

**WORLD MONUMENTS FUND ANNOUNCES GRANT
TO SUPPORT RESTORATION OF SANRO-DEN OF SUKUNAHIKONA
SHRINE IN OZU, EHIME PREFECURE, JAPAN**

For Immediate Release—Tokyo, Japan, December 18, 2014... World Monuments Fund (WMF) announced today a grant to support the efforts of the local community in Ozu, Ehime Prefecture, to restore and preserve Sanro-Den at Sukunahikona Shrine, an example of kake-zukuri style architecture that is most famously seen at Kiyomizu-dera Temple, a World Heritage site in Kyoto. The grant will be announced at a ceremony held at the site on December 21.

The sanro-den was listed on 2014 World Monuments Watch as one of 67 buildings at risk in 41 countries and territories. While most kake-zukuri buildings constructed in steep mountain areas were built before the Meiji Period (1868–1912), this sanro-den, built in 1934, is one of a handful from the twentieth century, but has languished for a decade. At the hillside of Mt. Yanase overlooking Hijikawa River, the building stands like a "castle in the air" with modern attributes like transparent glass walls.

WMF, with support from the Freeman Foundation, is providing the funds to support the efforts of Osukuna Troupe and the Executive Committee of Sukunahikona Shrine Sanro-Den Restoration that covers not only the physical restoration of Sanro-Den but also the site improvement at the shrine and outreach programs to ensure sustainable preservation of the cultural heritage. The restoration project will be completed in March 2015.

The restoration of Sanro-Den would be the first full restoration of a kake-zukuri building, and will return the site to community use and help develop methods that will save other such structures. Its completion will help restore the community vitality of Ozu and neighboring areas where many other cultural heritage sites, including those of industrial modernization, have survived.

World Monuments Fund

World Monuments Fund's mission is to protect against the loss of the world's architectural heritage, including the built environment, the artistic elements that enhance it, and the cultural traditions that it sustains. WMF builds global partnerships to conserve key cultural sites in response to urgent threats, and broadens public understanding about the central importance of heritage in our lives. Our work makes historic places accessible and sustainable, builds and replenishes skills needed to care for our common heritage, and

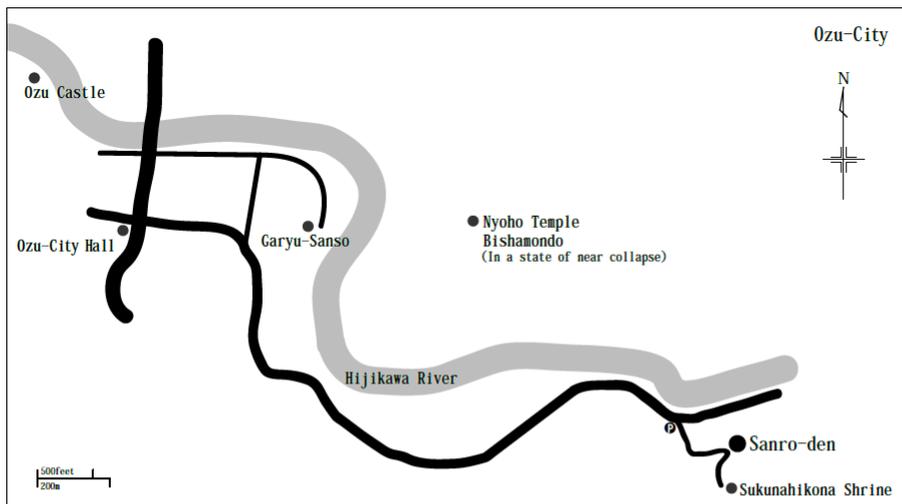
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communicates the benefits of this work to the global public. wmf.org, twitter.com/worldmonuments, and facebook.com/worldmonuments.

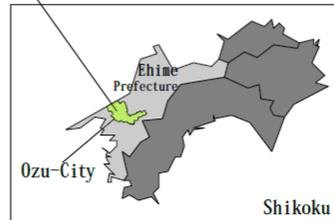
Media Inquiries:

Mitsuo Inagaki, World Monuments Fund in Japan, +81-80-67261308,
minagaki.culture@gmail.com

Ben Haley, World Monuments Fund (New York), +1 646 424-9594, bhaley@wmf.org



Birds-eye view of Ozu City



Sanro-Den



Approach to Sanro-Den at Sukunahikona Shrine