



# Project Report for FY 2015

Your support is appreciated in Japan and around the world!



## Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea Tropical Rainforest Conservation Project

### Fostering a new style of agriculture to protect valuable tropical rainforests

Valuable tropical virgin forests extend throughout the South Pacific Region. Island nations such as Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands have about 60% of their land mass covered in tropical rainforests. From 1970 however, virgin forests which had barely ever been touched by human hands, were rapidly lost due to practices such as commercial logging and excessive slash and burn agriculture due to population increases. The Eco Card Fund is promoting sustainable practices to protect virgin forests by spreading fixed type organic farming instead of excessive slash and burn agriculture. In 2016, in recognition of these many years of activities, Cosmo Energy's President Mr. Morikawa represented Eco Card cardholders in receiving an award from the Solomon Islands government. Scenes of the award ceremony are depicted in the enclosed special edition. We have also arranged for a gift of a product related to the Solomon Islands to express our appreciation.

▼ Papua New Guinea



Partner: OISCA (NPO)

▼ Solomon Islands



Partner: APSD (NPO)

8,000ha registered as Tropical Rainforest Conservation Area

200 students at a vocational training school

## Hokkaido Seed Planting School

### Seeds planted in hearts and the soil in Hokkaido

This project started with returning a former golf course to forest land. Seeds and seedlings (trees which have just germinated) of trees such as pines (*Picea glehnii*) and oak (*Quercus crispula*) were gathered from within the forest and saplings were nurtured over several years. We have donated those saplings to an organization which undertakes afforestation in Hokkaido. In fiscal 2015, a total of 313 volunteers participated in nurturing 9800 trees. This project is still not completed but the former golf course is gradually being returned to forest. In autumn we will be holding an eco-tour to go and see these results so please join us.



Seed collection and seedling cultivation - 9,800 seedlings

Partner: Furano Seed Planting School (LLP)

## Republic of Kiribati, and Tuvalu South Pacific Countries Support Project

### Planting mangroves on small islands in the South Pacific Ocean

Islands in the South Pacific that are very close to sea level and have a small land mass are the first to be affected by climatic variations such as global warming. The Eco Card Fund has been welcomed by two NPOs as project partners for support activities in the Republic of Kiribati and Tuvalu and we are planting mangrove trees in cooperation with locals. The aim is to use mangroves, which form a natural breakwater, to curb the speed of coastal erosion caused by rising sea levels.

▼ Republic of Kiribati



Partner: ISME (NPO)

Mangrove planting 10,000 sapling

▼ Tuvalu



Partner: Tuvalu Overview (NPO)

Mangrove planting 2,000 sapling

## Miyagi Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Support The sea is longing for the Forest

### The day that happy children's voices returned to the sea near Tohoku

Even now, five years after the earthquake, children in Tohoku are still alienated from the sea. This is a program to have those children feel the wonder of the sea with their whole body. This is a sea fishing experience where the children find their own bait and cook fish they have caught themselves. They were able to observe oysters and scallops from an aquaculture raft. The bright shining eyes of the children left a deep impression.



Partner: The sea is longing for the forest (NPO)

28 Camp Participants

## Nagano Red Pine Forest Satoyama Regeneration

### Collecting satoyama fallen leaves. Will this lead to harvesting Matsutake mushrooms?

The forest near the city of Ina in Nagano Prefecture was suffering from neglect and degradation. This was a project to restore it to an environment where Matsutake mushrooms were likely to grow. In fiscal 2015, then we carried out Satoyama maintenance together with Eco Card cardholders. Taking advice from locals, we used very large rakes to gather up fallen leaves. No doubt the results will be manifested in the harvesting of Matsutake mushrooms in the near future.



Partner: Laboratory of Earth Conscious Life (NPO)

Satoyama maintenance project: 2 event

## Nagano Acorn Forest Satoyama regeneration

### Acorn trees and animals are thriving in Satoyama damaged by fire

A satoyama of scenic beauty with views of the Asama Mountain Range to the north and Tatehina and Yatsugatake to the south, was destroyed by fire in 2010. The project started in 2011 to restore the vast forest which extended over some four hectares, has finally been completed. Today we have planted 12,000 oaks (*Quercus serrata* and *Quercus acutissima*). Right now there are some trees which have grown as tall as 3 meters. The area has been regenerated as an "Acorn Forest" with an extremely high level of bio-diversity, including confirmation of as many as 43 species of butterflies alone, including rare species.



