



From School Forests to the Sustainable Future

- 1 Increasing floods and landslide disasters
- 2 Current State of Forestry
- 3 Making the most of school forests
- 4 Sustainable future

SDGs

Goal No. 13, 15

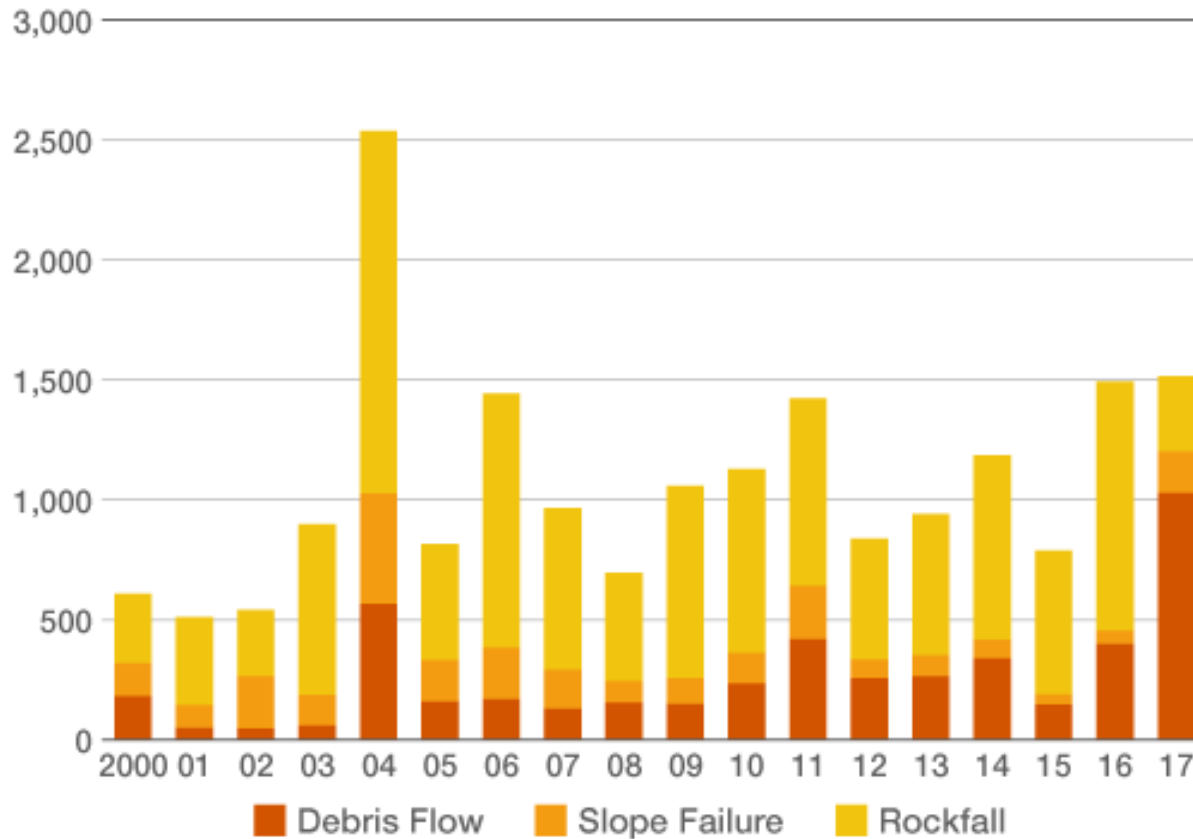


Nagano Prefectural Suzaka Senior High School



Increasing Floods and Landslides

Number of Landslides Since 2000

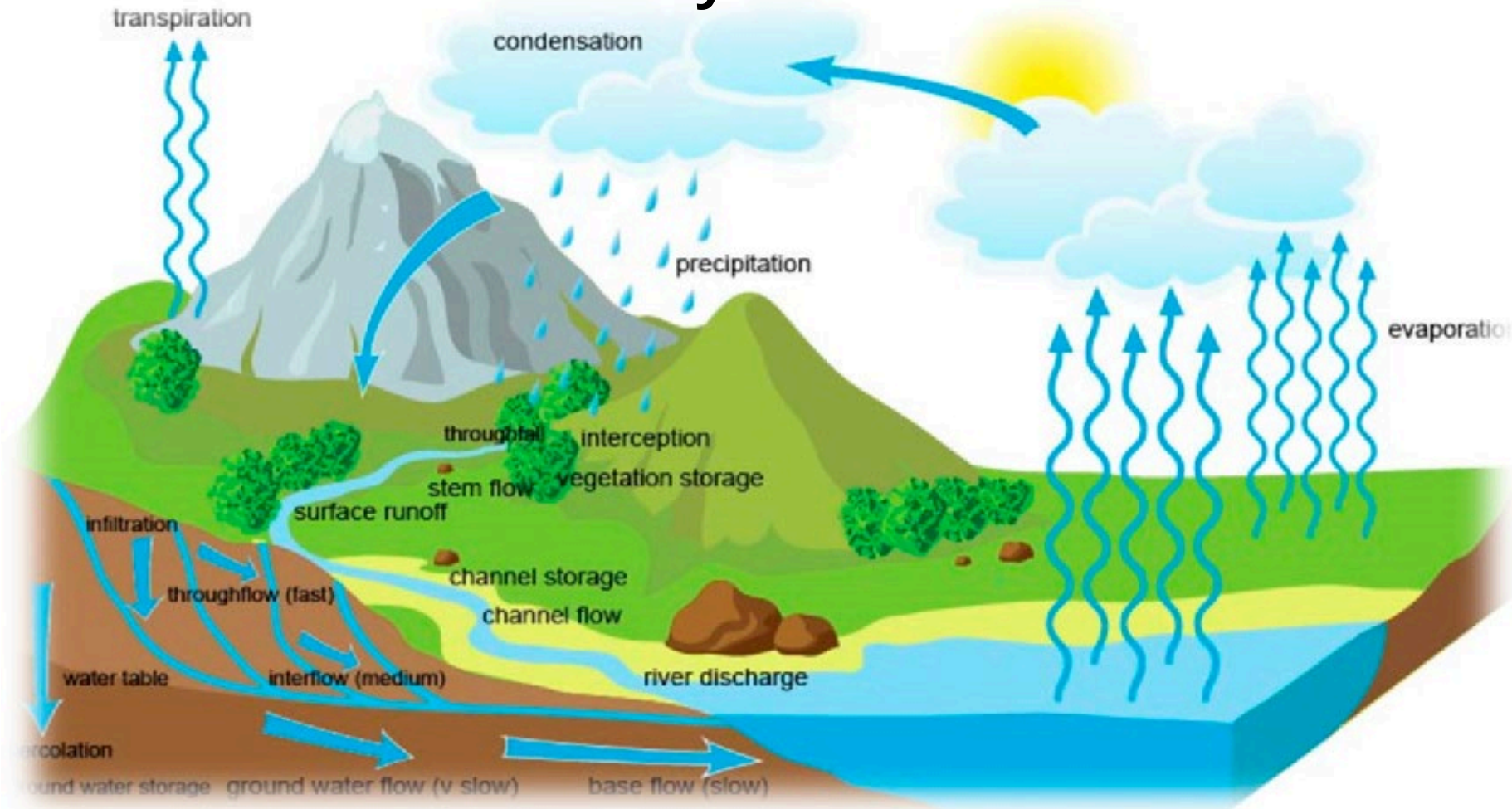


