

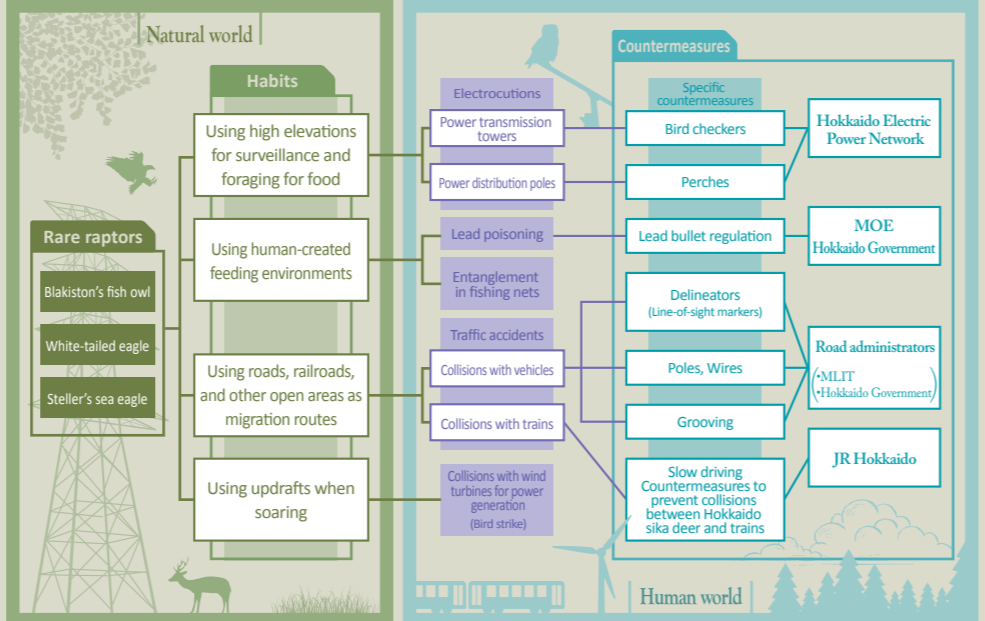


KUSHIRO  
Leading City  
in the Field of  
Environmental  
Treatment

©Keisuke SAITO

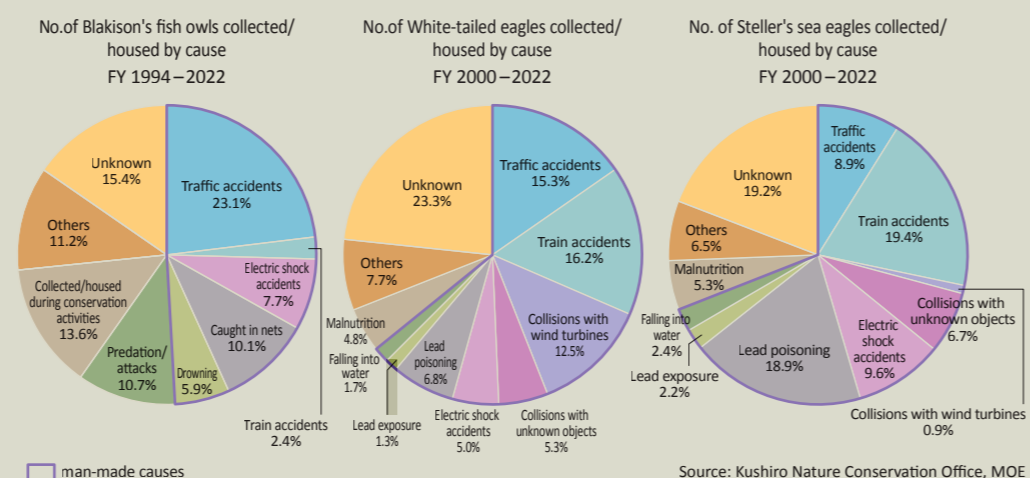
Dual perspectives of "wildlife" and "humans", which are essential when considering environmental treatment

Human activities from a wildlife perspective and conflicts with wildlife from human perspective. It is necessary to analyze the causes of problems and consider countermeasures from both perspectives.



