

Project Introductions

Your donations supported 15 projects in fiscal 2011. Here we report on our activities with our project partners in Japan and around the world.

More detailed information can be found on the Cosmo Oil Eco Card Fund website. <http://www.cosmo-oil.co.jp/eng/envi/>

Regions in which we engage in projects

Project Profiles
The Cosmo Oil Eco Card Fund launched its Cosmo The Card House Eco card in April 2002 and Cosmo The Card Opus Eco card in June 2006. Using both cardholders' 500 yen annual contributions and donations from the Cosmo Oil Group, the Fund engages in Living With Our Planet Projects to nurture the global environment. This is the 11th year the Fund has engaged in such activities.



1-1 Papua New Guinea: Tropical Rainforest Conservation Project

The support of 1.5 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) enables one person to attend a lecture on sedentary organic farming.

In Papua New Guinea, we have been providing guidance on farming technology and promoting its widespread use to enable local residents to earn a stable cash income and maintain self-sufficiency in feeding themselves. In fiscal 2011, we received lots of good news. In one case, farmers who had received agricultural training saved money from the sale of their produce and opened a store. According to a follow-up survey of our graduates, many of them continue their activities diligently, if only on a small scale. The people of Sanbam village understand the importance of forests and have exchanged a memorandum on tropical rainforest conservation.

Planting carefully, one-by-one



1-2 Solomon Islands: Tropical Rainforest Conservation Project

The support of 360 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) provides training for one agricultural trainee for one year.

In the Solomon Islands, we have been providing technical guidance and promoting the widespread practice of sedentary organic farming as a means of controlling excessive slash-and-burn agricultural practices while ensuring local residents earn adequate cash income to enable them to be self-sufficient in feeding themselves. In fiscal 2011, we provided 20 people with one year of training. We also had specialists analyze their fertilizers and installed rice threshers, so the cultivation and sale of rice is gradually increasing.



I'm a mangrove. I protect your coasts!

- 1-1 Planting trees with local residents in Sanbam village
- 1-2 Threshing rice harvested during rice cultivation training
- 2 May this year's seedlings grow healthy and strong
- 3-1 Local children participate in mangrove planting
- 3-2 Gathered around "Go-Mee," a board game designed to teach children about waste disposal

2 China: Silk Road Afforestation Project

The support of one Eco Card holder (¥500/person) enables us to plant 28 sea buckthorn seedlings.

Desertification is spreading rapidly along the Silk Road as well as on the Loess Plateau. To facilitate planting these areas with sea buckthorn, an economically valuable crop well suited to the local climate, we have established a seedling center and have been providing local farmers with seedlings. In fiscal 2011, many of the seedlings planted the previous years died due to widespread drought seen once every 50 years. However, some of the seedlings planted a few years previous have matured and begun to produce fruit giving hope for the future.

3-1 Kiribati: South Pacific Countries Support Project

The support of one Eco Card holder (¥500/person) enables us to plant 1.3 mangrove trees.

The low-lying South Pacific island of Kiribati already suffers from rising sea levels, and ocean swells inundate coastal areas. To prevent coastal erosion, we have been planting mangrove trees in partnership with local young people and children. In fiscal 2011, we planted a total of 8,413 mangrove seeds in two phases: in October and again the following February. Seventy-five percent of last year's seedlings have taken root, and we are making steady progress. In fiscal 2012, we will continue this activity in partnership with local citizens.

3-2 Tuvalu: South Pacific Countries Support Project

With the support of 24 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) we create one environmental education tool and children learn about waste management.

In the South Pacific island of Tuvalu, we have been planting mangrove trees to alleviate coastal erosion, and educating children about waste management. In fiscal 2011, despite being afflicted by drought, we planted 1,200 trees together with local children and engaged in widespread afforestation. We also made and distributed a native language version of the board game we created last year to educate children about waste disposal.