Compiled by *Nippon.com* based on data from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism.



<https://www.nippon.com/en/features/h00275/>

The role of the hydrological cycle in forest ecosystems



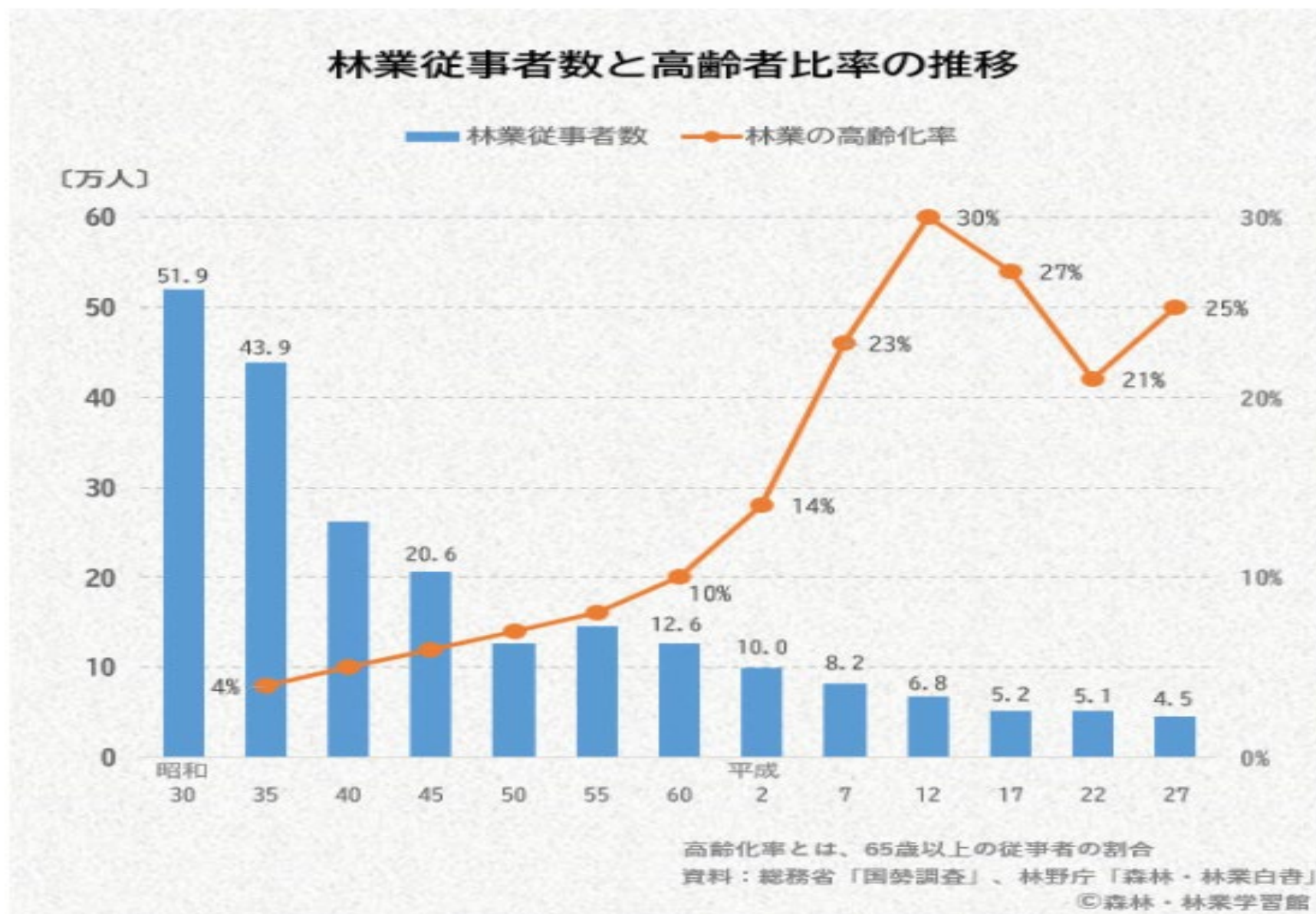
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-role-of-the-hydrological-cycle-in-forest-flow-Yan/e27bd8e0f61dafdc2c15d9b700cb68e5626313a7>