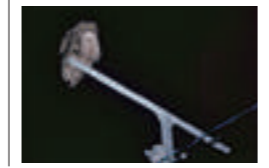
"The question is not about who should take priority - people or animals, but how we can all live together in harmony. I believe that the direction we should aim for is for people to truly live as people and animals to truly live as animals." (Dr. SAITO)

Causes of death and injury in rare raptors in Hokkaido



Source: Kushiro Nature Conservation Office, MOE

Environmental Treatment introduced in the Kushiro area



Blakiston's fish owl resting its wings on a safe perch

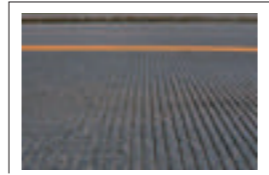
Electrocutions prevention

IRBJ, Hokkaido Electric Power Company, Hokkaido Electric Power Network, and MOE have collaborated to install the first Bird Checker in Kushiro City to prevent electrocution of rare raptors. It was developed through a series of improvements to deter raptors from perching on it and to adapt it to the shape of power transmission facilities.



Bird Checker installed after its performance was checked using captive Steller's sea eagles that cannot return to the wild

Photo courtesy of Hokkaido Electric Power Network and IRBJ



Grooving, whereby grooves are carved on the road surface, helps prevent traffic accidents by alerting raptors of approaching vehicles through the sound generated by vehicles running over the grooves.

Roadkill countermeasures

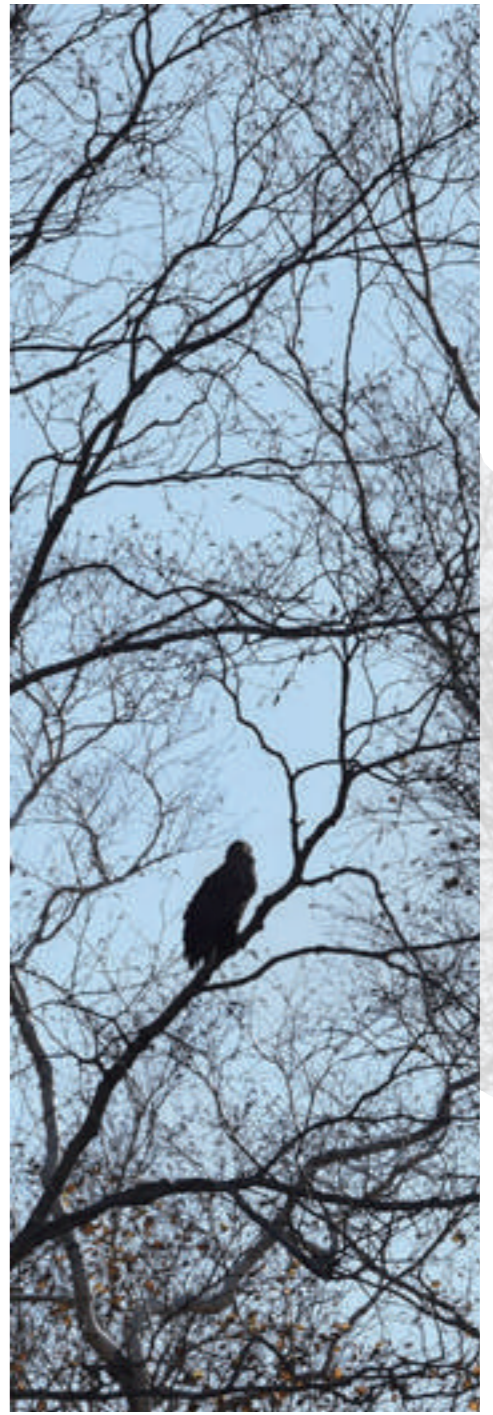
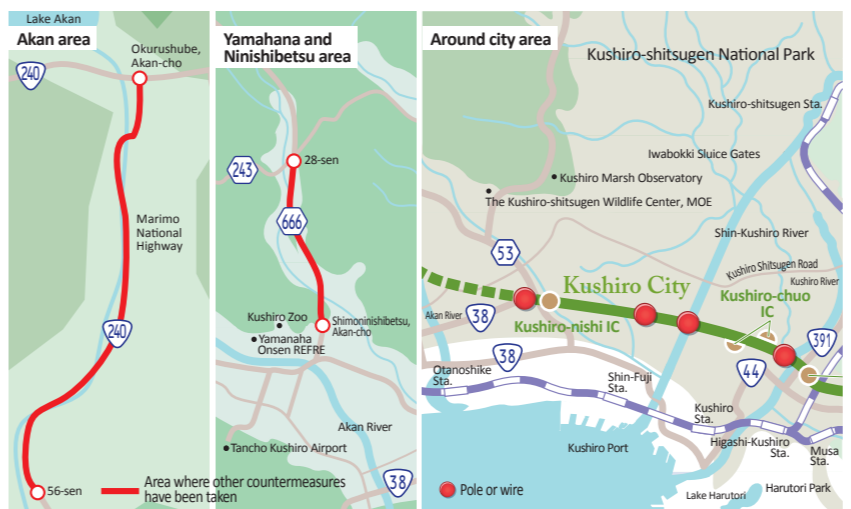
IRBJ, MLIT and MOE collaborated to study countermeasures before the Kushiro Outer Ring Road was constructed, and after countermeasures were taken, their effectiveness was verified and improvements were made.



