

Introduction

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■ View Biodiversity Information

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3. Example of a vegetation map: Zoom in and open a vegetation map (detailed map) from a grid square icon.
4. Download
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▪ Preparation 1 Install Google Earth

1. Google Earth can be downloaded from the following webpage. Open the homepage: <http://earth.google.com/intl/ja/index.html>
2. Click on 'Download Google Earth' button followed by 'Agree and Download'; follow instructions on your screen to install Google Earth.
3. When the program is installed, click on Google Earth icon on your desktop. If the installation has been completed, Google Earth will start.

■Preparation 2 Learn how to use Google Earth

1. Google Earth is a digital globe. It displays satellite images of the land surface, names of places, roads, building structures, etc.
2. With a mouse or a keyboard, it allows various operations such as rotating, zooming in/zooming out on the globe. Use your instincts and just try it.
3. Overview and details of operations are provided in the following websites:

<http://earth.google.com/intl/ja/userguide/v4/tutorials/navigating.html>

<http://enchanted.cside.com/freesoft/google-earth2.html>

<http://earth.google.co.jp/userguide/v5/>

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1-1 Startup

1. Open 'Top Page'.

URL : http://www.biodic.go.jp/trialSystem/top_en.html

The screenshot shows the 'Top Page' of the Biodiversity Center of Japan. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About Us', 'Access', 'Site Map', 'Contact Us', and 'Japanese'. Below this is a banner with the text '環境省 自然環境局 生物多様性センター Biodiversity Center of Japan'. The main content area is titled 'Natural Environmental Information GIS' and 'Viewing KML Data'. It contains several sections: 'The results of the National Surveys on the Natural Environment', 'Data on areas and borders of the National Parks and National Wildlife P...', and 'Brief Instructions for Natural Environmental Information GIS'. There are several PDF links for manuals and legends. A red box highlights the link 'Start Natural Environmental Information GIS'. At the bottom, there is a 'File Download' dialog box and a map of Yamanashi with various survey data points.

2. Click on 'Download Trial System'; Google Earth* will start automatically.

*Google Earth needs to be installed first.

URL : <http://earth.google.com/intl/ja/>

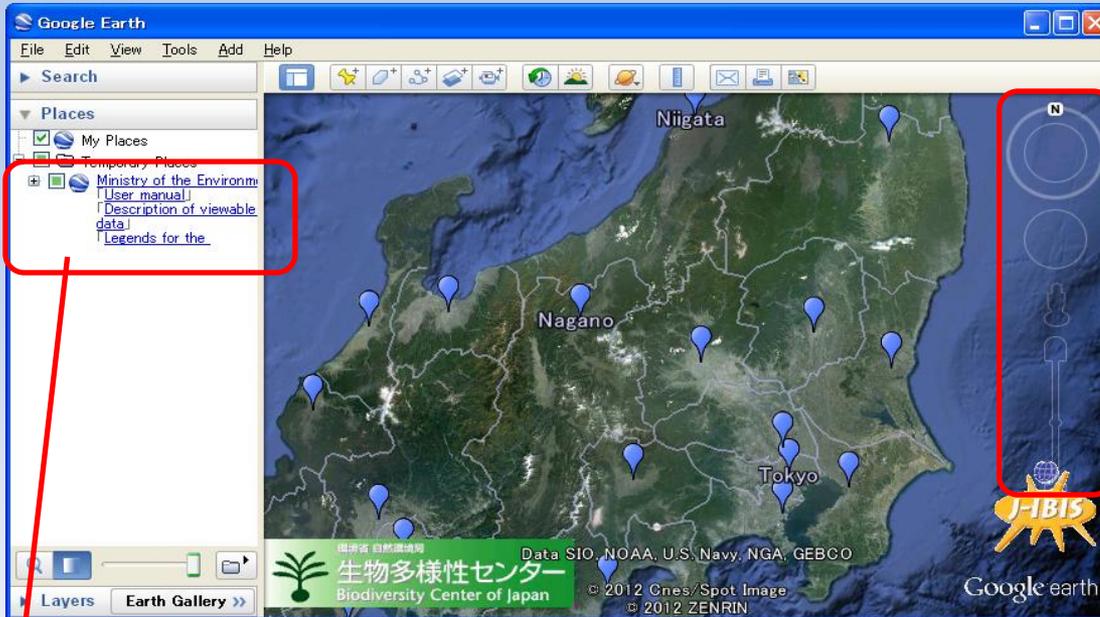
The screenshot shows the Google Earth interface. The main map displays Japan with several blue balloons representing prefecture icons. The interface includes a search bar, a 'Places' list on the left, and a 'Layers' list at the bottom. A red box highlights the 'Start Natural Environmental Information GIS' link from the previous screenshot, pointing to a specific location on the map. Other red boxes highlight the navigation controls (Zoom in/Zoom out/Rotate), the 'Favorite' button, the 'Transparency Slider Bar', the 'Prefecture icons', the 'Sign' (Biodiversity Center of Japan logo), and the 'Logo' (IBIS logo).

