



**PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE
ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD
HERITAGE CONVENTION**

SECTION II

State of Conservation of specific World Heritage properties

State Party: ...JAPAN.....
Property Name: ...Shirakami-Sanchi.....

PERIODIC REPORTING FOR WELL PLANNED HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Background

The twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO, held in 1997, decided to activate Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention concerning the submission of periodic reports on the state of implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Section I) and the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties (Section II). The national authorities are invited to report on Section I, while Section II shall be prepared for each property inscribed on the World Heritage list by the person(s) directly in charge of the property's management.

The periodic reports prepared by the States Parties will serve a three-fold purpose:

- ❖ to assess the current state of all World Heritage related issues in a State Party,
- ❖ to help focus the Committee's as well as the State Party's future activities and funds,
- ❖ to strengthen sub-regional and regional co-operation between States Parties.

The Periodic Reporting Questionnaire

In 1998, at its twenty-second session, the World Heritage Committee approved *Explanatory Notes*, designed to be read in conjunction with the *Periodic Reporting Format*, in order to outline the information expected to flow from the periodic reporting exercise. To facilitate the preparation of the report, a *Questionnaire* was developed that the States Parties are encouraged to use. It closely follows the subjects referred to in the *Explanatory Notes*, but in contrast to the latter splits the subjects up into short questions to be answered in a few sentences or paragraphs. A second type of question requires the indication of YES or NO by circling or underlining the appropriate answer. All questions are clearly identified with a little number in the right hand column of the *Questionnaire*. To make the reporting results meaningful every one of these questions has to be answered. If no answer is possible, the reasons should be given. If the available space is not sufficient for the answer, the response should be continued on a separate sheet of paper, clearly indicating the number of the question the text refers to (e.g. 006).

Benefits for the States Parties

The *Questionnaire* was developed in such a way as to allow to extract and compile or compare relevant information from different States Parties or properties, facilitating the process of preparing the regional synthesis report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. The YES / NO questions make it possible to evaluate the reports quantitatively, but only the details that should be supplied in the related 'open question' make the answers meaningful and can be the basis for concerted actions to preserve a State Party's most valuable heritage for its transmission to future generations.

The information collected in this way will help the States Parties to assess their own strengths and weaknesses concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, putting them in a position to (re)define policies and to request assistance in order to finance projects and / or training. On the other hand it allows the World Heritage Committee to collect information needed to devise *Regional Action Plans*, give well-informed advice to States Parties and to focus funds as well as attention on the region(s), States Parties and / or properties that need the collective support of the international community.

The preparation process of the regional periodic report will furthermore enhance regional co-operation through information meetings as well as through the better availability of regularly up-dated information on activities as well as contact addresses etc. The identification of the State Party's strengths makes it possible to exchange experiences and look for solutions to problems (e.g. of site conservation) within the region.

Conclusion

Periodic Reporting is a participatory exercise, aiming to collect information on World Heritage related issues on a national as well as on the property level. The individual State Party reports will be collated into a regional synthesis report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. This information will enhance cooperation between the Committee and the States Parties and allow to focus funds and activities more efficiently, allowing the States Parties to protect their most valuable heritage more effectively for transmission to future generations.

**PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE
WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
(FORMAT)**

SECTION II: STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SPECIFIC WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

II.1 Introduction

- a. State Party
- b. Name of World Heritage property
- c. Geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- d. Date of inscription on the World Heritage List
- e. Organization(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report
- f. Date of report
- g. Signature on behalf of State Party

II.2. Statement of significance

II.3. Statement of authenticity/integrity

II.4. Management

II.5. Factors affecting the property

II.6. Monitoring

II.7. Conclusions and recommended action

- a. Main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above)
- b. Main conclusions regarding the management and factors affecting the property (see Items II.4 and II.5. above)
- c. Proposed future action/actions
- d. Responsible implementing agency/agencies
- e. Timeframe for implementation
- f. Needs for international assistance.