In areas where eagles and red-crowned cranes frequently cross roads, poles and wires can be installed on bridge parapets to lead the birds to fly at a higher altitude and prevent traffic accidents.

Photo courtesy of the Kushiro Development and Construction Department, MLIT

Locations where major countermeasures have been taken in Kushiro City



White-tailed eagle  
Scientific name: *Haliaeetus albicilla*  
English name: White-tailed eagle  
National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, categorized as Vulnerable(MOE Japan Red List 2020)  
Large eagles with a total body length of about 69 to 92 cm and a wing span of 200 to 245 cm.  
White-tailed eagle nests in large trees near beaches, lakes and river basins.  
It preys on seabirds and marine fishes such as Alaska pollock, and is distributed in Europe, West Asia, and East Asia.  
The total population is estimated at about 20,300 to 39,600 (IUCN, 2013). Approximately 700 to 900 white-tailed sea eagles winter in Hokkaido and northern Honshu.  
The number of nesting sites in Hokkaido has been increasing since the 1990s, with approximately 170 confirmed sites.

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## Healing injuries caused by humans is our responsibility as human beings.

Saito Keisuke  
齊藤慶輔

### Dr. Keisuke SAITO

Veterinarian, President, Institute for Raptor Biomedicine Japan (IRBJ)  
In 1994 Dr. SAITO began working as a veterinarian specializing in wildlife based at the Kushiro-shitsugen Wildlife Center, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), and in 2005 he established IRBJ.

