Project Report for FY 2017

Great results were achieved and thanks received from project partners in Japan and abroad.

FY 2017Results

Solomon Islands
Tropical rainforest conservation

Support funding ¥7,070,000

Greening project **8,000 m²**

Centered on fast-expanding vocational training schools, we developed experimental products like chocolate.

In the Solomon Islands, economic disparity between urban and rural areas is a problem. The Eco Card Fund supports the management of vocational training schools in rural areas to eliminate this gap. One initiative is agroforestry, which produces agricultural products while developing forests in the training school grounds. Last year, we also developed an experimental product, chocolate, as well as extending multi-use workshop space and establishing a beekeeping area.

We are still midway through this challenge, but I hope you will continue your support.

Mr. Dixon Naro

Partner: APSD (NPO)

Papua New Guinea
Tropical Rainforest Conservation

Support funding ¥7,762,505

Cacao seedling assistance **54,400 seedlings**

Activities to raise awareness of the need to protect valuable rainforests finally showing results.

We use video and other materials to make people aware of the negative impact of deforestation on traditional lives in rural areas. As a result, the awareness of the local people has changed significantly, and in three villages, including Arabam, taro production, which does not rely on slash-and-burn farming, seems to have a bright future. And last year we also supported cacao and other crop cultivation for 272 families. The goal is to get to a point where stationary organic farming can be carried out by local people by themselves.

Thank you for your support! We support the conservation work!

Mr. Michikatsu Ehara
Mr. Daniel Ribuan
Mr. Ian Ruben

Partner: OISCA (NPO)

Republic of Kiribati
South Pacific Countries Support Project

Support funding ¥3,405,434

Mangrove planting **11,079 saplings**

Mangrove planting protects against tsunamis and storm surges while nurturing ecosystems too.

Located in the Pacific Ocean, Kiribati is an island nation consisting of 33 atolls. But while Kiribati may seem idyllic, it is faced with uncertainties stemming from rising sea levels and king tides triggered by major tidal fluctuation due to global warming. In order to protect people's lives from these threats, last year we planted mangrove trees. We toiled under the harsh Kiribati sun with the support of Kiribati's Ministry of Environment staff, local Environmental Club members and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

A green line of mangroves is spreading along the coastline!

Ms. Nozomi Ohshiro
Ms. Eriko Tamashiro
Ms. Mio Kezuka
Ms. Norimi Kimura

Partner: International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (NPO)

Tuvalu
South Pacific Countries Support Project

Support funding ¥2,643,625

Mangrove planting **10,596 saplings**

Successful planting surpasses target by 250%. Local-level environmental consciousness is growing.

In Tuvalu, too, rising sea levels triggered by global warming are causing coastal erosion. Last year we also carried out activities to stop erosion and promote sand accumulation by planting mangrove seedlings. In spite of a cyclone hitting Tuvalu after the plantings, the seedlings refused to give up and continued to grow. The next issue is to transfer technology to local Tuvaluans to extend this natural breakwater further.

We have planted a total of 20,000 trees! Thank you, everyone, for your support.

People of Tuvalu

Partner: Tuvalu Overview (NPO)

Nepal
Ken Noguchi: Growing in the Himalayas

Support funding ¥3,147,500

Seedlings cultivated **15,000 seedlings**

Tree planting in the village of Sama at 3,500 meters continues despite heavy snows that linger until spring.

Sama Village, located at the foot of the world-renowned Himalayas, was in a state of desolation because of excessive deforestation. So the afforestation project that kicked off in FY 2016 started with raising seedlings. We protected these by covering them with blue sheeting and scraped away the snow to ensure they survived the brutal winter cold. Then, on May 16, 2018, project leader Ken Noguchi and the local people worked together to finally plant out 3,000 trees.

Activities in the remote regions of the Himalayas are steadily going forward!

Mr. Tendal Lama

Mr. Tsuon Gulmin Lama
Mr. An Talke Sherpa

Partner: Peak Aid (NPO)

Philippines
Growing forests resilient to abnormal weather

Support funding ¥5,099,475

Natives and fruit trees planted **7,050 trees**

Creating a forest that can withstand even massive typhoons. Size surpasses target in area.

In the Philippines, where powerful typhoons frequently make landfall, we are working to create forests able to withstand abnormal weather. What's being planted is largely native species adapted to strong winds and dry conditions, as well as fruit trees that will help sustain life. We are also educating the local people to help establish 75 hectares of forest in five years. Last fiscal year, we held environmental conservation seminars at three schools. We are aiming to construct a system that can maintain and manage forests even after the Eco Card Fund support ends.

