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Towards Community-based Yezo-deer Management

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Research Question

"How should we integrate yezo-deer management and sustainable development in rural communities?"

Background

Conflicts between overabundant deer and people

Hokkaido Pref. Plan to scientifically manage deer

But...

Aging and decreasing number of hunters

Insufficient results

Rural communities' initiative to utilize deer

Need to evaluate implementation system in Pref. Plan at local level

Need to evaluate deer utilization initiatives

Case Studies (see below)

(A) Shiretoko (Shari) : management comparison between World Heritage site and ordinary areas

(B) Akan : venison production for deer management and economic development

(C) Nishi-Okoppe : Special Hunting Area for hunter management and rural economy

Results

Deer management depends upon amateur hunters on ad hoc basis, and yet to develop effective social system to encourage deer utilization in rural communities

↑ Because...

Case studies reveal;

- (A) dependent upon leisure and volunteer hunters without effective incentives, resulting in insufficient outcome
- (B) venison production helps manage deer and contributes to the local economy to some extent, but yet to establish the venison business model from capturing to sales
- (C) Special Hunting Area benefits the local economy, but the operating body is fragile, and its management conflicts with neighboring communities over deer-related issues

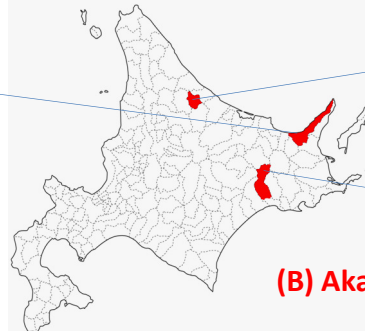
Recommendations

Adoption of professional hunters and better social system for deer utilization should be explored and developed.

(A) Shiretoko (Shari)



Deer roaming in town (photo by the author)



(B) Akan



Yezo-deer burger (photo by the author)

(C) Nishi-Okoppe



Hunting seminar (photo by the author)

(A) Shiretoko (Shari)

"What are the problems of Pref. Plan in its implementation, compared with the management in World Heritage site?"

(World Heritage site) Science-based management and cooperation among national, prefectural, and municipality governments proved effective

(Ordinary area)

- No such cooperation observed, and only municipality provides volunteer hunters with minimum culling incentive
- Leisure hunters are encouraged to hunt female deer unlimitedly, but resulted in insufficient pressure to change the population trend downward
- Neither scientific nor systematic approach is taken, but on ad hoc basis

(B) Akan

"Can venison production help manage deer and contribute to the local economy?"

- Live-capturing of deer in forests helps control debarking damages, and removes a number of deer efficiently
- Receiving a number of live deer at a time requires a farm to feed and keep them alive, leading to costly business
- Slaughtering wildlife and producing game meat must observe a specifically-designed hygiene guideline, adding another cost to the business
- Venison industry offers some job opportunities and benefits local economy, but venison production is costly and yet to establish a successful business model

(C) Nishi-Okoppe

"Can Special Hunting Area (SHA) help manage hunters and deer, and contribute to the local economy?"

- SHA attracts leisure hunters with its quality and safe hunting experiences offered by the guides, and benefits the local economy
- SHA needs to secure good population of deer to provide hunting target, leading to conflicts with neighboring communities over deer-related issues
- Only a few local hunters operate SHA; one is in his 70s and another has hunting experience less than 5 years
- Operating body of SHA is fragile, and SHA in its nature requires good number of deer, conflicting with neighbors