Wildlife Protection in rural Japan
A case of monkey - human conflict ‘Engai’ as an environmental problem

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Abstract
In Japan we have wild monkey (Japanese monkey ‘Nihon-zaru’ : Macaca fuscata). It is known as the northernmost species. They live in troops in mountainous forest areas, however come across residential places including villages and crop fields. They eat away crops in the fields or come into houses, sometimes inflicting an injury on residents. Such damage caused by monkeys is called ‘en-gai’. ‘En-gai’ is a complex environmental problem which results from various factors such as environmental change of a habitat, a declining in hunting pressure and housing and land development. It is difficult to control wild monkeys. Extermination of them from the villages is not effective solution for ‘en-gai’ and symbiosis. It is regarded as the good way to keep them away from the village and live apart. In order to manage them, information of monkeys and effective measurements are required.

In Mie Prefecture, located in central Japan, the prefectural administration worked to get positioning information of monkey groups by using radio-telemetry. The information was provided for the local residents supported by a NGO. The residents tried to keep monkeys away from the fields and settlement by using fireworks. The NGO played an important role on making the information in cooperation with the administration and sharing an awareness of ‘en-gai’ problem among the local residents. This case indicates that it is worthy of notice the administration, residents and NGO collaborate each other in practice.

This paper describes 1) characteristics of ‘engai’ as an environmental problem, 2) activities of local administration, residents and NPO in Mie prefecture as a case study, 3) the importance of the tripartite collaboration, and 4) developing new GIS system for efficient managements.