II.8. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section II

II.9. Documentation attached

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

II.1. Introduction

a.	Country (and State Party if different): Japan	001
b.	Name of World Heritage property: Shirakami-Sanchi	002
c.	<p>In order to locate the property precisely, please attach a topographic map showing scale, orientation, projection, datum, site name, date and graticule. The map should be an original print and not be trimmed. The site boundaries should be shown on the map. In addition they can be submitted in a detailed description, indicating topographic and other legally defined national, regional, or international boundaries followed by the site boundaries.</p> <p>The State Parties are encouraged to submit the geographic information in digital form so that it can be integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS).</p> <p>On this questionnaire indicate the geographical co-ordinates to the nearest second (in the case of large sites, towns, areas etc., give at least 3 sets of geographical co-ordinates):</p> <p>Centre point: 140.06.56E 40.27.09N North-west corner: 140.00.57E 40.32.49N South-east corner: 140.12.56E 40.21.29N</p>	003
d.	<p>Give the date of inscription on the World Heritage List and subsequent extension (if applicable):</p> <p>11th December, 1993</p>	004
e.	<p>Organisation(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Organisation(s) / entity(ies): 1) Ministry of the Environment 2) Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p> <p>Person(s) responsible: 1) Mr. Minoru Soeya 2) Mr. Tomohiro Ooishi</p> <p>Address: 1) 1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku 2) 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku</p> <p>City and post code: 1) Tokyo, 100-8975 2) Tokyo, 100-8952</p> <p>Telephone: 1) +81-3-5521-8272 2) +81-3-3501-3843</p> <p>Fax: 1) +81-3-3591-3228 2) +81-3-3502-2104</p> <p>E-mail: 1) MINORU_SOEYA@env.go.jp 2) tomohiro_ooishi@maff.go.jp</p>	005
f.	<p>Date of preparation of the report:</p> <p>December 2002</p>	006
g.	<p>Signature on behalf of the State Party</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Function:</p>	007

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

II.2. Statement of significance

	<p>At the time of inscribing a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee indicates its outstanding universal value(s), or World Heritage value(s), by deciding on the criteria for which the property deserved to be included on the World Heritage List. Circle the criteria retained for the inscription:</p> <p>Cultural criteria: i – ii – iii – iv – v – vi Natural criteria: i – <u>ii</u> – iii – iv</p> <p>Were new criteria added by re-nominating and/or extending the property after the original inscription?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please explain:</p>	<p>008</p> <p>009</p> <p>010</p>
	<p>Please quote observations concerning the property made by the Advisory Body(ies) during the evaluation of the nomination:</p> <p>(please see page 28)</p> <p>Quote the decisions and observations / recommendations, if appropriate, made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription and extension (if applicable):</p> <p>The Committee inscribed the site of the undisturbed pristine beech forest under criterion (ii) taking note that the Japanese authorities incorporated the original buffer zone in the site and a new map illustrating the revised boundaries. Progress on strengthening the legal basis and preparation of a management plan was also noted. The Committee noted the desirability of a follow-up mission to review progress in about three years.</p>	<p>011</p> <p>012</p>
	<p>Identify the actions taken as follow-up to these observations and/or decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1995: Official establishment of “Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee”. • November 1995: “Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Management Plan” was formulated and implemented. • May 1996: "Hello Shirakami" (Nature information center) was opened by Ajigasawa town.. • April 1997: World Heritage Conservation Center (Nishimeya) was opened by Ministry of the Environment. • June 1997: "Mini-Shirakami" (trails in pristine beech forest) was opened by Ajigasawa town. • October 1997: IUCN mission visited the site as a follow-up. • October 1998: World Heritage Conservation Center (Fujisato) was opened by Ministry of the Environment. • October 1998: Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor Center was opened by Aomori Prefecture. • September 1999: Juniko Eco-museum Center was opened by Aomori Prefecture. 	<p>013</p>

II.2. continued

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

<p>Please propose a statement of significance by providing a description of the World Heritage value(s) for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. This description should reflect the criterion (criteria) on the basis of which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List and it should also detail what the property represents, what makes it outstanding, what the specific values are that distinguish the property as well as what its relationship with its setting is, etc.:</p> <p>The Japanese beech forest in the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area is unique among world forests because of its high purity, preservation of old growth trees and diversity of plants and animals. It is representative of new beech forest that appeared in East Asia after Ice Age. Furthermore, it is a salient example of an on-going ecological process with various community types and stages of regeneration.</p>	014
<p>For the extension of a property or the inclusion of additional criteria a re-submission of the property may be considered. This might be regarded as necessary in order to recognize cultural values of a natural World Heritage property, or vice-versa, become desirable following the substantive revision of the criteria by the World Heritage Committee or due to better identification or knowledge of specific outstanding universal values of the property. Should a re-nomination of the property be considered? YES /NO</p> <p>If YES, please explain:</p>	015 016
<p>Are the borders of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone (still) adequate to ensure the protection and conservation of the property's World Heritage values: YES / NO</p> <p>If NO, please explain why not, and indicate what changes should be made to the boundaries of the property and / or its buffer zone (please indicate these changes also on a map to be attached to this report):</p>	017 018

