is a high possibility disaster occurs, recognised through daily inspections will be indicated on a map (a hazard map of cultural properties) and the map will be utilised to grasp the hazardous spots and show the spots with priority for inspection in the event of disaster. On the spots indicated on the map, necessary countermeasures for disasters are to be carried out to prevent the damage from occurring.

In the event that a natural disaster, or the like happens, evacuation guidance of the visitors and rescue of the disaster victims are prior to identifying the situation of damage. In the event that any damage is identified, measures will be taken to prevent the damage from extending, information will be shared without delay by custodial bodies including the property owners, the Prefecture, the City, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and emergent measures or repair work will be implemented. Regarding the remedial measures, guidance and advice shall be received from the experts in the expert meetings as necessary.

From the viewpoint of crisis management in the event of disaster, positive involvement of local residents is of importance. Thus, at the Residential District in the Nishimikawa Area and the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town in the Aikawa area, voluntary disaster prevention organisations have been formed and fire prevention drills are implemented once a year utilising the existing fire extinguishing facilities.



Further, at the Residential Districts in the Nishimkawa Area, local residents are patrolling the area and regular patrols are carried out by the staff from the City. Given that in addition to the enhancement of the fire prevention facilities like these by the administrative body, fire prevention activities in which local residents and administrative body are linking and cooperating are expected to lead to the prompt and smooth response in the event of disasters, it is desirable to expand the activities.

### **4.3.5 Establishing Systems for Receiving Visitors in a Systematic Manner**

#### **4.3.5.1 Establishing Systems for Receiving Visitors in a Systematic Manner**

In order to pass down the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property to the future generations, it is essential to promote the presentation and utilisation of the property and share the value widely as the World Heritage Site on the premise that its value is protected. The City is implementing the initiatives of establishing visitor reception system as below in order to promote the presentation and utilisation of the property. These initiatives have a big effect only when continued for a long time, therefore, the initiative will be continued even after the successful inscription into the World Heritage List.

At the Visitor centre (Kirarium Sado) in the Aikawa area, which will be a base for the visit, comprehensive information is disseminated for visitors to deepen the understanding of the whole property, mutual relationship of each component part, and individual values. Information regarding the things to keep in mind such as transportation to each site, sightseeing route, and visitors' security and manner on the visit, are also provided. Further, in order to cooperate with the local residents and custodial bodies, and appropriately and smoothly receive the visitors the number of which is expected to increase after the successful inscription, systems for receiving visitors have been established in both hard and soft aspects, such as enhancement of visitor facilities and signboards, training tour guides and so on, based on the enhancement plans of Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscapes.

#### **4.3.5.2 Publicising Sightseeing Manner (Harmonisation with the Lives of Local Residents)**

The component parts of the nominated property are geographically distributed in two separate areas in the island and comprise diverse elements, from archaeological sites related to mining and settlement now covered in forests, to historical buildings, and modern-day settlements and townscapes in which local residents still live. For that reason, things that must be observed when visiting the component parts are different for each, and there is a need to publicise sightseeing manner to ensure there is no damage to the nominated property or impact on the lives of local residents. In the sites of mining settlement such as the Kami-Aikawa District, millstones and pounding stones are scattered on the ground, therefore, measures to prevent theft and so on will be considered. A variety of means are being used to disseminate and publicise information about rules that should be observed at each component part, including communication via the property website, instructions posted on vessels, buses and information centres, distribution of pamphlets, and awareness-raising posters and information boards provided on property sites [Photo 4-1]. However, further countermeasure according to the increase of visitors will be taken.

4.3.5.3 Safety Measures

The nature of the nominated property as “old mines” means there are places where there is risk of rockfall, collapse and falls within the boundary of component parts. Sado City has taken measures to prohibit entry to dangerous places by erecting fences and signs. In the area where tunnels and mine facilities are open to the public as tourist facilities, the owner, Golden Sado, has implemented reinforcement and other enhancements and also conducts regular maintenance inspections. Therefore, no major problems have arisen in the tourist facilities. In other places that are open to the public including the sightseeing routes, for purposes of both property protection and securing visitors’ safety as the highest priority, restriction signs to alert and warn of dangerous places [Photo 4-2], fencing to prevent falls, and signboards displaying contact details in the event of emergency are being progressively installed, to clearly identify dangerous places and areas to which entry is prohibited. In 2017, inspections were carried out to identify areas in which there is signal for mobile phones, the primary means of communication in emergency, and it was confirmed that there is signal across all areas open to the public in the nominated property (except inside tunnels). Tour guides also play an important role in safety management. Information on dangerous places and emergency contact procedures are being communicated to the tour guides through training courses and regular seminars.

In the future, in anticipation of a possible increase in the number of visitors, it is expected that more visitors will not use the guided tours. In the element which is easier to access, it is necessary to consider the possibility of visitors entering areas which are not actively opened to the public. The security in those areas will be ensured and information about the local situation will be disseminated.



● Photo 4-1 Leaflet for improving visitors’ manner



● Photo 4-2 Restriction sign

## 4.4 Promotion of Presentation and Utilisation

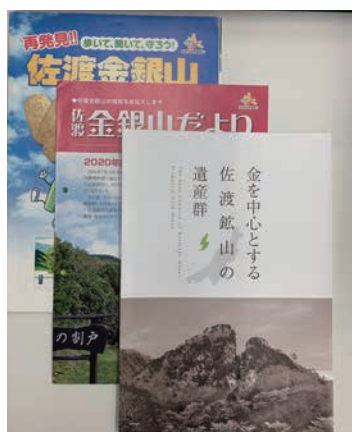
### 4.4.1 Basic Policy of Presentation and Utilisation

#### 4.4.1.1 Promotion of the Understanding of Proposed Outstanding Universal Value

Niigata Prefecture and Sado City are sharing responsibility for initiatives to educate about the value and protection of component parts. The Prefecture initiatives are whole-of-prefecture or cross border, while the City initiatives target Island residents. The Prefecture stages seminars in the Prefecture and events in locations in and outside the Prefecture including the Tokyo Metropolitan area, and distributes and spreads information about the value of the property and protection initiatives. On the other hand, the City has promoted the understanding of the proposed Outstanding Universal Values through sending messages in various media such as websites, SNS, public relations magazines and brochures [Photo 4-3], sending lecturers to symposiums and seminars for local people, meetings in various groups and elementary schools [Photo 4-4], and holding events of experience or screen panel exhibitions at large shopping malls and so on in and outside the Prefecture to help people to comprehensively understand the values of the nominated property and elements [Photo 4-5]. In the future, the City will make efforts to transmit more information relating to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value by continuing and enhancing these initiatives.

Regarding the presentation and utilisation of archaeological sites, which comprise most of the nominated property, it is premised to secure protection of the nominated property by doing various surveys continuously such as excavation surveys and surveys on mining-related documents [Photo 4-6]. In conducting the surveys, interdisciplinary surveys and investigations will be promoted, in collaboration with experts on archaeology, history, mining history, mining engineering, metallurgy, and architectonics. Local people's understanding of the nominated property will be deepened by not only reflecting the result of the surveys and the solutions of various problems on preservation and utilisation, but also transmitting, sharing, and utilising it proactively.

Further, on Sado Island, abundant cultural properties exist, indicating various cultural aspects such as remains related to mining represented by the nominated property, tradition and culture derived from mining, roads to transport the gold product, landscape of export ports, and cultural assets imported from various places by marine trades in the environment of being an island. There



● Photo 4-3 Examples of brochures published by the City and the Prefecture



● Photo 4-4 School visit to elementary schools





● **Photo 4-5** Public relations activities in an event (Gold bar lifting experience)



● **Photo 4-6** Implementation of excavation survey (Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine)



● **Photo 4-7** Picture Scroll ("Kinzan horiko-no-zu", picture of mining workers in gold mines)  
[Property of Sado museum]



● **Photo 4-8** Picture of Noh play ("Kinzan-ema tablet" gold mine votive picture)  
[Property of Oyamazumi-jinja Shrine]



● **Photo 4-9** Festival of the Uto-jinja Shrine in Aikawa



● **Photo 4-10** "Yawaragi": Shinto ritual in the gold mine

are also intangible cultural properties such as picture scrolls depicting the state of mines in the period of traditional unmechanised mining, as well as some traditional events including festivals of shrines related to mines and conveying the prosperity of florescence [Photos 4-7~10]. By integrally interpreting the cultural properties relating to arts and faiths which people involved in gold mining brought and formed, and by disseminating them, the historical background of Sado Island and the diversity of culture will be enhanced and the attractiveness of the nominated property will be increased.

#### **4.4.1.2 Cooperation with Other Relating Systems: GIAHS, Geopark, and Other Cultural Properties**

Presentation and utilisation of the component parts by linking with a number of various cultural properties which have no direct relation to mines existing on Sado Island such as historic or archaeological sites, structures, tangible cultural properties, and folk entertainment will highlight the historical background of Sado Island, multidimensional features of cultures, and the natural environment behind the component parts. Therefore, though it is indirectly, it is expected that this will contribute to improving the attractiveness of the nominated property.

Sado City is registered as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and certified as one of Japan's Geoparks. In promoting the understanding of the values as a potential World Heritage Site, it is important to be linked with these relating systems. One of the reasons for Sado to be registered as GIAHS is that "the Sado Gold and Silver Mines had a great impact on the scenery and culture, and the agricultural community has been conserved by fostering the diversity of creatures and agricultural production activity." In fact, it is widely known that food supply to the workers led to development of the terraced rice field on Sado Island.

In the City, initiatives are being promoted to use the nominated property as learning materials for tour guides; the City interprets the value and protection of the nominated property in the tour-guide training course on the Japanese crested ibis, which is the important element of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. Regarding Geopark, in order to deepen the understanding of the close relationship between the history of Sado Island and local people's lives, the City is staging public lectures on Geopark including information on the nominated property and school visits, and workshops for tour guides and promoting the preparation of a model course of educational travels. In addition to these initiatives involving related systems, the City is also implementing initiatives to increase opportunities for communication between visitors and local residents and have the visitors stay longer on the island by promoting participation by visitors in local events, providing varieties of accommodation (accommodation in private residences and encouraging use of unused facilities and vacant houses) to meet diverse needs and peak demands, such as during the tourism season, training local storytellers, and disseminating information about local food. It is expected that combining the initiatives to preserve and utilise the World Heritage and related systems with the project of proactive utilisation and promotion will contribute to the sustainable development of the region, which secures the preservation and management of the nominated property in the future.



#### **4.4.1.3 Information Dissemination**

In order to promote the presentation and utilisation of the nominated property, positive dissemination of various information is important. So far, World Heritage Divisions of the Prefecture and the City have made efforts to disseminate the information about the value of the property and the above-mentioned initiatives, through public relations magazines, Internet, video sharing sites, and the like. Information regarding the reception of visitors has been disseminated by the related division of Sado City and related organisations including private sectors, through print medium and Internet such as websites and SNS. Public relation activities will also be conducted through creating and publicising original videos. In the future, the Prefecture and the City shall disseminate more information inside and outside the country to promote further presentation and cope with the increase of the numbers of visitors in accordance with the successful inscription on the World Heritage List.

