

Kyoto Model Forest

A matchmaker bridging local stakeholders and private sector



Member of the Regional Model Forest Network–Asia since 2011

Landscape snapshot

Kyoto Model Forest lies in a scenic region surrounded by mountains and bordered by the sea, with river basin ecosystems that stretch from north to south.



HUMAN POPULATION

2,503,555 inhabitants
across 26 municipalities

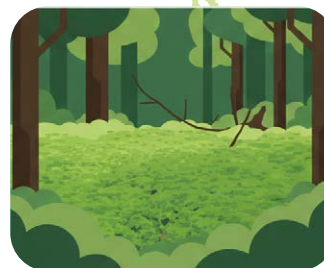


AREA

461,221 hectares
(the entire Kyoto prefecture)

Landscape highlights

The Kyoto Tamba Kogen Quasi-National Park is home to scenic and ancient landscapes:



Hatchōdaira

A 30,000-year-old freshwater wetland dating back to the last glacial period



Mt Kimino-o

One of Kyoto's iconic sites known for its sea of clouds



The Ashiu Forest

One of the largest old-growth forests in western Japan



Forest profile

Total forest area:
342,197 hectares
(74% of the landscape)

Secondary forest:
210,383 hectares



Planted forest:
131,814 hectares

97.9% of forests are **privately owned**



Notable achievements

Multisectoral partnerships on sustainable forest management



32 forest sites

(as of March 2026) with memoranda of understanding between local communities, governments and corporate stakeholders



Forest management



Environmental education



Sustainable wood use

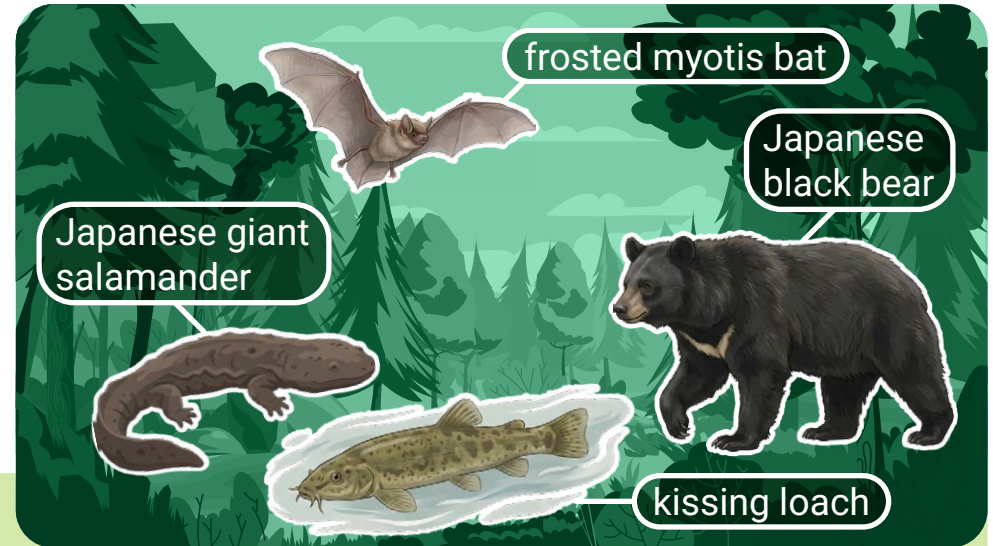


Forest management fund established to support and promote sustainable forest management through corporate contributions to local forests



Biodiversity highlights

The Kyoto Model Forest is home to over
1,044 threatened species including



Community stewardship



102 community groups leading forest stewardship since 2013



5,598 local children engaged in forest education, promoting intergenerational stewardship (as of April 2025)



Over **24,884 volunteers** have participated in the Kyoto Model Forest Movement to carry out forest maintenance activities (annual for FY 2024)

How the Kyoto Model Forest movement builds bridges for forest conservation



The Kyoto Model Forest spans the entirety of Kyoto Prefecture, covering 461,221 hectares, of which about 74 per cent (342,243 hectares) is forest and nearly all (97.9 per cent) is privately owned. Across Japan, including in Kyoto, communities that traditionally cared for these forests are ageing, and their successors are few. Combined with the low profitability of forest management, this has made sustainable practices increasingly difficult to maintain. Consequently, many forests – including those within the Kyoto Model Forest – remain underutilized and undermanaged.

The Kyoto Model Forest Association acts as a matchmaker, connecting local forest owners with private companies to build partnerships aligned with local needs. To ensure lasting impact, the model forest association facilitates five-to-ten-year memoranda of understanding that clearly define community priorities and corporate responsibilities. It has also established the Forest Management Fund, which allows companies to contribute to forest maintenance and conservation efforts.

These partnerships bring together the private sector, local communities and academia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, when fieldwork was suspended, the association linked KDDI, a leading telecommunications company, with Kyoto University. Together, they created a virtual reality experience that allowed students to explore the forest remotely, a collaboration that continues today. In Nantan city, Kyoto Prefecture, a long-term partnership with Shimadzu has been active for 17 years, involving forest education for all new employees and regular maintenance activities tailored to local needs.

The matchmaking model is rooted in the vision of the Kyoto Model Forest Movement, which promotes broad stakeholder participation in forest management and fosters a symbiotic relationship between people and forests. In 2023, more than 25,000 volunteers had taken part in the care and management of Kyoto's forests, demonstrating the power of collaboration in sustaining both nature and communities.

Current work

-  Expanding the impact and reach of the Kyoto Model Forest Movement
-  Supporting environmental education for the next generation
-  Promoting regional greenery through Greenery Donation Funds and corporate contributions, including tree planting and school greening initiatives

Future priorities

-  Expanding the scope of stakeholder participation in forest management
-  Deepening corporate and organizational engagement in forest management
-  Strengthening experiential learning and capacity-building
-  Enhancing domestic and international information sharing



The Kyoto Model Forest Association (KMFA) represents 189 members (as of March 2025):

- 94 private companies
- 19 forestry cooperatives
- 34 individuals
- 27 municipalities
- 15 citizens' groups

Vision

Develop tangible programmes linking forests with human and societal well-being. Harness nature's benefits to establish deeper community partnerships and a sustainable corporate forest management model.

Contact information

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