

Diversity in Tobishima Island

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The concept for the Mt. Chokai-Tobishima Island Geopark is based on the cycle of water and life nurtured by the Sea of Japan and the earth. The proposed geopark area encompasses approximately 80 km of coastline, and its wealth of marine resources has sustained regional existence. Tobishima Island, a coastal island located in the Sea of Japan, has become a geosite that is garnering attention from a variety of perspectives.

Diversity on Tobishima Island

1. It has a unique ecosystem in which both northern and southern plant and animal species coexist due to the impact of the Tsushima Warm Current (biodiversity).
2. There are tectonic landforms created by sea erosion and land elevation resulting from volcanic activity (geodiversity).
3. The local fishing villages and their history and culture are representative of the Tohoku region along the Sea of Japan (cultural diversity).

The island population that once numbered over 1000 has dwindled to the current population of 220, and is expected to dip below 100 in 15 years. While facing this inevitable decline in population, a variety of groups are presently exploring ways to maintain the regional community and conserve the natural environment.