Come and take a look at this forest where various species grow.

Mr. Mario Lopez and a group of tree planters

Partner: OISCA (NPO)

Hokkaido
Seed Planting School: Returning former golf course to forest land

Support funding ¥3,480,642

Seedlings supplied **3,700 seedlings**

We've finished!

Sakhalin spruce, Mongolian oak and walnuts too. Saplings raised from seeds thrive in this northern land.

From the forests of our own Hokkaido, we were able to collect seeds and seedlings that had only just germinated, grow them into saplings, and deliver them to the Furano Seed Planting School and the Ashibetsu Greening Committee. Through these activities, we help create forests that match their vegetative environments. Thanks to your support, we returned part of a former golf course to forest. In the future, we aim to create a system that can be sustained by the people of the region and take new steps forward. Thank you for your support.

Saplings planted in a former golf course are growing rapidly.

Mr. Masahiro Ito
Ms. Mariko Ito

Partner: Furano Seed Planting School (LLP)

Miyagi
The Sea is Longing for the Forest: Planting trees to protect the sea

Support funding ¥3,736,809

Trees planted **1,600 trees**

Dissemination of information through Tree Planting Festivals and social media has widened the scope of activities.

This is an initiative to convey the importance of environmental conservation by realizing the links between forests, communities and ocean. Last year, we held an annual Tree Planting Festival as well as actively disseminating information. By frequently updating our website and Facebook pages and producing videos, we substantially increased opportunities for this initiative to be taken up in TV programs, magazines and other media. From now on, we will continue awareness-boosting activities, both in the realm of real world experience and web-based information.

Thanks to your support, the forest, the sea and people have become healthier!

The local people

Partner: The Sea is Longing for the Forest (NPO)

Miyagi
A ten-year coastal forest regeneration plan

Support funding ¥4,000,000

Black pine seedlings cultivated **4,800 seedlings**

Black pines raised from seedlings reach 3 meters. Coastal forests are growing stronger every day.

The coastal forest lost as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake is mostly regenerating. In particular, the survival rate two months after our planting is 99.8%, a record high. One reason is the high quality of the seedling cultivation; the awarding of a Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Prize for the seedlings was reported in the media. The project is attracting a high level of attention, as indicated by an inspection visit by the Vice Minister for Reconstruction. We will advance initiatives to increase the number of younger participants in the future.

Thanks to your support, the black pines are growing steadily.

The local people

Partner: OISCA (NPO)

Chiba
Returning the coastal forest of Kujukuri Beach to its pre-disaster state

Support funding ¥2,997,000

Black pines planted **1,650 trees**

A high level of participation by Chiba residents. Afforestation activities firmly rooted in the region.

Along the Kujukuri Beach, the sand-break forest off the coast of Hasunuma-Tonoshita was particularly badly damaged by the tsunami that followed the Great East Japan Great Earthquake. The afforestation activity here began with the removal of the trees left flattened by the tsunami. Taking advice from disaster-prevention forest experts and arborists, we marked out planting positions, planted trees and set up bamboo fences to protect the young trees from the strong salt winds. The participation of the local people played a central role.

With everyone's support, we will restore the forest damaged by the tsunami!

Mr. Hidenobu Takegaki

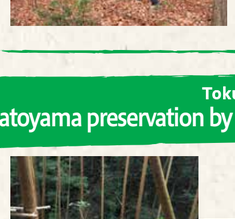
Partner: Laboratory of Earth-Conscious Life (NPO)

Yamanashi
Working with horses to preserve the Tsuru satoyama (village forest)

Support funding ¥1,166,780

Thinning maintenance **160,000 m²**

We've finished!



Cutting makes the forest healthy. Thinnings used as firewood.

Forests that are not properly tended cannot demonstrate their true CO_2 absorption capacity. In the satoyama (village forest) here in Tsuru, growing healthy trees able to absorb plenty of CO_2 means thinning the forest to let in sufficient quantities of light. The thinnings were carried off the mountain using horses and utilized as firewood. Thanks to the support received, we successfully reached our goal and completed the project. Thank you for your support.

We removed the forest debris with horses and turned it into firewood. Thank you!

Mr. Kazuaki Iwata

Partner: Tsuru Environment Forum (NPO)

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

Support funding ¥4,135,622

Tree cultivation **6,000 m²**

Forest thinned and undergrowth cut by volunteers. Planted trees growing strongly.

We are carrying out two initiatives aimed at regenerating the beautiful Mt. Fuji forests. Work to grow broadleafs in Fujinomiya City, which began in 2012, ran into unforeseen weather, though undergrowth cutting and ivy removal were completed as scheduled. As part of the second initiative — the Nishiusuzuka Agreement Forest cultivation activities that began in 2016 — we also thinned Nikko firs. These activities were supported by Eco Cardholders.