Google Earth contents (geography, roads, names of places, etc.)

1-2 Display Operation

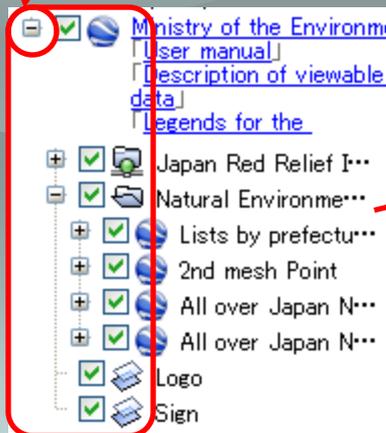
1. Zoom in, zoom out or rotate a view. The operations can be done using your mouse or keyboard.*

*See Google Earth User Guide
<http://earth.google.co.jp/userguide/v5/>

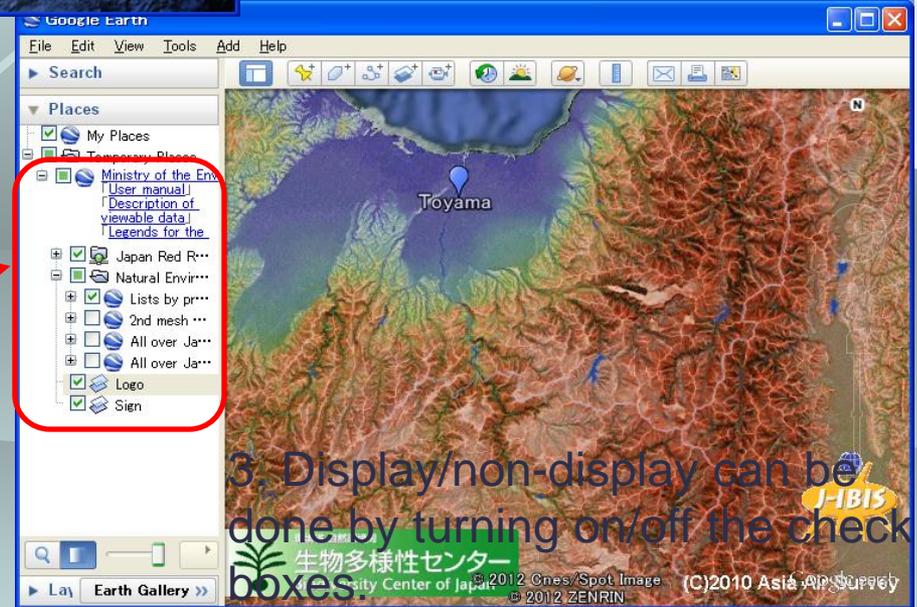


Red Relief Image Map
(Geography, SRTM90m Mesh)

