

# Biodiversity and Culture of Amami Oshima

Change Our Next Decade

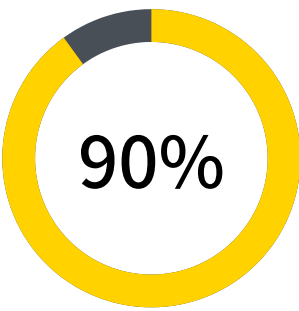
Amami Islands National Park is located in southern Kagoshima Prefecture. Amami Islands National Park includes several islands, but Amami Oshima is the largest island within the national park. The area designated as Amami Islands National Park was also designated as a national park because it preserves a diverse natural environment, rare ecosystems that can only be found in this area, and cultural landscapes.

## Amami Islands National Park

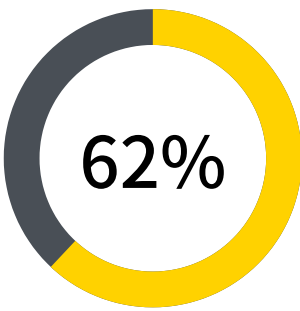
Designation: March 7, 2009  
Area: 42,181 ha (land area), 33,082 ha (sea area)  
Place: Kagoshima Prefecture

## Rare Creatures of Amami

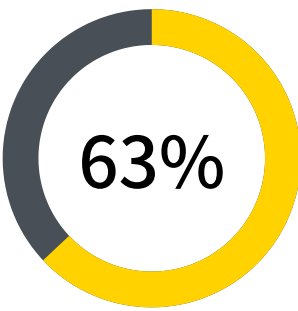
Percentage of creatures that are only found in Amami among those living in Amami



amphibian  
9/10 species



land mammal  
8/13 species



reptiles  
10/16 species



Top left: Forest with subtropical plants



Top right: Mangrove forest



Bottom left: Four species of sea turtles come ashore to lay eggs from May to July



Bottom right: Amami Oshima and Tokunoshima only inhabitant, the Amami rabbit

In recognition of its biodiversity and rich nature, four areas of Amami Oshima, including Tokunoshima, northern Okinawa Prefecture, and Iriomote Island, were designated as World Natural Heritage sites in 2021. In this areas, which are home to a number of endemic and endangered species, are the focus of various efforts to protect their rich natural environment. In Amami Oshima, promoting eco-tourism by training eco-tour guides, maintaining the Amami Trail, and making rules.

## Biodiversity and Culture of Amami

Amami Oshima Island has a unique traditional culture that makes the most of its rich natural environment, and is imbued with the wisdom of "protecting nature while using it sustainably."

## Traditional Crafts - Oshima Tsumugi

Oshima tsumugi, a traditional craft of Amami Oshima Island, is characterized by the glossy black color produced by mud dyeing. Many of the woven patterns of Oshimatsumugi are based on motifs of Amami's animals and plants. Seaweed and coral are also used as materials for the dyeing, showing that the rich nature of Amami Oshima is the reason for its culture.



Top left: Experiencing mud dyeing



Top right: Rhaphiolepis umbellata used as a raw material for dyeing



Bottom left: A village where traditional coral stone walls still remain



Bottom right: Noodles (udon) and porridge made from cycad nuts

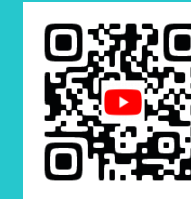
## To protect the nature of Amami Oshima Island

The national park includes 17 villages, where visitors can experience not only the natural environment but also the traditional culture that has been nurtured in harmony with nature and the lives of the local people. The park is also a place where one can experience the traditional culture that has been nurtured in harmony with nature and the lifestyles of the people of the region. However, due to lifestyle changes and other factors, people are losing their connection with nature. In future, it will be important not only to protect nature, but also to pass on cultures and traditions that are deeply connected to nature.



More information

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This poster was funded by the Japan Fund for Global Environment