Monitoring

Restoring nature involves many uncertainties. To address these, the project employs adaptive management, whereby progress is closely monitored toward optimizing the restoration procedures.

Promotion of the project by collaboration with the local communities

Collaboration with the local communities in the project for nature restoration in the Tobetsu District is the basis of the project's implementation. The project will be carried out together with the local communities by always maintaining a consensus on planning, uses of the project area, monitoring, and maintenance and management of the area.

Promotion of nature restoration and dissemination of information

- Monitoring of plants and animals
- Assessing the conservation status of rare species
- Conducting river and riverbank cleanup activities
- Establishing rules for using the project area

Fostering

- Collaborating with the local community in environmental management
- Fostering human resources through environmental education
- Drafting a manual for surveys participated in by local residents
- Collaborating with school education

Creating

- Participation by the residents in formulation of the plan
- Improving environment of the woodlands
- Forming systems to support uses of the project area
- Forming a new program including the maintenance and management plan, for using the project area

Knowing

- Using workshops as opportunities to share knowledge
- Seeking community opinions on the project
- Disseminating information
- Holding nature walks

To-Pet, a Place Abounding in Water and Habitats

The Project Area

The Tobetsu District is on the Ishikari River, about 16 km upstream from the river mouth. The district is in three cities: Sapporo, Ebetsu and Tobetsu. The district measures 170 ha and is at the confluence of the Ishikari and Tobetsu rivers. An area at an oxbow lake that was cut off from the meandering Ishikari has become Ishikari River Park.

Contact:

Secretariat of the Workshop for Nature Restoration in the Tobetsu District at the Lower Reaches of the Ishikari River
Sapporo River Office, Ishikari River Development and Construction Department, Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau
2-1, Minami 32 jo Nishi 8 chome, Minami ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido 005-032
Tel.: 011-581-3235  Fax.: 011-582-0189
http://www.is.hkd.mlit.go.jp/08isiken/02genba/21sapporo/sizensaisei/index.html
email: ishikari.topet@hkd.mlit.go.jp

The Project for Nature Restoration in the Tobetsu District at the Lower Reaches of the Ishikari River

The Workshop for Nature Restoration in the Tobetsu District at the Lower Reaches of the Ishikari River
What is “a nature restoration project”?

A nature restoration project is defined as a project to return unsound ecosystems to their former soundness. The point is to assist the nature in its efforts to recover by providing sound starting conditions. The project will take many years to complete.

Toward restoring natural richness

- Forming a model area for nature restoration along the Ishikari River
- Creating diverse habitats in a vast area
- Improving the environment through minimum human assistance

Goals of the nature restoration project

- Restoration of habitats
  - Diversification of the river channel morphology
    → formation of sandbars, riffles, and eroded cliffs
  - Creating wetland and grassland ecosystems
    → creation of wetland and grassland habitats
  - Creating woodland ecosystems
    → creation of riparian forests and woodland habitats
- Contribution to local society
  - Creating places for learning in the local community
    → creation of places for learning and for fostering nature
  - Creating local communities that coexist with the nature
    → Opening the area, which has rich natural resources, to the public

Zoning

- Wetland development zone
  - The water surface of the existing lake will be restored to improve the surrounding area into a wetland.
  - Existing lakes, wetlands and streams will be maintained.
- Grassland conservation zone
  - The existing grassland environment will be maintained.
   - A waterfront amenity zone
     - Most of the zone is in Ishikari River Park.
- Forest creation zone
  - Riparian forests will be created.
  - Riparian forest will be maintained.
- Forest conservation zone
  - The existing riparian forest will be maintained.
- River channel diversification zone
  - Modifying the riverbank to create a backwater area

Why are we restoring nature now?

In the Tobetsu district, loss of natural habitats has been progressing because of land development and river improvement for flood control. Nature has not been fully recovered, but improvement does not prevent such restoration. In the worst cases, the animals and plants that live in the area may become extinct without appropriate measures. To prevent such a worst case, it is necessary to implement the nature restoration project such as to enhance nature’s power to restore itself.