

Project Report for FY 2019

In Japan!



Nationwide projects where communities and volunteers work together. Here are their reports and words of gratitude.

- **Miyagi** - The Sea is Longing for the Forest: planting trees to protect the sea
- **Chiba** - Returning the coastal forest of Kujukuri Beach to its pre-disaster state
- **Kanagawa** - Thinning bamboo groves to restore Kamakura forests
- **Nagano, Miyagi** - The C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland and forest growing in Higashi Matsushima
- **Hyogo** - Yasuga Irodori Forest, where people and animals live in harmony
- **Miyagi** - A ten-year coastal forest regeneration plan
- **Tokyo** - Turning Hachioji's satoyama into a bright forest
- **Shizuoka** - Protecting and regenerating the forests of the Mount Fuji World Heritage Site
- **Wakayama** - Creating forests where biodiversity can be experienced
- **Tokushima** - Satoyama preservation by local residents in Kamiyama



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



Support funding
¥3,262,696

Tree Planting Festival participants
1,400

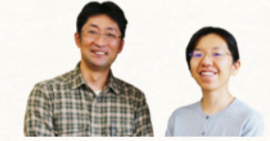
Thanks to your support, deciduous hardwood forests are expanding and nurturing the Sanriku Sea. Thank you.

We held our annual Tree Planting Festival and focused on spreading information via SNS.

Nature in the whole drainage basin, including rivers and forests, is crucial to the ocean's harvest such as oyster farming in Kesenuma Bay. On June 2, we held our annual Tree Planting Festival to convey that importance. Seedlings were planted in the forest by 1,400 participants, helping to create a rich water source. We have also started a new nature observation event called, "Let's go into the forest." It was a year in which we focused on environmental conservation awareness using such means as SNS to proactively disseminate activity information.



Mr. Shigetoshi Hasekayama Mr. Mikio Mura



Mr. Makiko Hasekayama Ms. Miharu Shirahata

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

Miyagi A ten-year coastal forest regeneration plan



Support funding
¥4,000,000

Planted area
20,000m²

A total of 350,000 black pines have been planted and are growing steadily, with the tallest reaching 4.5m

Leaving a coastal forest of black pines for future generations. Conducting educational activities and moving to grassroots activities.

Most of the coastal forest made up of black pines was lost in the tsunami following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Last year a total of 1,878 volunteers participated in a project to restore this natural breakwater. While raising 35,000 seedlings in a plant nursery, we planted trees over a vast 20,000 m² area of coastline. We are aiming to conduct more grassroots activities building on last year, which included a briefing to local senior high school volunteers and holding a photography exhibition in the passageway of Natōri Station.



From left: Ms. Kumiko Hayashi, Ms. Kazuyo Suzuki, Ms. Nanaho Asano, Mr. Toshimichi Yoshida

Partner: OISCA (NPO)

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



Support funding
¥2,996,463

Undergrowth clearing area
6,000m²

This is a project to regenerate the coastal forest of Kujukuri Beach lost in the tsunami of March 2011. Thanks to 4 years of your support we have been able to restore around 10,000 trees of a disaster-prevention forest.

Volunteer numbers increase annually, helping to plant trees and clear undergrowth.

It is not well-known that scars left by the Great East Japan Earthquake are also visible here in Chiba Prefecture. Numerous trees have died as a result of salt damage from tsunami inundation. But thanks to the assistance of many volunteers, we have been able to plant about 60,000 seedlings. We continued planting last year and also cleared undergrowth in July and August. Perspiration-soaked participants commented that they had gained an understanding of the preciousness of coastal forest.



The volunteer leader group

Partner: NPO The Life style Research Institute of Forests

Tokyo Turning Hachioji's satoyama into a bright forest



Support funding
¥1,913,084

Maintenance area
15,000m²

We are restoring brightness to the satoyama. We invite Eco Card Fund members to join us.

Excess growth removed and thinned timber recycled for walking path repair.

