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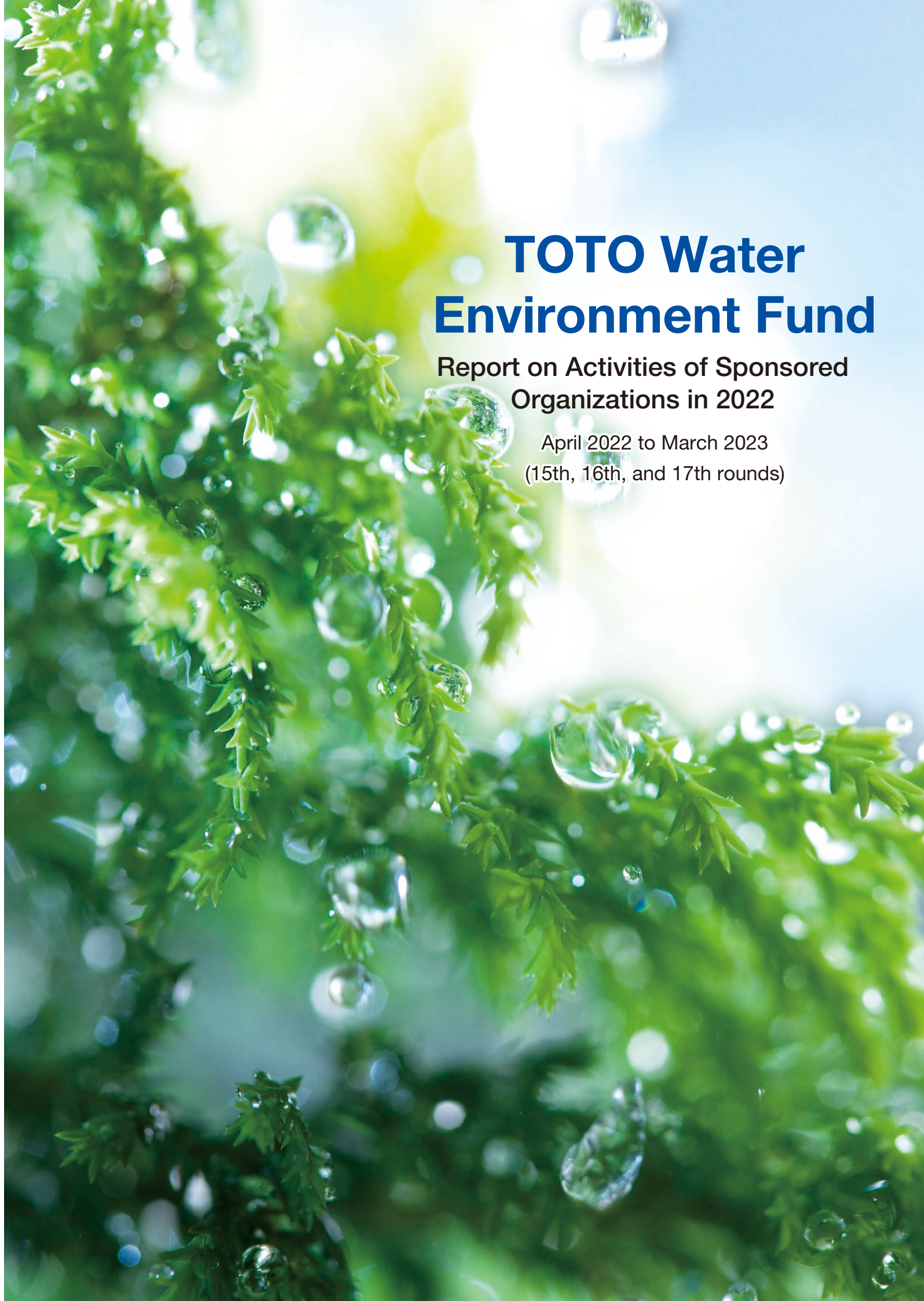


(Issued in September 2023)

