

Stage I: Protection of important religious and artistic **Objects**



1897: The Law for the Preservation of Ancient Shrines and Temples (koshaji hozen hō) restricts its vision of cultural property to valuable art objects within shrines and temples, which in the law are termed National Treasures, and to shrines and temples themselves which according to the law should be protected as building-objects (kenzō-butsu). Even today, these mostly religious art-objects and religious buildings still form the great majority among the locally or nationally registered tangible cultural heritage.

1929: The National Treasures Preservation Law (kokuhō hozon hō) enlarges the number of types of art-objects and building-objects, but does not alter the basic vision of a cultural asset being simply an object.

1933: The Law Concerning the Preservation of Important Objects of Art (jūyō bijutsuhin no hozon ni kansuru hōritsu) includes more but the same objects. All of these laws have most recently been replaced by the 1975 Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.