II.2. continued

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
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	<p>Is the State Party actively considering a revision of the property boundaries or the buffer zone?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p>	019
	<p>If YES, indicate what is being done to that end:</p>	020

II.3. Statement of authenticity / integrity

	<p>Have the World Heritage values identified above been maintained since the property's inscription?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p>	021
	<p>If NO, please describe the changes and name the causes:</p>	022
	<p>What was the evaluation of the authenticity / integrity of the property at the time of inscription? (Please quote from the ICOMOS / IUCN evaluation):</p> <p>IUCN considers the legal basis adequate for this point in time but would encourage stronger protection be considered in future.</p> <p>As the area becomes better known and as a trail system is in place, there will be a need for a more practical operational presence, and the management plan is awaited. A specific management issue of some concern is the status of the Japanese black bear in the site, and a second issue will be the policies to be used to ensure that local traditional harvesting of plant products in the area is sustainable.</p>	023

II.3. continued

	<p>Have there been changes in the authenticity / integrity since inscription? YES /</p>	024
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

	<p>NO</p> <p>If YES, please describe the changes to the authenticity / integrity and name the main causes?</p>	025
	<p>Are there (further) changes foreseeable to the authenticity / integrity of the property in the near future?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please explain and indicate how these changes might affect the World Heritage values of the property:</p>	026 027

II.4. Management

	<p>How could the arrangements for the protection and the management of the property best be defined (more than one indication possible)?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Legal (x) Contractual () Traditional ()</p>	028
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II.4. continued

	<p>Please describe and assess the implementation and effectiveness of these arrangements for</p>	029
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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	<p>the preservation of the values described under item II.2 at the national, provincial and/or municipal level:</p> <p>The national and prefectural governments communicate and coordinate through the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee established in July 1995 and implement the legislations. Also, since 2000, several meetings were held to exchange information with local municipalities.</p> <p>The measures taken by each administrative body are as follows;</p> <p>National Government: Ministry of the Environment implements the regulations of Nature Conservation Law. It also conducts, together with District Forestry Office of Forestry Agency, patrols to assess the state of the Area and to direct visitors, monitoring of number of visitors, research on monitoring methods, collection of meteorological data by monitoring unit, promotion of public awareness on nature conservation through the World Heritage Center and maintenance of signboards in the Area.</p> <p>Forestry Agency implements the regulations of Forest Ecosystem Reserve. It also conducts patrols by volunteers, research on monitoring methods together with Ministry of the Environment, maintenance of signboards, and promotion of public awareness on forest function and conservation through Forest Center.</p> <p>Agency for Cultural Affairs implements the regulations of Law on the Protection of Cultural Properties.</p> <p>Prefectures: Prefectures implement the regulations of Quasi-National Park based on the plans set by the national government, appoint patrols, maintain the awareness raising facilities such as a Visitor Center and maintain footpaths. Aomori and Akita prefectures jointly established Shirakami-sanchi Charter, and are promoting the public awareness of nature conservation.</p> <p>Municipalities: Municipalities conducts maintenance of parking and public lavatories in main entry areas, and established visitor information centers.</p> <p>In general terms, can this legislative, contractual and/or traditional protection be considered sufficient?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p> <p>Please explain:</p> <p>The area is protected under several laws and regulations, and the protection is sufficient for the time being.</p>	<p>030</p> <p>031</p>
	<p>Provide a list and summaries of laws and regulations concerning cultural and natural properties protection and management (including extracts of relevant articles from the Constitution, Criminal Law, Law/Regulations on Land-use, Environment Law and Forestry Law, amongst others). Please also attach any documentation available concerning these points:</p> <p>(please see page 28)</p>	<p>032</p>