2. Underlying items can be opened or closed by clicking **+** and **-**.

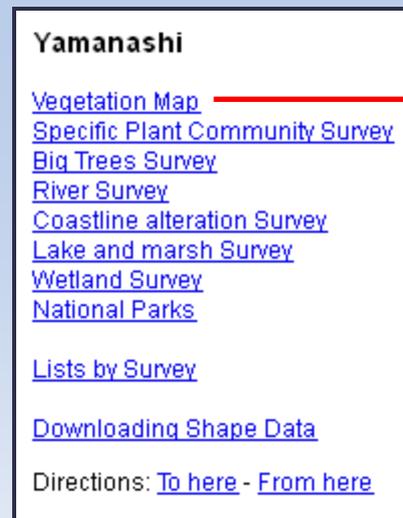
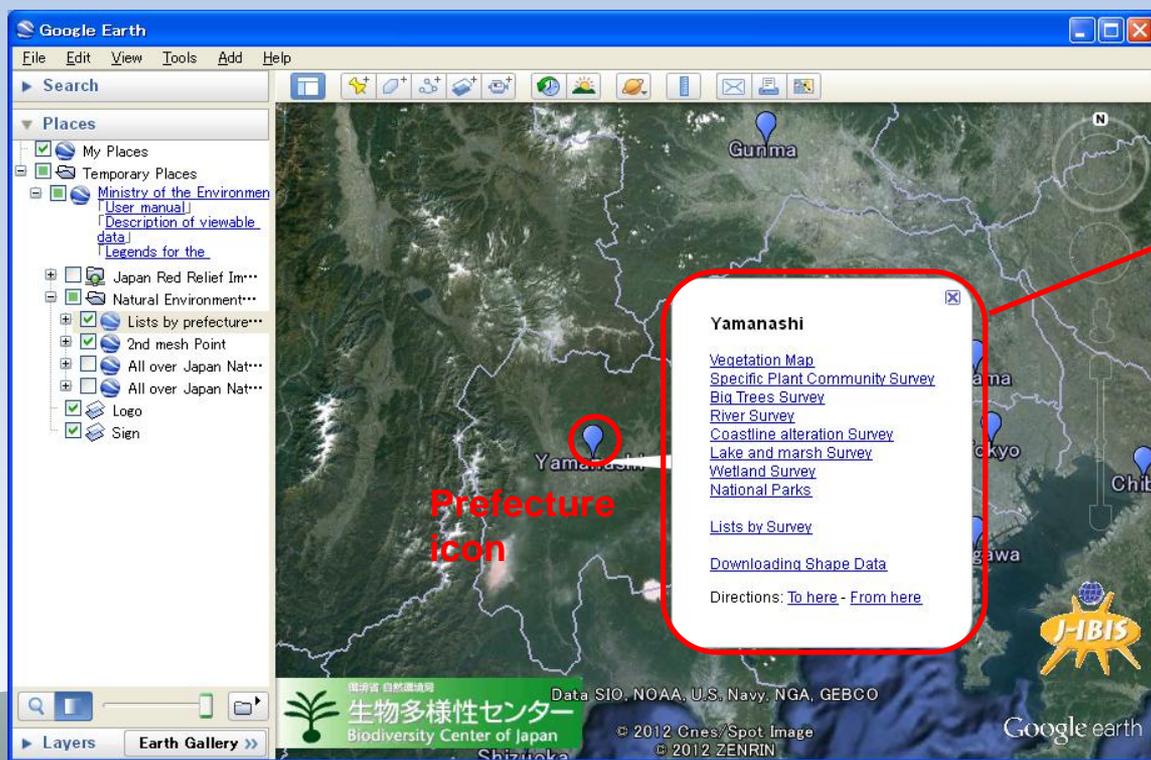


*For faster processing, please zoom in then display large data.



3. Display/non-display can be done by turning on/off the check boxes.

2. Open data from a prefecture icon



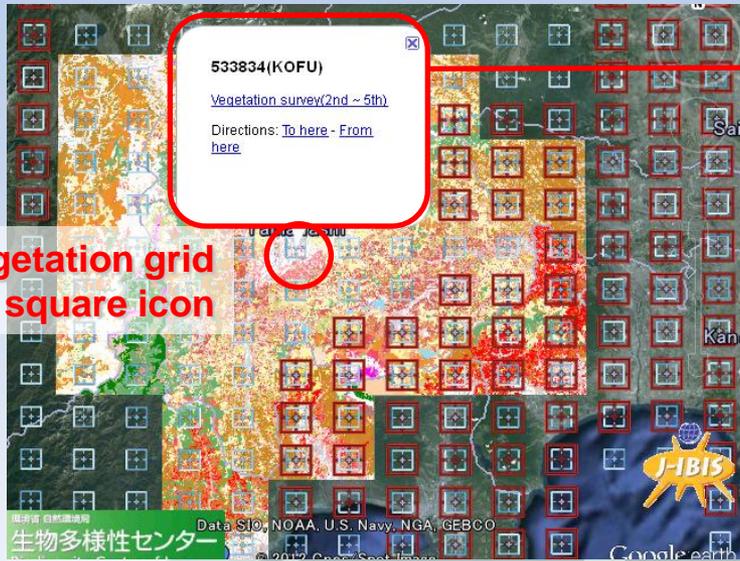
Example: 'Vegetation Map (Overview)' is being selected.

