

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

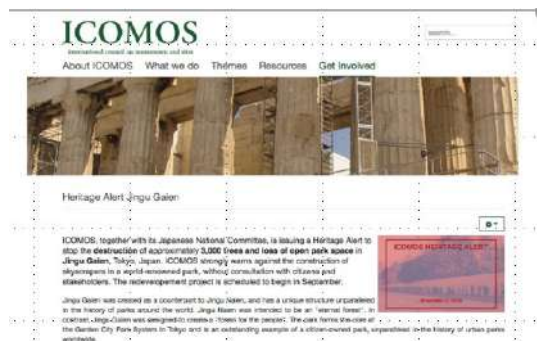
How to save Jingu Gaien's trees from redevelopment plans

October 9, 2024, 14:00~15:00

Yasuyoshi Okada

President, Japan National Commission for the International Council on Monuments and Sites

Mikiko Ishikawa Director, Japan National Commission for ICOMOS



**Statement by the president
of Japan Federation
of Bar Associations
March 14, 2024**



**Heritage Alert from
ICOMOS, Sept. 9, 2023
To halt Jingu Gaien Area
Redevelopment Project**

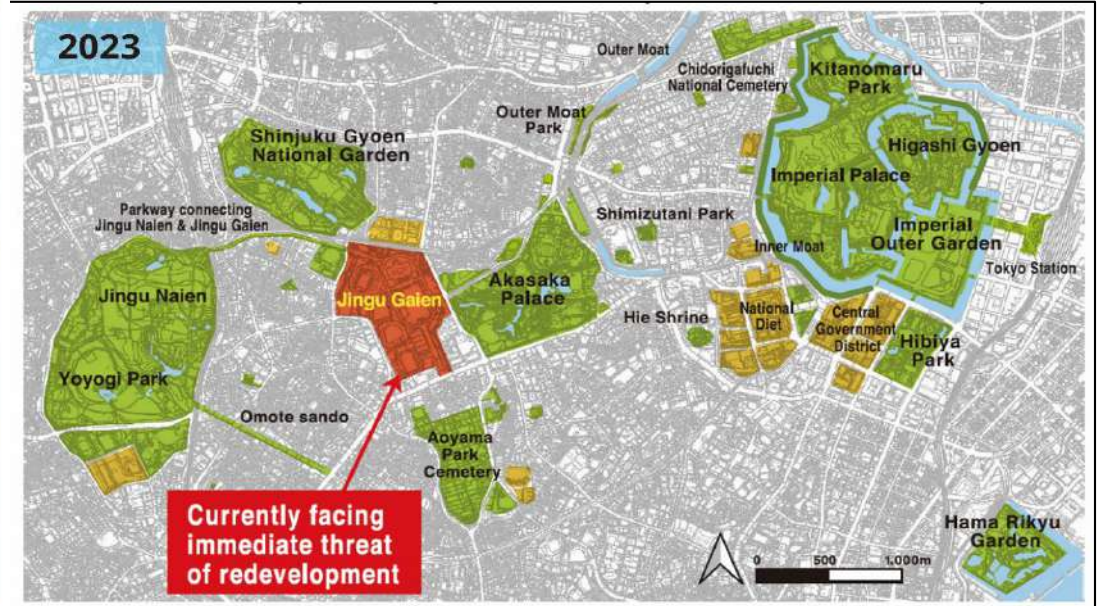
**United Nations,
The Human Rights Council
March 1, 2024
serious apprehension on
inadequate public consultation**

**No Respon from
Tokyo Metropolitan
Government, which
approved the
redevelopment.**

**The developer finally
announced two
responses on
September 9th, 2024.**

Cultural Heritage of Tokyo

Jingu Inner Garden and Outer Garden were established in 1920's, based on the assets from Edo era. These are the precious place which could become a World Heritage site in future.

