

# Hokkaido Government Ordinance on the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site

(Hokkaido Government Ordinance No. 10 of 2016)

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## Preamble

Shiretoko is located at the southern limit of where drift ice can be seen in the Northern Hemisphere. The supply of nutrient-rich water resulting from the formation of drift ice makes Shiretoko home to a variety of wild flora and fauna. As fish, including chum salmon and pink salmon, migrate between rivers and the sea, Shiretoko provides habitats for animals that feed on them, including large mammals such as brown bears and Steller's sea eagles, endangered raptor species, marine mammals such as killer whales, and seabirds such as spectacled guillemots. Shiretoko also supports both northern and southern animal species.

Shiretoko was registered as a World Natural Heritage Site in July 2005 in recognition of the fact that it provides an outstanding example of the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as extraordinary ecosystem productivity supported by biodiversity and interspecific interactions.

We should keep in mind that Shiretoko's rich natural environment has been preserved thanks to the indigenous Ainu people, who have lived in harmony with nature and thus passed on the rich natural environment, and to the local initiatives intended to protect Shiretoko from overdevelopment. While efforts have been made to both conserve and sustainably use the natural environment there through legislation, including the Natural Park Act, and through voluntary rules established by the national government, the Hokkaido Government and relevant organizations, it is now required that we address such issues as degrading vegetation along mountain trails, conflicts between man and wildlife and a shortage of human resources who can promote the conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment.

It is our responsibility to maintain the unparalleled value of nature at the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and to pass it on to future generations as an asset of humanity. In this regard, it is incumbent that the national government, the Hokkaido Government, relevant municipalities and organizations, and local residents and visitors recognize their roles and come together to achieve the goal.

Based on this idea, this Ordinance is hereby established as a consensus of Hokkaido's people

to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site to enable current and future generations to benefit from its natural environment.

## Chapter 1: General Provisions

### (Purposes)

Article 1. The purposes of this Ordinance are to lay down the basic principles for the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and to clarify the responsibilities of the Hokkaido Government and the roles of relevant organizations, of residents and visitors in Hokkaido (hereinafter referred to as “local residents and visitors”) and of business operators. Another purpose is to lay the foundations for Hokkaido Government measures to ensure the comprehensive and systematic promotion of measures to conserve and sustainably use the heritage site and to pass it on to future generations as an asset of humanity.

### (Definitions)

Article 2. “The Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site” in this Ordinance means the Shiretoko region included in the World Heritage List as stipulated in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

2. “The conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site” and “conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site” in this Ordinance mean conserving the natural environment of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site (including its neighboring areas whose ecosystems, biodiversity and other aspects of nature will be adversely affected unless conserved together with the heritage site; the same applies hereinafter except in paragraph 1 of Article 4, paragraph 1 of Article 6, Article 8, and paragraph 1 of Article 15) and also means engaging in eco-friendly anthropogenic activities, such as sightseeing, recreation and business, in the said natural environment.
3. “Visitors” in this Ordinance means visitors to the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.
4. “Relevant organizations” in this Ordinance means juridical persons or organizations with an office or business establishment in Hokkaido which implement or support research surveys on the natural environment of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site or public-awareness campaigns or other initiatives to preserve the said natural environment.

### (Basic principles)

Article 3. The conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site shall be promoted based on the following matters.

- (1) The national government, the Hokkaido Government, and relevant municipalities and organizations work closely with each other and collaborate with local residents and visitors and business operators.

- (2) Research surveys are conducted routinely to assess the state of ecosystems, and the survey results are reflected in initiatives to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.
- (3) Initiatives for terrestrial areas are undertaken integrally with those for marine areas.
- (4) Areas with unspoiled natural resources are distinguished from areas with eco-friendly anthropogenic activities.
- (5) Efforts are made to promote the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Values of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site among local residents and visitors.
- (6) The natural environment of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site is conserved and its value enhanced, while at the same time ecotourism is promoted. “Ecotourism” means the ecotourism stipulated in paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Ecotourism Promotion Act (Act No. 105 of 2007; the same applies hereinafter to paragraph 2 of Article 15).
- (7) Ongoing efforts are made to secure and cultivate human resources who can promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.
- (8) Forward-looking initiatives are promoted for the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site to set an example for regions elsewhere of the conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment.
- (9) Initiatives are undertaken through wide-area cooperation involving parties engaged in the conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment in regions other than the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and the concerned parties in regions that may affect the natural environment of the heritage site.

(Responsibilities of the Hokkaido Government)

Article 4. In line with the basic principles stipulated in the preceding Article (hereinafter referred to as “the basic principles”), the Hokkaido Government shall ensure the comprehensive and systematic promotion of measures intended to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site in its role as the party sharing responsibility for the management of the heritage site with the national government.

