

## **Coexistence of Wild Animals and Humans**

### 1. Motivation behind Research Paper

What would you do if you found out about the problems and issues in today's society that you did not know before? I think that most people would pretend not to see it. However, I think that it will be necessary in the future to notice the dangers of the problem immediately and take action instead of leaving it as it is. When I was in the first year of high school, I learned that the overpopulation of wild animals caused various problems with humans in my Global Research Classes. Therefore, I decided to explore the problems that are occurring and how to solve them.

### 2. Introduction

Currently, the coexistence of wild animals and humans is being impaired. The trigger goes back to the Meiji period. In the Meiji period, there were restrictions on capture to protect the number of birds and beasts that had decreased so far. During that period, as a result of killing a large amount of Japanese wolves for the purpose of protecting livestock and obtaining fur, the Japanese wolf, which was the only high-order predator in Japan, became extinct. As a result, there are no factors that reduce the population of birds and animals, and as a result, the number of wildlife such as wild boar and deer has increased. Currently, environmental problems such as forest decline have increased due to the increasing number of wild boars and deer have eaten the young trees and bark of trees in their habitat, and tree seedlings grown by humans. In addition, wild boar and deer came down to the village, and the

damage to farmers' crops increased. If this situation continues, there is concern that a vicious cycle will progress in both wild animals and humans.

### 3. Results and Analysis

We thought that by gaining knowledge about the ecosystem of wild animals, we can find a way for humans and wild animals to coexist. We worked on two things for finding it. First, we joined a project called Kari Tsunagi in Uda City. We had a lecture about what kind of animal damage has occurred and the current trend of the animal ecosystem by a person from the Agricultural Administration Division of Uda City. In Japan, wildlife damage to agriculture in 2020 was about 16.1 billion yen, with deer and wild boars bearing 60% of the total of the blame. As countermeasures against the damage, the government had set up three pillars. There are capture, intrusion prevention measures, and habitat management. We learned that it is important how we can tackle these three measures as a community. Second, we helped build a fence for a community garden managed by Ikoma City. We thought that installing fences would reduce the current conflicts between humans and wild animals, and would lead to a more peaceful coexistence in the future. In addition, we verified whether the damage was actually reduced by installing the fence. Through this experience, we learned that installing fences takes a lot of time, working cost, and money. In addition, we thought that it was necessary to conduct long-term observations to verify whether the installation of fences could reduce the damage to crops by wild animals.

### 4. Conclusion and Future Problems

At present, we considered the best way for wild animals and humans to coexist is to build fences around fields instead of killing wild animals. However, considering the economic power and working power, it is difficult to continue. Therefore, in order to reduce the number of wild animals that Kumamoto farmer hunters are doing, we thought it would be a good way to use animals as gibier. In order to solve the problem, we propose that this activity should be carried out by Nara Prefecture officials as well.

## 5. Reflection

I struggled a lot during this research study. Personally, there is very little that we high school students can do, and the scale of our impact is small. At first, I did not even know what to do for this project. I failed and worried a lot. However, I learned one thing from this experience. It is to actively interact with the outside and take action. Through this research, I learned that the important thing is to increase the number of like-minded people who want to solve problems, and to move from a small existence as an individual to a large existence as a group and work together with many people.

## 6. Work Cited

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