The background map was created using a Geographical Survey Institute. (The ocean areas were created using materials of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range and surrounding area straddling Oita and Miyazaki Prefectures has been developed a diverse and precious ecosystem with its unique natural beauty and distinctive topography and geology.

The prefectural and municipal map was created by the Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve Promotion Council established in February 2015.

These are not independent functions but have a relationship in which UNESCO Biosphere Reserves reinforce one another. UNESCO Biosphere Reserves aim for symbiosis between nature and human society.

Principles behind activities of Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve

1. Enhance the functions of nature
2. Secure and develop the bearers of the next conservation and use of abundant nature
3. Contribute as a model for solving issues in Japan and overseas

Support for academic research, surveys and training

(1) Promote research surveys by constructing an academic research system
(2) Secure and develop the bearers of the next academic research system
(3) Contribute as a model for solving issues in Japan and overseas

Basic policy 1

- Providing places for surveys, training for the sake of social development
- Taking measures that can be a model for solving issues in Japan and overseas

Basic policy 2

- Nature = Harmony with natural environment
- Symbiosis = People

Basic policy 3

- Continuous conservation of precious ecosystem
- More detailed information is available on our website!
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve system

What are UNESCO Biosphere Reserves?

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are a business launched by UNESCO in 1970 for the purpose of balancing the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems.

While the World Heritage system in principle protects unspoiled nature, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves aim for symbiosis between nature and human society.

A total of 688 regions from 120 countries are registered (as of June 2015).

Three functions and regions

These are not independent functions but have a relationship in which UNESCO Biosphere Reserves reinforce one another.

To LBI Biosphere Reserves, we have established these regions.

Preservation function

Maintain the diversity of natural ecosystems; support the conservation of natural resources, including biodiversity.

Academic research support

Support academic research for understanding the human-nature relationship, and education and training, including the transfer of information.

Economic and social development

Support sustainable development in human society through the active participation of the local community, including the planning of industrial activity, etc.

Three functions and regions

Core regions

Regions where the core elements of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve are protected.

Buffer regions

Regions where active efforts are taken to ensure that the core regions are protected.

Transition regions

Regions that aim for sustainable development, taking measures that can be a model for the transition region.

What are UNESCO Biosphere Reserves? 2001-2011 Annual Report UNESCO Biosphere Reserve system 3 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are a business launched by UNESCO in 1970 for the purpose of balancing the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. While the World Heritage system in principle protects unspoiled nature, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves aim for symbiosis between nature and human society. A total of 688 regions from 120 countries are registered (as of June 2015). These are not independent functions but have a relationship in which UNESCO Biosphere Reserves reinforce one another. To LBI Biosphere Reserves, we have established these regions.

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Regions that aim for sustainable development, taking measures that can be a model for the transition region.
The Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range and surrounding areas straddling Oita and Miyazaki Prefectures has developed a diverse and precious ecosystem with its unique natural beauty and distinctive topography and geology. The people living in the region have long respected and protected this rich nature while making good use of the nature.

**Features of Sobo Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve**

- Steep mountainous terrain and beautiful valleys
- Wide range of vegetation and rare species
- Conservation and use of abundant nature

**Zoning map**

- **Core regions**
- **Buffer regions**
- **Transition regions**

**What are UNESCO Biosphere Reserves?**

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves aim for symbiosis between nature and human society. They balance conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems.

**Basic policy 3**

Having received UNESCO registration, the Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve aims to contribute as a model for solving issues in human society.

**Inquiries:**
- Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve Promotion Council
  - Tel: 0974-22-1001 (switchboard)
  - Tel: 0972-22-3486 (direct)

**More detailed information is available on our website!**

http://sobokatamuki-br-council.org/
Natural Features of Sobo-Katamuki-Okue Mountain Range 1

-Sleepy mountains and deep valleys-

Famous for its steep, mountainous terrain and magnificent cliffs, the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range is a complex topography and geology, including undulating rocky peaks, precipitous cliffs, and a network of gorges running through valleys, creating a unique and seasonally changing landscape that delights all who visit.

With its striking granite cliffs and intercalated basalt, the ruggedly shaped Mount Okue evokes awe among the people of the region. In winter, the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range turns into a silent, silver world covered in glistening frost and snow. In autumn, it is a sight to behold as the trees change color, and in summer, it is adorned with Akebono azaleas every spring.

The name “Katamuki” means “tilting”, and was given to this mountain because it tilts toward Mount Sobo. Its special feature is its magnificent rocky peak. Mount Katamuki (Saiki, Bungo-ono, Hinokage) is a government designated special natural monument, the sohayaki group of plants, said to reveal the origins of the Kii Province, Shikoku and Kyushu, the areas of the Japanese archipelago that have been dry land the longest.

There are still many natural forests at high altitude in the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range, where a wide range of vegetation and rare species can be found. There is a vertical distribution of various kinds of vegetation in the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range, it was designated the national butterfly of Japan. There is a diverse range of vegetation from warm temperate to cool temperature can be found depending on the mountain height. As one of the country’s main producing areas of Japanese serow, a special natural monument, and the so-called Sohayaki group of plants, said to reveal the origins of the Kii Province, Shikoku and Kyushu, the areas of the Japanese archipelago that have been dry land the longest.