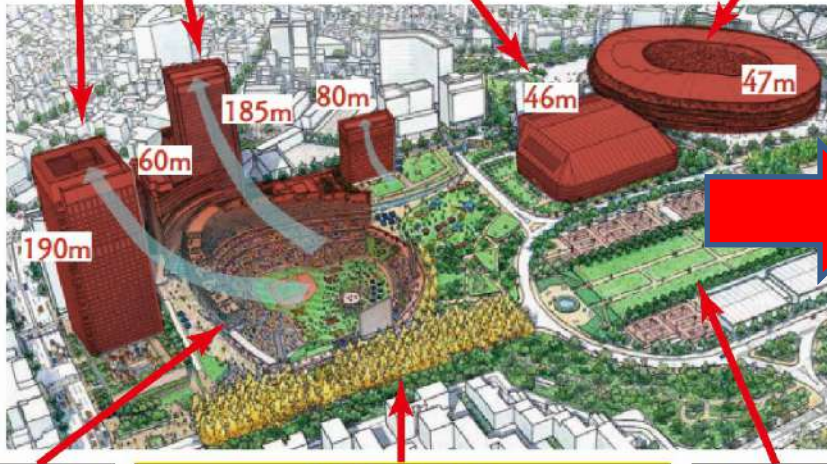


Redevelopment Project, Former

Office Buildings:
ITOCYU Co.(190m)
Mitsui Fudosan(185m)

Rugby
Stadium

National Stadium



Baseball
Stadium
with Hotel

Ginkgo Promenade

Facing the risk of sustainability since
Jingu Baseball Stadium would be constructed,
adjacent to Ginkgo tree

Tennis Court
For members,
only

Redevelopment Project, Revised on Sept. 2024

Transplanted and Cutting down trees

Former 918 trees

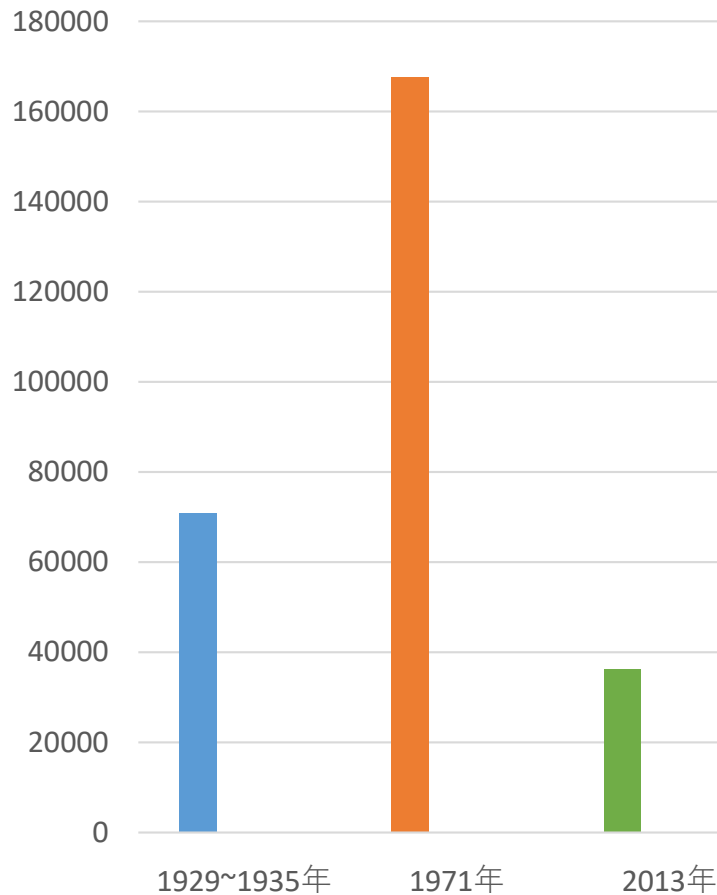
Revised 861 trees

Distance of the baseball field set back
from the Ginkgo tree
10.3m expansion

The revised plan is getting worse

- ① No scientific consideration has been given to the decline of Ginkgo due to global warming.
- ② The plan does not consider the danger to the avalanche of crowds.
- ③ The historical meanings of trees and their conservation and restoration as ecosystem are not considered.

