

The role of National Park and the collaboration with Geo Park

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National Parks are locations where development and other types of human activities are restricted in order to protect the superb natural landscapes that are representative in Japan and where facilities have been installed to provide essential information and other functions to help visitors enjoy the sights and otherwise come in closer contact with nature. Each National Park has been officially designated by Ministry of the Environment and is administered pursuant to the Natural Parks Law. As of April 2015, 32 locations throughout the country have been designated as a National Park. National Parks and Geo Parks have the common value in the outstanding natural scenery and biodiversity based on geological features. Because of that, 24 of 36 Geo Park areas in Japan overlap National Park areas as San'in kaigan. In those areas, National Parks have important role to preserve geological features in Geo Parks.

Collaboration in information and programs for visitors are expected to contribute to promote the wise use and the promotion of local tourism. In San'in Kaigan National Park, Takeno snorkeling center provides geo-canoeing program and exhibitions of San'in Kaigan Geo Park in addition to nature interpretation programs such as marine biodiversity studies