

## Natural Wealth of the Marshland

The Tadewara Marsh is one of Kuju's most important freshwater environments. Created by the upwelling of fresh spring water from the surrounding mountains, Tadewara is a valley rich with plant and animal life. The geographical location and geological structure of the Tadewara Marsh supports a thriving ecosystem of thick, marshy grasses, rare and beautiful plants, endemic aquatic insects, and wild birds.

The high altitude, around 1,000 m above sea level, and relatively cool climate of the marsh promote the growth of a variety of wildflowers. More than 100 different species bloom in the area from spring to autumn, including the globe thistle (*Echinops setifer*), Japanese water iris (*Iris ensata*), purple and yellow loosestrife (*Lythrum anceps*), star lily (*Lilium concolor*), and Japanese ligularia (*Ligularia japonica*), attracting many types of butterflies and other insects.

The abundance of insects also attracts small birds to the marshlands, such as the chestnut-eared bunting (*Emberiza fucata*). Many of these species are only found in the unique conditions of the Tadewara Marsh, resulting in the area being designated a Ramsar Site of International Importance in 2005.