We will carry on our work in the future with the help of all our supporters!

Mr. Hideaki Ooi Mr. Hirotaka Fukazawa

Partner: The Mt. Fuji Club (NPO)

Nagano and Miyagi
The C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Afan: Forest growing in Higashi Matsushima

Support funding ¥3,120,182

Forest conservation activities **130,000 m²**

Devastated woods, woods neglected after earthquake. Restored and regenerated by human hands.

In the Afan Woodland, thinning mainly the Quercus serrata forest promoted the growth of the trees and the understory vegetation. Thinnings weighing 15 tons were removed and used as chips for smoking foods and as mushroom cultivation logs. And in the Higashi Matsushima forests we held four workshops. We carried out forest maintenance with a total of more than 100 people. Through regular activities at two locations, we are cultivating the forest while also fostering ecological awareness.

We've succeeded in restoring the forest to health. We're also thinking about the utilization of the trees we've grown!

Mr. Atsushi Ishii Mr. Wataru Ohsawa Ms. Aya Midorikawa

Partner: C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust

Tokushima
Satoyama preservation by local residents in Kamiyama

Assistance funding ¥996,681

Satoyama maintenance **2,000 m²**

Using light equipment for thinning to maintain the satoyama (village forest) while interacting with locals.

This project started from clearing out fallen trees and debris in what was neglected forest to make a square where people could gather. And thinning was carried out to revive the satoyama (village forest). Because the ground was sloping, we could not use heavy machinery, but overcame the problem by using light equipment instead. Someone came up with the idea of using the thinnings to make Finnish saunas.

The forest has become brighter, and we've started using the thinnings!

Ms. Ikuko Saito Mr. Valery Theret Mr. Kosuke Yoshizawa

Partner: The Social Foresters

Fiscal 2018 New project started!!

We will use your support in new projects to reduce CO_2.

NEW!

Thailand
Growing the forest with the Asian honey bee

Utilizing the pollination of the Asian honey bee. Nature's power used to grow a forest.

In northwestern Thailand, the tropical seasonal forests have begun to decline. The Eco Card Fund supports the new challenge of restoring those forests to their original state using the power of nature as much as possible. At the heart of this is "afforestation without planting," using the Asian honey bee. Bee pollination helps in the formation of seeds, which eventually germinate and grow into trees. In other words, bees have the same effect, indirectly, as afforestation. Furthermore, because raising bees leads to the formation of an apiculture industry and this contributes to the economic advancement of the local people, we plan to distribute beehives to those who want them. In the near future, there may come a day when that honey reaches your table.

Partner: GONGOVA (NPO)

NEW!

Tokyo
Making Hachioji's satoyama into a bright forest

Creating a forest where residents can enjoy a stroll. Activities balance the needs of environment and landscape.

Even in a forest that seems full of natural abundance at first sight, its biodiversity may actually be damaged. The forest in Tokyo's Hachioji is a case in point. In this forest, which has been neglected, the evergreen trees are overgrown, with each leaf thick and large, and even during the day the forest is dark. Deciduous plants find it difficult to grow and it is an inauspicious environment for animals and insects. So with the help of local volunteers, we will cut down trees as necessary to create a bright forest that lets in the sunlight. Furthermore, the thinnings we obtain will be chipped on the spot and the chips spread over walking paths. This should create an environment where people will want to stroll in their neighborhood satoyama (village forest).

Partner: Laboratory of Earth-Conscious Life (NPO)

NEW!

Hyogo
Yasuga Irodori Forest, where people and animals live in harmony

Making Okuharima Forest brighter and more appealing. A natural satoyama (village forest) where people will come to stroll.

Several decades ago, Japan had satoyama (village forests), which formed a boundary between where people lived and the natural world. However, as people move away from the mountains and the satoyama become neglected, those boundaries are gradually being lost. Therefore, we are working to create a forest where people and wild animals can live in harmony. First of all, we will reverse the deterioration in the mountain areas by thinning trees and cutting grass. Next, so that wild animals will not damage the satoyama forest and invade people's living areas, we will install protective fencing. Furthermore, in order to create a bright environment where people will be easily able to walk in their satoyama forest, we will hold tree planting festivals to plant low shrubs. After three years, we will open the Yasuga Irodori Forest where wild flowers will bloom in profusion. Our aim is to make the satoyama forest more appealing to the local people.

Partner: Okuharima Yume Club (NPO)