

# 7 Projects

2007 Eco projects

**Legend**

- Community development
- Environmental education

**L2 Environmental Education Support Project at Schools**

## Improving environmental awareness in the schools

The goal of this project is to help schools provide environmental education. We match up NPOs around Japan, which know how to run nature experience programs, with schools that are looking for this type of expertise and opportunity. By combining the best of these two types of organizations, we are able to arrange excellent environmental education programs. In addition, we also use the EE kids environmental education website as a platform for our activities.



Children experience nature by a river

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

We provided support for environmental education programs at nine schools around Japan in an effort to promote independent, self-directed environmental education. The EE kids website is popular with parents, who usually have few chances to see what goes on in school classrooms.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

In FY 2008, we will provide support for environmental education programs in 13 elementary and junior high schools (1 in Hokkaido, 1 in Iwate, 3 in Miyagi, 1 in Saitama, 3 in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, 2 in Mie, 1 in Kagoshima, and 1 in Okinawa).

### Schools supported in FY 2007

Area	School	Supporting organization	Theme
Hokkaido	Teinemyanooka Elementary School	Neos (NPO)	Getting to know nature in urban Sapporo
Miyagi	Ugusuzawa Elementary School	Kurikoma Highlands Nature School	Getting to know local nature and history
Saitama	Obukuro Higashi Elementary School	Center for Environmental Studies	Survey of living things in the biotope
Tokyo	Secondary Education School attached to the Faculty of Education, The University of Tokyo	Mokufutsha (NPO)	Learning about how forests work and global warming, and then taking action
Gifu	Kiyomi Junior High School	Shirin Takumi Juku	Seeing the function of forests and local culture through woodworking
Hiroshima	Kidari Elementary School	Human Sciences Institute	Getting to know the richness of the local sea and history
Kochi	Nanokawa Elementary School	Kuroshio Jikkai Center	The link between mountains and sea
Kumamoto	Oozu Elementary School	Communi-Net Association	Seeing the environment from the perspective of water
Kagoshima	Nishura Elementary School	Kusunokishizenkan	Learning about river environments

2004: 5 schools 2005: 6 schools 2006: 10 schools

## L3 "Eco" Activity Participatory Environmental Education Project Noguchi Ken Environmental School

### Helping to cultivate "environmental messengers"

"I want to cultivate 'environmental messengers' who can take environmental action and communicate their message to the rest of the world." With that thought in mind, Noguchi Ken and the NPO he leads opened up the Environmental School. Students there experience the beauty and fun of nature, and learn about social issues relating to environmental preservation.



Noguchi Ken plays a messenger game with students

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

We held a total of three sessions of the Environmental School at Mt. Fuji and Sado Island, and one messenger meeting in Tokyo. By means of hands-on programs at the forefront of environmental action, we are cultivating "environmental messengers" who can take environmental action on their own and communicate their message to the rest of the world. About 100 people attended the Environmental School courses and the meeting in Tokyo in FY 2007.

Location	Dates	Participants	Theme
Sado	Jul. 22-25	24	Release of the crested ibis into the wild in Sado.
Mt. Fuji	Aug. 11-14	28	Illegal dumping on Mt. Fuji.
Mt. Fuji (for family)	Sep. 15-17	21	Illegal dumping on Mt. Fuji. What a family can do about it on Mt. Fuji, and at home.
Tokyo	Dec. 15-16	31	Corporate environmental activities (eco product trade shows, etc.), influence of environmental messengers.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

The school will continue to train environmental messengers throughout the country. In FY 2008, it will hold the Environmental School classes on Mt. Fuji (3 classes) and in Sado and Tokyo, and will collect fees from participants to defray part of the costs, with a view to achieving its eventual goal of operating independently.



China

## Silk Road Afforestation Project

### Fighting desertification by planting trees

Desertification continues to claim new land in the dry loess plateau along China's ancient Silk Road. Local residents say there used to be plenty of greenery stretching from the City of Xian in Shaanxi Province all the way to the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, but the felling of trees for fuel, overgrazing, and other overuse of the land are creating an expanded wasteland. Together with project partner NPO2050, we have been planting sea buckthorn, which is highly resistant to the arid climate and severe temperature extremes of Shaanxi Province, and our afforestation work has now spread to neighboring Gansu Province.