Changes of the number of trees in Meiji Shrine Inner Garden from 1929~2013



year \ number of trees	number of trees
1929~1935	70,904
1971	167,688
2013	36,322

Including those with a circumference of less than 30 cm
 Sources : Meiji Jingu Shrine Office(1980), *Report on the Comprehensive Survey of the Meiji Jingu Precincts*
 Meiji Jingu Shrine Office (2013), *Centennial Anniversary of the Founding: Comprehensive Survey of the Second Meiji Jingu Precincts*

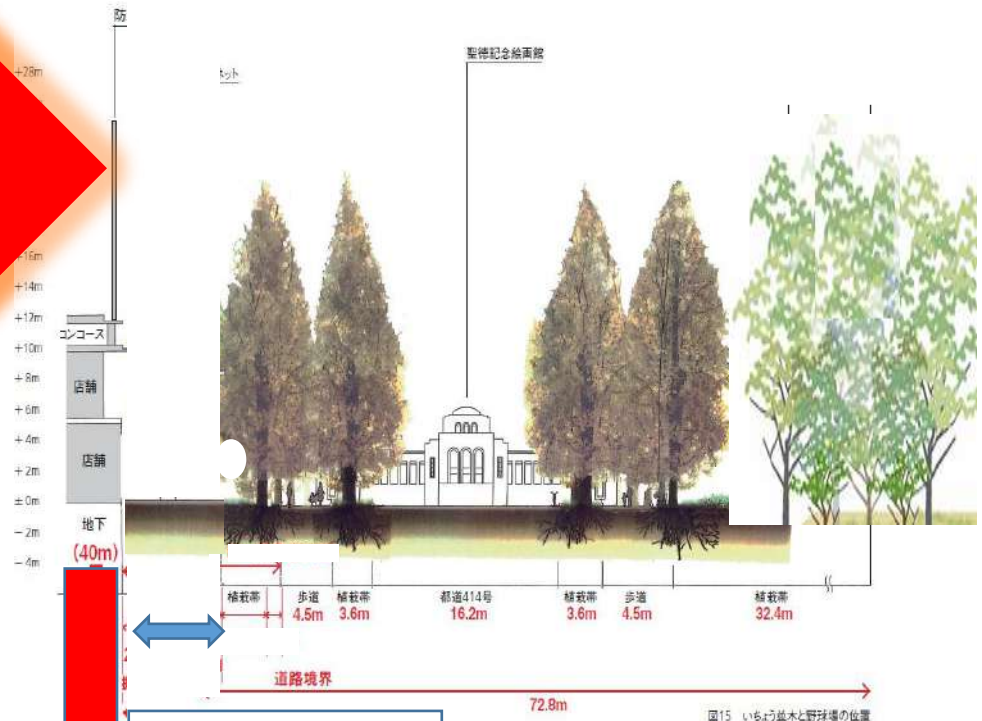
As the forest matures, the number of trees decreases

**Itocyu
Corporation
190m**

**Mitsui Fudosan
185m**

Destruction of Culutral Heritage 「Modern Landscape Garden」 Created in 1920's, influenced by the City Beautiful Movement

