

SUMI TRUST GROUP INITIATIVES 03

Our Activities Supporting National Trusts



A movement that traces its origins to nineteenth-century England, the National Trusts acquires sites with natural value and historical buildings via donations from citizens. Its conservation activities protect private-sector sanctuaries as "trust land," highlighting this approach as an effective way to steadfastly protect natural capital. The National Trusts as a movement in Japan goes back to 1960, and the scope of its activities has broadened to

now include over 50 regions across Japan.

SuMi TRUST Bank recognizes that increasing National Trusts landholdings is an investment in the foundation supporting our livelihoods, and through land acquisitions, environmental education, and our products using the trust system, we support its activities, which are rooted in the characteristics of each site.



**Forest where Tsushima leopard cats live**  
The Tsushima leopard cat is an endangered wildcat living exclusively on Tsushima Island, Nagasaki Prefecture, with its population now down to just around 100. In addition to programs for Kuromatsunai town and Amami Oshima, SuMi TRUST Bank administers a donation program for funding purchases of National Trusts landholdings through social contribution donation trusts.



**Nakaikemi Wetlands**  
The roughly 25-hectare Nakaikemi wetlands, surrounded by mountains on three sides, are rich with nature and designated under the Ramsar Convention. SuMi TRUST Bank has produced a video on the wetlands highlighting the 3,000 species of flora and fauna that call it home despite its proximity to a city center. The video is to be used for environmental education in Fukui Prefecture.



**Forest where Amami-no-kurousagi (Amami Rabbit) lives**  
SuMi TRUST Bank has joined the Trust Campaign run by the Association of National Trusts in Japan to protect the rare Amami Rabbit, whose sole habitats are the islands of Amami Oshima and Toku-no-shima. The Kagoshima Branch donated a sum commensurate to that needed to purchase 8,066 m<sup>2</sup> of forest lands for the rabbit.



**Tenjinzaki**  
Tenjinzaki is a promontory in Tanabe City, Wakayama Prefecture. Despite its location near a city center, the site is home to a rich natural environment. SuMi TRUST Bank produced education videos from interviews conducted by students of a nearby elementary school, and used these for environmental education classes.



**Water Head in Mimasaka Forest Trust**  
The water head for the Yoshii River watershed is in a 62 hectare forest where nature has been preserved in a pristine state. SuMi TRUST Bank created educational materials on the water head forest and used them to teach environmental education classes to elementary school students, prompting the students to think about the importance of water.



**Koajiro Forest**  
Koajiro Forest, located near the tip of the Miura Peninsula, has been preserved by the activities of the National Trust chapter in Kanagawa Prefecture. SuMi TRUST Bank, in collaboration with Green TV Japan, interviewed experts for an education video it produced for use in environmental education classes at elementary schools.



### Utasai Bog, Hokkaido's Oldest



SuMi TRUST Bank joined a campaign led by the Association of National Trusts in Japan to protect the Utasai Bog, the oldest high-elevation marshland in Hokkaido with a history that goes back 24,000 years. The donation of the Sapporo Branch and Sapporo-Chuo Branch for the Utasai Bog is commensurate to the sum needed to purchase 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> of the site.

### Northernmost Beech Forest



The Beech Forest in Kuromatsunai town is the most northern habitat of native beech. Moreover, the forest is valuable for awakening us to the environmental changes caused by global warming. Employees of the Sapporo Branch and Sapporo-Chuo Branch planted beech saplings on the National Trusts site and are active in regular activities to conserve the beech trees.

### Oyatsu Forest



Oyatsu Forest spreads out behind the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. To protect this forest, the Kamakura Environment Conservation Society was established in 1964 as the first National Trusts chapter in Japan. SuMi TRUST Bank sponsored an environmental education class in Kamakura City to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society's founding.

## Panel Exhibits in Branch Lobbies Nationwide

In fiscal 2017, 71 branches nationwide displayed panel exhibits on the theme of the activities of the National Trust, a natural conservation movement that traces its origins to England.

"Mori-no-boen" (forest cemetery) was opened by the Ecosystem Conservation Society-Japan in February 2016 in the town of Chonan, Chiba Prefecture. In order to revive the nature on this land that has lost its forest due to sand mining, the National Trust approach is used to turn the land into a cemetery and plant and grow locally sourced tree saplings to serve as grave markers. No man-made items such as gravestones are placed at the site, so it is attracting attention as a new type of cemetery business where a natural forest will take root on the burial grounds in the future. Since fiscal 2017, started with six branches in Chiba Prefecture where the cemetery is located, panel exhibits featuring the business has been circulating among our branch lobbies. In the first half of fiscal 2018, the exhibit was circulated among 18 branches.



The exhibit at the Tokyo Business Department lobby

## Supporting National Trusts' Activities through Donations for Acquiring Land

Land is the foundation of natural capital in terrestrial ecosystems. While development has destroyed nature, another problem in recent years is that those lands whose succession rights have been relinquished or unregistered have grown sharply due to Japan's shrinking population. We believe that preventing the spread of mountain forests and farmland whose owner is unknown, while putting more land under management to sustain its nature, is an effective approach to arrest the degradation of Japan's natural capital.

SuMi TRUST Bank supports those groups, including the Association of National Trusts in Japan, which promote the activities to acquire high-value sites and land with bountiful nature through contributions from citizens and corporations. The Bank has donated funds to purchase those lands where endangered species live and of academically important. In 2014, the Bank donated funds toward the acquisition of forest land (equivalent to about 8,000 m<sup>2</sup>) in Amami Oshima, Kagoshima Prefecture, to conserve habitat for the endangered Amami rabbit. In 2015, the Bank donated funds toward the acquisition of the Utasai bog (equivalent to about 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> of the site), located within Kuromatsunai town, Hokkaido, to conserve the high-elevation wetland, one of the oldest in Hokkaido.

In addition, "social contribution vending machines" that donate a percentage of their sales to the Association of National Trusts in Japan have been installed in the Nakano Branch, the Tokorozawa Branch, the Tokorozawa-Ekimae Branch, and the Omori Branch. By October 2018, they had donated funds equating to the acquisition cost of 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of forest land in Chichibu, a source region for water supply to the greater Tokyo metropolitan area.



A "social contribution vending machine" at the Nakano Branch