- 4 Northwest University students engage in tree planting
- 5 Fruitbearing Sea Buckthorn
- 6 Map development proceeds amid discussion
- 7 Learning how to use old-fashioned agricultural equipment from farmers
- 8 Wading along a river in the Shirakami Mountains

Environmental messengers - go forth and flourish!

Local children drew the picture on the cover



8 Japan: Noguchi Ken Environmental School

The support of 217 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) results in the creation of one "environmental messenger."

To foster the development of "environmental messengers" capable of taking environmental action and communicating their message to the rest of the world, we launched the Environmental School with alpinist Noguchi Ken as its headmaster. In fiscal 2011, a total of 36 people participated in two sessions hosted by the Environmental School on Sado Island and in the Shirakami Mountains respectively. On Sado, participants learned how the Japanese crested ibis is being protected. In the Shirakami Mountains participants experienced the richness of nature while trekking along rugged ravines and mountain trails for three days.

7 Japan: Satoyama Preservation School

The support of 60 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) enables one elementary school student to receive environmental education and experience rice cultivation in a school's rice field.

The Satoyama Preservation School is an agricultural education program devoted to preserving and regenerating satoyama and training young people who will become the custodians of the next generation by utilizing abandoned agricultural land in Iizuna, Nagano Prefecture. Farmers in Iizuna provide rice seedlings for children to grow in rice fields at urban schools and visit them to provide lessons with a view to enhancing students' awareness of the environment and growing crops for food. The School also teaches students how to grow and sell grains and organizes tours to promote interaction between people living in farming communities and people living in cities.



4 China: Qin Ling Mountains Forest and Ecosystem Recovery Project

The support of one Eco Card holder (¥500/person) enables us to plant 12 pine seedlings.

The Qin Ling Mountains are a veritable treasure trove of rare wildlife where critically endangered species such as the golden snub-nosed monkey and the giant panda can be found. We are restoring biodiversity to its forests through the afforestation of forest roads that impede the movement of animals. In fiscal 2011, we planted 11,000 trees over 14km of road. We also continued providing support for environmental lectures at universities and research into the ecology of golden snub-nosed monkeys.



5 China: Inner Mongolia Afforestation Project

The support of one Eco Card holder (¥500/person) provides environmental education for one elementary school student.

In the autonomous region of Inner Mongolia where desertification is spreading, we are devoting our efforts to both the planting of sea buckthorn, an economically valuable crop, and environmental education for local elementary and junior high school students. In fiscal 2011, we engaged in large-scale soil improvement activities in our seedling nursery and nurtured a total of 200,000 buckthorn cuttings in partnership with locals and our participants. The appearance of fruit on many of the trees planted three years previous gave rise to a sense of achievement. Citizens' enthusiasm is growing and we will continue these activities.

6 Thailand: Community Forest Map Development in the Northern Mountainous Region of Thailand

The support of 910 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) enables us to map a community forest and create a Village Encyclopedia for one village.

In the northern mountainous region of Thailand, we have been creating the maps required for applications to have government-owned forests restored to "community forests" so that local residents can resume use of the forest to lead sustainable lives. We have also been compiling information about local villages to create a Village Encyclopedia in conjunction with the map. In fiscal 2011, we created maps of 6 villages. On occasion, these maps have been used in discussions with national government and they are beginning to be utilized.

9 *Japan:*
Environmental Education Support Project at Schools

The support of 975 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) provides one school with environmental education for one year.

We provide environmental education programs by linking NPOs nationwide that know how to conduct nature programs with schools looking for such expertise and opportunities. In fiscal 2011, we supported programs at 10 schools in Japan. These all involved meetings with teachers and both preparatory and follow-up activities to ensure a memorable environmental education experience. This year's activities marked the end of this project, but we sincerely hope children will make use of what they have learned in their daily lives and go on to create a better future.



10 *Japan:*
Seed Planting School

The support of one Eco Card holder (¥500/person) enables us to provide three saplings.