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

We organized an afforestation tour in October 2007 to Gansu Province, where 14 members worked together with local residents to plant 120,000 seedlings. Including 30 hectares left over from FY 2006, we planted another 90,000 seedlings from November 2007 to April 2008. In addition, working with the locally based China Population Welfare Foundation we have visited afforestation districts and discussed seedling conditions, harvesting of sea buckthorn and environmental issues. We plan to address these issues in FY 2008.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

We will plant sea buckthorn in the loess plateau and monitor the situation. In FY 2008, local farmers will spearhead efforts to plant another 35 hectares with 105,000 sea buckthorn. We will continue to monitor planting techniques and data management to evaluate afforestation districts and resolve problems thus identified.

## Qinling Mountains Forest and Ecosystem Recovery Project

### Replanting abandoned roads

The Qinling Mountains are world famous as the home of a number of rare animals, including pandas and the endangered golden snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus roxellana*). However, the felling of trees for fuel since the late 20th century has desolated the land and begun to threaten the survival of many species of wild animals. In order to restore the rich forest ecosystem, we are replanting the abandoned roads thought to pose the most serious environmental threat (72.5 km out of a total of 194 km) and observing local animal and plant life.

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

Some 310 people were involved in the planting of 12,000 trees in a 16 km area along abandoned roads in the Qinling Mountains. According to news media reports, recent surveys indicate that small animals and even wild boars and golden snub-nosed monkeys (*Rhinopithecus roxellana*) are frequently observed along replanted sections of road. In addition, the habitat of the golden snub-nosed monkeys is under observation through a field work program, and academic papers are being published by both Chinese and foreign universities, including Cambridge University.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

By restoring the ecosystem inhabited by rare animals, reforestation in the Qinling Mountains has helped these animals regain strength and numbers. Unused forest roads lie abandoned on the northern slope of the mountains, and plans have been adopted to plant 14 km of these abandoned roads with 11,000 seedlings. We will continue observing numerous aspects of the ecological situation there, including how well wild animals are adapting.

## Sustainable Farming Support Project

### Cassava and silkworm farming

Located in the southwestern Philippines, the lush, green Palawan Island is said to be the most underdeveloped area in the country. Most of the farmers and other residents log the forests and engage in slash-and-burn agriculture. Working together with project partner NPO2050, we obtained the support of the TagBabay Foundation, which is located in the capital city of Puerto Princesa, for an environmental conservation activity in which we help local women learn how to cultivate cassava and raise Eri silkworms.

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

In FY 2007 we sent experts to train instructors, so that they can in turn teach people how to make Eri silk. We held three courses in Puerto Princesa and another one in Port Barton focusing on how to raise Eri silkworms, spin silk thread, and loom and weave silk fabrics. In addition, we dispatched instructors to three locations on the island to show local residents how to raise Eri silkworms.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

In FY 2008, we will continue to develop the skills of the instructors who teach local residents how to spin silk thread and loom and weave silk fabrics, and these instructors will in turn travel around the area upon request to share their skills with others. We will also continue providing micro-credit.

## South Pacific Countries Support Project

### Dealing with changing precipitation patterns and rising seas

The South Pacific island nations of Kiribati and Tuvalu are bearing the brunt of climate change. With an average elevation of just a few meters, rising seas in Kiribati and Tuvalu can send water into homes and cause wells to go saline. The threat is immediate. As a result, societies that once generated minimal waste and were largely self-sufficient have come to depend much more on outside sources for food. The influx of imports has generated huge volumes of trash. Very clearly, climate change is having a big impact on local society.

