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メタデータ	言語: eng 出版者: 公開日: 2017-12-01 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	https://doi.org/10.24517/00049183

The Kakuma "Satoyama" Nature School - a concept and a practice conserving "Satoyama" in Kanazawa

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"Satoyama" is a Japanese term coined probably 40-50 years ago. It indicates secondary forests located near the villages and managed by the villagers for gathering fuel woods and leaf litters, and for producing charcoal. Since late 1960's, Satoyama has been abandoned as gas, chemical fuels and chemical fertilizers have been used. Beautiful Satoyama landscapes, a combination of well-managed forests, paddy fields, farm gardens, reservoirs, water channels, etc., have disappeared rapidly due to land development for industry and housing. Nature of Satoyama, which was not so much appreciated because it is "secondary", has been getting much attention because many common creatures such as Medaka (Japanese kill fish) and "Seven Autumn Grasses", which were widespread formerly, have been going extinct.

Kanazawa University has "Satoyama Zone" in the Kakuma Campus. The zone consists of two patches of reserved forests, Nature Education Forest (60 ha) and Nature Garden (12 ha). Two oak species (*Quercus variabilis* and *Q. serrata*) are dominant on the Kakuma Hills. The forests in the campus have not been managed for the last 20 years. However, the nature of the Zone is in a good condition, with 15 mammal species (including fox, Japanese raccoon dog, marten, hare, weasel. A Japanese serow was seen in summer of 1999), 47 bird species (including three endangered hawks), about 1000 insect species, and 576 angiosperm plant species (including many endangered species). We launched the Kakuma "Satoyama" Nature School of Kanazawa University in 1999. We are working out plans for forest management and programs for local citizens, especially young generation and children to enjoy nature studies, field recreation, etc.