II.4. continued

	<p>Describe the administrative and management arrangements that are in place for the property concerned, making special mention of the institutions and organisations that have</p>	<p>033</p>
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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<p>management authority over the property as well as of the arrangements that are in place for the coordination of their actions:</p> <p>Ministry of the Environment designated the major part of the Area as protected areas (Nature Conservation Area, Special Protection Zone and Special Zone of Quasi-National Park) by relevant laws.</p> <p>Forestry Agency designated the whole World Heritage Area, which is the National Forest, as Forest Ecosystem Reserve.</p> <p>A part of the buffer zone is designated as a Prefectural Natural Park.</p> <p>The Agency for Cultural Affairs designated the Special Natural Monument (i.e. Japanese serow) and Natural Monuments (i.e. black woodpecker, golden eagle and Japanese dormouse).</p> <p>These actions are routinely coordinated at the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee.</p>	
<p>Please indicate under which level of authority the property is managed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Property (x) Regional (x) National (x) Other (please describe):</p> <p>Please provide the full name, address and phone/fax/e-mail of the entity(ies) directly responsible for the management (conservation, preservation, visitor management) of the property:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ministry of the Environment Forestry Agency (For contact information, please refer to 005)</p>	<p>034</p> <p>035</p>
<p>Is it necessary to revise the administrative and management arrangements for the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p>	<p>036</p>
<p>If YES, explain why this is the case:</p>	<p>037</p>

II.4. continued

<p>Is there a management plan for the property?</p>	<p>YES / NO 038</p>
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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	<p>If YES, please summarise, indicating if the plan is being implemented and since when: Implemented since November 1995.</p> <p>The management of the Heritage Area will be conducted according to two management classification: 1) the core area and 2) a buffer zone, and the Area will be conserved by the Designation Systems.</p> <p>The “Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee” will be established as a forum for coordination and communication among the administrative bodies, i.e. the Environment Agency, the Forestry Agency, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Aomori Prefecture and Akita Prefecture. This committee will promote mutual cooperation and collaboration, as well as manage the Heritage Area in unified, appropriate and smooth manner.</p> <p>Since it is essential for the effective management of the Heritage Area to enhance understanding and cooperation of the local people, the Liaison Committee will seek to promote cooperation with the local municipalities and organizations concerned.</p> <p>The major management measures are the protection of animals and plants as well as its habitats, proper guidance of outdoor recreation, strengthening of management programs, and enhancement of research and monitoring.</p>	039
	<p>Please report on legal and administrative actions that are foreseen for the future, to preserve the values described under item II.2 (e.g. passing of legislation, adjusting administrative and management arrangements, implementing or drawing up of a (new) management plan, etc.):</p> <p>The current management arrangements will continue.</p>	040

	<p>Please provide detailed information, particularly in cases where changes have occurred since the inscription of the property, on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conservation</u> Make reference to all major interventions at the property and describe its present state of conservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of patrol • Installation and upgrading of signboards, patrol paths and footpaths. • Construction of Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Conservation Center (two sites), Fujisato Forest Center, Other information facilities by Prefectures or Municipalities. 	041
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II.4. continued

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ownership</u> Make reference to all major changes in ownership of the property and describe the 	042
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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	<p>present state of ownership: No change</p>	
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	<p>Please, give a detailed description of the staffing of the site:</p> <p>The staff of two World Heritage Conservation Centers belong to the Ministry of the Environment, the staff of Tohoku Forest Management Office, Regional Forest Office and Forest Center belong to the Forestry Agency, and the staff of the environment division of Aomori Prefecture, Akita Prefecture and Municipalities in the Area are all working together to conserve the World Heritage Area.</p>	043
	<p>Is the staffing level sufficient for adequate management of the property? YES / NO</p>	044
	<p>If NO, what should be done to improve the situation?</p>	045

II.4. continued

	<p>Does the staff need additional training? YES / NO</p>	046
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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	If YES, what are the training needs for your staff?	047
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	<p>Describe the funding and financial situation of the property, indication sources, level and regularity of financing:</p> <p>Ministry of the Environment and Forestry Agency created a new budget line for the conservation of the World Heritage Area when it was inscribed on the list, and budget allocation from national treasury has been continued since then.</p> <p>Also, Aomori and Akita Prefectures provided continuous budget for the conservation of the Area.</p>	048
	<p>Is the available funding sufficient for adequate management of the property? YES / NO</p>	049
	<p>If NOT, describe the financial resources that would be required for the management of the property:</p>	050

	<p>Indicate International Assistance from which the property has benefited: None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Fund: 	051
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II.4. continued

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO International Campaign: 	052
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and/or regional projects of UNDP, the World Bank or other agencies: 	053
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral co-operation: 	054
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other assistance: 	055

