

**REVIEW OF JAPANESE MONKEY CONSERVATION: THEORY AND REALITY**

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Even though Japan is an industrially highly developed country, forests cover 67% of the land and monkeys inhabit all major islands except for Hokkaido and Okinawa. In 2009, crop damage by monkeys affected on 4300 ha of farmland and cost 1,542 million yen. This represented 11 % of all damage by animals and was the third largest amount of crop damage caused by a mammal species. In 1993, the wildlife management law was changed to allow each prefecture to make their own "Specified Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan" for a target species in which the population is recently either rapidly increasing or decreasing. In the new policy, the Japanese monkey is recognized as a recently rapidly increasing species. The number of captured monkeys per year has risen to over ten thousand in the last ten years. The measures for wildlife management of Japanese monkeys are population control, habitat management, and crop damage defense. Even if the prefectures make a wildlife management plan for monkeys, the measures used tend to be slanted to population control because of insufficient finance and a tendency not to employ professional persons. Japanese primatologists sometimes become members of the scientific committees for planning and monitoring wildlife management policies, but it appears that primatologists do not have much influence. On the basis of my experiences in three prefectures, I will discuss how primatologists can work towards better wildlife management in the future.

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