In order, the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range
1. Mount Okue (Wakuzuka)
2. Mount Katamuki (Saiki, Bungo-ono, Hinokage)
3. Mount Sobo seen from Tengu Iwa
4. Kawakami Valley
5. Mitate Valley
6. Snowcapped Mount Katamuki
7. Japanese archipelago. These rare species are endangered so we need to protect their habitat environment.

In order to present the rich nature of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range to the next generation, we try to protect our precious native forests and also conduct tree-planting and other proper forest functionality improvement measures, ecosystem surveys, wildlife damage prevention surveysing vegetation, etc.

Since ancient times, people in this region have been grateful for the produce of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range with which they closely interact in the course of their daily lives, and have performed kagura dances and lion dances at festivals to pray for their harvest and their safety. To this day, they retain mountain range

Respecting nature and handing down received tradition to future generations

Utilizing what nature provides and handing down a traditional way of life to future generations

Feeling and learning about nature and conveying its importance to future generations

-Respecting nature and handing down received tradition to future generations-

Symbiosis between Nature and People

Round water divide. Japanese star anise, kabuki, Japanese serow, and mountain range.

-Respecting nature and handing down received tradition to future generations-

Utilizing what nature provides and handing down a traditional way of life to future generations

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Round water divide. Japanese star anise, kabuki, Japanese serow, and mountain range.

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Symbiosis between Nature and People

Round water divide. Japanese star anise, kabuki, Japanese serow, and mountain range.
Natural Features of Sobo-Katamuki-Okue Mountain Range 2

There are still many natural forests at high altitudes in the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range, where a wide range of flora can be seen. There are various plants with vivid coloring in the mountain range, including azaleas and butterfly pea. The mountain range has a complex topography and geology, including undulating rocky peaks, granite cliffs, and steep mountainous terrain.

The Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range is renowned for its magnificence, and the Sobo salamander is one of its special natural monuments. The name "Katamuki" means "tilting," and was given to this mountain because it tilts toward Mount Sobo.

The main mountain range of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range is characterized by its vivid coloring and has been designated the national butterfly of Japan. It is a precious area, home to many rare plants and animals. Covered in lush green during the summer, the mountain range turns into a silent, silver world covered in glistening frost and snow in winter. The Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range is one of the hundred best places for forest bathing.

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Symbiosis between Nature and People in Sobo-Katamuki-Okue Mountain Range 1

*Protecting and nurturing precious nature for future generations*

To conserve the rich nature of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range and leave it for future generations, we try to protect our precious native forests and also conduct tree-planting and other proper forest functionality improvement measures, ecosystem surveys, wildlife damage prevention measures, river environmental improvement measures, and so on.

*Feeling and learning about nature and conveying its importance to future generations*

In order to present the rich nature of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range to the next generation and convey the importance of their conservation, we carry out education and training on symbiosis. The Sobo, Katamuki and Okue region is also a famous mountain climbing spot, and in order to communicate its appeal to people outside the area we are vigorously promoting eco-tourism, canyoning and bouldering, nature experiences that utilize the natural environment.

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Symbiosis between Nature and People in Sobo-Katamuki-Okue Mountain Range 2

-Respecting nature and handing down received tradition to the next generation-

Since ancient times, people in this region have been grateful for the produce of the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue mountain range with which they closely interact in the course of their daily lives, and have performed kagura dances and lion dances at festivals to pray for their harvest and their safety. To this day, they retain this respect for nature and are taking steps to pass their traditions on to future generations.

Utilizing what nature provides and handing down a traditional way of life to future generations-

In the challenging natural environment of this steep terrain, residents have accumulated knowledge and skills to make the most of what nature provides. Previously, the region prospered as a leading mining area of Japan, and various industries such as agriculture, forestry and bamboo work have continuously been handed down. Nowadays, it is one of the country’s main producing areas of items such as timber, shiitake mushrooms, and Japanese star anise used in Buddhist services. We are making efforts to maintain the natural environment and promote eco-tourism and community forestry.

Respecting nature and handing down received tradition to the next generation-

In the Sobo-Katamuki-Okue Mountain Range, there is a vertical distribution of various kinds of vegetation in the mountain valleys where this Giant Japanese beech tree can also be found. The sohayaki-group plant has a characteristic yellow trumpet-shaped flower. It is an endangered species. Found on mountainsides at altitudes above 1,000m, this species is peculiar to Kyushu and enjoyed by children.

Handing down, folk customs to the next generation-

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Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve’s Measures

Principles behind activities of Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve

Handing down the forests, waters and way of life nurtured by the peaks and valleys to future generations – Holding nature in awe –

Having received UNESCO registration, the Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve aims to hand-down the next generation the rich natural environment of the region as well as the way of life of the people who have accomplished its development while revering nature.

Basic action policies

- Basic policy 1: Continuous conservation of precious ecosystems
- Basic policy 2: Sustainable development through partnerships with nature
- Basic policy 3: Providing places for surveys, education and training for the sake of conservation and use of abundant nature

In order to fully carry out these functions, the Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve works closely with related organizations to implement measures in line with the above basic policies.

History of the Promotion Council

- February 2015: Sobo Katamuki UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Council established
- August 2019: Promotion Council restructured
- June 2021: Promotion Council established
- September 2021: Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve Promotion Council established

Inquiries: Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve Promotion Council
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More detailed information is available on our website!
Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve Promotion Council website: http://sobokatamuki-br-council.org/