<p>Describe the IT (computer) equipment of the site and/or management office and assess its effectiveness:</p> <p>Fujisato Forest Center of Forestry Agency provides photos and nature information of the Area on their website. Aomori and Akita Prefectures as well as the Municipalities in the Area also has website providing various information on the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area.</p>	056
<p>Are you using (multiple indications are possible):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PC (x)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Apple (x)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mainframe ()</p>	057
<p>Please, give the number of available computers: six</p>	058
<p>Does an operational access to the Internet exist? YES / NO</p>	059

II.4. continued

<p>Is e-mail used for daily correspondence? YES / NO</p>	060
<p>Is there a Geographical Information System (GIS) for the site? YES / NO</p>	061

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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	If YES, what software do you have and how is the GIS used?	062
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	<p>List scientific studies and research programmes that have been conducted concerning the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirakami-sanchi Nature Conservation Area Comprehensive Study Report (Environment Agency 1995) • Regional Development Program for Environmental Coexistence in the Area Surrounding the Shirakami-sanchi (Environment Agency, National Land Agency and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1997) • Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Conservation Status Report (Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee 1997) • Report of Study of the ecological structure of the Shirakami-sanchi Beech Forest (Environment Agency 1998) • Studies on the monitoring methods for the conservation of forest ecosystem of the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area and forest management methods harmonizing with the utilization of surrounding forests. (Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute – Tohoku Branch 1998-2000) 	063
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	<p>Describe financial and human resource inputs for the research programmes and or facilities:</p> <p>Financial resource: Governmental funds Human resource: (please refer to 063)</p>	064
	<p>Describe how the information / results are disseminated?</p> <p>Research reports are compiled annually and open to the public.</p>	065

II.4. continued

	<p>Are there any visitor statistics for the site? YES / NO</p>	066
	<p>If YES, please summarise the statistics and attach to this report:</p>	067

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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<p>The number of visitors is counted automatically by the counters with infrared sensor installed at the entrance of 11 major route. The results of the year 2000-2001 is publicized by the Ministry of the Environment.</p> <p>The number of entry permit to the Core Area issued is publicized by the Forestry Agency.</p>	
<p>What visitor facilities do you have at the property?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • footpaths • shelters • public lavatories 	068
<p>What visitor facilities are you in need of?</p> <p>None</p>	069
<p>Is a public use plan (tourism / visitor management plan) in existence for the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p>	070

II.4. continued

<p>If YES, please summarise, if NO explain if one is needed:</p> <p>In the utilization plan of the Quasi-National Park as well as Prefectural Natural Parks, there is a facility plan for roads, footpaths and so on.</p>	071
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	<p>Indicate how the property's World Heritage values are communicated to residents, visitors and the public (please attach examples of leaflets, videos, posters etc. and print-outs and/or the address of a web-page):</p> <p>(please see page 28)</p>	072
	<p>Are there educational programmes concerning the property aimed at schools? YES / NO</p> <p>If yes, please describe:</p> <p>One example is as follows; as a part of Junior Park Ranger Program, co-administered nationwide by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, environmental education programs based on the nature experience in the Shirakami-Sanchi Area, targeting the children of the upper grades of elementary school and junior high school, is conducted several times a year during the season from summer to winter.</p>	073 074

	<p>What role does World Heritage inscription play for the site concerning the visitor number, the research programmes and/or the awareness building activities?</p> <p>The number of tourists in the region has increased 1.4 – 4.5 times of that of before the inscription because of the public strong interests in World Heritage. Through the World Heritage Conservation Center and visitor centers, the property contributes the improvement of understanding and awareness of the value of the World Heritage of people, not only the local community but also many visitors from other regions.</p>	075
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II.5. Factors affecting the property

	<p>Please comment on the degree to which the property is threatened by particular problems and risks, such as development pressure, environmental pressure, natural disasters and preparedness, visitor / tourism pressure, number of inhabitants. Also mention all other issues that you see as problematic.</p>	076
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	<p>There is only walking access to the World Heritage Area and there is no big tourism pressure. Also, there is no development plan in the region and no big threat is foreseen.</p>	
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II.5. continued

	<p>Is there an emergency plan and / or risk preparedness plan for the property in existence? YES / NO</p>	<p>077</p>
	<p>If YES, please summarise the plan and provide a copy:</p>	<p>078</p>

