

Abstract of Thesis	
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Title	<p style="text-align: center;">Progress of designation concept and category for Wildlife Protection Area in Japan (わが国における鳥獣保護区とその指定区分の進展に関する研究)</p>
<p>The history and designation results of Wildlife Protection Area (WPA) system in Japan, which has been applied for more than 70 years, were analyzed comprehensively. I elucidated the transitions, current status, and trends of WPA focusing on the designation categories. Additionally, I analyzed the relationship between designation and harms by wildlife and the cases regarding national designated WPAs in Kagoshima Prefecture, suggesting the prospects for future progress of WPA system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The basic concept of WPA has not revised since its establishment as hunting prohibited area, protecting wildlife from excessive hunting pressure; it is not be adapted to recent international standard of protected areas. In considering zoning for coexistence of human and wildlife and the hunting grounds, it is better that WPA system continues with giving importance to conservation in the ordinary area. 2. The recent decrease of WPA area was remarkable in the designated area for “forest habitat type”, which occupies the largest proportion, while the increase has continued in all other categories except “habitat corridor type”. As the number of hunters decreases and damage caused by wildlife becomes serious, “forest habitat type”, “large-scale habitat type”, and “habitat corridor type” should be designated with a clear intention to secure the original habitat for wildlife, which is supported by science-based management. The function of categories such as “endangered species habitat type” and “large migration areas type”, whose designation as Special Protected Area is imperative, should be enhanced through effective zoning plans. 3. Regarding the current 86 national designated WPAs, which can be divided into four designation categories, the correlation between designated areas and the number of species were considerable in birds for “large migration areas type” and in mammals for almost all categories (especially “endangered species habitat type”). In “large-scale habitat type”, the higher the land form diversity and the proportion of Special Protection Area were, the larger the number of bird species inhabiting it was. The “large migration areas type” being designated as priority target to the valuable tidal flats, the percentage of the designation of Special Protection Area was higher than that of other categories. Because the area of “endangered species habitat type” are overlapped with other protected area such as National Parks. The conservation activity in these categories of WPA should be performed in collaboration with other laws such as the Act on the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. 4. As a result of statistical analysis of the relationship between WPA areas and harms to agriculture and forestry by wildlife on prefectural basis, it was suggested that game mammals cause widespread damage in artificial forests including within WPA. On the other hand, it is suggested that the designation of WPA decreases agricultural damage in surrounding farmland. 5. Present 4 national designated WPAs in Kagoshima Prefecture represent the characteristics of each designation category; each area has respective originations and individual issues. YuwandakeWPA (Amami-oshima Island) and WPAs on Yakushima Island should be expanded in a view of clarifying relationships with national park and world heritage. 	