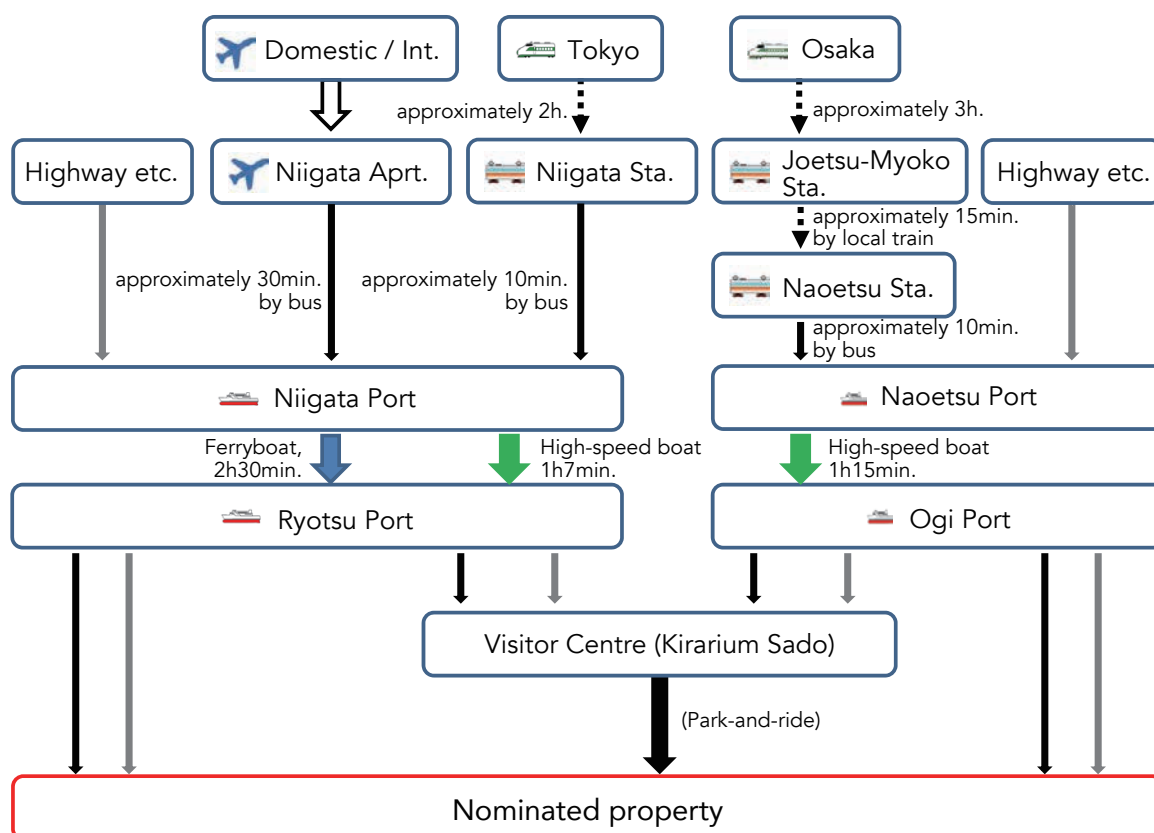
## 4.4.2 Offering Convenience to the Visitors

### 4.4.2.1 Enhancing the Access Route to the Nominated Property

The main method of visiting Niigata Prefecture, to which Sado City belongs, is by air routes that use Niigata Airport, which is an international airport, and the Shinkansen bullet trains linking Tokyo and Niigata stations, and Kanazawa and Joetsu-Myoko stations.

Traffic access to Sado City from inside Niigata Prefecture is limited to sea routes; between Niigata Port and Ryotsu Port and between Naoetsu Port and Ogi Port. Also, the maximum daily personnel transport capacity is limited to approximately 10,000 people (see 3.4.2.1 Standard Method of Access to Properties, on p.62).

Visitors arriving in Sado City move to each area using public transport (regular route buses), regular tourist buses, taxis, private vehicles and rental cars [Figure 4-6]. Along the national, prefectural and city roads as routes for tourists, road improvement and installation of traffic and guide signs are underway. Parking capacity in the vicinity of the property is limited. Therefore, parking space is under construction in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town and visitor guidance focused on a newly built visitor centre in the Aikawa area has been started, and sightseeing routes have been established. Introduction of shuttle buses for using park-and-ride with the visitor centre as the focal point is being considered.



\* The visitors from the two ports on Sado are to be instructed to visit at first Kirarium Sado as the core of the whole component parts and receive necessary information. (Refer to Chapter 4, 4.4.2.2 "Enhancement of Guidance Function" of the Comprehensive Management Plan)

#### Legend

- Airway
- Railway
- Car
- Bus
- Ferryboat
- High-speed boat

● **Figure 4-6** Image of visitor guidance

Also, in the Nishimikawa Area, introduction of buses for using park-and-ride with the Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park as the focal point is being considered.

#### 4.4.2.2 Enhancement of Guidance Function

Details concerning current visitor facilities are as described in section 3.4.2.2. In order to improve visitors' convenience and to facilitate comprehensive understanding of the outline and overall image of the property, of their mutual interrelationships between the component parts, and of the value of the individual component parts and their elements, making use of existing facilities as satellite guidance facilities, a visitor centre (Kirarium Sado) was opened in April 2019 as a base for visits to the local areas [Photo 4-11], while the functions and roles of sites of the property and related facilities are being systematically reorganised with the aim of enhancing guidance functionality. While the respective roles of each facility are as summarised in Figures 4-7 through 4-9, it is presumed that clarifying these roles will enable effective interpretation and dissemination of information.

Visitor centre "Kirarium Sado" in the Aikawa area, at the centre of the nominated property, chiefly serves four main functions.

- (1) Presenting and interpreting an overall image of the property and its value
- (2) Disseminating information to those visiting the sites of the property
- (3) Acting as a point of contact for preservation, management, investigations, and research
- (4) Being a base for interaction among the local community

The visitor centre endeavors to provide visitors with a one-stop hub for disseminating information and providing traffic information to those visiting the sites of the property. In addition, it is also utilised as a departure and arrival point for shuttle buses to enable visitors to the Aikawa area to enjoy the site of the property, as well as a base for activities relating to the preservation and utilisation of the property. Moreover, the exhibition and interpretation provided at the visitor centre systematically tie together local physical evidence to promote an overall understanding of the value demonstrated by the property, and clearly convey the hidden world of mining and precious metal production technologies using short videos [Photo 4-12].

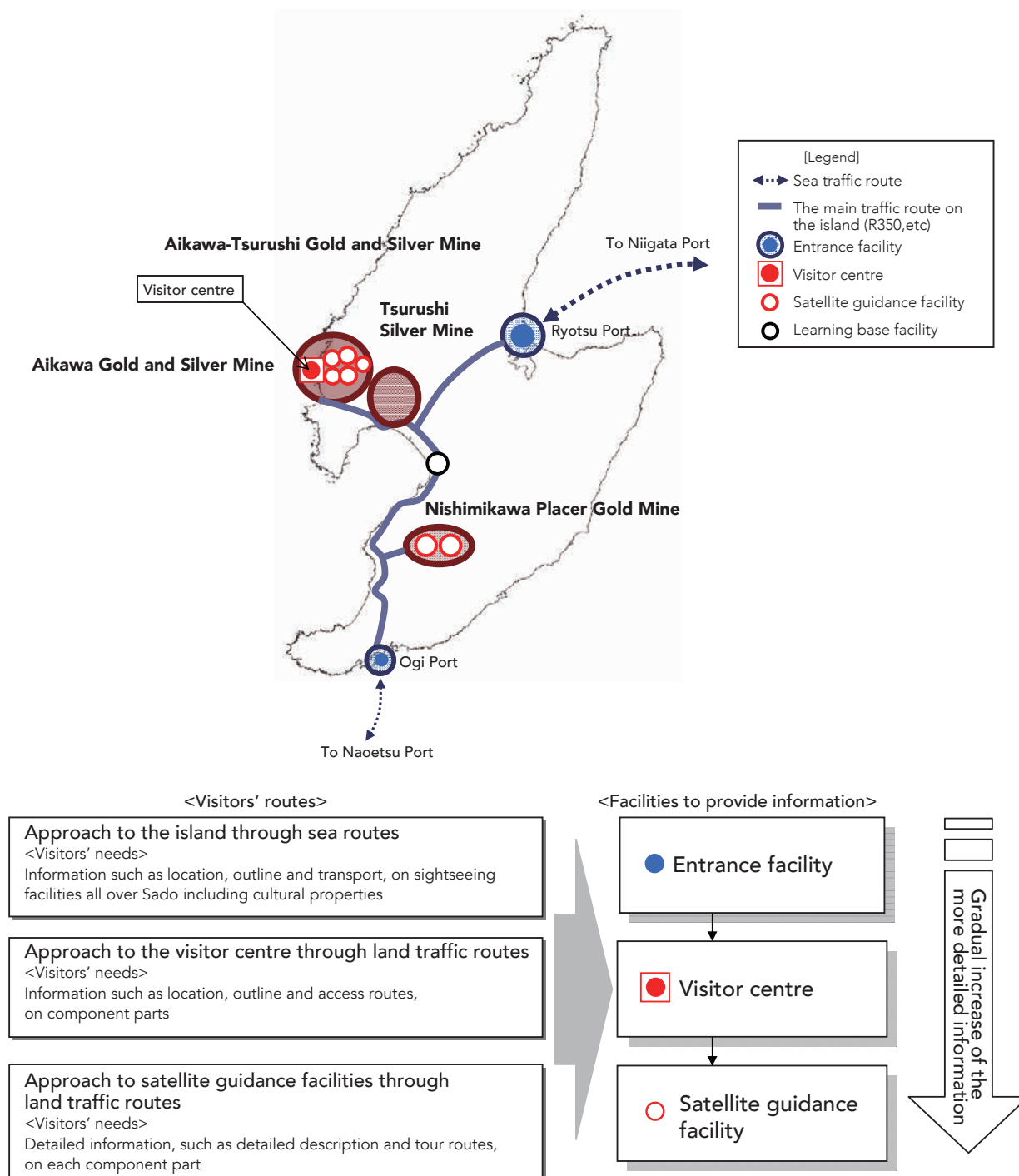
Existing facilities near the elements of each component part are supposed to be used as satellite guidance facilities. The Sado Gold Mine Museum, the Sado Magistrate's Office, and Former Sasagawa Branch School of Nishimikawa Elementary School have been already providing certain convenient services and the Kaneko Kanzaburo House is under repair work at the moment for future utilisation. In future redevelopment, based on the roles of each facility shown in the Historic Site Maintenance



● Photo 4-11 "Kirarium Sado" (Visitor centre)