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

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	<p>If NO, describe what is being done – and by whom – to counteract the dangers that threaten or may threaten the property:</p> <p>Total number of 100 patrols (including 72 volunteers) despatched by the member organization of the Liaison Committee (Ministry of the Environment, Forestry Agency and Aomori Prefecture) are collecting information on state of nature and impact from human activities as well as giving instructions to the visitors.</p> <p>The Liaison Committee holds patrol meetings in Aomori and Akita prefectures twice each, total of four times a year, collects information, analyzes any dangers and take counter measures. Also the Liaison Committee directly conducts the investigation into the actual conditions.</p>	079
	<p>Indicate areas where improvement would be desirable and/or towards which the State Party is working:</p> <p>Because the largest worry is the human impacts caused by visitors, rules and manners are promoted through regulations such as the one that entry permit is required when entering the core areas.</p> <p>In order to promote this regulation thoroughly, a survey on actual state is planned and improvements of conditions are under review.</p>	080
<i>II.5. continued</i>		
	<p>Give an indication if the impact of the factors affecting the property is increasing or decreasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of entry permit issued and number of visitors recorded by the counter are examples of indicators because human impact is the largest worry. 	081

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reports of plural patrols who works for many years are also part of indicators. • The proper indicators of fauna and flora for monitoring are currently under review and the followings are considered; micro topographical changes, golden eagle, flocks of birds, small rodents, bats, growth of beech, seedling of beech and moss. 	
	<p>What actions have been effectively taken, or are planned for the future, to address the factors affecting the property?</p> <p>Monitoring methods are under study to identify the affecting factors and assess the extent of the impact.</p>	082

II.6. Monitoring

	<p>If applicable, give details (e.g. dates, results, indicators chosen) of any previous periodic or reactive monitoring exercises of the property:</p> <p>"Studies on the monitoring methods for the conservation of forest ecosystem of the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Area and forest management methods harmonizing with the utilization of surrounding forests" is on-going to establish the monitoring methods to understand the impacts from humans.</p> <p>The items monitored in this study are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pollutants in air, leaves of beech and roots of seedlings • forest dynamics in beech forest (i.e. dynamics of mature tree, shrub and seedlings, production of seeds, amount of litter, light conditions in the forest, and so on) • status of birds, edaphons, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. 	083
	<p>Is there a formal monitoring system established for the site? YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please give details of its organisation:</p> <p>Official monitoring system has not launched yet, but "Studies on the monitoring methods for the conservation of forest ecosystem of the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Area and forest management methods harmonizing with the utilization of surrounding forests" is on-going by the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute.</p> <p>(Please refer to 083)</p>	084 085

II.6. continued

	<p>If not already in place, is the establishment of a formal monitoring system planned? YES / NO</p>	086
	<p>If YES, please outline the functioning of that system, taking into consideration the key indicators you will be asked to define below (see 089 / 090):</p>	087

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<p>Based on the results of "Studies on the monitoring methods for the conservation of forest ecosystem of the Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Area and forest management methods harmonizing with the utilization of surrounding forests", monitoring manual for the conservation of Heritage Area will be drawn up and the members of the Liaison Committee (i.e. Ministry of the Environment and Forestry Agency) will jointly implement the monitoring.</p>	
<p>Are there any indicators established for monitoring the state of conservation of the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please provide up-to-date information with respect to each of the key indicators established and/or used. Care should be taken to ensure that this information is as accurate and reliable as possible, for example by carrying out observations in the same way, using similar equipment and methods at the same time of the year and day. Name and describe the key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of this property:</p> <p>(please see 083)</p> <p>If NO indicators have been identified and / or used so far, please define key indicators for future use in monitoring:</p> <p>The appropriate indicators are still under study.</p>	<p>088</p> <p>089</p> <p>090</p>