1. Click on a prefecture icon; click on data in the pop-up screen for display.

Prefecture icon



3-1 Open a vegetation map (detail map) from a grid square icon



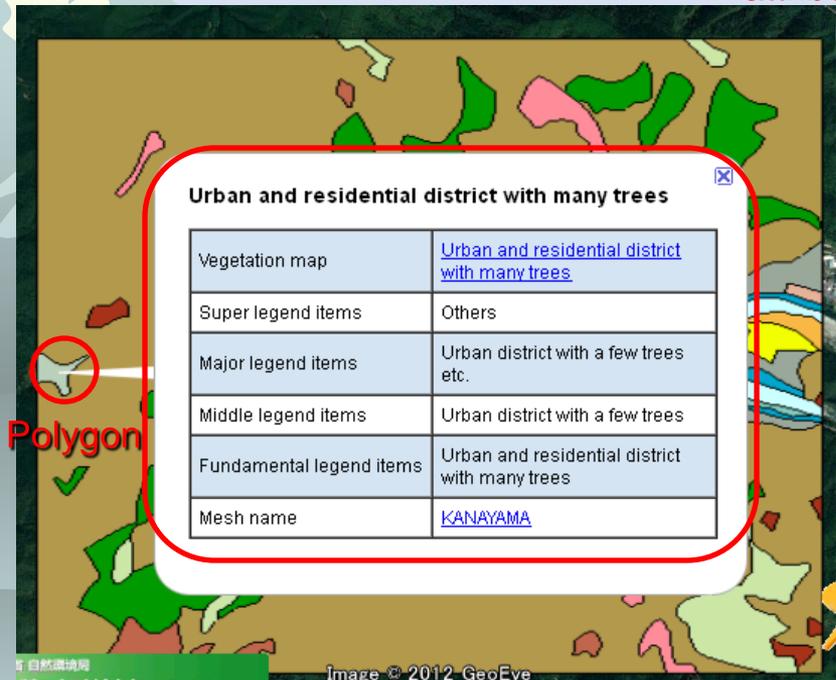
Vegetation grid square icon

Example: Multiple vegetation grid squares are being opened



1. Click on a vegetation grid square icon then 'Detail Vegetation Map'.

Detail vegetation map and attributes

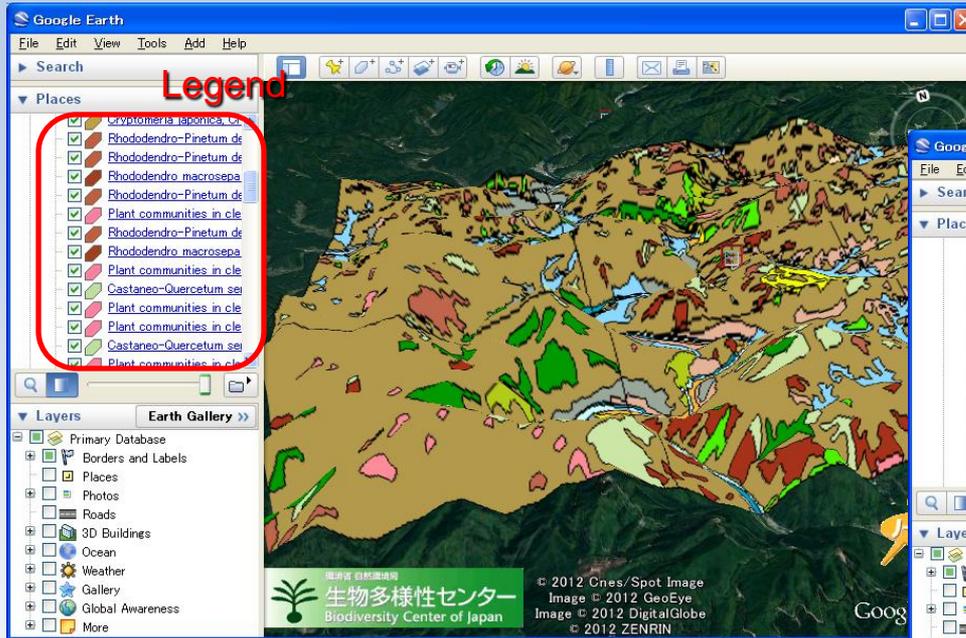


Polygon

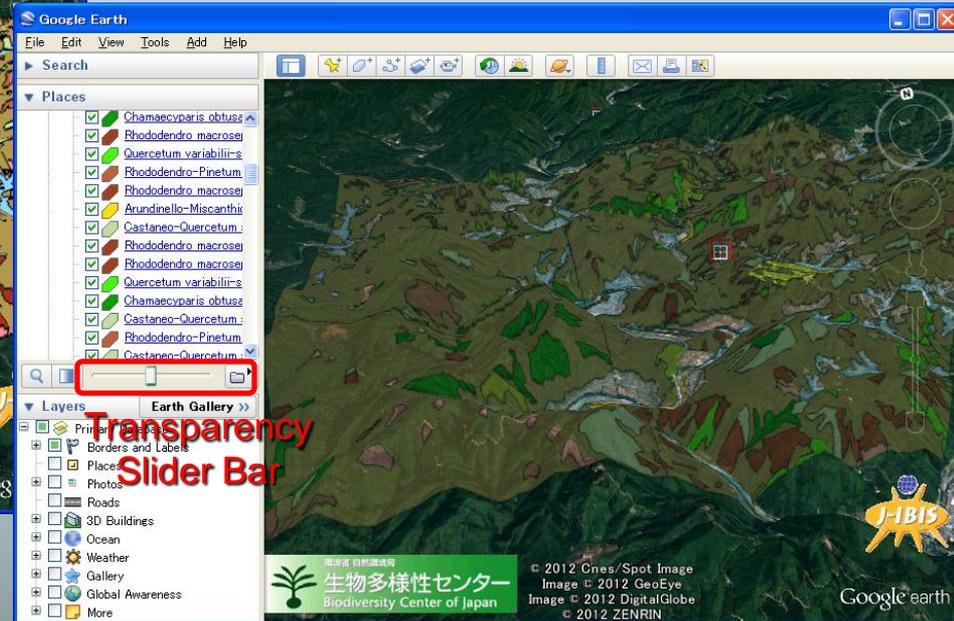
