

Characteristics of Tourists' Expectation and Satisfaction in Three World Natural Heritage Sites in Japan

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In this study, the objective was set to clarify characteristics of tourists' expectation and satisfaction at World Natural Heritage sites in Japan. The study subject was determined with tourists to the Natural Heritage Sites: Ogasawara Islands (n=400), Yakushima Island (n=492), and Shiretoko (n=400). In order to identify segments of tourists to these three World Natural Heritage sites, K-means was used to analyze the results. In World Natural Heritage sites, influences of negative impact on natural environment, due to over usage, is anticipated. In these areas, it is important to understand tourist attitudes and utilize this information.

Keywords: World Natural Heritage Sites, Japan, Tourists, Expectation, Satisfaction

Past forest clearance in hills on the basis of abandoned charcoal producing kilns

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This presentation attempts to estimate characteristics of past forest clearance for charcoal production and succeeding landscape change on the basis of abandoned charcoal producing kilns, which were constructed in fields mainly before 1950's. An example of Tsushima City shows that the backslope of active charcoal producing kiln is occupied by different-aged units of secondary vegetation (originated from logged-off lands) which spread side by side in sloping direction. Similar landscape was probably dominant in hills where charcoal production was active in past. The result of trees inspection near the abandoned charcoal producing kilns of about 70 to 80 years-old around Mt.Izumigatake (1175 m) located in northwest of Sendai suggests that intolerant trees are dominant within a radius of dozens of meters of the kilns. It means that forest clearance before 70 or more years affects the present species composition. Distributions of the abandoned charcoal producing kilns were investigated in the vicinity of Mt.Ariake and Sumo-shiratake in Tsushima City, and Mt.Izumigatake. The results show that extent of the past forest clearance for charcoal production is easily estimated based on the distribution of the kilns. It is concluded that abandoned charcoal producing kilns are useful indicator of past forest clearance for charcoal production and succeeding landscape change.

Keywords: Hills, Forest clearance, Charcoal production, Charcoal producing kiln

Domestic Water Management in Rural West Kenya: A Queuing Analysis of Borehole Use

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Kenya initiated the water sector reform by way of enforcing Water Act 2002. The discussion on the reform has centred on wider relationships among different actors, not restricted to local water users alone, thus leaving relatively unexplored the impact of the institutional change on rural self-help water provision. This research question at the micro level also needs to be addressed when approaching the issue of financial sustainability in management of borehole and other water sources. This study is an interim report on the use and management of borehole, in the former Suba District (currently a part of Homa Bay County), former Nyanza Province, Kenya. First, a series of queuing system simulation were employed to know if equitability in waiting time was realised among those using different modes of water transport from the borehole. Second, in addition to this examination of "the exemplary queue", the study through field observation revealed the extent of queue jumping and other deviations from queuing rules. The self-help group under examination has not enjoyed any access to official funds for maintenance of its borehole facilities, and constantly needs to seek agreements among its members on the rule stipulating costs and benefits so as to secure necessary financial resources, thus keeping the queuing rule flexible and negotiable.

Keywords: Borehole, Queuing, Water sector reform, Kenya