TOTO Water Environment Fund

**Report on Activities of Sponsored
Organizations in 2022**

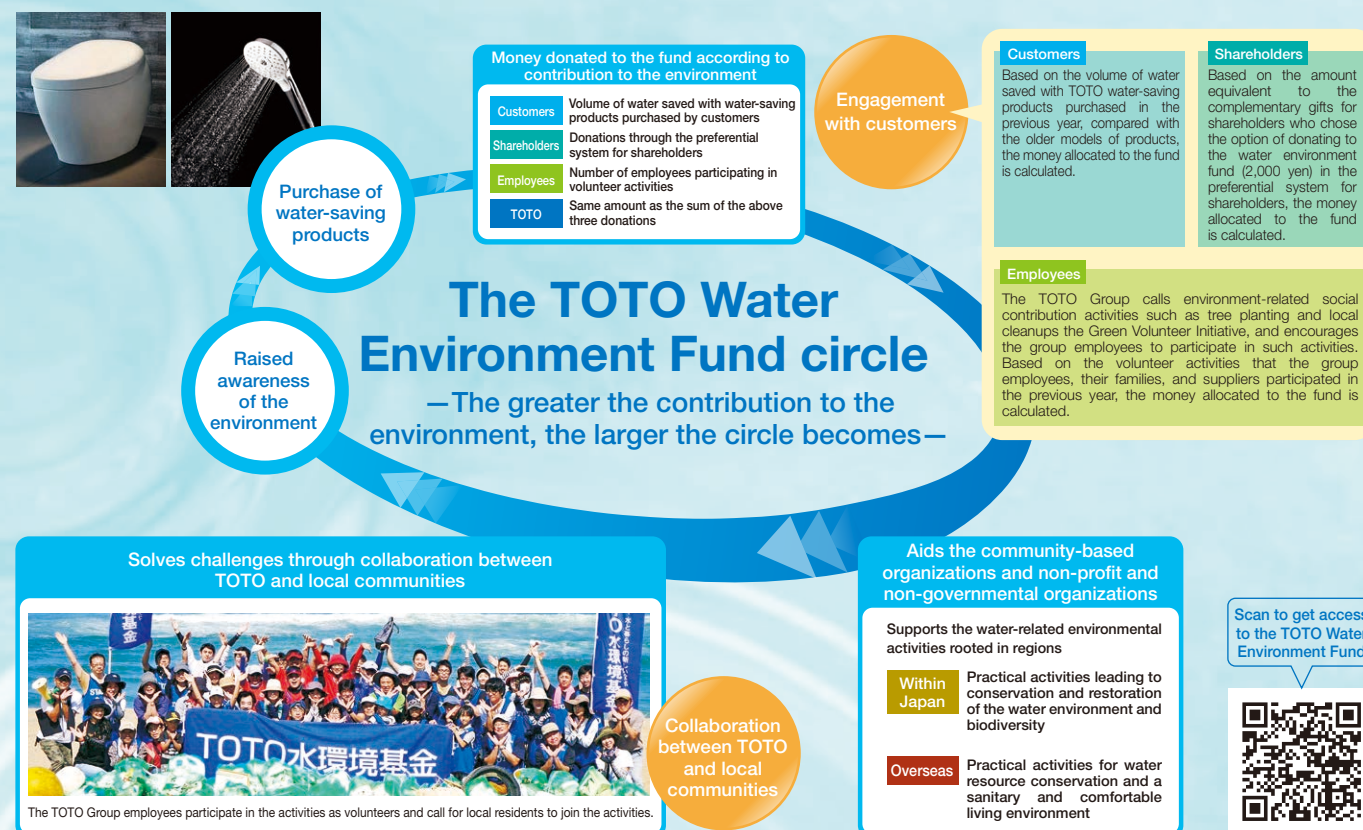
April 2022 to March 2023
(15th, 16th, and 17th rounds)



TOTO Water Environment Fund

The TOTO Group aims to contribute to the development of society by creating an enriched and more comfortable lifestyle and culture built on its plumbing products. What it takes to realize a sustainable world is pursuing water-saving technologies, a role that the TOTO Group should play, and activities of the organizations that are well versed in local circumstances and support local communities.

To this end, the TOTO Group set up the TOTO Water Environment Fund (or TOTO WEF) in 2005, and since then, it has been continuing to support organizations working on water-related environmental activities. The TOTO Water Environment Fund aims for sustainable development by temporarily providing not only goods/materials and money but also direct support for organizations.



Looking for partners with the same passion

The TOTO Water Environment Fund conducts interviews with applying organizations. During these interviews, the Fund first shares its passion for working with local communities to address regional water-environment challenges, and then asks the organizations to explain the details of their activities and their motivations. The Fund selects organizations to support based on whether their activities are deeply rooted in the region and designed to be long-lasting rather than temporary.

Supporting the long-lasting activities rooted in the regions

Many people in various countries and regions around the world die from lack of water and poor sanitation. These areas also face issues such as environmental degradation, poverty, limited access to education, and gender inequality. To solve these issues, simply providing goods, materials, or money—such as temporary water supply and drainage equipment—is not enough. Activities to continuously support local communities and communicate the importance of a sanitary living environment are essential to establish effective maintenance and management systems within the communities. Within Japan, the activities of community-based organizations tackling regional everyday water and life issues play a key role in reviewing and renewing the relationship between water and daily living. The TOTO Water Environment Fund aims for sustainable development by supporting the organizations that carry out the foregoing activities.