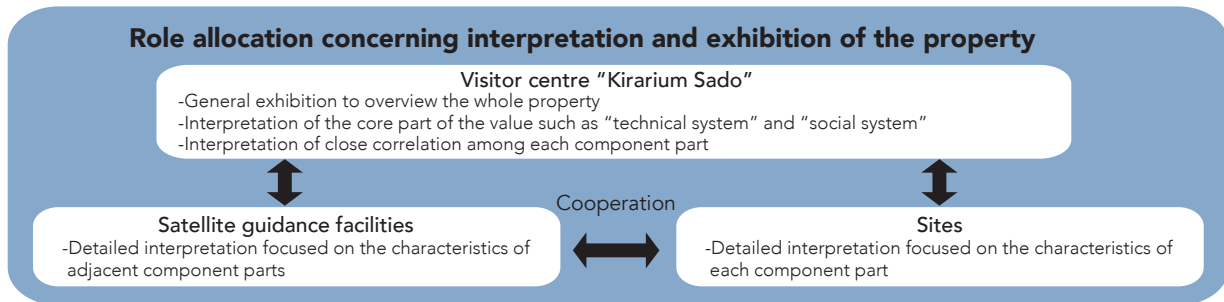


● Photo 4-12 "Kirarium Sado" Theatres interpreting the whole property

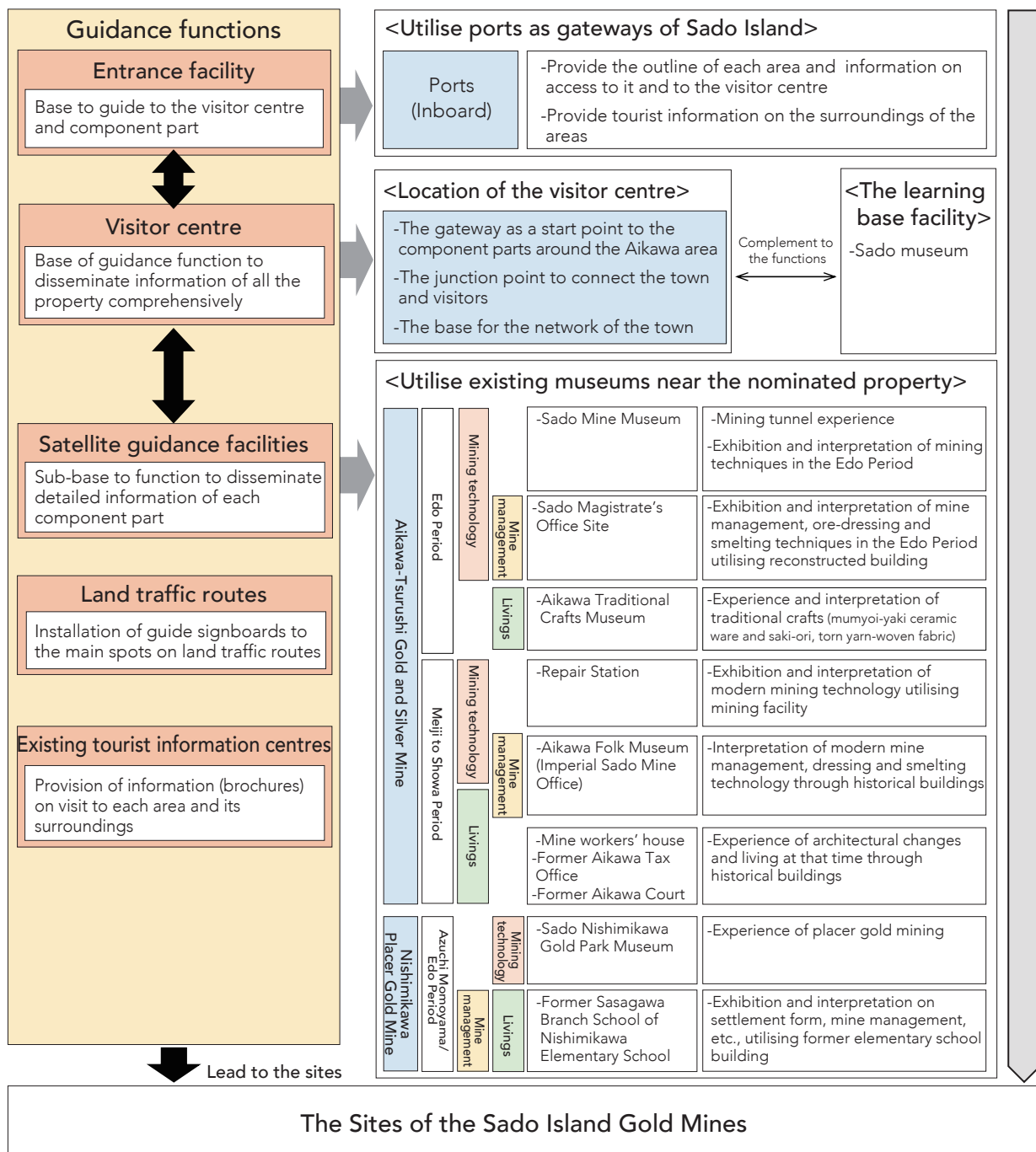


● **Figure 4-7** Conceptual diagram of facility location and concept of information facility adapted to visitors' need





● **Figure 4-8** Role allocation concerning interpretation and exhibition of the property



● **Figure 4-9** The whole structure of guidance functions and role of each facility

Basic Plan (formulated in 2020) [Figure 4-9], the existing facilities will be used as places to provide detailed information highlighting the characteristics and history of the nearby elements of component parts and their function and features from the time when they were in operation.

#### **4.4.2.3 Establishment of Touring Routes and Maintenance for Utilisation**

Since the two areas are apart across the island, disseminating information on how to access the sites and the best ways to tour them to the visitors is essential. To this end, in addition to setting a standard model touring route that assumes the pattern of a visitors' typical stays, a variety of other touring routes will be proposed and promoted based on different themes, purposes and needs of visitors.

Sado Island has a variety of cultural properties other than the nominated property, including temples and shrines with a profound connection with the mines and ports that flourished due to maritime trade, as well as various cultural properties, which are not related to the mines directly, nevertheless showing the history and culture of the island, a geology that has yielded minerals including gold and silver, and a bountiful natural environment teeming with rare flora and fauna. By establishing touring routes that combine the cultural, climatological, and natural aspects of the island, it may be possible to let visitors deepen the understanding of the value and characteristics of the property and interrelationships among the component parts, which will enable the dissemination of an appeal that will motivate prospective visitors.

On-going plans and initiatives related to touring routes for the nominated property, as well as to maintenance with a view to their utilisation, are described below [Figures 4-10, 11].

##### **- Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine**

By car, the Nishimikawa Area [Figure 4-10] is located about an hour from Ryotsu Port, about 35 minutes from Ogi Port, and about 50 minutes from the visitor centre, Kirarium Sado in Aikawa.

The boundaries of the component parts encompass residential district where local residents live and work. The roads are narrow, and it would be difficult to secure space for a large-scale parking lot. Accordingly, efforts are being promoted to recommend and encourage visits by guided tours to prevent any adverse effects on the people's lives due to disordered increase in the number of visitors. In the Aikawa area, guided tours are conducted from the visitor centre, and in the Nishimikawa Area, the park-and-ride service from the (privately run) Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park, which is easily accessible from the arterial road, as a starting and arrival point, is under consideration.

In the residential district within the boundary, the building of the Former Sasagawa Branch School of Nishimikawa Elementary School has been repaired and that of the Kaneko Kanzaburo House is now under repair work. Both of them are planned to be used as satellite guidance facilities. Repairs and maintenance on the Former Sasagawa Branch School of Nishimikawa Elementary School were implemented in 2018-2019 as a visitor facility providing detailed information on the Nishimikawa Area, guidance relating to tours, and equipped with a toilet and rest area. Currently, it is utilised not only as the venue of the local events but as the exhibition facility interpreting residential district itself and the value as the World Heritage Site, as well as the base for guided tours.

The Kaneko Kanzaburo House, which is one of the main elements and is going to be presented and utilised as another satellite guidance facility, has been under repair work since 2017 through 2030. After the repair work is completed, there is a plan to provide information about mine management in the early modern times and the lives in the settlement which people continued by

shifting their occupation from placer gold mining to agriculture in the period from early modern to modern times, by presenting and utilising the house building.

The sightseeing course in the residential district has been utilised for the reservation-required guided tours. After the repair works in these satellite guidance facilities, the visitors can deepen the understanding on the mining technology, mine management, and lives in the settlement in the Nishimikawa Area, by making tours round the course including these facilities.

Besides, there is a plan to establish a sightseeing course in the Goshaya-yama Site which is accessible from the settlement on foot. As the Site is located in the mountain area and has hazardous spots, it is scheduled to be opened to the public in principle by the guided tours basically in the events such as trekking tours. In the future, keeping in mind the increase of visitors who are not using the tours in accordance with the increase of whole visitors, initiatives including ensuring thoroughly the safety along the sightseeing routes, installing the interpretation signboards or area maps, and developing guide apps linked with those will be implemented.

## **- Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine**

### **Tsurushi Silver Mine**

By car, the Tsurushi area [Figure 4-11] is located about 50 minutes from Ryotsu Port, about 65 minutes from Ogi Port, and about 15 minutes from Kirarium Sado in Aikawa.

In the vicinity of the Tsurushi area, given that there is no existing facility which could be utilised as the satellite guidance facility, nor space where new building could be constructed, the features, values, and historical significance of the Tsurushi area are to be interpreted in the visitor centre (Kirarium Sado) in Aikawa. Also, there is a plan to supplement the guidance function by creating guide maps and brochures.

Given the narrow width of the roads and lack of parking space in the vicinity of the Tsurushi area, introduction of a park-and-ride service with the visitor centre in Aikawa as a starting and arrival point, is considered to restrict vehicle entry into the site.

The component part is located in the mountains at a considerable distance from the villages, and some areas can be quite hazardous. As such, visits to the area will basically be limited to guided tours that will have to be booked in advance, mainly guided treks. Currently, guided tours are offered on an irregular basis by volunteer groups organised primarily by local residents. Trial attempts are ongoing to provide interpretive guidance about the mining-related areas, management facilities, and mining settlements while trekking on the Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass to the Kami-Aikawa District. Interpretive signs describing the value of the Tsurushi area as a whole and the extent of the component part have been installed at the Tsurushi Silver Mine Park, which serves as the starting point of the tours, promoting a deeper understanding of the property by installing interpretive signboards and guide maps at the elements along the touring route. In parallel, consideration is also being given to installing additional public toilets (there is currently only one) and rest areas. Given that some visitors might not use the guided tours, efforts shall be made to enforce safety measures and ensure the convenience on the tour route.

## Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine

By car, Aikawa area [Figure 4-11] is located about 55 minutes from Ryotsu Port and about 70 minutes from Ogi Port. Travel time from the visitor centre (Kirarium Sado) in the Aikawa area to the Mining Zone (Sodayu-mabu Tunnel Site) is about 5 minutes by car.

At the Aikawa area, the elements of the component part and other objects, which do not directly contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, are not only numerous, but also different in terms of their respective character and period, and are additionally scattered over a wide area [Figure 4-11]. In addition, although the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town expects an increase in the number of visitors, it remains as a place of life and livelihood for its residents with narrow community roads. There is a plan to establish a parking lot for visitors in the local vicinity in the future, however, the total number of cars to be parked will be limited.

In light of this situation, Sado City is promoting the construction of a large parking lot in front of the newly established the visitor centre (Kirarium Sado) [see 4.4.2.2 Enhancement of Guidance Function] and establishment of walking or rental bicycle touring routes that begin and end there in order to avoid negative impact on residents' lives due to traffic congestion and the like and avoid anything that would detract from ensuring smooth visits. In cooperation with transportation companies, consideration is being given to the operation of a shuttle bus that will make a stop at key points along the touring routes.

In the establishment of the touring routes, existing public facilities are positioned as "satellite guidance facilities." These facilities are given clear functions and role assignments [see Figure 4-9], at which point model routes linking these facilities and the site of the property are being established. Guidance signs have already been installed on the course flow, and maps that can be used in conjunction with the signs are being created and distributed sequentially. In the future, in order to improve the convenience of foreign visitors, there is a plan to integrate the existing maps and pamphlets and create pamphlets in many languages.

While guided tours of mining tunnel sites are already offered by Golden Sado and town walking tours around the Kamimachi Town by the Sado Tourism Association (hereinafter "STA"), with the opening of the visitor centre, the STA installed the reception desks and base of operation in the building, at which the guided tours based on certain eras or themes begin and end, are also being implemented. Further, the STA has established several bases for rental bicycles on Sado Island, and distributed rental bicycles including electric-assisted ones in the visitor centre to improve the convenience of the visitors.

