

Creation of a “Conservation Manual for Trees of Landscape Importance”

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1. Background

In 2004, a Landscape Act was passed to promote the creation of good landscapes in Japan's cities and rural areas. The law makes it possible to specify landscape planning areas and designate “trees of landscape importance” (trees that are important to the formation of good landscapes in those areas). The designated trees then need to be managed appropriately to ensure that good landscapes are not lost. Many of these trees are thought to be giant trees or old trees that function as symbols for their local areas. So far, not enough has been done to establish techniques or technology for maintaining or improving the vitality of these trees in consideration of their landscapes. This has made it necessary to create guidelines for managing trees of landscape importance.

Therefore, as a basic material for drawing up management guidelines for trees of landscape importance, we have compiled a manual on techniques of conservation for trees. The manual is mainly designed for giant trees and old trees, in consideration of their landscapes.

2. Outline of the “Conservation Manual for Trees of Landscape Importance”

Chapter 1: Basic matters concerning trees of landscape importance

As well as explaining the significance attached to trees of landscape importance in the Landscape Act, this chapter introduces the specific profile of these trees and examples of designation. It also includes commentaries on standards and aims applied when designating trees of landscape importance.

Chapter 2: Basic matters on conserving trees of landscape importance

This chapter gives a commentary on the need for conservation and the targets of conserving trees of landscape importance. It also explains ideal systems when carrying out conservation and ways of using trees of landscape importance.

Chapters 3-5: Methods of tackling the conservation of trees of landscape importance

Chapter 3 gives information on surveys and diagnosis. It highlights points of note in methods of surveying and diagnosing landscapes and the state of

growth, and explains the specific content of surveys and diagnosis.

Chapter 4 is concerned with proposals of conservation plans. As well as giving a commentary on setting conservation targets and selecting conservation work, it also illustrates methods of drawing up conservation plans and other documents.

Chapter 5, the section on installation and management, provides commentary on basic matters to be borne in mind when carrying out work, and precautions in each type of work involved in conservation. It also highlights the need to verify effects after the conservation work, and explains methods of doing this.

3. Publication

The “Conservation Manual for Trees of Landscape Importance” has been published as NILIM Material No. 565. We have also published a “Case Study Collection of Conservation Measures for Giant Trees and Old Trees”, in which we compile past methods of conservation measures for giant trees and old trees, together with information on their subsequent growth.

It is hoped that these publications will promote the designation of trees of landscape importance in future, and that precious trees that have been carefully protected at local level will continue to be conserved in good condition in the future.

<http://www.nilim.go.jp/lab/ddg/index.htm>