2. Click on the polygon to display attributes.

3-2 Various ways of displaying

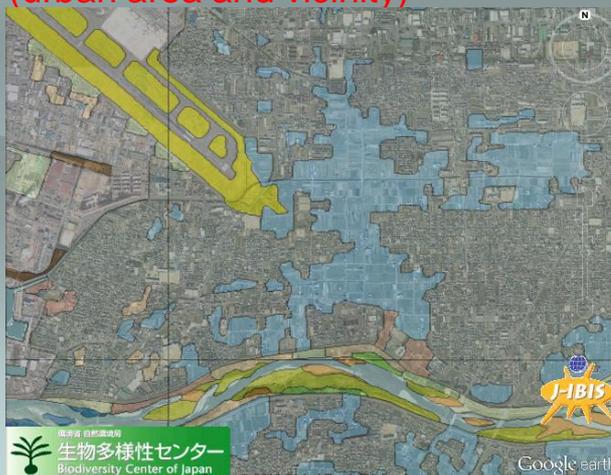
Example: Tilted 3D view



Example 1: Showing the background



Example 2: Showing the background (urban area and vicinity)



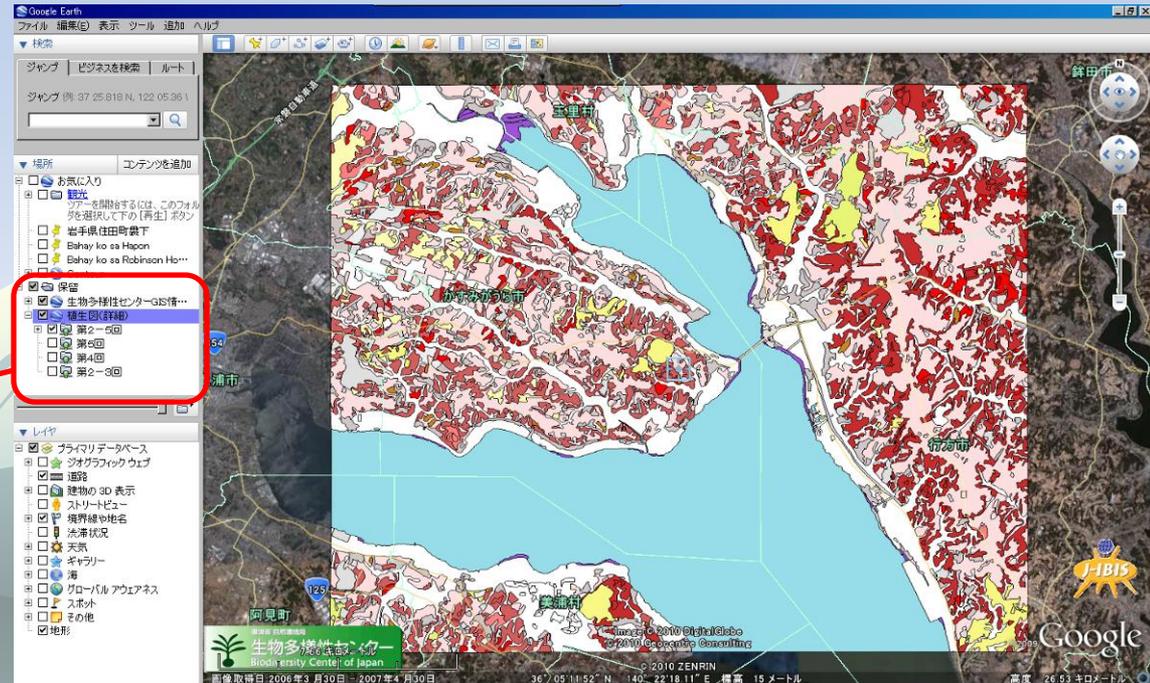
1. By using a mouse or keys, a view can be tilted, rotated or scrolled.
 2. By using a transparency slider bar, you can make background layers transparent.
- *Put multiple information layers in one folder to make the entire folder transparent. See Item 5.