While numerous satoyama (village forests) still remain in the west area of Tokyo, if trees are not periodically removed or thinned, sunlight does not reach the ground, leading to a loss of biodiversity. So, together with volunteers, we removed excessive growth and effectively utilized the thinned timber. This timber was reborn as water channel reinforcement, and repair material for walking paths damaged by typhoons. It will be wood-chipped for walking path maintenance and other uses, assisting in the creation of a satoyama crowded with people.



Ms. Yukari Hamano Mr. Heidenobu Takagaki Mr. Takayuki Shimizu

Partner: NPO The Life style Research Institute of Forests

Tokushima Satoyama preservation by local residents in Kamiyama



Support funding
¥2,500,000

Thinned timber utilization
53 trees

70 people participated in activities such as making nesting boxes using thinned timber, forest sauna experiences, and workshops on horse-plowing, horse-logging and lumberjacks.

The Finnish-style sauna has been completed. Thinned timber will be used as firewood.

Forests that are neglected for many years are susceptible to landslides and fallen trees. As forests occupy almost 85% of the town of Kamiyama, an initiative was taken to reduce such risks while also further utilizing the satoyama (village forest). It started by cutting down trees that had reached a suitable age for logging. Then, in September, we built a Finnish-style sauna and use the thinned timber from the satoyama as firewood. We have had over 500 visitors inspect this unique project. It has also attracted wide attention including mention in university lectures.



Mr. Yasuhiro Damon, Mr. Valerie Tere, Ms. Isuko Saito

Partner: Green Valley (NPO)

Shizuoka Protecting and regenerating the forests of Mount Fuji, World Heritage Site



Support funding
¥3,121,725

Forest Maintenance Area
17,000m²

We are continuing activities to preserve beautiful Mt. Fuji for children of the future. Thank you for your support.

Volunteers joined to maintain two forests to prevent destruction of the forest ecosystem.

Destruction of forest ecosystems due to various causes including a change in the relationship between people and the forest can be seen even at the base of Mount Fuji. Last fiscal year we implemented projects in two forests with support from the Eco Card Fund. In the Kitayama Industrial Park Forest, we cleared undergrowth to create a healthy forest environment and also held beekeeping and mushroom conservation workshops. At the Nishiusuzuka Agreement Forest, we have maintained another Mt. Fuji forest through setting up deer preventive fences in 100 locations to protect young trees from wild deer.



Mr. Naoki Ito Mr. Hiroshi Toyooka

Partner: The Mt. Fuji Club (Authorized NPO) *

Nagano, Miyagi The C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland and forests growing in Higashi Matsushima



Support funding
¥2,778,964

Forest maintenance area
110,000m²

We are able to maintain a diverse, abundant woodland, thanks to your support.

Nurturing rich woodlands means nurturing souls that cherish nature.

In the Afan Woodland at Kurohime in Nagano Prefecture, we are helping unattended forests return to their original form. Spring begins with disposing of the trees that have collapsed under the weight of snow. From summer, we continuously cut undergrowth and pruned. Our steady activities have resulted in the identification of 58 endangered species. We also held a "Forest Observation Event" in the forests of Higashi Matsushima in Miyagi Prefecture. There were 81 participants, most of whom were children.



Back row from left: Ms. Mariko Kawanuma, Mr. Atsushi Ishii, Mr. Ryo Ijichi, Mr. C.W. Nicol, Ms. Reiko Noguchi. Front row from left: Mr. Kentaro Fukuchi, Mr. Sume Morita, Mr. Wataru Okawa

Partner: The C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust

We are saddened to advise that Mr. C.W. Nicol, who energetically pursued activities through the Eco Card Fund for many years, passed away on April 3, 2020. We are deeply grateful for his dedication.

Wakayama Creating forests where biodiversity can be experienced



Support funding
¥1,251,300

Future Heritage Project
112 participants

Thanks to your support we have been able to continue children's nature observation activities and the Future Heritage Project. Thank you.

Children enjoying playing among nature are taking interest in environmental conservation.

An area of 30,000m² located in Mokofudodani in Wakayama Prefecture is currently the habitat for the Japanese brown frog and Hynobius setouchi (Setouchi salamander). This project aims to have children understand the importance of nature and to conserve it for the future. It involves clearing undergrowth around a biotope. This work has been rewarded by 40 species of dragonfly being identified in an ecological survey. Our activities to convey to children the enjoyment of playing in nature were attended by 112 children.



