

Ecological Succession in Urabandai

A mature and diverse forest is developing out of the wasteland that was left in the wake of the enormous eruption and partial collapse of Mt. Bandai in 1888. The thick forests growing here today are the result of reforestation and natural vegetation recovery, known as ecological succession. This multi-decade process begins with the emergence of “pioneer species” that nourish the soil and encourage the growth of other plants, and the migration of animal species from surrounding habitats. Next to emerge are fast-growing, light-loving shrubs and trees, and finally, more resilient trees, such as beech.