

## History of the Maeda Ippoen Foundation

1906:

Maeda Masana (1850-1921) was Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. He purchased 3,900 hectares of land around Lake Akan from the government, established a foundation called Akan Maeda Ippoen and becomes its first director. “Ippo” in the word “Ippoen” means “one step” and comes from a phrase that says “in all things, each step is important.” The “en” means “an estate.” He issued a charter declaring all Maeda family assets to be public property.

1921:

On August 11, Maeda Masana passed away. Maeda Shoji (1887–1957), Masana’s second son, took over as the foundation’s second director. Honoring his father’s wish for the mountains and forests of Akan to be enjoyed for their beauty and not exploited for their natural resources, he undertook forestry regulation and the development of hot spring operations while endeavoring to promote the Akan region.

1934:

On December 4, approximately 90,000 hectares of land, including Lake Akan, Lake Mashu, and Lake Kussharo, is designated as Akan National Park.