Working under the slogan "Sowing seeds in minds and the earth," we gather tree seeds and seedlings (juvenile trees that have germinated from seeds), nurture their growth and provide the resulting larger saplings to organizations that engage in tree planting in Hokkaido. Believing that planting tree species native to any given locality leads to natural revegetation, we have been nurturing varieties of pines (*Picea glehnii*) and oaks (*Quercus crispula* Blume). In fiscal 2011, we provided 8,008 saplings, and a total of 620 individuals participated in planting seeds and seedlings. Through our Adoption Project, we provide knowledge and skills related to nurturing seedlings.



11 *Japan:*
Acorn Forests - Satoyama Regeneration

The support of one Eco Card holder (¥500/person) enables us to plant 0.6 saplings.

This project aims to restore satoyama ravaged by wildfire. To start things off, we organized a tree planting tour in which people solicited from outside of the prefecture worked in partnership with local volunteers to plant 5,600 seedlings of various species including Japanese oak (*Quercus serrata*) and dogwood (*Benthamidia japonica*) over an area of 1.5 hectares. We then launched an initiative to create an "Acorn Forest" by nurturing trees from acorns. Multitudes of acorns collected by kindergarten students on their walks were planted one by one in pots and fields. We will nurture the resulting seedlings with a view to planting them in spring 2013.

12 *Japan:* **Biotope Floating Islands - Waterfront Ecosystem Restoration**

The support of 20 Eco Card holder (¥500/person) enables one person to experience making a biotope island.

In fiscal 2011, we built biotopes in three locations: Gongendo reservoir in Kuki City, Saitama Prefecture; Osagami reservoir in Koshigaya City, Saitama Prefecture; and Sakatagaike Park in Narita City, Chiba Prefecture. Between 80 to 250 people, including both children and university students, participated in each event and built between two and nine 3.5m square floating islands. Comprising rafts made of timber from forest thinning and bamboo to which Coconut sacks stuffed with charcoal made from forest thinnings are strapped, floating islands help forestry development, and their charcoal component contributes to water purification.



13 *Japan and other South Pacific Countries:*
Study on Endangered Species in South Pacific Countries

The support of 5 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) enables one person to learn about the importance of preserving biodiversity at a symposium.

In fiscal 2011, we collected and analyzed information on the current situation in Papua New Guinea. Creating 5 working groups: ecosystem and environment; communities, education and culture; economy, forestry and agriculture; intellectual property and enterprise; and legal systems, we pushed ahead with expert investigations. We conducted an on-site survey in August, and held an international workshop in March 2012 at the Surugadai Memorial Hall at Chuo University. What we learned in particular was that land reform is needed in order to protect biodiversity because 97% of land in Papua New Guinea is privately or communally owned. We will continue our investigations and discussions with a view to putting together an effective proposal.



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Home > Environment

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14 *Japan:*
Living with Flying Squirrels - Satoyama Regeneration

The support of 103 Eco Card holders (¥500/person) enables us to enter the forest on one occasion to survey flying squirrels.

This project aims to nurture a forested area northeast of Mt. Fuji in which flying squirrels can coexist with mankind. Over the first year, we went into the forest on 100 occasions to conduct surveys. As a result, the ecological survey of flying squirrels conducted in forest surrounding a shrine that will be the field for our activities revealed it was inhabited by two squirrels and the possibility that they are breeding. We also learned that many wild animals pass through the surrounding mountain forests. Hereafter, we will consider activities such as planting broad-leaved trees as providers of food for forest animals while engaging in improvement activities in mountain forest neglected hereto.

- 9** Survey of living creatures inhabiting rice fields in Kagoshima
- 10** Seedlings of various ages grow in a large nursery
- 11** Kindergarten students planting acorns
- 12** Working together to build a floating island
- 13** An international workshop
- 14** Can you see the eyes gleaming in the tree cavity? That's a flying squirrel.



15 *Japan:* **Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Support**
The sea is longing from the forest, the forest is longing from the sea

Introduced on page 3, Highlights of fiscal 2011

