

March 26, 2025

Keio University

**Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus (SFC)
Certified as “Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural
Site” by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment**

In late 2024, the Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus (hereafter SFC) was certified as a “Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site” by the Ministry of the Environment. Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites are areas recognized by the government for their rich biodiversity and various conservation efforts made by businesses, private organizations, individuals, and local public entities. Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites will be registered in the international database as OECMs*.

*OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures): a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values

The Shonan Fujisawa Campus Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site (hereafter SFC Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site) is located in the Shonan Fujisawa region, a rapidly urbanizing area with a rich natural environment and high level of biodiversity. SFC has been proactively implementing advanced initiatives to preserve the natural environment and biodiversity of the area and to create a sustainable community and campus, utilizing its strengths as an educational and research institution and incorporating the latest technologies. The Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site certification awarded on this occasion is a recognition that these efforts to preserve the natural environment and biodiversity have borne fruit and led to the successful preservation of ecosystems and rare organisms native to the region.

Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites

The Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites initiative was launched in 2023 to certify areas where biodiversity is being preserved in order to achieve the goal of effectively conserving at least 30% of land and sea areas as healthy ecosystems by 2030, i.e., the “30by30” target. The 30by30 road map is a global goal set forth in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is one of the action goals to achieve “Nature Positive”^{*1} by 2030. Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites will be registered in the international database as OECMs^{*2}.

^{*1} Nature Positive: a global societal goal to “halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020

baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050,” in line with the mission of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

*2 OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures): a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values

Overview of the SFC Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site

The SFC Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site is an educational and research site that comprises university faculties, graduate schools, research institutes, and affiliated junior and senior high schools, as well as the approximately 13 hectares of forested area surrounding these facilities. The forested area primarily consists of a planted evergreen broadleaf forest dominated by Japanese bamboo-leaf oaks and *sudajii*, and a secondary deciduous broad-leaf forest dominated by sawtooth oak and *konara* oak trees that had been present even before the construction of the campus. In addition, there are also aquatic environments such as the stormwater retention pond and the wetland biotope behind the campus. The campus is also surrounded by grasslands full of silvergrass and cogon grass, among others. Moreover, the SFC Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site is located in the Shonan Fujisawa region, a rapidly urbanizing area with farmlands and hills, adjacent to the Endo Sasakuboyato forest which is one of the most biodiverse areas in Fujisawa City. Surrounded by highly biodiverse greenery and located within an ecological network, the campus maintains a variety of natural environments and serves as a habitat and breeding ground for many flora and fauna usually only observed in rural woodlands.

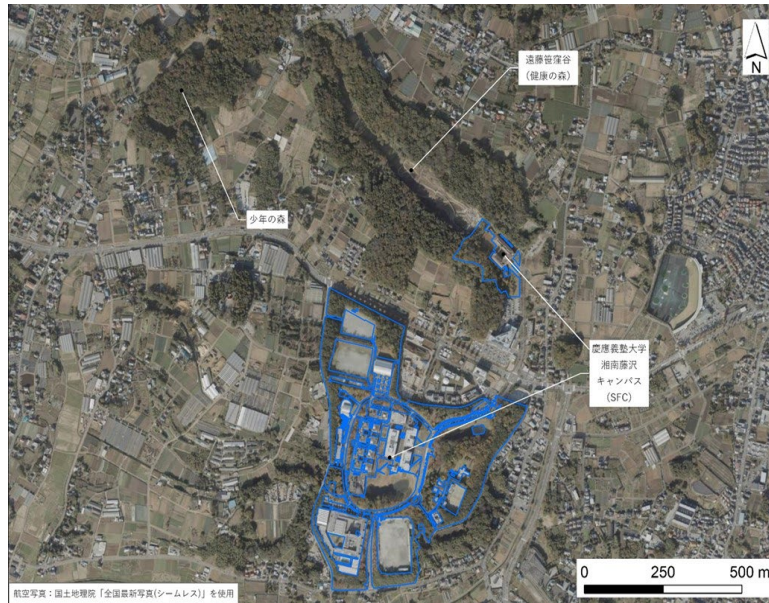
In consideration of the area’s unique characteristics, SFC has been implementing nature conservation initiatives to preserve the region’s natural environment and biodiversity, thereby facilitating a sustainable community and campus. In conducting these conservation activities, SFC is leveraging its strengths as an educational and research institution to proactively implement advanced initiatives that incorporate the latest technologies, such as environmental DNA and biodiversity monitoring systems that use remote sensors.

As part of the region’s ecological network, SFC will continue to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the region by promoting the preservation and environmental management of the SFC Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Site through collaboration with the local community and while implementing advanced initiatives as an educational and research institution.

(Reference) Latter Half of FY2024 “Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites” Results of Certification–Ministry of the Environment (in Japanese)

https://www.env.go.jp/press/press_04456.html

Basic information about the site (Zoning map)



Basic information about the site (Panoramic shot)



*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contacts listed below in advance of any press coverage.

• Source of this release

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