Mr. Toshhide Kitahara Mr. Satoru Arimoto

Partner: Association for the Restoration of Nature-Biotope Moko (NPO)

Kanagawa Thinning wild bamboo groves to restore Kamakura forests



Support funding
¥1,519,912

Total participants
887

Thank you for your support. Regenerating forests is a very long-term activity and this year also we will do our best for reshaping the forest.

We want to protect the forests of Kamakura inherited from ancient times. That intent is now spreading to the younger generation.

In scenic Kamakura, numerous young people are participating in a project to protect broad-leaved, evergreen forests from excessive bamboo growth. Despite a long period of rain and severe heat, 339 people toiled hard throughout the year to remove and thin the bamboo groves. Enthusiasm is increasing with 141 people joining tree planting activities that started with making acorn seedlings, and 407 people attending a "Forest classroom" held at kindergartens and other locations.



From left: Mr. Yoshikazu Yano, Ms. Tomomi Tanabe, Mr. Koichi Hasegawa, Mr. Takeharu Shimizu, Ms. Reiko Saito and other participants.

Partner: Chiqnogakukou (NPO)

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



Support funding
¥2,500,000

Thinned timber use
200 trees

We are moving from satoyama resource recycling to a sustainable local society. We will hand over the Irodori Forest to the children of the future.

We are planting flowering shrubs like hydrangeas to make the satoyama (village forest) feel more accessible.

Do you know that satoyama (village forests) form the boundary between people and animals? Creating a properly maintained satoyama as a buffer zone helps prevent damage to villages by wildlife. For that purpose, with volunteer assistance, we have been steadily thinning out trees and clearing undergrowth. The thinned timber has been converted to woodchips and utilized in products such as fertilizer. And to make this satoyama feel more accessible, we also held a tree planting festival to plant hydrangeas and peonies. One hundred flowering shrubs have taken firm root.



Ms. Chiyu Haruna and staff

Partner: Okuharima Yume Club (NPO)

Overseas!



Thanks to your support, eco-projects are spreading worldwide.

- Solomon Islands - Tropical rainforest conservation
- Papua New Guinea - Tropical rainforest conservation
- Republic of Kiribati - South Pacific countries support project
- Tuvalu - South Pacific countries support project
- Nepal - Ken Noguchi: growing forests in the Himalayas
- Philippines - Growing forests to withstand unusual weather
- Thailand - Creating forests with Asian honeybees



Solomon Islands Tropical rainforest conservation



Growing cocoa beans at a vocational school. New efforts to protect the environment and support lives.

The support projects here in the Solomon Islands require resolution of two conflicting issues: attaining a rich life without burdening the environment. With 187 enrolments last year, this lively vocational school has embarked on a new initiative of opening a trial cocoa bean farm. The intention is to establish a business model that includes all aspects from cocoa bean production to processing and then sales, and to develop this into a new local industry.

2019 Graduates of the Permaculture Center
Partner: APSD (NPO)

Support funding
¥7,920,000
Trial farm opening
200m²
This year, around 100 graduates left us after studying the environment and development. We are grateful for your warm support.



Papua New Guinea Tropical rainforest conservation



Changing lifestyles to slow environmental destruction. The power of women is also a driving force.

What is required to have the local people escape from practices such as environmentally destructive slash-and-burn farming? The answer is providing food self-sufficiency and finding a stable income source. We have tried various ways, supported by the Eco Card Fund, and one of those was providing vocational support to women. We conducted sewing classes and training in making soap and peanut butter. The enthusiasm of participants makes these very fruitful initiatives.

Mr. Michikatsu Ehara
Partner: OISCA (NPO)

Support funding
¥6,116,800
Female training participants
28 people
Helping improve the lives of farmers who are desperately conserving tropical forests which are home to diverse flora and fauna. Thank you for your support.



Republic of Kiribati South Pacific countries support project



Local children, Japanese university students and many others join forces to plant trees.