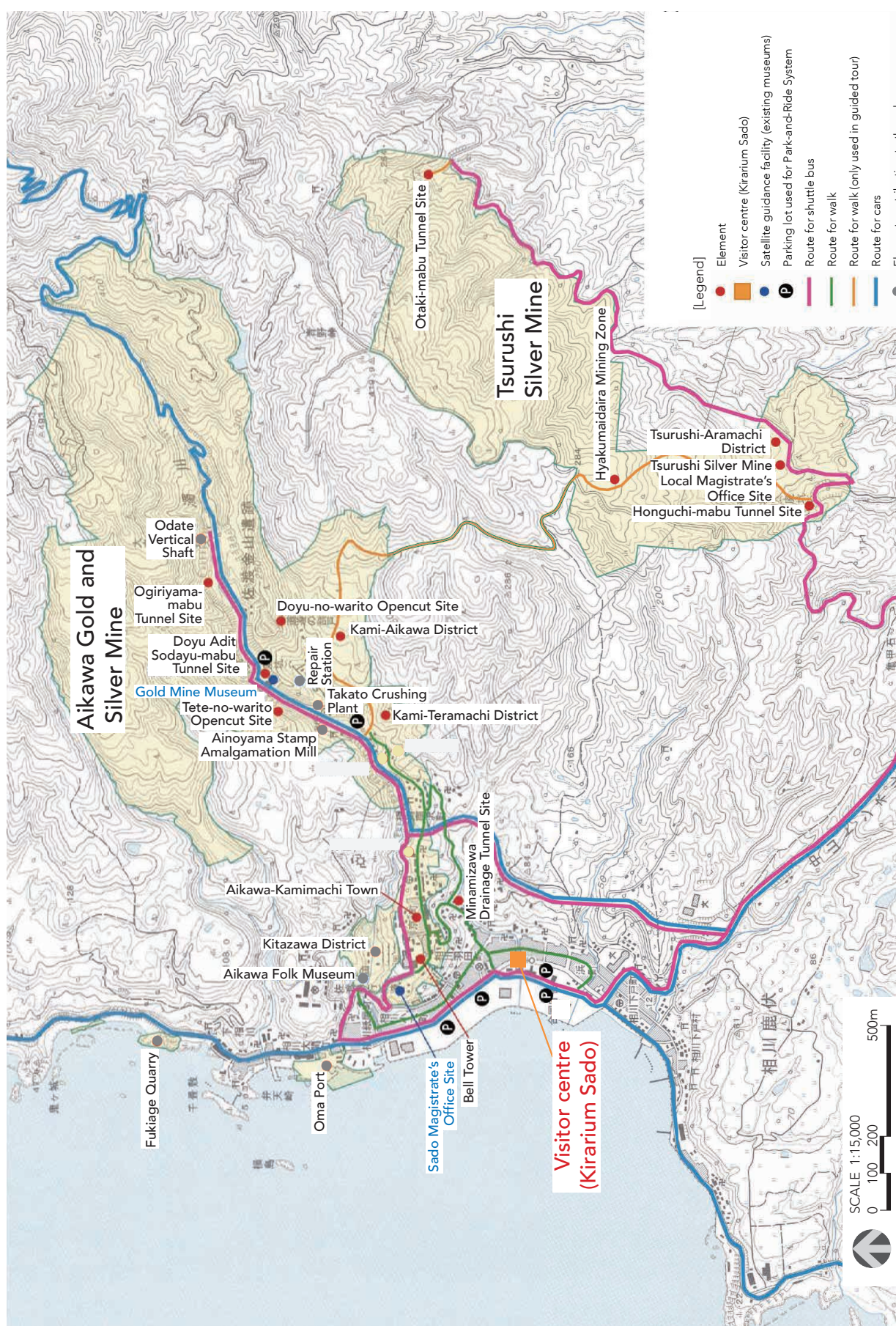
While existing visitor facilities such as toilets and rest areas are currently available along the touring routes, these are not expected to be sufficient to cope with projected increases in the number of visitors. Accordingly, new constructions and the expansion of existing facilities, and the Westernisation of the existing toilets are proceeding.





● Figure 4-10 Tour route in the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine





● **Figure 4-11** Tour route in the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine



#### 4.4.2.4 Establishment of a Guide System

Owing to the nature of the property as mines, from the viewpoint of ensuring safety, there are some places where it is difficult for a large number of people to visit, as well as areas that are dangerous due to hazards such as falling rocks. Accordingly, it is necessary to provide appropriate direction through a guide system. In addition to providing interpretation with a view to promoting an understanding of mining towns and settlements and mine production technologies that might be difficult to understand at a glance, in the residential district of Nishimikawa and the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town of Aikawa inhabited by local residents, the role of guides is very important in the sense of contributing to improving manner on the part of visitors and ensuring that visits are orderly.

Currently, in addition to conducting guided tours offered by Golden Sado, the property owner that has opened the mining facility to the public as a tourist site, guide tours in the Nishimikawa and the Aikawa areas are being offered by conservation groups and guide societies organised by local residents [Photo 4-13]. While the STA provides a point of contact for these, the introduction of an online reservation system is being considered in future. In the Aikawa area, local junior high school students also act as guides as a part of community learning. However, it is expected that the current number of guides will be insufficient to meet the increase in the number of visitors after successful World Heritage inscription. The training of personnel to meet the current shortage of guides able to converse with foreign visitors was an issue.

In Sado City, a guide training seminar was launched in 2015 to eliminate the shortage of guides and to train new human resources. Also, the Sado Gold and Silver Mine Civic Guide Training Course (indoor lecture and hands-on training) for the training of full-fledged guides has been attended by 52 individuals since its launch in 2016. In future, graduates of the program will act as registered guides for the STA. Regular training is also being implemented for guides who are already active, and efforts are being made to share the latest information and improve content, including the updating of guides' knowledge and dissemination of latest information on hazardous locations. Sado City has also been certified as a special area where guide interpreters are licensed to offer guidance to foreign visitors and can be paid for doing so. A training course for "Special Guide Interpreters" who will act as guides exclusively in the Sado area was launched in 2016. As of the time of writing, 20 people have acquired the qualification and started working as guide interpreters [Photo 4-14].

In the future, with the assumption of the increase in numbers of visitors after successful World Heritage inscription, efforts will be made to enhance the visitor reception system by continuing the



● Photo 4-13 Sado Gold and Silver Mine Civic Guide



● Photo 4-14 Workshop for "Special Guide Interpreters"

initiative to train guides including raising human resources in the next generation, and to improve efficiency of business and convenience of visitors by making use of the IT technology such as internet and smart phones.

## 4.5 Sustainability and Development of the Area Where the Nominated Property Is Located

### 4.5.1 Promoting the Understanding of Local Residents

Niigata Prefecture and Sado City have shared responsibilities to promote efforts to raise awareness about the value of the nominated property and its protection. Whereas the Prefecture is engaged in a regional approach at the prefectural and supra-prefectural level, the City is promoting an approach focusing on island residents, which will be continued [Photos 4-15 and 16]. These and other initiatives, in addition to stirring an awareness of the value of the property and its preservation, are also expected to deepen the understanding of and foster pride in Sado's culture and history, as well as raise an awareness of the value of showing hospitality to visitors.

### 4.5.2 Enhancement of Preservation and Utilisation

In each area, conservation groups organised by local residents are engaged in daily mowing and cleaning activities [Photo 4-17]. In addition, "The Associations of Sado World Heritage Promotion (Sado, Niigata area, metropolitan area)," organisations of individuals and groups on the island, individuals on mainland Niigata, and people in the Tokyo Metropolitan area who hail from Sado, spread awareness of the value of the property and preserve it, such as convening study groups and



● Photo 4-15 Parent-and-child tour



● Photo 4-16 Lecture meeting



● Photo 4-17 Volunteer mowing by people in local community (Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine)



● Photo 4-18 "Children's Summit" hosted by Sado City and the Associations of Sado World Heritage Promotion (presentation of the achievements of their learning)

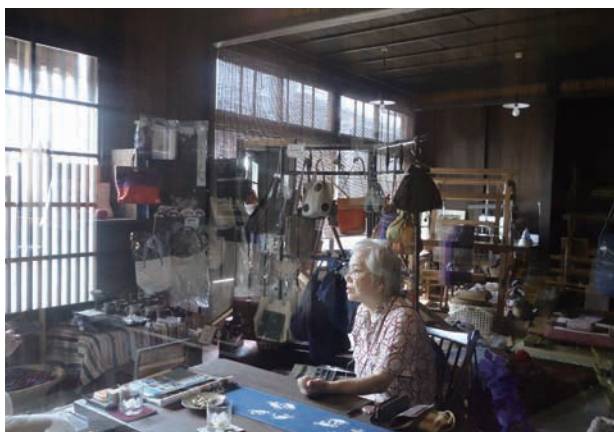
events, undertaking conservation and beautification activities [Photo 4-18]. Meanwhile, as of September 2022, 1,467 organisations and groups in the prefecture are affiliated to “the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Inscription Promotion Council,” which will be established with the object of realising the inscription of the nominated property into the World Heritage list and passing the value down to the future generations, and are carrying out various activities related to the conservation and promotion of the value.

In order to promote the involvement of local residents in passing down the value of the property to future generations, the Prefecture and the City provide support to these types of organisations for system building and training human resources. Moreover, by linking these activities in a network, efforts are ongoing to share issues relating to property preservation and utilisation and to cooperate in sharing responsibility for activity content. Currently, many of these organisations are carrying out their activities with the main purpose that the nominated property will be inscribed in the World Heritage list, while the Prefecture and the City shall make efforts for initiatives to preserve, manage and utilise the property even after the inscription, and for its succession to the next generation.

#### 4.5.3 Conservation and Utilisation of the Nominated Property and the Cultivation of Local Appeal

As mentioned in the previous section, that local residents accurately understand the value of the nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines and take pride in Sado’s local climate and culture, and that the local communities are sustainably revitalised are important so that they will surely continue to preserve and manage the property while appropriately utilising it in the future. However, the community is also wrestling with problems that it shares with many other regions in Japan, including “depopulation,” “decreasing birthrate and aging population” and “the stagnation of the regional economy,” and Sado Island is also no exception in facing an ongoing population decline. In the island, problems on townscape and security arise due to deterioration of historical buildings which people have difficulty in maintaining and increase of vacant houses. Also, it is getting difficult to maintain and succeed the folk entertainment, traditional events, and traditional industry and so on.

As a measure for solving the problem of increasing vacant houses, Sado City introduced a Vacant House Information System in 2008, which, in addition to providing a space for encounters between the owners of vacant houses and prospective users, also promotes migration support measures that go beyond the utilisation of vacant houses, including subsidies for vacant house inspection fees,



● **Photo 4-19** Example of townhouse utilisation as a workshop studio (Aikawa-Kamimachi Town)



● **Photo 4-20** Harvest festival in the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine



cleaning services in conjunction with the inspection and arrival of new tenants, support for one-week residential experiences, an "Island Life Advisor" system whereby individuals who have moved from larger centres to Sado (i.e., "made the 'I-turn'") offer consultation and support to others considering the same decision, and "the Sado Associate-Citizen System," which endeavors to incite migration demand. In 2016, the City started a "Project of vacant house utilisation" to proactively disseminate information about utilisation of vacant houses in the property area and the buffer zones to strengthen the function of information service required for matching between owners and prospective users. In July 2017, the City formulated "the Vacant Houses Action Plan" in which it presented basic direction for the utilisation of vacant houses and controlling to stem their emergence. As a result, in four years between 2018 and 2021, there were eight new registrations on "system of vacant house information" in the property and the buffer zones and three sales contracts were made. Meanwhile, in the whole Sado Island, there were 47 new registrations and 38 sales contracts in 2020. In recent years, while an increase can be seen in numbers of examples of the utilisation of vacant houses as galleries and cafes in the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, which is the element [Photo 4-19], in order to improve the situation, measures to deal with vacant houses will be taken continuously.

