

Grassland Conservation Activity within Aso Geopark

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Aso's vast grassland is one of symbolic geosites within Aso Geopark area. Its formation is deeply related to climatic reason and continuous activity of Aso volcano. The land thrives in the landscape created by pyroclastic flow and volcanic ash from past repeated eruptions.

Not only the grassland gives such breathtaking feel to us, but also it has important role for grazing, agriculture, rich biodiversity, water resource, land management and tourism to sustain regional natural, social and economic environment. It is believed to be maintained at least a millennia by human's activities such as grazing, grass harvesting and a cycle of Noyaki, burning the field as well as volcano related reason.

However, while the grassland having such important role; its conservation is at risk at the present due to decrease of farmers, aging or lack of workload to maintain the grassland.

To tackle the issue, Aso Grassland Regeneration Committee which MOE take its administrative role, was built in 2005 under Act for the Promotion of Nature Restoration. By sharing common aim to regenerate the grassland, there are five main departments which including pastures management, biodiversity, education, grass resource and tourism within in the committee. Each department research in their special field, carry various programs and operate effectively to contribute to the entire conservation activity. The strong collaboration is a key for the sustainable grassland management. Aso Geopark promotion council is also working in the committee especially in the tourism and education departments to raise awareness of value of the grassland.