**Huge heat source
Increase in the
heat island
effect**



Expansion of set back
line, 10m more

**Style
The beauty of symmetry**

**Worsening of
sun light**

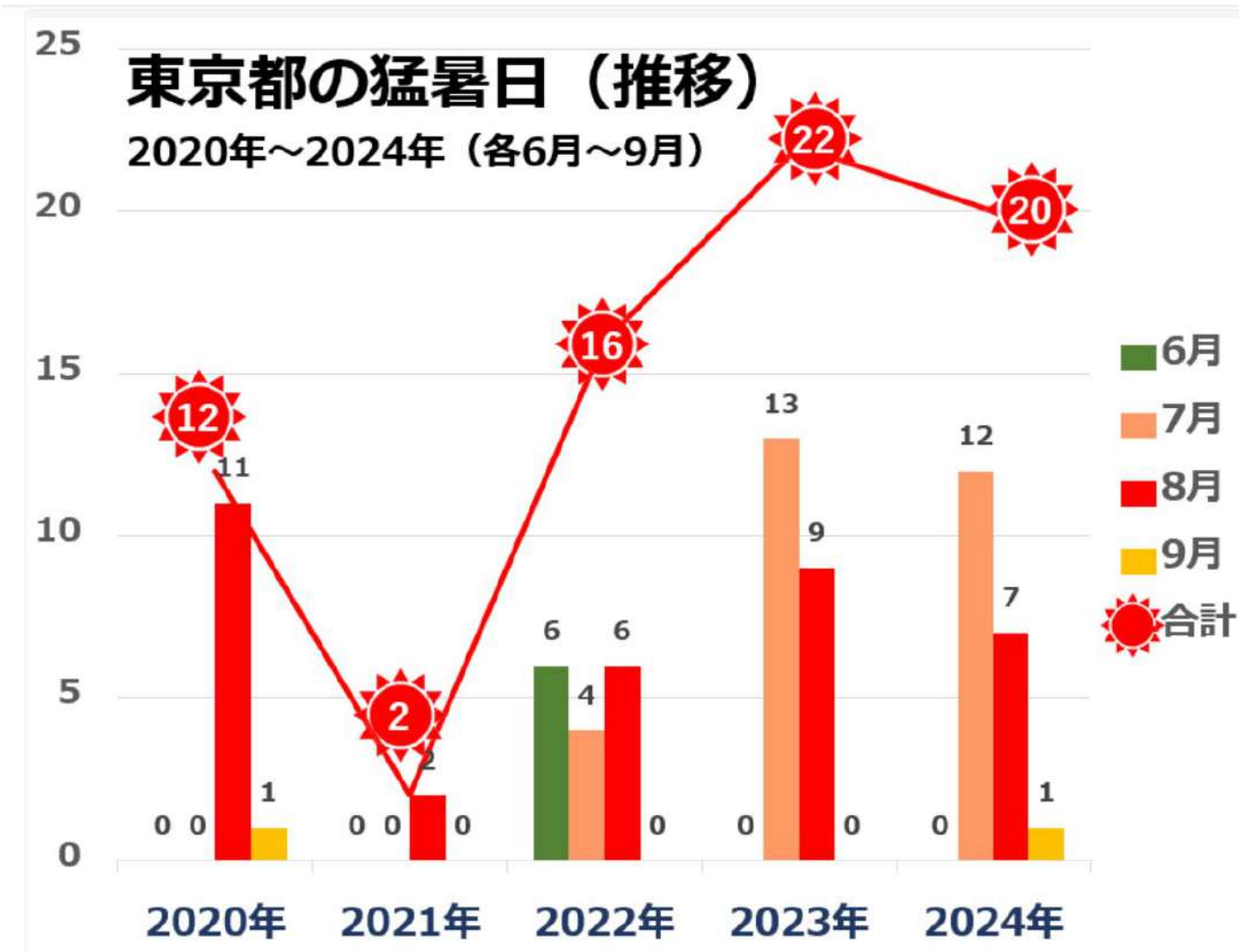
**baseball
stadium with
hotel
60m**

**Building
wind**

**Underground piles
4 0 m**

Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Park and Urban Development

Very hot day (maximum temperature of 35°C or higher) in Tokyo

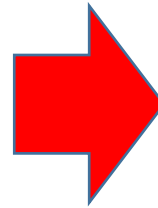


<https://www.teguchi.info/weather/summer/extremely-hot-day/>

False report to the Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding Ginkgo Trees

All ginkgo trees reported as having activity level A (Developers, submitted on January 20, 2023)

The Environmental Impact Council accepted the application despite knowing that it was false (January 30, 2023).
On February 17, 2023, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government gave its approval.
The mayor of Shinjuku City gave permission to cut down 3,000 trees in the scenic area.



The developer never admitted it, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Council also did not admit it.

Regarding the decline of the ginkgo trees, there is a revision plan that was released this time includes a description that is recognized by arborists.

It states that the trees are so seriously ill that it would not be surprising if they died at any time.