## Tropical Rainforest Conservation Project

### Encouraging a change from slash-and-burn agriculture

The South Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands both have close ties with Japan. They enjoy an abundant natural environment, but their populations are growing fast and their societies are undergoing rapid modernization, creating a need for greater food production and more cash income. As a result, commercial logging and slash-and-burn activities have expanded, and are now felling forests at a pace that exceeds the rate of natural regeneration. As part of the effort to save the tropical rainforests and solve the root causes of poverty, we are working to support a shift from slash-and-burn agriculture to more sustainable farming practices.

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

We worked mainly to build up our model training farms and to promote sustainable organic agriculture. At our training farms, we produced chocolate from cocoa beans grown on the farms, purchased 300 specialist books on organic farming and other topics, and registered 20 agricultural advisors with the national government. Our eventual aim is to localize operations. We experienced delays in procuring land, so the opening of Kokopo Eco Wildlife Park has been postponed to FY 2008.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

We will work to promote the adoption of sustainable farming. At our model training farm, which we intend should eventually be independently run, we will collect more reference books and train more technical personnel, and will provide organic farming advice at prison farms and improve the fertility of rice paddies. We will also dig wells and waterways in preparation for opening of the Kokopo Eco Wildlife Park in FY 2008.

## L1 Seed Planting School

### Forest restoration, environmental education—two birds with one "seed"

Seeds represent the beginning of everything, and symbolize the idea of an ever-lasting cycle. The school focuses on seeds as it works to strengthen the forest ecosystem and carry out environmental education. It takes seeds and seedlings from the mountains, raises them in a nursery, and provides the seedlings to local residents for use in afforestation projects. It also uses the raising of seedlings and afforestation work as tools for environmental education.

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

The school provided some 5,320 Sakhalin spruce (*Picea glehnii*) and Mongolian oak (*Quercus mongolica var. grosseserrata*) seedlings to Furano Field and the Hokkaido Mountain Village Forestation Association. As of FY 2007, it has raised some 36,000 seedlings at its nursery and has maintained the nursery well. In addition, a total of 563 people have participated in environmental education programs such as the Furano Eco Tours.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

In an effort to build a sustainable natural forest in Furano, Hokkaido, the school has been implementing afforestation methods suited to local plant life. Its FY 2008 target is to provide 5,000 seedlings and continue running the nursery. It will also offer hands-on learning experiences designed to heighten the environmental awareness of participants.



Eco tour participants plant seeds



Eco tour participants gather seedlings



A teacher instructs students in the handling of seedlings



Students and local residents plant trees in the Qinling Mountains

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## L4 Satoyama Preservation School

### The beauty of terraced paddy fields

As Japan's population declines and ages, its rural "satoyama" woodlands are beginning to go untended. This trend has had a big impact in Iizuna, Nagano Prefecture, but residents there have decided to rebuild and preserve their terraced paddy fields and satoyama, and to use them for the education of children.

### 2007 FY 2007 activities

The Preservation School carried out environmental preservation of abandoned field 30a (assorted grains, buckwheat) and terraced rice paddy 20a (ancient rice). It enrolled 44 students to take part in the process and receive training as environmental education leaders who will be able to communicate with others about the environment. In addition, the school also gave guest lectures to 791 elementary and junior high school students in the Kanto region on such subjects as agriculture, food, and the environment.

### 2008 FY 2008 activities

We planted some 1,640 mangrove seedlings on the Funafuti Atoll. In October 2007 we held a seedling event, attended by the deputy prime minister and 20 elementary school students, who carefully planted mangrove seedlings. We also repaired rainwater tanks, contracting with a local firm to handle the repairs. From June through September of 2007, 76 rainwater tanks were repaired.

### 2009 FY 2009 activities

For FY 2008, we have set a target of planting 2,000 mangrove seedlings on Funafuti Island, which has suffered considerable environmental damage. In addition, we will invite experts to teach workshops focusing on waste problems. We want to communicate to local residents how serious the problem is, and to prevent it from getting worse.



Junior high students planting seedlings



Graduates of the Permaculture Center



Preparing to plant seedlings on Funafuti Island

## Papua New Guinea



Blending organic fertilizer



Donated rice milling machine

## Republic of Kiribati

## Tuvalu

## Solomon Islands



Students learn about wet-rice agriculture at the Eco-tech Center