This is a project to plant mangrove forests to protect local lives from the threat of seawater. Trees were planted last fiscal year to protect the road that connects the airport to the town from coastal erosion. Together with local children, university students from Japan and Ministry of Environment staff, we succeeded in planting despite the equatorial heat. In 2020, projects have been suspended due to the coronavirus, so disappointingly we did not reach our target planting numbers.

Ms. Mio Kezuka, Ms. Eriko Tamashiro, Ms. Nozomi Oshiro
Partner: International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (NPO)

Support funding
¥1,946,008
Mangrove planting
3,680 saplings
Mangroves to curb coastal erosion were planted with children and locals. They are showing robust growth.



Tuvalu South Pacific countries support project



On these small islands, this activity has become well embedded, along with the mangroves.

With the proactive participation of locals, tree planting activities on Tuvalu delivered steady results last fiscal year. One achievement is that locals are now able to independently manage the whole process of collecting mangrove seeds, cultivating the saplings and planting the trees. Local interest and expectations are increasing, as evidenced by the attendance of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu at the October workshop.

From left: Ms. Perpetua Latasi, Ms. Susan Tupulanga, Ms. Kyoko Kawajiri, Mr. Iohas Phakawae, Ms. Fasitara Nemofo, Ms. Phatoup Simeti
Partner: Tuvalu Overview (NPO)

Support funding
¥2,493,629
Mangrove planting
11,246 saplings
Activities have been expanded, with a focus on youth groups. Your generous support is creating Tuvalu's future.



Nepal Ken Noguchi: growing forests in the Himalayas



Local staff have upskilled to meet the goal of planting 100,000 trees.

Activities of the last fiscal year started with building a fence to protect the trees from being grazed by Yaks (part of the bovine family). Following that we succeeded in planting 12,000 seedlings including fir and pine. The fence was effective and the seedlings have been steadily growing. When the NPO representative director, Mr. Ken Noguchi, visited the site, he also focused on education for this activity. Now, as a result, smooth management is being achieved with local staff alone.

From left: Mr. Pasang Dawa Sherpa, Mr. Biruh Barol, Mr. Ken Noguchi, Mr. An Talke Sherpa
Partner: Peak Aid (NPO)

Support funding
¥5,305,950
Trees planted
12,000 trees
We are successfully growing seedlings at an altitude of 3,400m. Thanks to everyone's support, Himalayan forests are being revived.



Philippines Growing forests to withstand unusual weather



Making local youth environmentally aware - that is the first step in creating forests rich in biodiversity.

On the island of Luzon in the Philippines, deforestation is increasing the risk of landslides and there is a gradual loss of biodiversity. Towards a long-term resolution of this problem, in addition to activities to plant native species adapted to the local climate and fruit trees, efforts are also being made in environmental education. 447 people, mainly students, attended a workshop on recovering forests rich in biodiversity. This workshop fulfilled a vital role as a setting for communicating the importance of protecting forests.

Dr. Mario G. Lopez and a group of locals
Partner: OISCA (NPO)

Support funding
¥6,138,954
Workshop attendees
447 people
Strong forests, rich in biodiversity, are gradually forming. On the other hand, there are numerous wildfires, and the life-threatening battle continues.



Thailand Creating forests with Asian honeybees



Making flowering tree seeds through pollination activities. "Afforestation without planting" is well underway.

The Eco Card Fund is assisting the protection of rapidly disappearing tropical rainforests in northwestern Thailand. This is an initiative called "Afforestation without planting." It involves having pollination activities of the Asian honeybee assist the cultivation of flowering tree seeds. Last fiscal year, locals were trained, made 60 beehives and installed them in a newly built hut. This represents a major first step towards achievement of agroforestry where the whole village cooperates to pursue agriculture while protecting the forests.

Japanese youth, university students in Thailand and residents of Maemom village who participated in the local summer study program.
Partner: GONGOVA (NPO)

Support funding
¥2,500,000
Apiculture workshop participants
85 people
We made 60 beehives, built one small hut to house the beehives, and planted 130 seedlings. We are grateful for your support.

