

OUR ACTIVITIES

●Field activities.

- Planting broadleaf trees - especially oak varieties that produce acorns, an important food for wild animals.
 - to restore Japan's rich natural environment.
- Organic farming – Through rice and other crop planting, our volunteers can enjoy a hands-on special experience of providing food for future generations.
- Our regular field activities take place in Hyogo and beyond. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

●Environmental Education.

The JBFA conducts environmental lectures at various schools around Japan.

●The raising of two Japanese black bears – Taro and Hanako - in Wakayama.

Our volunteers are feeding these beautiful creatures every fourth Sunday of the month. Please contact us if you would like to witness these magnificent creatures up close.

● The JBFA is purchasing and maintaining vulnerable areas of Japan's forests.

- The JBFA raises money through a conservation trust fund to acquire ecologically vulnerable land for the purpose of preserving their natural resources.

Please contact us if you would like to find out more about which areas we are protecting or make a donation.

JOIN THE JBFA!

Our hope is to inform Japan's community of foreigners and locals alike of our current forest crisis and its effect on endangered animals and plants. We hope to share the joy and the pleasure of engaging in nature conservation activities with you.



A picture of rice planting in Hyogo

The Japan Bear and Forest Association

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on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN?



The Japan Bear and Forest Association

The Japan Bear and Forest Association (JBFA) is a large national conservation organization with over 20,000 members. Our aim is to conserve and restore the natural flora and fauna of Japan.



A picture of a tour of a natural forest in OKAYAMA

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to encourage all members of our community, foreigners and locals, to restore and preserve an environment where all living creatures can co-exist peacefully. We need to preserve our natural forests so that they can be enjoyed by future generations. To us, a rich forest is a forest where large animals, like bears, thrive. For this reason, we have chosen the bear, an animal of great strength and nobility, as our organization's symbol.

What is happening to our forests?

Increased human development and artificial forestation in remote mountain areas have caused widespread damage to Japan's natural environment, endangering its native animals and plants. About 41 percent of Japan's forest is now covered with plantation trees such as Japanese Cedar (Sugi and Hinoki Cypress). This is an astounding figure when you consider that about 67 percent of Japan's entire landmass is covered with forest!



Over the years, we have left these artificial forests largely unattended and many mountain areas are now dark, undernourished and unnatural environments. This has resulted in a simple ecosystem which has led to the disappearance of vital biodiversity, such as ground cover, an important factor in creating a rich forest. Now, when it rains, rich topsoil - important for soil growth and stability - flows away quickly. Most of the mountain water and its rich nutrients drain down from the mountain and are washed into the sea within a day. The water holding capacity of our mountains is now very poor.



Another problem affecting our environment is that, previously in Japan many human habitats did not encroach above 800 meters. But recently, excess human development has developed in the higher mountainous areas where wild animals used to thrive. To put it simply, there is no more habitat segregation and we are losing a vital part of our ecosystem because of our own private desires to live in these areas.

What we need right now is...

To drastically reduce the effect that artificial forestation has had on our ecosystem. If we improve our animals food availability, reduce or limit human encroachment in mountainous areas and foster a natural environment with an abundance of sunlight and diversified foliage, then animals, both large and small, will once again flourish in Japan's mountains. Please be a part of our reforestation dream, and enjoy yourself in the process!



There is a simple equation that we are guided by:

PLANTS + ANIMALS = FOREST

Of course, the forest is a complex ecosystem where animals and plants all thrive together. It is an interconnected network of living things, soil and climate. Animals and plants depend on this network functioning well for their survival. If one or more of these disappear, then the forest, as an interconnected network, will eventually suffer. We have an obligation to our children, and their children to make sure this doesn't occur.

In a rich forest, all creatures can live harmoniously.