II.6. continued

<p>Indicate which partners, if any, are involved or will be involved in the regular monitoring exercise:</p> <p>Many organizations and institutions are involved in developing the monitoring methods. Major partners are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tohoku Ryokka Kankyohozen Company • Research institutions (Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute-Tohoku 	<p>091</p>
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<p>branch, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Shimokita Wildlife Research Center Corp.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums (Saitama Museum of Natural History, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba) • Universities (Akita University, Yamagata University, Morioka University, Akita Prefectural University, Iwate Prefectural University and others) • Local governments (Environmental Research and Information Center of Akita Prefecture, Iwasaki Village) • Wild Bird Society of Japan, Iwate Society of Research of the Golden Eagles <p>Identify the administrative provisions for organizing the regular monitoring of the property:</p> <p>In the management plan, it is stipulated as follows; "Since there remain many unknown aspects of the natural environment in the Heritage Area, academic research and long-term monitoring will be conducted for collection of basic data. There will be long-term monitoring especially of the natural environment and the impact of humans on the Heritage Area."</p>	092
<p>Describe what improvement the State Party foresees or would consider desirable in improving the monitoring system:</p> <p>Drawing up a monitoring manual.</p>	093
<p>In specific cases, the World Heritage Committee and/or its Bureau may have already examined the state of conservation of the property and made recommendations to the State Party, either at the time of inscription or afterwards. In such cases the State Party is requested to report on the actions that have been taken in response to the observations or decisions made by the Bureau or Committee. Give details, if applicable:</p> <p>IUCN follow-up mission was invited in October 1997. (Please refer to 013 for the activities taken after the mission.)</p>	094

II.7. Conclusions and recommended actions

<p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above):</p> <p>The Area was inscribed with the criteria N(ii) for its' unique characteristics of beech forest of high purity, preservation of old growth trees and diversity of plants and animals. From the time of inscription up to now, the value of the Area is properly maintained by the management plan and the integrity of the Area has not changed.</p>	095
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	Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the management and factors affecting the property (see items II.4. and II.5. above): The administrative organs involved (Government, Prefectures, Municipalities) always communicate and coordinate through Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee and implement steadily the management of the Area in accordance with the relevant Laws and Management Plan, education and awareness raising, and monitoring and scientific research. There is no large tourism pressure and hence no serious threat to the Area.	096
	Give an overview over proposed future action / actions: Establishment of monitoring methods and system with a monitoring manual. Establishment of National Wildlife Protection Area.	097
	Name the agency responsible for implementation of these actions (if different from 005): The member organizations of the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee: Ministry of the Environment, Forestry Agency, Aomori Prefecture, Aomori Prefecture Board of Education, Akita Prefecture and Akita Prefecture Board of Education.	098
	Give a timeframe for the implementation of the actions described above: Monitoring methods and system will be established during 2003. When other activities become necessary, the activities will be discussed fully in the Liaison Committee and then implemented as soon as possible.	099

II.7. continued

	Indicate for which of the planned activities International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund may be needed (if any): None	100
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	Are there any contacts with management units of other properties within or outside your	101
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	<p>country?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p>	
	<p>If YES, please explain:</p> <p>Other properties within the country: Exchange of information with the staff of "Yakushima" World Heritage Area whenever necessary.</p> <p>Other properties outside the country: Attending the regional site manager's workshop such as the " UNESCO Regional Workshop on Periodic Reporting for Natural and Mixed World Heritage Properties in Asia and the Pacific" held at Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in Australia in 2002, and exchanging views on the management of World Heritage.</p>	102
	<p>Please indicate which experience made during the periodic reporting exercise and/or during the on-going conservation / protection efforts of the property could be shared with other States Parties dealing with similar problems or issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience of conservation and management of World Heritage through the cooperation and coordination of plural organizations. • The significant contribution of local inhabitants and local governments to the conservation and management of World Heritage. 	103
	<p>Provide the name(s) and address(es) of organization(s) or specialist(s) who could be contacted for this purpose:</p> <p>Agency / Organisation: (same as 005)</p> <p>Person responsible:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>City and post code:</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <p>Fax:</p> <p>E-mail:</p>	104

II.8. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section II

	<p>Was sufficient and adequate information made available to the responsible authorities and individuals during the preparation phase of the Periodic Reporting exercise (information given, meetings etc.)?</p> <p>Full discussion and information exchange were performed at Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Liaison Committee.</p>	105
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<p>Was the questionnaire clear and did it help to comply with the reporting requirements of the State Party?</p> <p>Yes</p>	106
<p>What are the perceived benefits and lessons learnt of the exercise?</p> <p>This exercise is suitable for the periodic examination of sate of conservation of the World Heritage with the participation of all involved organizations.</p>	107
<p>Please describe the expected outcome of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the desired follow-up by the World Heritage Committee:</p> <p>Expected outcomes are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing and exchange information and experience on conservation of World Heritage and implementation of the Convention among the State Parties • objective evaluation of the conservation status. 	108

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

II.9. Documentation attached

The State Party is invited to supply the materials listed below. Please check those items that were attached.