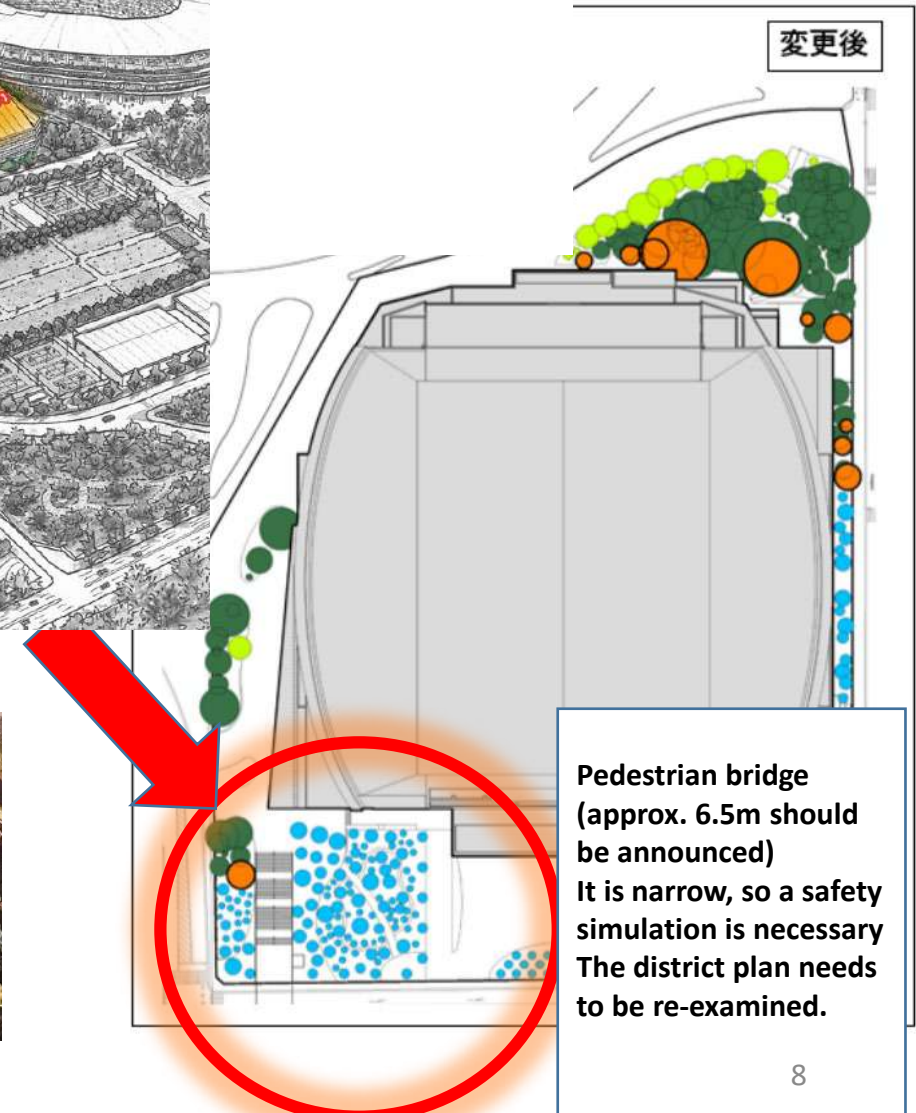
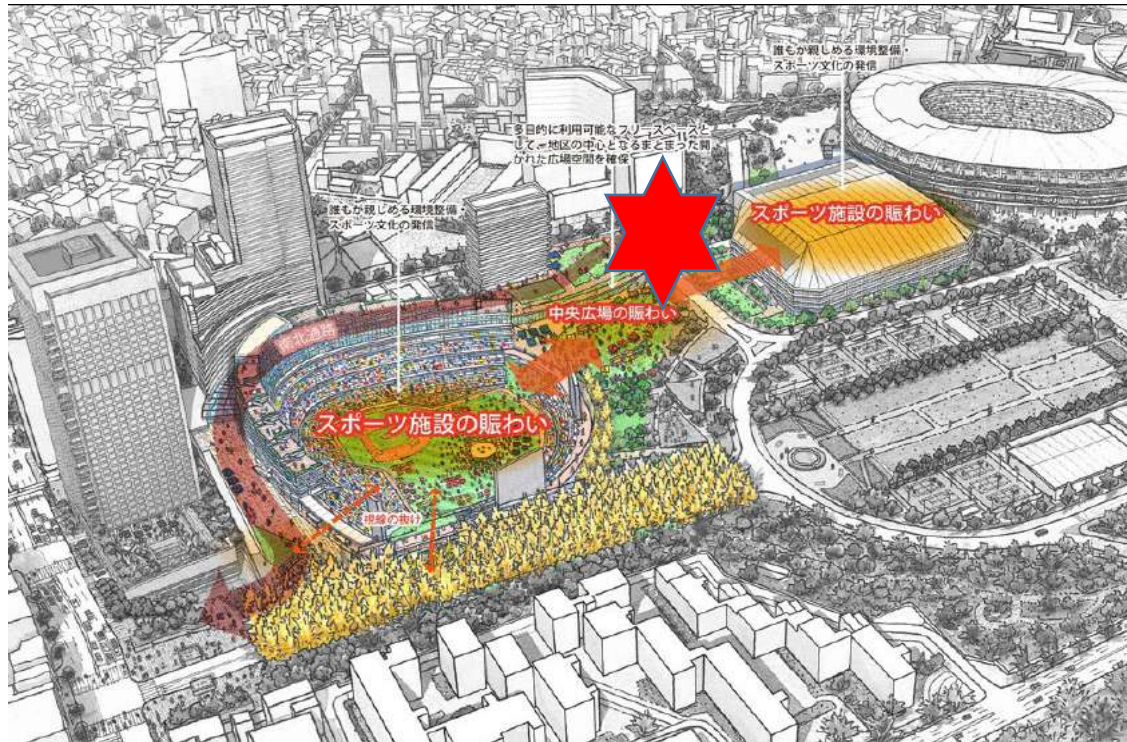
Re-examination by the Environmental Impact Assessment Council is necessary. ICOMOS, which has pointed this out, should attend to the committee.

