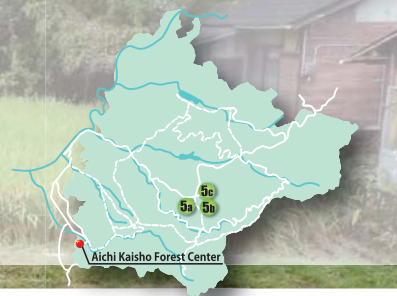






5. Restoring Fields

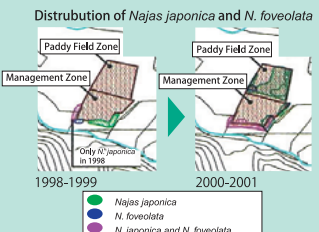


Around 1910, there were 26 houses making up three villages in Kaisho Forest. Each house made use of the paddy fields, farms and the forested areas. This field environment surrounded by the mountain experiences many changes with rich life forms. However, as the time changed, fewer people remained in these communities. Lifestyle also changed and maintaining the SATOYAMA environment as a place to live became increasingly difficult.

Observation Points	
5a Restoration of Paddy Fields  Pre-maintenance  Post-maintenance	5b Restoration of Reservoirs  Pre-maintenance  Post-maintenance
<p>Prefectural citizens have been participating in drives to restore abandoned fields that were once cultivated. 29 species of plants and 18 species of animals were confirmed in a pre-restoration survey.</p> <p>An increase in biodiversity is expected as more life forms settle into the restored paddy fields.</p>	<p>Reservoirs have been built in the remains of the paddy fields. The establishment of the reservoirs not only secures water sources for the fields, but is also expected to increase species diversity as more plants and animals develop in the pond environment.</p>

Topic: Field Restoration and Species Recovery

The diagram below outlines the results of tests for recovering biodiversity of a village. The distribution of water plants in the abandoned fields was confirmed in 1998-1999 and greater distribution of *Najas japonica* and *N. foveolata* was confirmed in 2000-2001 during maintenance activities such as rice farming in the paddy field zone and mowing grass in the management zone. This confirms that the growth conditions for various life forms can be greatly impacted by the restoration of environments.



Distribution of *Najas japonica* and *N. foveolata*


1998-1999: Only *N. japonica* in 1998

2000-2001: *N. japonica* and *N. foveolata*

Topic: Efforts to Maintain SATOYAMA Areas ~Village Classroom~

Participants from urban areas take part in farming activities conducted by Aichi Kaisho Forest Center and the NPO Civic Society for Conservation of Kaisho Forest.

Former SATOYAMA areas are being maintained by new activities such as forest and farming activities.



Village Classroom (rice planting)

Topic: Wild Boar

As the mountains become devastated, more wild boars have been coming into the villages in search of food. Fences have been erected around the fields to protect farm from these boars.

Throughout this village and even in the marshlands there are signs of the land being dug up by wild boars searching for food.



Boar Fence

Preserving Biodiversity

Maintaining the Ideas and Results of the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan

Establishment of the Aichi Kaisho Forest Center

The Aichi Kaisho Forest Act took effect in 2006, one year after the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan was held. This act stipulates that Kaisho Forest will be preserved for future generations as the symbol of Aichi Expo forest and it will be utilized as a place where citizens of the prefecture can come and commune with nature.

In accordance with this act, the Aichi Kaisho Forest Center was opened. It is promoting an activity that Kaisho Forest may become the place to learn SATOYAMA, and to join in environmental activities.

Designation as Nature Conservation Area

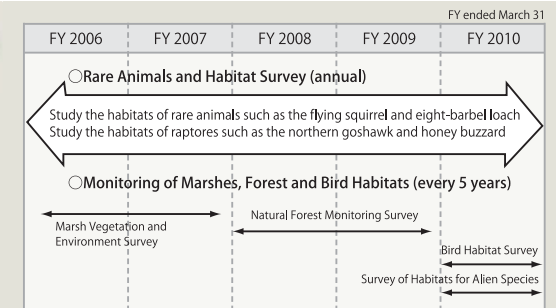
In 2006, along with enacting the Aichi Kaisho Forest Act, areas within Kaisho Forest, particularly those areas requiring preservation, were designated as nature conservation areas. Within Aichi Prefecture there are 15 nature conservation areas, but Kaisho Forest is the only SATOYAMA environment to be designated as nature conservation area.

Studies at Kaisho Forest

Natural Environment Survey

The Aichi Kaisho Forest Center conducts several studies each year including forest and marsh vegetation surveys, studies of rare animals such as the flying squirrel and eight-barbel loach, as well as surveys of raptors at the top of the ecosystem.

And the Kaisho Forest became the core site for the "Monitoring Sites 1000" of Ministry of the Environment from 2008. Its flora and fauna are investigated centering on "Survey group of Kaisho Forest for Monitoring Sites 1000".



Activities for Preserving Biodiversity

Maintaining Forests and Farm Land

Forests that are well maintained, have sunlight reaching the forest floor and serve as good environment for various life forms to live and grow.

Therefore, Kaisho Forest has been working with industry and the NPO Civic Society for Conservation of Kaisho Forest to conduct thinning and other steps to maintain man-made forests and farm land.

Broad-leaf trees also have been maintained and other such steps have been taken to bring back the former condition of SATOYAMA ecosystem.

Maintaining Wetlands

Studies of natural environment have shown that when the woods around wetlands grow too thick, the trees prevent sunlight from reaching the wetlands. And also excess drying-out of wetlands leads to shrink or disappear of wetlands altogether.

That is why Kaisho Forest has been working with universities and the NPO Civic Society for Conservation of Kaisho Forest to cut the trees around the wetlands in order to improve the habitat for the star magnolia and other hydrophytes.

Alien Species Measures

Alien species confirmed in Kaisho Forest include plants like the tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*) and animals such as raccoons. If alien predator fishes such as the largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) were illegally introduced, they could threaten the growth of native species. Therefore, measures are being taken to prevent the transplanting of such alien species, study the living conditions of it and exterminate when necessary.