Partner: Laboratory of Earth Conscious Life (NPO)

Work to maintain and protect saplings 4ha



## Yamanashi Living with Flying Squirrels - Satoyama Regeneration

### We have created a forest that coexists with wild animals

This is a satoyama regeneration project in Tsuru, located to the north east of Mount Fuji. We are planting broadleaf trees which bear berries that provide food for flying squirrels. The forest has also been reconditioned through the continuous implementation of tree thinning. In fiscal 2015 we also installed fencing to protect young trees from feeding damage by deer and rabbits. Five years ago this forest was a dark place with dense tree growth that was impenetrable, but it is now a beautiful well-maintained, light-filled forest.



Partner: Tsuru Environment Forum (NPO)

Forest created 0.5ha

## Nagano Uniting People with the Forest

### Children growing midst the natural environment

This is a program which offers a nature experience to children who have very little opportunity to interact with nature. Part of this program included a project where children from a special needs school were able to participate. The children observed living creatures and climbed trees in the Afan Woodland located in Kurohime in Nagano Prefecture. By utilizing their senses of touch, smell and taste, the children grew so confident they were hardly recognizable as the same children by the end of the day.



Partner: C.W.Nicol Afan Woodland Trust

Total participants: 55

## China Silk Road Afforestation Project

### Tree planting to curb desertification and yellow dust storms. Handing over to the locals.

The Loess Plateau extends upstream of the Yellow River. This is an afforestation project in an area which crosses the Silk Road and over a period of 13 years we have achieved a track record of planting 860,000 trees over an area of 400 hectares. This long-term project has increased the environmental awareness of the local residents and as they now have in place a system for continuing the planting activities, the Eco Card Fund ended its support as of fiscal 2015.



Partner: 2050 (NPO)

Planting sea buckthorns 90,000 seedlings

## China Qin Ling Mountains Forest and Ecosystem Recovery Project

### Afforestation project to protect rare animals ends on a positive note

The Qin Ling Mountains located in central China are the vital habitat for the giant panda and the golden monkey, species which are in danger of extinction. The tree planting was conducted along disused roads which were blocking animal movements and from fiscal 2005 a total of 100,000 saplings was planted over 120 hectares. As the animal population is also recovering, it was decided to end this support project as of fiscal 2015.



Partner: College of Life Sciences, Northwest University

Planting seedlings 6,000 seedlings



# Fiscal 2016 New projects started

The Eco Card Fund has selected new support projects with the aim of reducing CO<sub>2</sub>. Your donations will continue to be of help.

## The creation of forests with resilience against abnormal weather patterns

Partner: OISCA (NPO)

Luzon is the largest island in the Philippines. Excessive logging of central mountain forests has reduced the proportion of forested land by approximately 60%. The treeless mountains are no longer able to stop the effects of massive typhoons which have increased in recent years, and this is one of the reasons for the typhoons causing such extensive damage. This is why the Eco Card Fund commenced its support of forest creation including afforestation.



Philippines

## Protecting and regenerating the forests of the Mount Fuji world heritage site

Partner: Mt Fuji Club (NPO)

While Mount Fuji was registered as a world heritage site in 2013, it does face a variety of environmental problems. One of those problems is damage from fallen trees resulting from a typhoon which struck in 1996. We are working to regenerate the forests of Mount Fuji, joining forces with locals, while protecting the area's distinctive vegetation.



Shizuoka

## A ten-year coastal forest regeneration plan

Partner: OISCA (NPO)

The tsunami that occurred as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake caused catastrophic damage to coastal disaster-prevention forests in Tohoku. Disaster prevention forests are essential to protect people's lives against strong winds, wind-blown sand and tidal damage. To regenerate these forests we commenced a project to plant about 550,000 black pines over a ten-year period. The aim, in addition to recovering the beautiful coastal scenery, is to make this a symbol of recovery.



Miyagi

## Restoring the coastal forest of Kujukuri Beach to its pre-earthquake condition

Partner: Laboratory of Earth Conscious Life (NPO)

The Kujukuri coastline extends a total of 66 km. Were you aware that its disaster-prevention forest was damaged by the tsunami that accompanied the Great East Japan Earthquake? In fact there are numerous areas where trees that were casualties of the tsunami have been left abandoned. Under this project we will start by removing the dead trees. We will then start planting trees such as black pines to protect the living environment from strong winds and sand blown in from the Pacific Ocean.



Chiba