Current issues in Japanese Forestry

1. Domestic trees not being used properly
2. Declining number of workers
3. Aging of workers



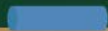
※高齢化率：65歳以上の従事者の割合



<https://www.shinrin-ringyou.com/data/forester.php>

Our proposal:

That Japanese government
should make it possible for more
high schools to have their own
school forests!



The number of school forests (1974-2011)

Year	Total	Elementary	Junior High	Senior High	Others
1974	5256	3030	1664	582	
1980	5692	3215	1776	701	
1985	4850	2757	1390	603	
1991	4514	2699	1244	571	
1996	3838	2284	985	569	
2001	3321	1980	820	512	
2006	3057	1858	733	466	
2011	2677	1624	645	385	
2016	2492	1497	606	368	21

Only 5%!

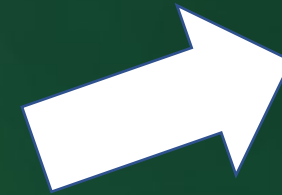
The Past and Future of Suzaka High School's Forest



1941



2021



21xx



Hello, everyone. We are Suzaka Senior High School from Nagano Prefecture.
Our title is “From School Forests to the Sustainable Future”.

The related SDGs are No. 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land).

Today, we will talk about;

1. Increasing floods and landslide disasters
2. Current state of Forestry
3. Making the most of school forests
4. Suzaka Senior High School Project to the future.

Maintaining forests has become more and more important in recent years because of natural disasters such as landslides and flooding of rivers.

This graph shows the number of landslide disasters since the year 2000.

On average, there were more than 1,000 disasters in Japan every year.

It is obvious these disasters have some relationship with climate change and the current state of forests.

Now, we can show you another slide which shows the role of forests.

As you see, the forests play an important role in keeping the cycle of water healthy.
That's why we focus on the forests in Japan.

Here are some current issues in Japanese forestry;

1. Domestic trees which have become old enough to cut down have not been used properly.
Low-priced foreign trees have been used as construction material, and forests planted more than half a century ago for future construction demand have been neglected.
2. The number of workers in the forestry industry continues to decline.
3. Aging of the current workers make situation worse.

Please look at this slide.

It shows how fast the number of workers are decreasing and aging.

So, we'd like to propose that high school students be encouraged to experience working with forests so they can become more aware of the importance of the forest's functions. To achieve this, the government should make it possible for more high schools to have their own school forests. There are some high schools in Nagano Prefecture that own school forests but many of those forests are left unattended.

This chart shows the number of school forests from 1974 to 2016.

In 1974, there were more than 5,000 schools that had their own forests, but by 2016 this number had fallen to less than half of that number. Since Japan has over 50,000 schools, this mean only 5% of Japanese schools have their own forests.

Actually, our school is planning to cut down some 80-year-old karamatsu trees planted in our school forest. They will be used for the renovation of the school library as part of our school's 100th anniversary celebration. After cutting them down, we will have a tree-planting project. By doing this we can hand down our resource trees to a future generation, probably the one in 80 years.

We believe that these projects guarantee the sustainability of our rich forest resources, and that will broaden the young people's horizons and widen their career choices.

Forests and woods cover two-thirds of Japan's land, which means our country is rich in forest resources. Why don't we make good use of them?

(495 words)