Further, in the Aikawa area, "Sado City Historical Landscape Maintenance and Enhancement Plan" was formulated in 2020, aiming for "Historical Community Planning," with which the citizens and administrative body protect and succeed the historical landscape and cultural heritage through cooperation, and foster rich community. The plan was authorised by the government and the City formulated "Enhancement Plan of Cultural Landscape of the Mines and Mining towns in Aikawa, Sado" in the Aikawa area. Based on these plans, the City has been promoting the programs or projects for community planning, placing the preservation and utilisation of historical townscape and cultural heritage, and cultural properties at the core, with a planning span of 10 years since 2020.

Given that measures for "depopulation" and "decreasing birthrate and aging population" such as promoting economies and maintaining the environment as well as measures to deal with vacant houses and the preservation and utilisation of cultural properties, are the big issues for the maintenance and revitalisation of the local community, it is also important to train the future human resource. The City established the "Comprehensive Strategy on Communities, Citizens, and Workplaces" in 2015 and is carrying out initiatives including the long-term "Human Resources Training of Youth for Sado City's Future," and the short-term aims are "Promoting Primary Industries and Tourism Industry to Offer Employment for the Youth" and "Building a Parenting-Friendly Environment." World Heritage is positioned at the core of tourism industry promotion, and efforts are being made to link the influx of visitors to the maintenance and revitalisation of livelihoods, the creation of new industries, as well as to promote regional development and to encourage young people to settle in the community. Meanwhile, at the national level, the government is recommending initiatives whereby local governments in depopulated areas and remote islands accept human resources from urban areas as new leaders who will enrich and strengthen communities by incorporating outside perspectives to support local revitalisation activities, agriculture and forestry, and residents' lives. In 2009, Sado City's "Regional Revitalisation and Cooperation Corps" system began accepting candidates for usual appointments of three years. However, many veterans of the program chose to stay on after the end of their term, and as of September 2022, 15 members remained active in the area.

Regarding the education of the next generation, the nominated property is expected to be a core of the educational material on the local community and world based on the various senses of values, the relationship between environment and human being as well as GIAHS, Geo Park, various cultural properties and rich natural environment in the island. For example, learning the value of the

nominated property associating the environment such as topography, geology, and vegetation as the background of gold production deepens the understanding of and fosters love and pride in the community. At the same time, learning about the World Heritage Sites of other countries from the Sado Island Gold Mines as a start leads to the understanding of human society, history, and diversity of their interactions with the nature, and to the learning about the significance of seeing them with multiangular viewpoints. The promotion of educating the next generation with these materials which have the World Heritage at the core, is one of the indispensable pieces to sustain and develop the property. Therefore, initiatives in cooperation with school-based education and local community will be taken.

These educational programmes with World Heritages as the core material, will be promoted in museums, the visitor centre for World Heritage, satellite guidance facilities, and community centres as well as school education. So far, Sado City has provided learning opportunity to communicate between generations as well as lifelong study through the hands-on learning for families in addition to the lectures for adults.

In Sado Island, where “depopulation” and “decreasing birthrate and aging population” are progressing, the World Heritage preservation and management activity in which the local residents from children to the elderly people, is expected to be one of the way to progress the World Heritage preservation and utilisation, and to yield the regional development. By considering various activities of World Heritage preservation, management and utilisation including the education activity as the place for wider generations and residents to interact with each other, it will contribute to the sustainability of the World Heritage preservation and utilisation, and to the maintenance and revitalisation of the regional community.

In addition to this, against a backdrop of growth in visitors and increased interest in Sado Island due to successful World Heritage listing, the prospective World Heritage will be preserved, managed and utilised, and the region will be sustainably developed through regional promotion measures including revitalisation of economy such as creating new employment and industries with a tourism focus, developing and selling local products to revitalise livelihoods, and aiming to increase the exchange and resident population and settlement by younger people by experience-based tourism and accommodation in private homes.

## Chapter 5 Action Plan

### 5.1 Overview

This chapter presents the issues and countermeasures for the preservation, management and utilisation of the Sado Island Gold Mines, as well as the Action Plan, which is the initiative measure to realise them. In order to make it sure to pass on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the Sado Island Gold Mine to the next generation, it is important for local governments and owners as a central figure, as well as related organisations, private preservation groups, local residents, visitors and so on to understand the value of the property fully enough to strive together for the preservation and management based on the common understanding. The Action Plan is an implementation plan for initiatives carried out by those local governments, related organisations, groups and so on.

Until now, Sado City, Niigata Prefecture and other related organisations have implemented projects related to the preservation, management and utilisation of the property and the buffer zones based on “the ‘Sado Gold and Silver Mine’ Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan” (hereinafter, the present action plan) formulated in 2016. This Action Plan was made based on the implementation state of these projects, and the current condition and issues of the preservation and management in and around the component parts described in the Comprehensive Management Plan.

In this Comprehensive Management Plan, Chapter 3 “Current Condition and Issues of the Nominated Property and Surrounding Area” sets out five items: 3.1 “Preservation and Management of the Nominated Property,” 3.2 “Conservation of the Surrounding Environment of the Nominated Property,” 3.3 “Factors Affecting the Nominated Property,” 3.4 “Promotion of Public Access and Utilisation,” and 3.5 “Current State and Issues of Sustainability and Contribution to the Development.” They describe the current conditions and issues of conservation and management of the property and its surrounding environment. Chapter 4 “Preservation and Management Plan of the Nominated Property” presents the countermeasures against those issues. This Action Plan shows the specific initiatives to these countermeasures, and the bodies and period to implement them based on the projects that have been carried out so far according to the present action plan (Tables 5-1 to 5).

As the final year of the present action plan is 2024, the projects to be implemented from 2025 onwards will be considered again during 2023-2024 based on the implementation state and the achievement level of targets up to date. Therefore, there is a possibility that this Action Plan will be partly modified in the future according to the results of this consideration.

After the successful inscription on the World Heritage List, the “Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council” will grasp the implementation state of the projects related to the Action Plan, and evaluate the contents of the projects and the achievement state of the targets. Based on its evaluation, the action plan shall be reviewed.

## 5.2 Items Mentioned

Tables 5-1 to 5 show the issues, countermeasures, initiatives, implementation bodies and implementation period for each of the five items set out in Chapters 3 and 4. Among the items mentioned, points to be noted on the implementation bodies and implementation period are as follows.

**- Implementation body**

As mentioned above, specific projects will be considered in 2024, so here we collected the implementation bodies for each of the initiatives in “the ‘Sado Gold and Silver Mine’ Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan” and classified them into the Prefecture, the City, private sectors and other.

**- Implementation period**

The implementation period is shown below. The medium- and long-term implementation periods are based on the current prospect for the future implementation of the projects, taking into account the nature of each initiative.

On-going plan:	currently being implemented as a project of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Utilisation Action Plan
Short term:	will be implemented approximately within five years of inscription on the World Heritage List
Medium and long term:	will be implemented approximately five years after from inscription on the World Heritage List

## Action Plan Summary Table

● **Table 5-1** Preservation and management of the component parts

Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
1-1: Proper Preservation and Management of the property	a: Protection of the Property under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties	Protection of the property under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties	○	◎			●		
		Preservation and management based on various plans	○	◎			●		
	b: Preservation and management of Each Component part/ Elements	Preservation and management of a World Heritage Site	○	◎			●		
		Strengthening the patrolling and monitoring system of the component parts	◎	◎			●		
		Promotion of conservation activities by private sectors	○	◎	○		●		
		Preservation and repair of the cultural properties as the component parts	○	◎			●		
1-2: Promotion of Scientific Research	a: Promotion of Scientific Research	Promotion of research in the preservation of archaeological sites	○	◎			●		
	b: Research in Related Cultural Properties	Promotion of research in related cultural properties	○	◎			●		

Implementation body ◎:Responsible body, ○:Related body

● **Table 5-2** Integrated conservation including the surrounding environment (buffer zones)

Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
2-1: Conservation of the Surrounding Environment of the Property	a: Conservation under Laws and Regulations	Landscape conservation under the Landscape Act	○	◎			●		
		Landscape conservation under the Outdoor Advertisement Act	○	◎			●		
2-2: Landscaping in the Environment of the Nominated Property	b: Landscaping in the Nominated Property and the Environment	Landscape formation in the property area	○	◎			●		
		Consideration of landscape-friendly design	○	◎			●		
		Stakeholder consultation on landscape obstruction factors	○	◎			●		

Implementation body ◎:Responsible body, ○:Related body

● **Table 5-3** Factors affecting the component parts

Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
3-1: Development Pressures and Management Response	a: Addressing Factors Affecting the Nominated Property	Protection of the property under the Law on the Protection of Cultural Property	○	◎			●		
	b: Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment	Formulation of the manual for processing Heritage Impact Assessment	◎	◎			●		
		Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment	◎	◎			●		
3-2: Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness	a: Environmental Countermeasure for Preservation of the Component Parts	Implementation of environmental monitoring	○	◎				●	
		Implementation of appropriate vegetation management	○	◎			●		
	b: Prevention of Disasters and Development of Crisis Management System	Enhancement of a risk preparedness system	○	◎			●		



Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
3-3: Visitation, Other Human Activities and Sustainable Use	a: Enhancing Systems for Receiving Visitors in a Systematic Manner	Publicising sightseeing manner (harmonisation with the lives of local residents)	○	◎			●	●	
		Ensuring the proper functioning of community roads	◎	◎			●		
		Ensuring safety measures	○	◎			●		
		Cooperation with primary emergency medical institutions	○	◎			●	●	
		Expansion of mobile phone service area		◎			●	●	

Implementation body ◎:Responsible body, ○:Related body

● Table 5-4 Promotion of public access and utilisation

Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
4-1: Promotion of Understanding of the Proposed Outstanding Universal Value	a: Promotion of understanding of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value	Training of local "storytellers"		◎	○		●		
		Holding courses and other events	◎	◎	○		●		
		Dissemination of accurate historical facts	○	◎	○		●		
		Establishing, sharing and disseminating the World Heritage brand image	○	◎	○		●		
	b: The integral Preservation and Utilisation including the Nominated Property and Related Cultural Properties	Cooperation with Geopark and GIAHS	○	◎	○		●		
		Cooperation with traditional culture preservation groups		◎	○		●		
		Support for the preservation and inheritance of related traditional culture		◎	○		●		
		Record keeping and dissemination of information on traditional culture		◎	○		●		
	c: Information Dissemination	Improving information dissemination at home and abroad	○	◎	○		●		
		Information dissemination at tourist bases and product events in the prefecture	○	◎	○		●		
		Utilisation of various publicity media	○	◎	○		●		
		Information dissemination integrated with related culture and industry		◎	○		●		
		Management of information		◎	○		●		
4-2: Convenience Provision to Visitors	a: Enhancing the Access Route to the Nominated Property	Enhancing and publicising access routes	◎	◎	○	○ (State)	●		
		Preparations of guide signs	◎	◎	○		●		
		Expanding and improving secondary transport	○	◎	○		●		
		Consideration of responses to assumed peak periods	○	◎	◎		●	●	
	b: Enhancement of Guidance Function	Enhancement of interpretation panels	○	◎			●		
		Preparing guidebooks and pamphlets	○	◎	○	○ (State)	●		
		Enhancement of various explanatory media	○	◎			●		
		Building of guidance facilities	○	◎			●		

Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
4-2: Convenience Provision to Visitors	c: Establishment of Touring Routes and Maintenance for Utilisation	Setting up and sending visitor routes	○	◎	○		●		
		Strengthening the patrolling and monitoring system of the component parts	○	◎			●		
		Enhancement of walking trails	○	◎			●		
		Enhancement of the reception environment for foreign tourists	○	◎	○		●		
		Incorporating barrier-free design at various facilities	○	◎	○		●	●	
		Enhancement of the surrounding area, including parking, toilets and rest areas	○	◎	○		●		
		Promotion of ecotourism	○	◎	○		●		
		Consideration of wide-area circular routes	◎	○	○		●	●	
		Securing accommodation during peak periods	○	◎	◎		●		
		Improvement of hospitality in transport, accommodation and other facilities	○	◎	◎		●		
		Promotion of interaction between visitors and local residents		◎	○		●		
		Enhancement of experiential programmes		◎	○		●	●	
		Cooperation between travel and transport companies and with other regions	○	◎	○		●		
	d: Establishment of a Guide System	Preparation for guide training		◎	○		●		
		Setting up a guide counter		○	◎		●	●	
		Guide reservation system		○	◎		●	●	

Implementation body ◎:Responsible body, ○:Related body

● Table 5-5 The sustainability and development of the property area

Issue	Countermeasure	Initiative	Implementation body				Implementation period		
			Prefecture	City	Private sector	Others	Being implemented	Short term	Medium to long term
5-1: Understanding and Sharing the Value of the Property	a: Promoting the understanding of Local Residents	Holding short courses for local residents		◎	○		●		
		Efforts for lifelong learning	◎	◎	○		●		
		Efforts for children and students	◎	◎	○		●		
5-2: Enhancement of Preservation and Utilisation	b: Enhancement of Initiatives and Activities Preservation and Utilisation	Cooperation with the property and tourist information		◎			●		
		Information dissemination integrated with related culture and industry		◎	○		●		
		Cooperation with related groups on the mainland	○	◎	○		●		
5-3: Maintenance and Revitalisation of Local Community	c: Conservation and Utilisation of the Nominated Property and the Cultivation of Local Appeal	Revitalisation of local industries	○	◎	○		●		
		Utilisation of vacant houses and abandoned farmlands	○	◎			●		

Implementation body ◎:Responsible body, ○:Related body

## Chapter 6 Monitoring

### 6.1 Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation

Aiming for secure protection of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the Sado Island Gold Mines, monitoring of the component parts and their buffer zones is to be carried out. When the potential for negative impacts is observed, measures for either removing the factors or reducing the impacts will be proposed and implemented.

This chapter, based on the common policy of component parts, presents the method of monitoring, implementation systems, and existing documentation regarding the state of conservation, all of which are necessary to realise the periodic and systematic monitoring.

### 6.2 Specific Measures

#### 6.2.1 Indicators for Monitoring

For monitoring the component parts and their buffer zones, appropriate indicators are provided based on the following three aspects:

- (i) Is the value, integrity, and authenticity of the nominated property, as described in Chapter 3 'Justification for Inscription' being protected? [Table 6-1]
- (ii) What kind of impact is being made on the nominated property and its buffer zones concerning factors such as development, environmental pressures, natural disasters, visitation, and other matters, which are described in '4.b Factors affecting the nominated property,' Chapter 4 'State of Conservation and factors affecting the nominated property'? [Table 6-2]
- (iii) In connection with Chapter 5 'Protection and Management of the Nominated Property,' have the nominated property and its buffer zone appropriately been developed as places for disseminating information regarding the proposed Outstanding Universal Value? [Table 6-3]

● **Table 6-1** Monitoring indicators regarding "value, integrity, and authenticity of the nominated property"

Impacts on the nominated property		Indicators			Monitoring cycle	Location of records
		No.	Aspects	Measures		
Value, authenticity, integrity of the nominated property	State of preservation	1	Patrols and inspections by the custodial body, property owners and relevant parties, and records to find out the change	The state of patrols and inspections on the component parts and their elements such as frequencies, contents and outcomes.	Any time	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City; Property owners
				The result of fixed point photographing and survey to find out the changes regarding buildings and structures.	Annually	Sado City
		2	The number of elements of which preservation state "requires improvement" in the component parts and changes of the state and measures	Assessment related to major elements in the component parts by the specialists and its result.	Annually	Sado City
	Alterations to the existing state	3	The number and the content of applications for permission to alter the existing state	The number and the content of application for permission to alter the existing state based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.	Annually	Sado City
	Damages	4	The number and the content of notification of damage	The number and the content of notification of damage based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.	Annually	Sado City

● **Table 6-2** Monitoring indicators regarding “factors affecting the nominated property and its surrounding environment (buffer zone)”

Impacts on the nominated property			Indicators			Monitoring cycle	Location of records
Threats	Classification	Specific examples	No.	Aspects	Measures		
Development pressures	Infrastructure development	Public work	5	The number of public works orders	The number of public works orders and contents of projects such as roads, rivers, sewage, and forestry conservation within the property and its buffer zones.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
		Private development projects. Traffic facilities (above- and under-ground, air navigation, marine). Energy facilities (recycle, un-recycle). Other facilities	6	The number and content of private development projects	The number and content of the projects in facilities within the property and its buffer zones.	Annually	Sado City
	Private development project	Residences, development for business, development for industry, accommodation facilities, and exhibition facilities, and others	7	The number of private developments	The number of development permissions, building confirmations and demolition of buildings within the property and its buffer zones.	Annually	Sado City
		Repairs and reconstructions of residences and others	8	The number of notification based on the landscape ordinance	The number of notifications based on the landscape ordinance within the property and its buffer zones.	Annually	Sado City
		Advertisements and displays	9	The number of control instances on illegal outdoor advertisement	The number of administrative guidances and controls on illegal outdoor advertisement based on the outdoor advertisement ordinance.	Annually	Sado City
	Utilisation and alteration of biological resource	Aquatic resource, culture fishery Land diversion Livestock Agriculture Wild plants (business, livelihood) Hunting (business, livelihood) Forestry, timber production	10	Existing state of each project, state and plan of project implementation in alteration of farmland	Assessment of the existing state of projects and state of implementation of farmland improvement projects by department or organisation related to agricultural forestry industries and fishery.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
	Material resource mining	Mines, quarrying (sediment collecting), oil, gas, water extraction	11	Existing state of each project	Assessment of the existing state of projects by related department or organisation in the prefecture and the city.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
Environmental -change pressures	Pollution	Air pollution, sea water pollution, groundwater pollution, surface water pollution, solid waste, overuse of energy	12	Observation and information regarding each pollution incident	The amount of sulphur dioxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, photochemical oxidants, suspended particulate matter, and PM 2.5 in the atmosphere. The drainage water quality in The Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine (The Minamizawa Drainage Tunnel) as well as other water quality investigations.	Regularly	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City; Mining rights holder
	Regional condition Climate change	Wind, relative temperature, temperature, radiation, light, dust, water (rain water, groundwater), harmful organism, microorganism, desertification, changes in seawater and temperature	13	Observation information of temperature, humidity, water quality and others	The temperature and humidity in buildings and structures comprising elements and their changes. As for the other conditions, obtain information on regular observations or general conditions from related organisations.	Regularly Periodically	Sado City Niigata Prefecture
	Serious disasters	Gale force wind disasters, flood, drought	14	Observation information of weather and tide level	Information regarding ocean wave disasters making the most of the meteorological observation and disaster prevention information network established by the state, the prefecture, and the city.	Any time	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City



Impacts on the nominated property			Indicators			Monitoring cycle	Location of records
Threats	Classification	Specific examples	No.	Aspects	Measures		
Sudden ecological or geological phenomenon	Sediment disasters, erosion, accumulation, and others	Landslides, snowslides, debris flow, erosion, accumulation, and others	15	Observation of weather, precipitation, and river levels; Forecast and information of sediment disasters occurred	Information regarding flood and sediment disasters making the most of meteorological observation and disaster prevention information network established by the state, the prefecture, and the city. The result of assessment in the impacts of erosion and accumulation in the property and its buffer zones regularly.	Any time Annually	Niigata Prefecture Sado City
	Fire hazards	Artificial fire	16	Inspections for fire prevention equipment and fire prevention drills	The fire prevention equipment and the number and state of implementation of fire prevention drills or firefighting trainings regarding the property.	Annually	Sado City
		Natural fire, wildfire, and others	17	The number of occurrences	The number of natural fire occurrences within the property.	Annually	Sado City
	Snow disasters		18	Observation information of snowfall, snow accumulation, and temperature	Snowfall, snow accumulation, temperature and general condition of snow disasters at the fixed observation point around the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine.	Any time	Sado City
	Earthquakes and tsunamis		19	Observation information of earthquakes, and tsunamis	Information regarding earthquakes and tsunamis making the most of the disaster prevention information network established by the state, the prefecture, and the city.	Any time	Sado City
Foreign species	Invasive foreign species and others	Arrival of foreign species, invasive foreign species (terrestrial, fresh water, sea water) and others	20	The propagation state of invasive foreign species	Assessment of the propagation state of invasive foreign species regularly in the property and its buffer zone.	Annually	Sado City
Visitor pressures	Impact by increase of visitors	Impact by visitors to the nominated property	21	The number of tourists visiting Sado Island and the nominated property	The number of passengers of sea route and tourists to Sado Island and the numbers of visitors to each area.	Annually	Sado City
			22	Information on the visitors' pressure in the nominated property	The result of assessment in physical and social impact on each area caused by visitors.		