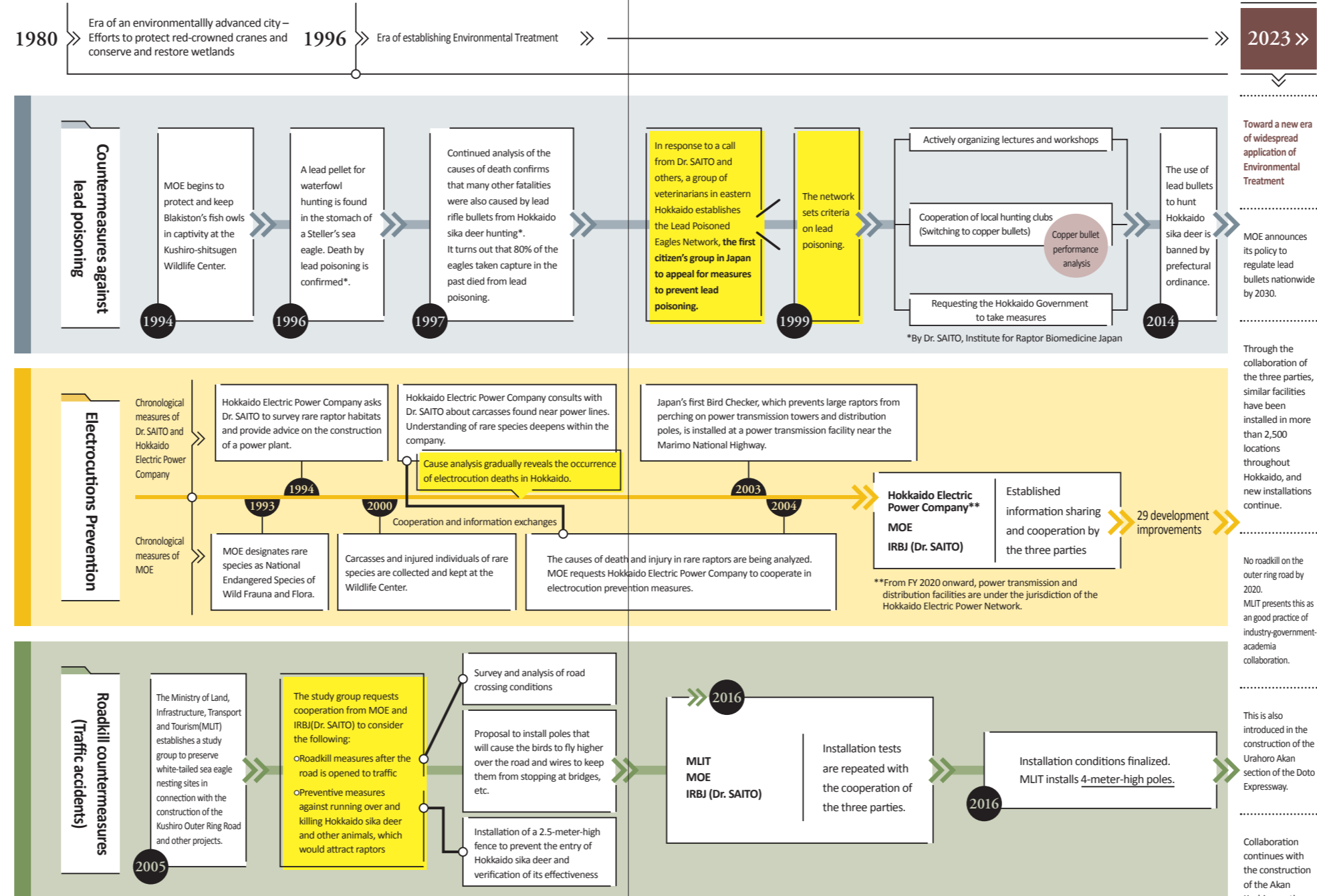
As part of his efforts to protect endangered raptors, he treats injured and sick birds, releases them to the wild, conducts research and surveys, and carries out conservation activities.

He calls this improvement of the natural environment for better symbiosis "environmental treatment" and is working on it in cooperation with related government agencies and businesses.

**Environmental Treatment:** to transform the natural environment, which nurtures humans and animals, to be healthy and safe.

"Human economic activities are often deeply involved in the causes of wildlife injury, disease, and mortality. To coexist with rare wildlife, it is necessary not only to protect habitats such as nesting sites, but also to investigate the causes of mortality and resolve conflicts with wildlife." (Dr. SAITO)

## History of Environmental Treatment that started in the Kushiro area



## KUSHIRO Leading City in the Field of Environmental Treatment

A new stage in coexistence with wildlife

- 1980 Kushiro Wetland is registered as Japan's first Ramsar Convention-listed wetland.
- 1987 Kushiro-shitsugen National Park is established as Japan's largest wetland.
- 1993 Asia's first Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention is held.

KUSHIRO has become an environmentally advanced city that leads Asia through its wetland conservation activities, which began with the protection of the endangered red-crowned crane.

Now that the compatibility of economic activities and environmental conservation has become commonplace, KUSHIRO is positioned at a new stage as a leading city in the field of environmental treatment.

**Blakiston's fish owl** | Scientific name: *Ketupa blakistoni* | English name: Blakiston's fish owl

About the back cover photo

National Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, categorized as Critically Endangered (MOE Japan Red List 2020) and Natural Monument of Japan

Japan's largest owl, reaching 66 to 69 cm in body length with a wingspan of 180 cm

It inhabits forests (deciduous broad-leaved forests, mixed conifer and broad-leaved forests) around rivers and lakes, nesting in the hollows of large broad-leaved trees. It preys on fish, but also amphibians, crustaceans, birds, and small mammals. In Japan, it is distributed in Hokkaido and the Northern Territories. One hundred pairs have been confirmed, mainly in eastern Hokkaido.