1. Maps and plans showing the general location of the property, its boundary and buffer zone as well as the necessary detail of the property itself (see question 003 for specifications)
2. Photo of general view (aerial view) of the property
3. Illustrations of the state of conservation of the site (photographs, slides and, if available, film/videos)
4. Details of the important aspects of the property (landscapes, animal and vegetable species, monuments etc.)
5. Photos illustrating the main threats to the site and its surroundings
6. Extracts of relevant laws and regulations concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritage at national, provincial and municipal levels
7. Copies of the management plan of the site as well as extracts and/or copies of other plans relating to the site (e.g. emergency plan, use plan, etc.)
8. Indicative bibliography

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Addition

<p>Wild areas in densely populated and long-inhabited Japan are rare occurrences. Even the national parks of Japan are subject to extractive uses and are often extensively developed. Shirakami's values are not its scenic and touristic appeal but are concerned with biological and scientific features, in a sense it has become valuable as other such areas have been almost totally converted by man.</p> <p>Although the nominated beech forests of Shirakami are not unique in Japan (there are many other stands in the country), the extent of its pristine forest without extrinsic developments does set it apart. Furthermore, the area is not fragmented; its circumference to area ratio is low; its shape is oval and it is surrounded by a succession of buffering areas. All of these contribute to good protected area design (with the exception of extending the site to incorporate the buffer).</p> <p>From a global perspective Shirakami is one of a number of remnant ancient forest blocks, in this case a monodominant Japanese beech forest. The ecosystem of which beech is the major species does, however, include other components such as bamboo, black woodpecker, serow and black bear among others, all interacting in a functional whole. The site is thus very important for studies on terrestrial cool-temperate ecology, particularly on eurasian beech forest system processes, and the monitoring of this particular biological community. It thus meets natural criterion (ii).</p>	011
<p>Nature Conservation Law</p> <p>Together with other laws aiming conservation of natural environment such as Natural Parks Law, the Law aims to promote the proper conservation of the natural environment in the area where conservation is essential, so that the nation can enjoy the blessings of natural environment and pass it to the future generation and thus contribute to secure the healthy and cultural life of the current and future nations.</p> <p>Natural Parks Law</p> <p>The Law aims to protect the scenic area as well as to promote the utilization and thus contribute to the health, recreation and enlightenment of the nation.</p> <p>Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties</p> <p>The Law aims to preserve the cultural properties as well as to promote the utilization and thus contribute to the improvement of the nation's standard of living and to progress of the World's culture.</p> <p>The Forest Law</p> <p>The Law aims to enhance sustainable culture of Forest and forest productivity by stipulating the basic matters relating to forests such as the Forest Plan and Protection Forest, and thus contribute to the conservation of National land and development of National economy.</p> <p>Guidelines for the establishment of Protected Reserve (Forest Ecosystem Reserve)</p> <p>The purpose is to maintain natural environment composed of forest ecosystem, protect flora and fauna, and preserve genetic resources by preserving natural forest of a fairly primordial state among National Forests.</p>	032
<p>Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Conservation Center (Ministry of the Environment): exhibition and interpretation, information on nature, nature-watching, brochures, videos and posters</p> <p>Tohoku Forest Management Office (Forestry Agency) website: http://www.mmjp.or.jp/TOUHOKU-SINRIN/index.htm</p> <p>Tohoku Forest Management Office (Forestry Agency), Aomori Regional Office website: http://www.jomon.ne.jp/~eirin001/top/img/index_ie.htm</p>	072

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<p>Fujisato Forest Center: exhibition and interpretation, nature-watching, brochures, and nature information on website: http://www.shirakami.or.jp/~fujisatofc/</p> <p>Aomori Prefecture website: http://www.pref.aomori.jp/sirakami/index.html</p> <p>Shirakami-sanchi Visitor Center (Aomori Prefecture): exhibition and interpretation, nature information, nature-watching, brochures, videos, 70mm large screen video, poster and website: http://www.pref.aomori.jp/sirakami/visitor/visitor.htm</p> <p>Akita Prefecture website: http://www.pref.akita.jp/rinseika/hureai/areamap/shirakami/mapsh.htm</p> <p>Other than these, there are similar but smaller facilities such as “Juniko Eco-museum Center”, “Juniko Visitor Center”, “Mini-Shirakami”, “Hello Shirakami” and “Hachimori-Bunakko Land”.</p>	
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