● **Table 6-3** Monitoring indicators regarding “Demonstration of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value” of the nominated property

Impacts on the nominated property		Indicators			Monitoring cycle	Location of records
		No.	Aspects	Measures		
Demonstration of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value	Demonstration of value	23	State of implementation of survey and research	The state of implementation and the content of survey and research on the component parts and related cultural properties, and assess results from all new publication of reports.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
		24	State of implementation of seminars, workshops, and site visits	The state of implementation of seminars, workshops, site visits regarding the component parts.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
	Offering convenience to the visitors	25	State of installation and repairs of facilities for information, presentation and utilisation	The state of installation and repairs of facilities in accordance with the maintenance plan.	Annually	Sado City
		26	Installation of visitor facilities	The state of installation and repairs of facilities in accordance with the maintenance plan.	Annually	Sado City
		27	Development of tour guide system	The number of implementation of tour guide training workshops or seminars and the participants and contents, and the number of guided-tours and the participants.	Annually	Sado City
	Providing information	28	Providing information by pamphlets, websites, and SNS	The number of publications such as pamphlets, and of access to the website and its update situation established by the prefecture and the city.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
	Activities of the private sector	29	The content and number of activities by local residents and the private sector	The content and the number of activities of local residents and private organisations regarding the component parts.	Annually	Niigata Prefecture; Sado City
	Sustainability of the local community	30	Changes in local population	The data of the number of inhabitants within the component parts and the buffer zone and its change.	Annually	Sado City

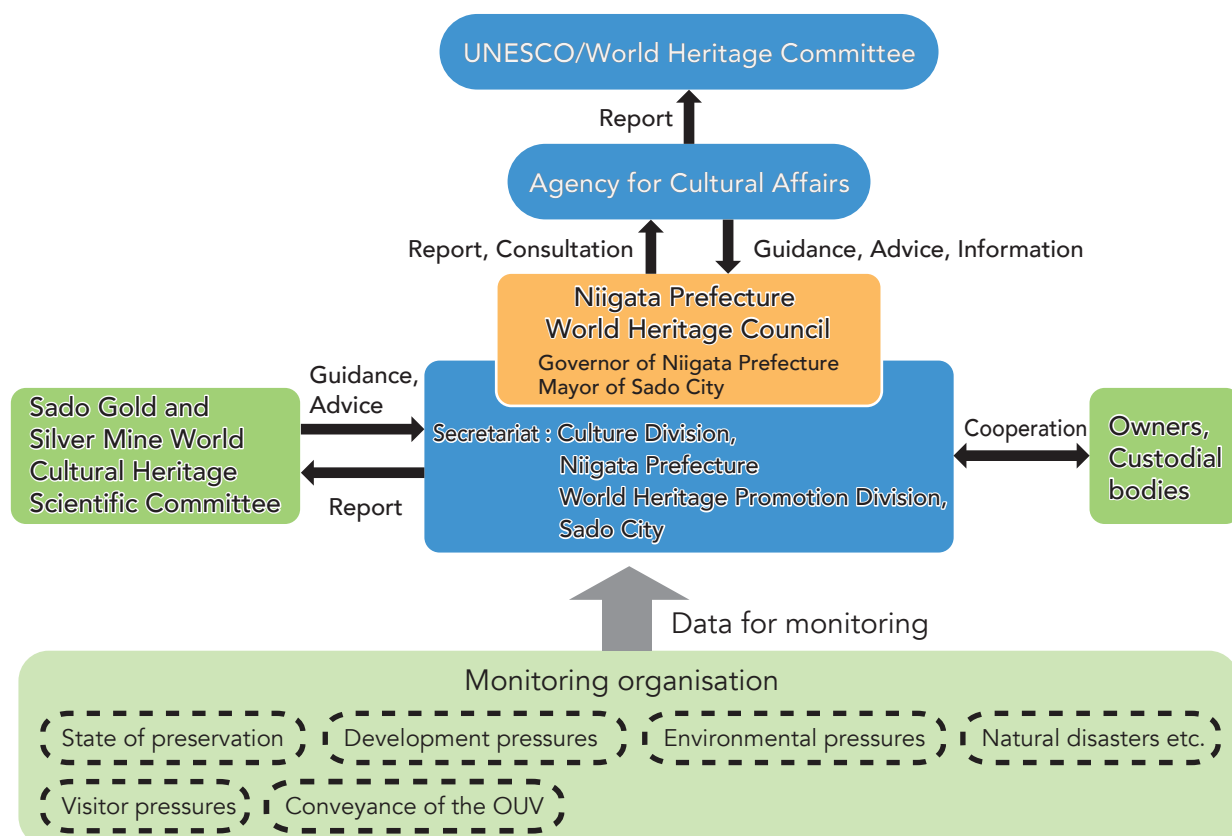
## 6.3 Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property

The monitoring including its periodical reporting will be performed by municipal governments and property owners as shown in Table 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3. The findings of monitoring will be recorded and scrutinised by the “Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council” [Table 6-4, Figure 6-1]. The Council will assess implemented measures through the monitoring, and review the policy and measure so as to make it more effective as necessary.

In accordance with Chapter V of the “Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention,” the Council will collect and record the information on the conservation and management of the nominated property every year. Furthermore, a periodic report (in English) based on the collected information will be compiled to be submitted to the World Heritage Committee via the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

● **Table 6-4** Entities responsible for monitoring

Role	Jurisdiction	Organisation in charge
1. Management and information gathering	Nominated property and buffer zone	<p>Organisation: Sado City</p> <p>Representative: Mayor of Sado City</p> <p>Office in charge: World Heritage Promotion Division, Sado City</p> <p>Responsible person: Director of World Heritage Promotion Division</p> <p>Address: 232 Chigusa, Sado City, Niigata Prefecture 952-1292 Japan</p> <p>Tel: +81-259-63-5136</p> <p>Fax: +81-259-63-6130</p> <p>E-mail: k-goldmine@city.sado.niigata.jp</p>
2. Management and information gathering	Nominated property and buffer zone	<p>Organisation: Niigata Prefecture</p> <p>Representative: Governor of Niigata Prefecture</p> <p>Office in charge: World Heritage Inscription Promotion Office, Culture Division, Department of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Niigata Prefecture</p> <p>Responsible person: Director of Culture Division; Director of World Heritage Inscription Promotion Office</p> <p>Address: 4-1 Shinko-cho, Chuo-ku, Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture 950-8570 Japan</p> <p>Tel: +81-25-285-5759</p> <p>Fax: +81-25-280-5764</p> <p>E-mail: ng150030@pref.niigata.lg.jp</p>
3. Providing advice and information	Nominated property and buffer zone	<p>Organisation: Agency for Cultural Affairs</p> <p>Representative: Commissioner of Agency for Cultural Affairs</p> <p>Office in charge: Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Heritages, Cultural Resources Utilisation Division</p> <p>Responsible person: Director of Cultural Resources Utilisation Division, Director of Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Heritages</p> <p>Address: 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 Japan</p> <p>Tel: +81-3-6734-2877</p> <p>Fax: +81-3-6734-3820</p> <p>E-mail: bunikoku@mext.go.jp</p>



● **Figure 6-1** Organisational framework for monitoring

## 6.4 Reports on Existing Conservation Status

### Area 1 Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine

- Mano Town Board of Education, 2004, Teppoba Site and Sakin-Emichi Waterway Site, Excavation Survey Report of Buried Cultural Property associated with Prefectural Road Shizudaira-Nishimikawa Line Improvement Project.  
Excavation report on an occasion of a road improvement
- Sado City Board of Education, 2004, Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine Stone Wall Remains Survey Report.  
Survey report on the stone wall in Nishimikawa area
- Niigata University Urban Planning Laboratory & Niigata University Faculty of Humanities Geography Laboratory, 2009, Historical Environment, Buildings and Structures in Aikawa and Sasagawa in Sado.  
General survey report on both Nishimikawa and Aikawa area concerning their environments as well as buildings
- Sado City Board of Education, 2009, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Kajiyashiki Site and Seriba Site Survey Report and Excavation Survey Report on the Prefectural Road Shizudaira-Nishimikawa Line Improvement Project.  
Excavation report on an occasion of a road improvement
- Sado City, 2011, Report for preservation survey on Rural Landscape from Placer Gold Mining at Nishimikawa, Sado.  
Comprehensive survey report on the Cultural Landscape of Nishimikawa area
- Sado City, 2011, Rural Landscape from Placer Gold Mining at Nishimikawa, Sado, Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan.  
Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan for Nishimikawa area
- Sado City & Sado City Board of Education, 2012, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine Distribution Survey Report.  
Distribution survey report on remains of the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine
- Sado City, 2012, Sado City Temple Buildings Inventory Survey Report.  
Inventory survey report on historic buildings in temples
- Sado City, 2016, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Site Preservation and Management Plan, Phase 2.  
Revised preservation and management plan for the nominated property designated as historic site
- Sado City, 2020, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Site Maintenance Basic Plan.  
A plan on maintenance as well as enhancement for the nominated property where designated as historic site

### Area 2 Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine

#### Tsurushi Silver Mine

- Sado City Board of Education, 2008, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Tsurushi Silver Mine Distribution



#### Survey Report.

Distribution survey report on remains of the Tsurushi area

- Sado City & Sado City Board of Education, 2010, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Tsurushi Silver Mine Distribution Survey Report.

Distribution survey report on remains of the Tsurushi area

- Sado City, 2012, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Management Plan, Phase 1.

Preservation and management plan for the nominated property designated as Historic Site

- Sado City, 2016, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Management Plan, Phase 2.

Revised preservation and management plan for the nominated property designated as Historic Site

- Sado City, 2020, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Site Maintenance Basic Plan.

A plan on maintenance as well as enhancement for the nominated property designated as Historic Site

### **Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine**

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 1994, Historic Site Sado Gold Mine Preservation and Management Plan.

Preservation and management plan for the nominated property where designated as historic site

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 1995, Survey Report for measures of preservation in the preservation area of traditional structures in Town of Gold, Aikawa, Sado.

Comprehensive survey report on an area of traditional structures in Aikawa town

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 2001, Excavation Survey Report for Reconstruction on National Historic Site, Sado Magistrate's Office Site.

Excavation survey report on the Sado Magistrate's Office Site for its presentation

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 2001, Excavation Survey Report for Sado Gold and Silver Mine Site (Goto Minting Office) on the Prefectural Road Improvement Project among Hakuundai, Otowaiki, and Aikawa Lines.

Excavation report on an occasion of a road improvement

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 2002, Excavation Survey Report for the Reconstruction of Historic Site, Sado Magistrate's Office Site.

Excavation survey report on the Sado Magistrate's Office Site for its presentation

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 2003, Mabu Tunnel Distribution and Religious Facilities Survey Report on Sado Gold and Silver Mine.

Distribution survey report focused on Mabu tunnels and religious facilities

- Aikawa Town Board of Education, 2004, Excavation Survey Report for Improvement of the Platform for Large-Sized Vehicle around Historic Site, Sado Magistrate's Office Site.

Excavation report on an occasion of a visitor facility improvement

- Sado City Board of Education, 2005, Stoneworks Distribution Survey Report on Aikawa Area in Sado Gold and Silver Mine.

- Distribution survey report focused on stoneworks in Aikawa area
- Sado City Board of Education, 2005, Preservation and Repair Works Report for the Bell Tower in Historic Site, Sado Gold and Silver Mine.  
Report on conservation works for the bell tower in Aikawa
  - Sado City Board of Education, 2006, Summary Report for Confirmation Survey on Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Sado Gold Mine Site (Kami-Aikawa District).  
Survey report focused on re-confirmation on remains of Kami-Aikawa district
  - Sado City Board of Education, 2008, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Sado Gold Mine Site (Kami-Aikawa District) Survey Report.  
General survey report on remains in Kami-Aikawa district
  - Niigata University Urban Planning Laboratory & Niigata University Faculty of Humanities Geography Laboratory, 2009, Historical Environment, Buildings and Structures in Aikawa and Sasagawa in Sado.  
General survey report on both Nishimikawa and Aikawa area concerning their environments as well as buildings
  - Sado City, 2012, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Management Plan, Phase 1.  
Preservation and management plan for the nominated property designated as Historic Site
  - Sado City, 2012, Sado City Religious Buildings Inventory Survey Report.  
Inventory survey report on historic buildings in temples
  - Sado City and Sado City Board of Education, 2014, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Sado Gold Mine Site (Kami-Teramachi District) Distribution Survey Report.  
Distribution survey report focused on Kami-Teramachi district
  - Sado City and Sado City Board of Education, 2014, Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Sado Gold Mine Site (Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine Site) Distribution Survey Report.  
Distribution survey report focused on mining sites in Aikawa area
  - Sado City World Heritage Promotion Section, 2015, Mining Townscape in Aikawa, Sado – Preservation Survey Report.  
Comprehensive survey report on the Cultural Landscape of Aikawa area
  - Sado City World Heritage Promotion Section, 2015, Mining Townscape in Aikawa, Sado – Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan.  
Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan for Aikawa area
  - Sado City, 2016, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine Preservation and Management Plan, Phase 2.  
Revised preservation and management plan for the nominated property designated as Historic Site
  - Sado City, 2020, Historic Site Sado Gold and Silver Mine, Site Maintenance Basic Plan.  
A plan on maintenance as well as enhancement for the nominated property designated as Historic Site
  - Sado City, 2020, Cultural Landscape of Mine and Mining Towns in Aikawa, Sado – Cultural Landscape Improvement Plan.  
Improvement plan focused on the cultural landscape in Aikawa area.

