

Secular change of geosites and geoconservation activities in Toya-Usu Global Geopark

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Geosites of the Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark are comprised of the geologic heritage of the Volcanoes, the beautiful natural heritage of the area, and the historic heritage including ruins of the Jomon period. Especially the sites related to “Mt. Usu eruption” are very important in our Geopark featuring "co-existing with the volcano". These sites are changing under the influence of vegetation recovery and the weather with lapse of time.

It is very difficult to preserve these geosites, because it is demanded that they can be left to natural transitions as a part of the changing Earth and that can be maintained with the smallest amount of intervention possible. We are working on conservation of the geosites in cooperation with regional societies such as the Toyako visitor center and some local guide groups. When carrying out protection and conservation activities, the council's academic staffs participate in surveys and discussions, supervising from a scientific viewpoint.

Now, we consider that the removal of the vegetation is necessary in certain geosites showing eruption disaster to learn what happened by eruption. We hope that disaster prevention education in Mount Usu is substantial by such an activity.

In this presentation, we report that the present conditions of some geosites and the conservation activities we did. And we suggest the latter as one of ways for the conservation activity of the future geosites.