3-3 Open an old vegetation map (detail map)

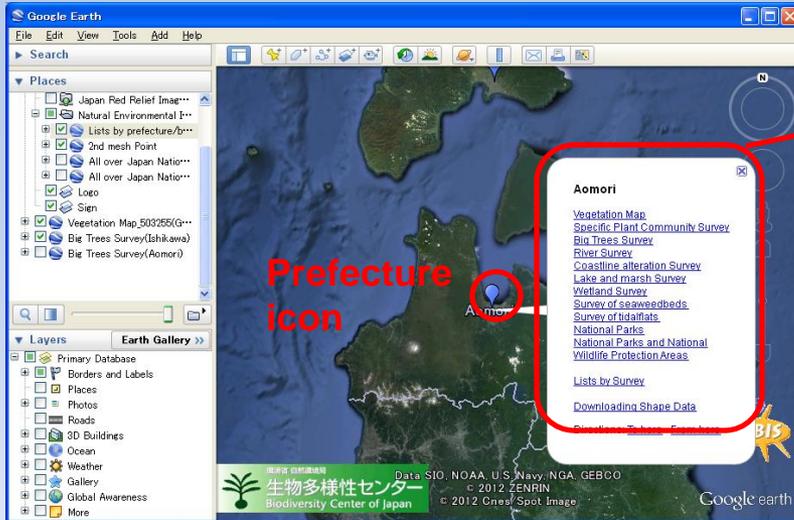
1. Click on '+', which flips to '-', on 'Vegetation Map (Detail Map)' to display the history of the map.



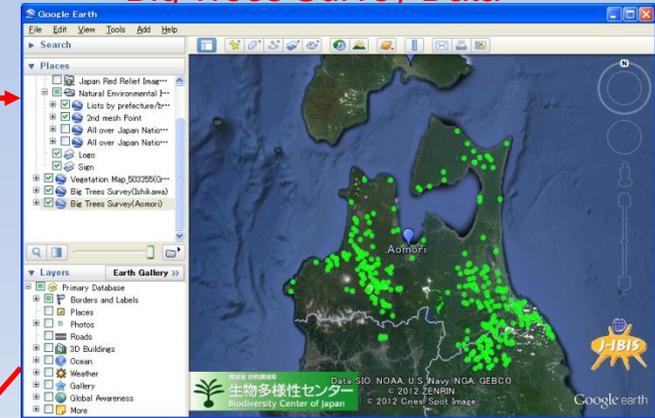
2. Click on one of the check boxes to display an old vegetation map.



3-4 Open the Big Trees Survey Data



Big Trees Survey Data



Example: A vicinity of a piece of the Big Trees Survey data is being zoomed in

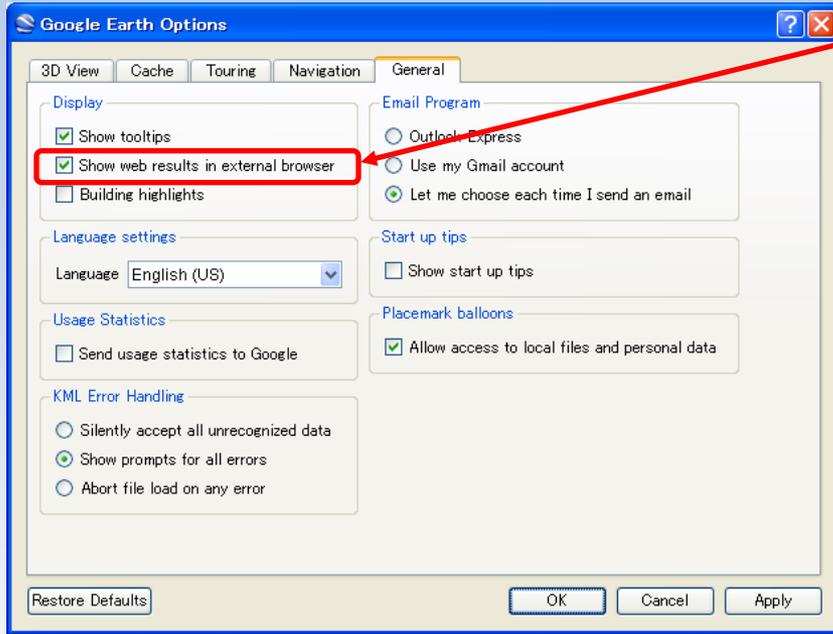
1. Click on a Prefecture icon then 'Big Trees Survey' in the pop-up screen.



