

Biodiversity conservation became a global issue with the adoption of the Convention on Biodiversity at the 1992 Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development). The release of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan in 1995 has spurred regional biodiversity conservation action. The Kanazawa Biodiversity Strategy, released in March 2016, advocates a comprehensive pursuit of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



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Policy Brief

# Kanazawa Biodiversity Strategy

Conserve bountiful nature to foster culture and enrich the spirit

# Kanazawa, a castle city surrounded by forest, rivers and sea



Capital of Ishikawa Prefecture  
 Area: 468.64 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Population: Approx. 466,000 (2016)  
 Location: N36.561024 and E136.656767 (Kanazawa municipal government)

## Coastal areas



## Rivers & lakes



## Urban areas



## Satoyama



## Mountain valleys

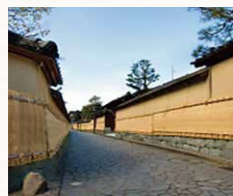


▲ Mt. Naradake (1,644 m)

## Lowland



## Urban areas



## Nature

A water rich area with the Asanogawa and Saigawa rivers flowing through urban areas, and normally 2 meters of snow in winter.

## Castle city

Since the Maeda clan established its base in 1583, Kanazawa has prospered as a castle town for over 400 years. The former town center houses Kanazawa Castle and the celebrated Kenroku-en Garden, along with precious temples and old samurai residences. Avid Maeda clan collectors and long-term patrons of the arts helped Kanazawa become a distinguished cultural city.

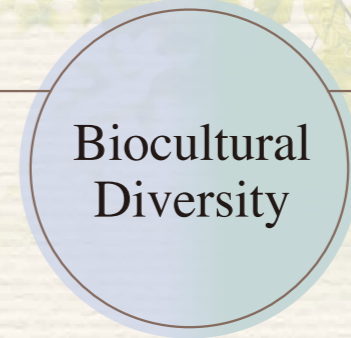
Kanazawa's accessible nature has helped nurture culture and enrich lives

## Biodiversity

- Forest, river and sea ecosystems
- Plants, animals and organisms
- Genetic diversity

## Cultural Diversity

Traditional crafts, food culture, language, literature, traditional performing arts, rituals, place names, customs, life experience, new technology



\*Kanazawa joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network for Crafts and Folk Arts in 2009. The city's traditional art and crafts are recognized internationally.



## Environment and People

Targeting to ensure bountiful nature  
and human living **30** years from now

But the balance between human living and nature has started to crumble.

- Development of land and coastal areas, overexploitation of biological resources is threatening to irrevocably damage ecosystem balance.
- With fewer people managing natural environments, prolific bamboo trees and wild animals are encroaching on agriculture and forestry.
- Natural life forms and chemical agents introduced by mankind are threatening the habitats of native species.
- As climate change progresses, we are finding insects in Kanazawa that originally survive in hotter regions further south.
- Our everyday lives are increasingly removed from nature, and interest in the nature that has molded Kanazawa culture is waning.



## Environment Building

Protect indigenous endangered species. Appropriately manage invasive species and wild animals.

Urban planning to heed precious links with water and greenery, in mountains, rivers and sea.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries and property development that respects nature's balance.



## People Building

Offer public nature experiences.  
Create Kanazawa nature-focused tourism.

Apply leading technology to surveys of the natural environment that involve citizens.

Publicize Kanazawa activities globally to promote biocultural diversity.

Connect people to promote the sharing of nature-related information.

Nurture leaders for environment conservation activities and education, farming, forestry and fishing.



# Do everything we can, now

## Registered resident watchers

Utilize citizens' powers of observation to collect information on scarce and invasive species.



## Protect scarce wild animals

Work with local residents to design an appropriate model area for conserving endangered species such as bats, and their habitats.

## Utilize leading technology

Use internet and geographical information system technology to sort and effectively exploit information gained from participatory ecological assessment.



## Networking

Facilitate direct discussions and new creative activities.

## Promote study of our planet's nature

Understand the global importance of marshland preservation by observing migrating tundra swan, geese and ducks on the Kahokugata Lagoon. Appreciate Satoyama katakuri violets as beautiful examples of active biodiversity promotion.



# Mobilizing Kanazawa's collective force

## Local authorities

- Implement measures in an organized and comprehensive way to protect rich nature and ensure its sustainable use.
- Provide opportunities for citizens, corporations and experts to discuss and work together.
- Widely publicize Kanazawa's unique nature-culture link.

## City residents

- Protect nature in daily life by supporting local production for local consumption and nature experiences, and looking after pets responsibly.

## Civic groups

- Publicize the importance of biodiversity as promoters of environmental conservation activities and continuous observation of nature.

## United Nations University

- Research, and publicize globally, Kanazawa City's efforts to promote biocultural diversity. Make policy recommendations to preserve biocultural diversity.



Holding international symposiums to widely publicize Kanazawa City efforts

## Business operators

- Pursue environment-conscious procurement, production and facility management.
- Pursue community initiatives, strengthen cooperation and support of civic groups.

## Universities and research institutes

- Provide investigative research, technology and scientific data on biodiversity conservation and offer advice. Communicate with local and international students and the public.

## Agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry

- Respect the intimate links between the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry and living things. Manage resources sustainably by improving farming methods and promoting locally produced goods.



Use publications to advertise globally



Holding workshops on biocultural diversity with Kanazawa University