2. In promoting measures to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall work closely with the national government and relevant municipalities and organizations, and endeavor to collaborate with local residents and visitors and business operators.
3. The Hokkaido Government shall endeavor to promote initiatives by local residents and visitors and business operators to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.
4. In promoting measures to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall respect agreements made by committees whose members include representatives of the national government, the Hokkaido Government, relevant

municipalities and organizations, and experts.

(Roles of relevant organizations)

Article 5. In line with the basic principles, relevant organizations shall endeavor to promote initiatives to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

2. In promoting the initiatives in the preceding paragraph, relevant organizations shall work closely with the national government, the Hokkaido Government and relevant municipalities, and endeavor to collaborate with local residents and visitors and business operators.

(Roles of local residents and visitors)

Article 6. In line with the basic principles, local residents and visitors shall deepen their understanding of the Outstanding Universal Values of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and of the need to conserve and sustainably use the heritage site.

2. In line with the basic principles, residents of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site shall endeavor to avoid or minimize effects of their daily activities on the natural environment of the heritage site and to make voluntary efforts to conserve and sustainably use the heritage site.

3. In line with the basic principles, visitors shall give sufficient consideration not to take any action that will adversely affect the natural environment of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, and shall follow rules established by the national government, the Hokkaido Government, and relevant municipalities and organizations to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the heritage site.

4. In line with the basic principles, local residents and visitors shall endeavor to cooperate with the national government, the Hokkaido Government, and relevant municipalities and organizations in the measures and initiatives taken to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

(Roles of business operators)

Article 7. In line with the basic principles, business operators shall, through mutual cooperation, endeavor to do their business with due considerations to the natural environment of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

2. In line with the basic principles, business operators in the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site shall make voluntary efforts to conserve and sustainably use the heritage site.

3. In line with the basic principles, business operators shall endeavor to cooperate with the national government, the Hokkaido Government, and relevant municipalities and organizations in the measures and initiatives taken to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

Chapter 2: Basic Measures

(Promotion of measures based on the Management Plan for the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and other relevant plans)

Article 8. The Hokkaido Government shall promote measures to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site based on the Management Plan for the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site (referring to the plan, or revised plan if revised, which was developed jointly with the national government) and on other plans and policies developed jointly with the national government and relevant municipalities to conserve and sustainably use the heritage site.

(Consideration in the planning and implementation of measures)

Article 9. In planning and implementing measures and projects relating to the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall give sufficient consideration to their impacts on the natural environment of the heritage site.

2. The Hokkaido Government shall periodically review the status of implementation of measures and projects relating to the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site in consideration of the natural environment of, and anthropogenic activities at, the heritage site, and take necessary steps based on the results of the review.

(Integration of the views of the national government, relevant municipalities and others)

Article 10. The Hokkaido Government shall take necessary steps to integrate views and proposals received from the national government, relevant municipalities and organizations, local people and business operators into measures intended to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

(Coordination of the views of concerned parties)

Article 11. To ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall endeavor to coordinate the views of concerned parties, including those undertaking initiatives to conserve the natural environment of the heritage site and those engaged in business within the heritage site.

(Establishment of systems)

Article 12. The Hokkaido Government shall establish systems necessary to promote measures to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site in collaboration with the national government and relevant municipalities and organizations.

(Support for relevant municipalities and organizations)

Article 13. The Hokkaido Government shall provide information and take other steps necessary to support the measures and initiatives taken by relevant municipalities and organizations to

conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

(Promotion of surveys)

Article 14. To effectively promote measures to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall periodically conduct surveys and build and share scientific knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of the heritage site.

(Promotion of the understanding of local residents and visitors)

Article 15. The Hokkaido Government shall provide information and take other steps necessary to promote the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Values of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site and of the need to conserve and sustainably use the heritage site among local residents and visitors.

2. To promote ecotourism by encouraging domestic and overseas tourists to visit the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall provide relevant information, offer places and opportunities to interact with nature at the heritage site and take other necessary steps.
3. To promote initiatives taken by local residents and visitors and business operators to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall establish rules to be observed at the heritage site and take other necessary steps.

(Securement and cultivation of human resources)

Article 16. The Hokkaido Government shall take steps necessary to secure and cultivate human resources who can promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

(Measures based on relevant legislation)

Article 17. To conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall take necessary steps, including those based on the Fishery Act (Act No. 267 of 1949), the Forest Act (Act No. 249 of 1951) and other relevant legislation in addition to the measures based on this Ordinance.

2. If the Hokkaido Government finds it necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, the Hokkaido Government shall request the competent minister to take necessary steps, including those based on the Natural Park Act (Act No. 161 of 1957) and other relevant legislation.

(Financial measures)

Article 18. The Hokkaido Government shall endeavor to take financial measures necessary to promote measures to conserve and sustainably use the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

### Supplementary Provisions

1. This Ordinance shall come into effect as of April 1, 2016.
2. Every five years after the date of enforcement, the Governor of Hokkaido is to review the status of enforcement of this Ordinance in consideration of matters such as changes in socioeconomic conditions, and take requisite measures based on the results of the review.