*Some big trees have been cut down.

4. Download

'Option' screen of the Google Earth 'Tool' menu



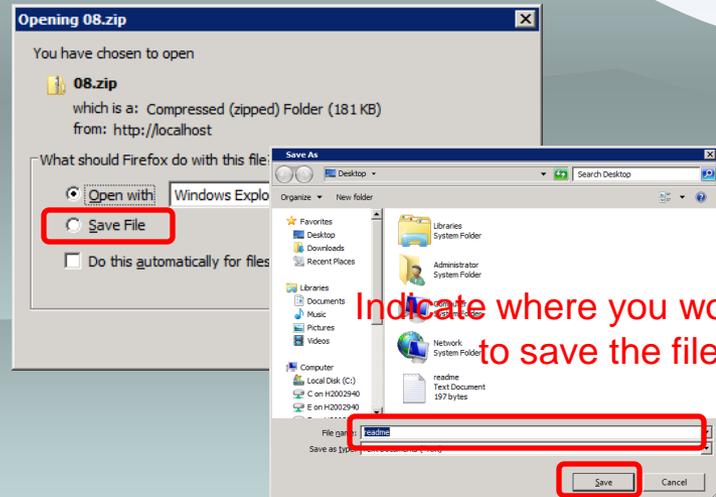
1. It is recommended that you confirm 'Display Website Search Results on Exterior Browser' in 'Option' screen of the Google Earth 'Tool' menu.

2. Click on 'Download Shape File' in the pop-up screen of a prefecture icon.

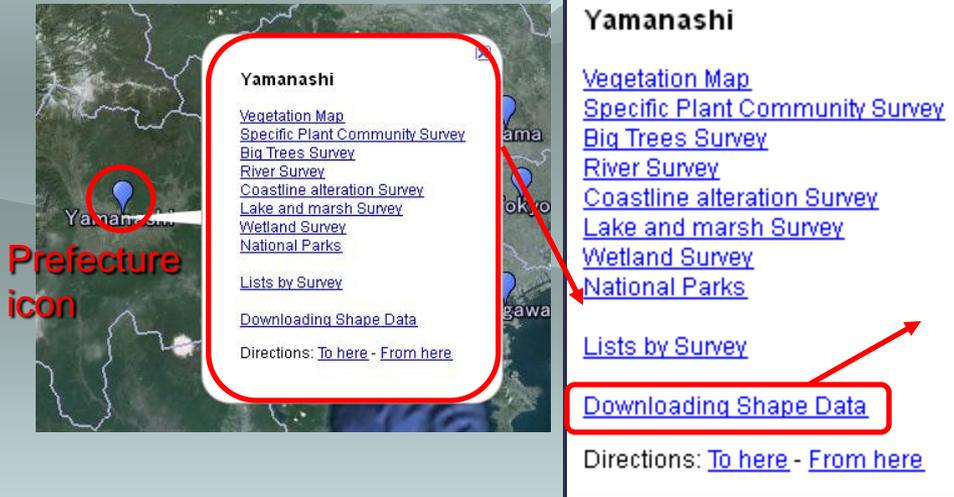
3. In a few seconds, a screen will show 'The Following File is Being Opened'. Click on 'OK' for 'Save this File', input a file name and click on 'Save'. The entire set of data for the particular prefecture will be downloaded.

*The file size can vary from 41MB to 210MB.

Select 'Save File' (Example of Firefox screen).



