## **NEWS RELEASE**



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Ikawa Forest Selected for the "Green Destinations Top 100"

— Japan's First Selection as a Private Company, Recognizing the Global Value of Our Challenge —

JUZAN Co., Ltd., part of the Tokushu Tokai Paper Group (Head Office: Aoi-ku, Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture; President: Kohei Suzuki), is pleased to announce that the Ikawa Forest under its management has been selected for the *Green Destinations Top 100*, a list of the world's most sustainable tourism destinations. This marks the **first** time in Japan that a privately owned and managed forest has been recognized.

This achievement highlights the international recognition of our circular initiatives that integrate **forest conservation**, **carbon credits**, **and whisky production**. Our efforts to visualize the value of nature and to pursue the coexistence of economy and environment are attracting global attention.

In Japan as well, where mechanisms are increasingly sought to not only preserve natural environments but also to make their value visible and connect them to sustainable economic cycles, Ikawa Forest promotes the following initiatives:

- The Minami Alps J-Credit system, certifying CO<sub>2</sub> absorption
- Whisky production utilizing spring water filtered by primeval forests and the cool, humid climate
- Upcycling of whisky by-products and product development in collaboration with local communities

Through these activities, we embody our core philosophy: "Protect nature, and make use of nature."

## ■Overview of Ikawa Forest

Ikawa Forest is located at the northernmost tip of Shizuoka Prefecture, in the uppermost basin of the Ōi River. Stretching approximately 13 km east to west and 33 km north to south, the forest covers a total area of about 24,430 hectares, making it the largest single privately owned forest in Japan.

Its expanse includes the Minami Alps National Park and the Minami Alps Biosphere Reserves, encompassing diverse and precious natural environments such as mountain landscapes, valleys, and forest ecosystems.

Our Group regards this rich natural environment as one of its vital assets. Guided by long-term management policies, we are committed to initiatives that balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable utilization.

## ■Future Outlook

This selection was officially announced on September 29, 2025 (local time) at the "Green Destinations 2025 Occitanie" held in Montpellier, France.

Building on this international recognition, we will further advance:

- Provision of opportunities for environmental education and research
- Strengthening of domestic and international study visits and partnerships
- Expansion of the Southern Alps J-Credit
- Enhancement of regional and international outreach through our whisky business

[For inquiries regarding this initiative]

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For further information, please visit our Contact Page.