## Chapter 7 Establishment and Operation of Management System

### 7.1 System Establishment and Management Policy

To pass on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property Sado Island Gold Mines to future generations, it is essential for government organisations involved in property protection to collaborate with stakeholder entities including owners, local residents and experts in a variety of fields relevant to management. To that end, it is necessary to make various projects on management effective, by enhancing managing systems, opening to the public and utilising the component parts, for sharing and discussing the information regarding the conservation of buffer zones, and for building consensus on policies promptly and appropriately.

Preservation and utilisation of component parts and conservation of buffer zones are based on legislation, ordinances and systems applicable to the buffer zones as described in Chapter 4, 4.1.1 Protection of the property based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and 4.2.2 Conservation under Laws and Regulations. The government institutions with jurisdiction over the relevant legislation and ordinances, owners, local residents and community groups engaged in property preservation and management have joined forces to implement them appropriately. Niigata Prefecture and Sado City are cooperating each other to protect the properties by sharing information on a daily basis and convening frequent meetings for liaison and coordination. Golden Sado Inc., which owns the greater portion of the property, the Prefecture, and the City collaborate by discussing about issues and solutions.

Going forward, to preserve, utilise and conserve the property and the buffer zones in an integrated way as a World Heritage Site, and to pass them on to future generations, a variety of agreements will be reached and decisions made about management and public access and use, and initiatives to further strengthen existing systems will be progressed by configuring a new, comprehensive management system that links and facilitates cooperation between stakeholder entities.

Regarding function of comprehensive management system, the basic approaches are as follows:

- (a) Undertake management and implement public access and use in accordance with relevant legislation and ordinances.
- (b) Progress collaborative initiatives while obtaining guidance and advice from higher learning and specialist perspectives.
- (c) Progress initiatives in mutual collaboration with local residents and stakeholder entities.

All stakeholders, without any omission, shall protect and pass down the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property to posterity, by being aware of their role and obligations in the management and public access and utilisation of a World Heritage Site and by collaborating and cooperating.

## 7.2 Specific Measures

### 7.2.1 Function of Each Organisation in the Comprehensive Management System

Based on the basic approaches in the previous section, the Niigata Prefecture World Heritage Council (hereinafter, World Heritage Council) will be established as a forum for identifying and sharing information relating to preservation and utilisation of the nominated property and conservation of buffer zones, for discussing and coordinating necessary measures, and for achieving agreement on them. With the Governor of Niigata Prefecture and Mayor of Sado City as members, the World Heritage Council will operate these works and collaborate with stakeholder entities including owners, while receiving the guidance and advice from academic and specialist perspectives from “Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee” comprising experts in the various fields of World cultural heritage studies, archaeology, historical science, architecture and landscapes and “expert committees” established for each type of cultural property. The World Heritage Council will also discuss and decide on the matters regarding the property management and utilisation including Heritage Impact Assessment, the conservation of the surrounding environment, and the preparation of the report required for submission to the World Heritage committee.

The practical work of operating the World Heritage Councils, gathering and identifying information about the property and buffer zones, and managing progress on various measures, will be the responsibility of World Heritage departments of Niigata Prefecture and Sado City, the secretariats of the Council. The Agency for Cultural Affairs, as the national entity with jurisdiction over relevant legislation and ordinances in relation to preservation and utilisation of cultural heritage, responsible for taking a guiding role, will be an observer and will provide guidance and advice on management, enhancement and utilisation of the nominated property and conservation of the buffer zones.

### 7.2.2 Members and Roles

The roles of the parties comprising the management system are as hereafter described [Figure 7-1].

#### (a) Niigata Prefecture

Niigata Prefecture will take the lead in administering the World Heritage Council, coordinate to solve the issues regarding the whole nominated property, transmit the information, and implement a wide-range of measures and policies necessary for enhancement and utilisation. The Prefecture also collaborates closely with the property owners and the custodial body, Sado City, and with stakeholder groups, to identify the status and issues in relation to preservation, management and utilisation of the nominated property and conservation of the buffer zones, and provides advice and coordination on preservation, management and utilisation of the nominated property and buffer zones, in which the City takes initiative, as well as technical and financial support. Furthermore, the Prefecture gathers information on the development project in which the Prefecture takes the initiative and coordinates the projects. Therefore, the Prefecture shall establish the system by arranging officers with expert knowledge.



**(b) Sado City**

Sado City will cooperate with Niigata Prefecture to administer the World Heritage Council and undertake preservation, conservation and monitoring of the nominated property and buffer zones as the local government in accordance with relevant legislation and ordinances, regulations and rules and systems. As “the custodial body” under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and the owner of part of the nominated property, the City will engage in the management and utilisation of the property while sharing roles with the other owners. The City will also support and promote daily maintenance and management work on component parts and enhancement projects for preservation and utilisation which owners, local residents and stakeholder groups are implementing. Furthermore, the City will undertake measures to open to the public and educate for deeper understanding of the value of the nominated property.

**(c) Owners of Component Parts and Stakeholder Preservation Groups**

Owners, including Golden Sado, which is the owner of the greater portion of the component parts, and stakeholder preservation groups will undertake daily maintenance and management, including inspections and cleaning, with guidance and collaboration from government, and will be responsible for appropriate preservation and succession. Further, in mutual collaboration with each other, owners and representatives of stakeholder preservation groups will engage in orderly visitor reception to facilitate transmission and utilisation of the value of the nominated property.

In order to share information and gather opinions on the value of the nominated property, and problems and issues in relation to their preservation and utilisation, owners and representatives of stakeholder preservation groups will be members for participation in meetings convened by Sado City, and will be involved in decisions about approaches to preservation and utilisation. The City and the local community are liaising closely on matters requiring information to be shared and agreement to be reached with the whole local community, through convening of briefings and meetings in relation to individual proposals and paying individual visits. Especially, as a mining right holder in the widely spread mining sites and also as an owner of the mining facilities, the City is responsible for preserving, maintaining, and managing the sites and facilities.

**(d) Sado Gold and Silver Mine World Cultural Heritage Scientific Committee**

In relation to conservation and utilisation of the World Cultural Heritage, especially in consideration related to Heritage Impact Assessment, the committee shall provide guidance and advice to the World Heritage Council from the expert viewpoint. This committee comprises the scholars and experts in World Heritage studies, archaeology, history, architecture, history of science and technology, economics, and cultural landscapes.

**(e) Agency for Cultural Affairs**

The Agency is the national government organisation with the central role in the protection of cultural heritage. The Agency, in collaboration with Niigata Prefecture and Sado City, will undertake suitable liaison, coordination and discussions in relation to property management, enhancement and utilisation, important matters relating to conservation of the buffer zones and preparation of periodic reports on the state of management of the nominated property that must be submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

In accordance with the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the Agency will provide guidance and advice on the general management of cultural properties to the property owner and

to Sado City, which is the custodial body designated under the Law, and will also provide technical and financial support for conservation of the nominated property. At the same time, the Agency is authorised to grant permission on the activities that may alter the existing state or affect preservation and will provide guidance. Further, the Agency will liaise with other government agencies to gather information about world cultural heritage protection from inside and outside Japan, and will provide information to the World Heritage Council to contribute to protection of the nominated property.

#### **(f) Expert Committees**

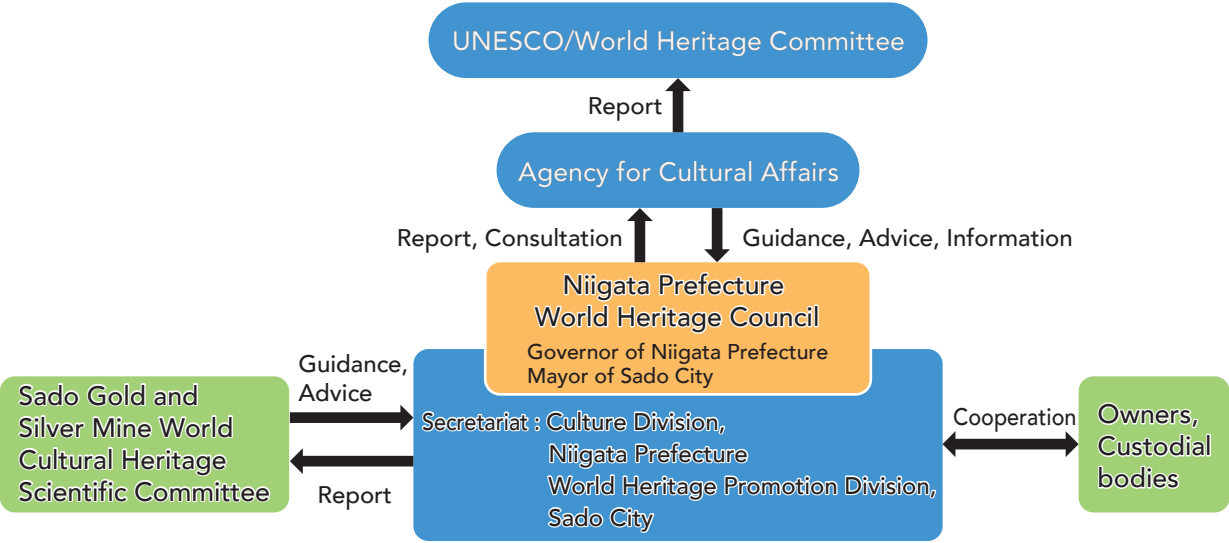
Sado City has established the expert committees for each type of cultural properties such as Historic Sites and Important Cultural Landscapes to receive a guidance and advice related to preservation and enhancement of designated cultural properties. The expert committees comprise scholars and experts in Japanese history, archaeology, history of science and technology, socio-economic history, architecture, cultural landscapes, cultural property preservation studies and botany, and provide guidance and advice to the City from the scientific and expert viewpoint. Although the expert committees are not constituent members of the World Heritage Council, their guidance and advice will be reflected on the Council via the City.

### **7.2.3 Cooperation with Local Residents**

In order to ensure the protection of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, integrated preservation and management will be required including protection of not only the component parts but also the buffer zones. To implement this surely and smoothly, it is necessary to promote the autonomous activities by the local residents and others in addition to the initiatives with the cooperation between the local residents residing in the nominated property and the vicinity, and the municipal government.

Sado City has been holding the guide training courses and so on with the aim to have the local residents take part in the reception of the visitors. Those who have finished the course are contributing for accepting visitors as tour guides in the tours run by the Sado Tourism Association. Also, as the integrated initiatives between government and private sector, voluntary disaster prevention organisations are developed and strengthened by autonomous association, and environmental beautification in the component parts and the surrounding areas is carried out by the local residents.

In the future, it is also important that cooperation with the local residents should be connected to not only the preservation and management of the component parts but also the enhancement of the visitor reception through the promotion of presentation and utilisation, further to the regional development essential to sustain the townscape. The system shall be established that the cooperation leads to the sustainable development of the economy in the local community by the active participation of local residents in the preservation and management of the property and so on and the management of the presentation and utilisation facilities.



● **Figure 7-1** Organisational systems for property management