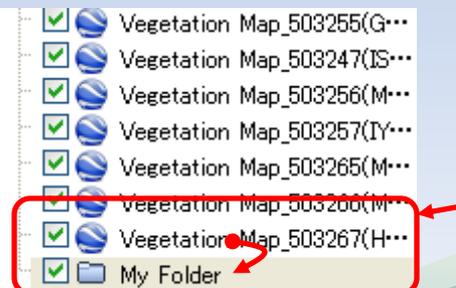
Indicate where you would like to save the file



Prefecture icon

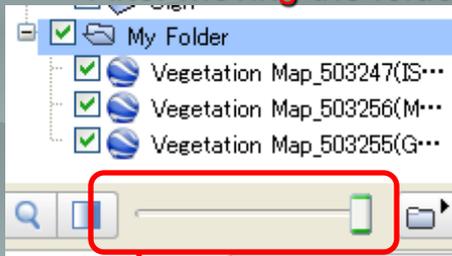
5. Save and Close

1. Add a folder in which the file will be saved. You can choose any name for the folder.



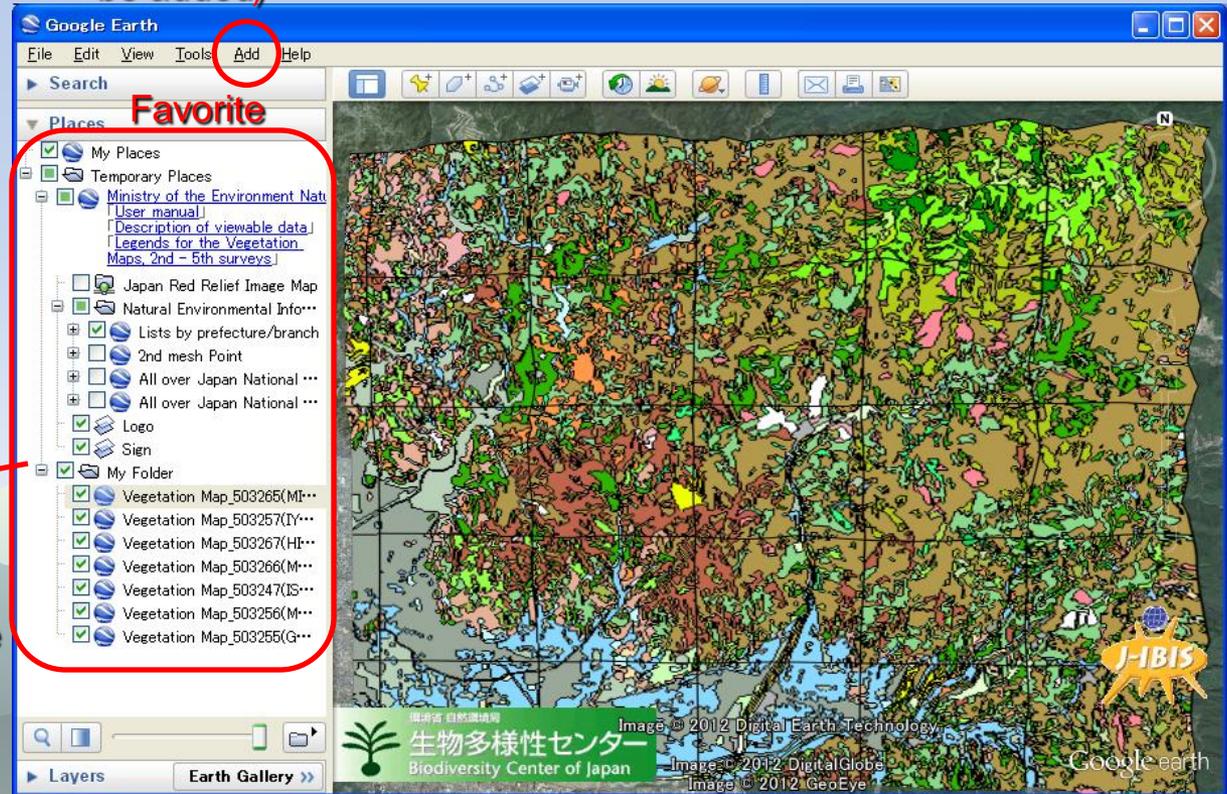
Move the folder icon with a mouse

After moving the folder icon



*Multiple data sets in one folder can be made transparent.

'Add' menu (point/line/area information, photographs, images, etc. can be added)



Example: Multiple vegetation grid squares are being opened.

2. Move the data that you would like to save into the newly-created folder (drag and drop).

3. When closing Google Earth, click on 'Save' for 'Would you like to save the folder as Favorite?'. If you do not wish to save the folder as Favorite, click 'Discard'.