Tokyo Metropolitan Government's view: No need since there are experts.



Getting worse

Narrow Pedestrian Deck, Need the simulation to prevent the danger of avalanche of crowds



保存緑地とあるが、
建国記念文庫の常緑落葉広葉樹林の群落を形成していない。モニタリング・サイトがない。

ヒトツバタゴ
2代目の現地保存

霞門の保存
スタジオの保存

変更後

ヒトツバタゴ
陽光の中で
開花

ラグビー場の
直下（北側）
で、次第に
衰退する

緑の軸線の破壊
南北軸



Forest , which is being destroyed

What is the purpose of development?

Phase 1: December 2011 “Tokyo in 2020” Four Major Sports Clusters

Phase 2: December 2013 “Park Town Development System” Creating a good urban environment

Phase 3: Present “Protecting the greenery of the inner gardens” (Mitsui Fudosan)

The purpose of the redevelopment
is to preserve
The forest of Jingu Inner Garden
(Mitsui Fudosan)



The End

No matter how much money Mitsui Fudosan & Itocyu Corporation provides, it is impossible to protect the forest of the Jingu Inner garden.

The crisis in the inner garden forest is due to the serious depletion of water resources and
Rapid spread of diseases of oak and chestnut trees by accompanying global warming,

Meiji Jingu Inner Gardens Development Map

明治神宮境内地形変遷図

Bank

Insufficient water volume

Stream dry up



Insufficient water
volume



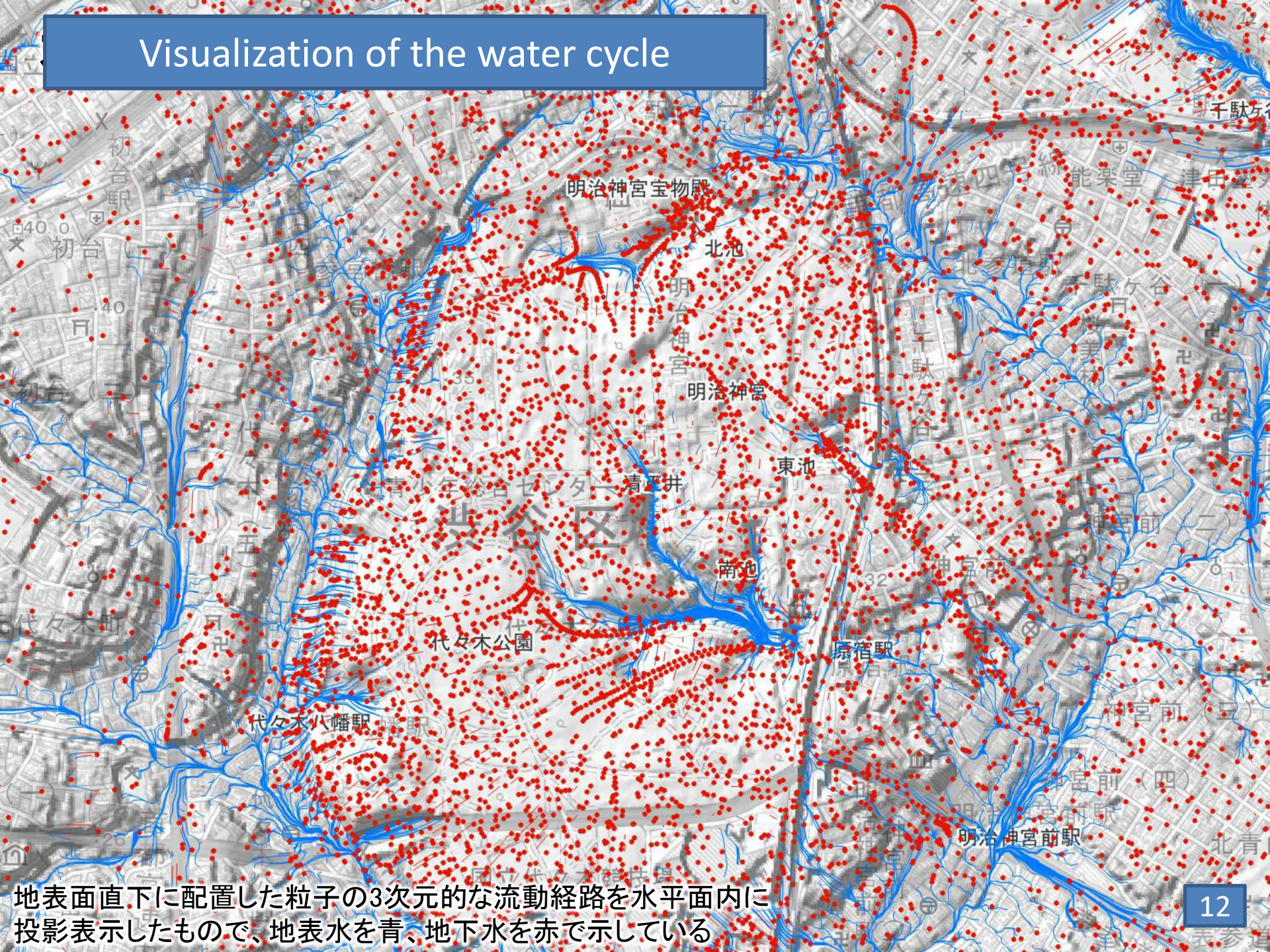
Stream dry up



Oak and Japanese oak
diseases

Retention Pond
Created 1920's

Visualization of the water cycle



地表面直下に配置した粒子の3次元的な流動経路を水平面内に投影表示したもので、地表水を青、地下水を赤で示している

The Recommendation of ICOMOS

The inner and outer gardens are rare urban forests in the world that was created as a pair of forests.

For this reason, the outer gardens should not be sacrificed in order to protect the inner garden.

The inner garden forest is facing a serious problem due to the depletion of the water environment and the effects of Naragare (the disease of Oak and Japanese Chestnut trees), and society must recognize that this is not a problem that can be solved by simply stacking up money.

Recommendation of ICOMOS

The solution to achieving sustainability in the Inner Garden Forest is to channel rainwater from Yoyogi Park into the Inner Garden, which is in the lower basin.

However, the Japanese Constitution states that “no religious organization shall receive any privileges from the State” (Article 20).

For this reason, we think that the only way forward is for Meiji Shrine to donate the Kitaike area, Gyoen, nurseries, etc. to the government, excluding the sacred forest, the parkings, and the shops, and entrust the maintenance and management to the national government.

As for the outer garden, Gaien, if Meiji Jingu would own a revenue-generating facility such as the baseball stadium and the memorial Art Gallery, and the park areas would be donated to the national government, the maintenance and management costs will be reduced, and there will be no need for reckless urban development.

This is our recommendation, but we think it is time for society to consider alternatives to preserve precious cultural urban forests.