Working together to solve challenges as part of the local communities

The TOTO Group calls the volunteer activities contributing to the protection of the global environment the Green Volunteer Initiative, and encourages the group employees to participate as volunteers in the activities carried out by the organizations supported under the TOTO Water Environment Fund. Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the TOTO Group employees participated in such activities while being extremely careful about the infection status. Even after the end of the funding period, they have been continuing to have exchange with people in the local communities including the supported organizations by swapping information and participating in activities as volunteers, and enlarging the circle of participants in the activities for solving water environment challenges. The TOTO Group has been organizing TOTO WEF-Supported Organization Meetup events every year to establish a network of supported organizations. The TOTO Group members involved in the funded activities also participate in these events to deepen exchange in gatherings such as case study presentations given by the supported organizations. These activities have been giving opportunities for the employees to raise awareness of and participate in social contribution activities.

Reflecting everyone's passion

The amount of money to be donated to the fund is determined by converting the following three into the amounts of money, combining them, and further adding the same amount as the combined total (as a TOTO complement): (1) the volume of water saved with the water-saving products purchased by customers, (2) the shareholders' endorsements for the donation by choosing the donation option in the preferential system for shareholders, and (3) the number of TOTO Group employees participating in volunteer activities and donation. The greater the stakeholders' contribution to the environment, the more money is allocated to the TOTO Water Environment Fund.

[17 Sustainable Development Goals]

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was unanimously adopted by all member states at the UN Summit in September 2015 as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) formulated in 2001, are centered on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and are international goals for achieving a better world by 2030. They consist of 17 goals and 169 targets and pledge to achieve a world where no one on the globe will be left behind. The SDGs are universal, covering every country in the world, not only developing countries but also developed countries. Japan has been making the utmost effort to achieve these goals.



The SDG icons of the sustainable development goals supported by the Water Environment Fund activities are displayed under the project titles on the pages that introduce the supported organizations (pages 7 to 25).

- 1 NO POVERTY**: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2 ZERO HUNGER**: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION**: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work (productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity) for all
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE**: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation









- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION**: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER**: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 15 LIFE ON LAND**: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Activities supported by TOTO in 2022

Total amount of grants
 **26.3** million yen

Results of activities implemented by the organizations with the grants

Number of supported organizations **19**  Number of activity events **494**  Number of participants in the activities **18,889**  Number of participants from TOTO Group **322**

Within Japan		Overseas
Number of trees planted 2,930		Number of trees planted 2,750
Area preserved and developed 136,800 m ²		Area preserved and developed 15,000,000 m ²
Number of controlled/eliminated organisms 14,804 organisms • 1102 kg		—
Number of participants in environmental education 6,123		Number of participants in environmental education 2,732
Amount of waste collected for preservation of the water environment and landscape 0.7 t		Amount of waste collected for preservation of the water environment and landscape 18.1 t
—		Number of units installed (toilets, hand-washing equipment, feed water tanks, etc.) 224
—		Number of beneficiaries 20,382
—		Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education 16,305

Cumulative total until 2022 (from the 7th round)

Number of activity events **5,675**  Number of participants **212,668** 

17th round (1st year): List of supported organizations

No.	Organization	Project	Main region of activity	Page
1	The Society of Defend KARAKANEITOTOMBO (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Let's Enrich the Water Environments in Ainosato Using Pygmy Damsellies as Indicators!	Sapporo City, Hokkaido	7
2	Shonai Nature Museum Design Promotion Council	Participatory Study on Sustainable Wetland Restoration Methods via the Use and Circulation of Wetland Resources	Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture	8
3	Kogushi Yamaguchi Conservation and Preservation Association	Education on the Natural Environment through Raising and Observing Yamaguchi Salamanders (Hynobius bakan)	Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture	9
4	Kaikaku Project (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Developing Environmental Education Programs for Motivating Children	Munakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture	10
5	Fukuoka-FUN (General Incorporated Association)	Project for Restoring and Creating Eelgrass Beds, Seagrass That Revitalizes Marine Ecosystems	Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture	11
6	Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFS) (Public Interest Incorporated Association)	Resident-led Waste Management: For a Clean and Green Region and Blue Water Environment	Province of Sorsogon, Philippines	12
7	Foundation for International Development/Relief (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation)	Installation of "Mother's Space," Sanitation for the Minority Mountain Tribe	Kon Tum, Vietnam	13
8	HOPE International Development Agency, Japan (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	We Communicate the Importance of "Toilets and Health"!	Gamo Gofa Zone, Southern Nations and Nationalities People's Region (SNNPR), Ethiopia	14
9	Confront World (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Construction of Toilets and Water Storage Tanks and Production of Soap in Uganda	Butambala District, Uganda	15
10	Bridge for Lives in Mozambique (General Incorporated Association)	Water Environment Improvement Activities for Evacuation Facilities in Conflict Areas in the Republic of Mozambique	Cabo Delgado Province/Nampula Province, Mozambique	16
11	WaterAid Japan (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Water and Sanitation Program in Manzini in the Kingdom of Eswatini	Manzini, Eswatini	17

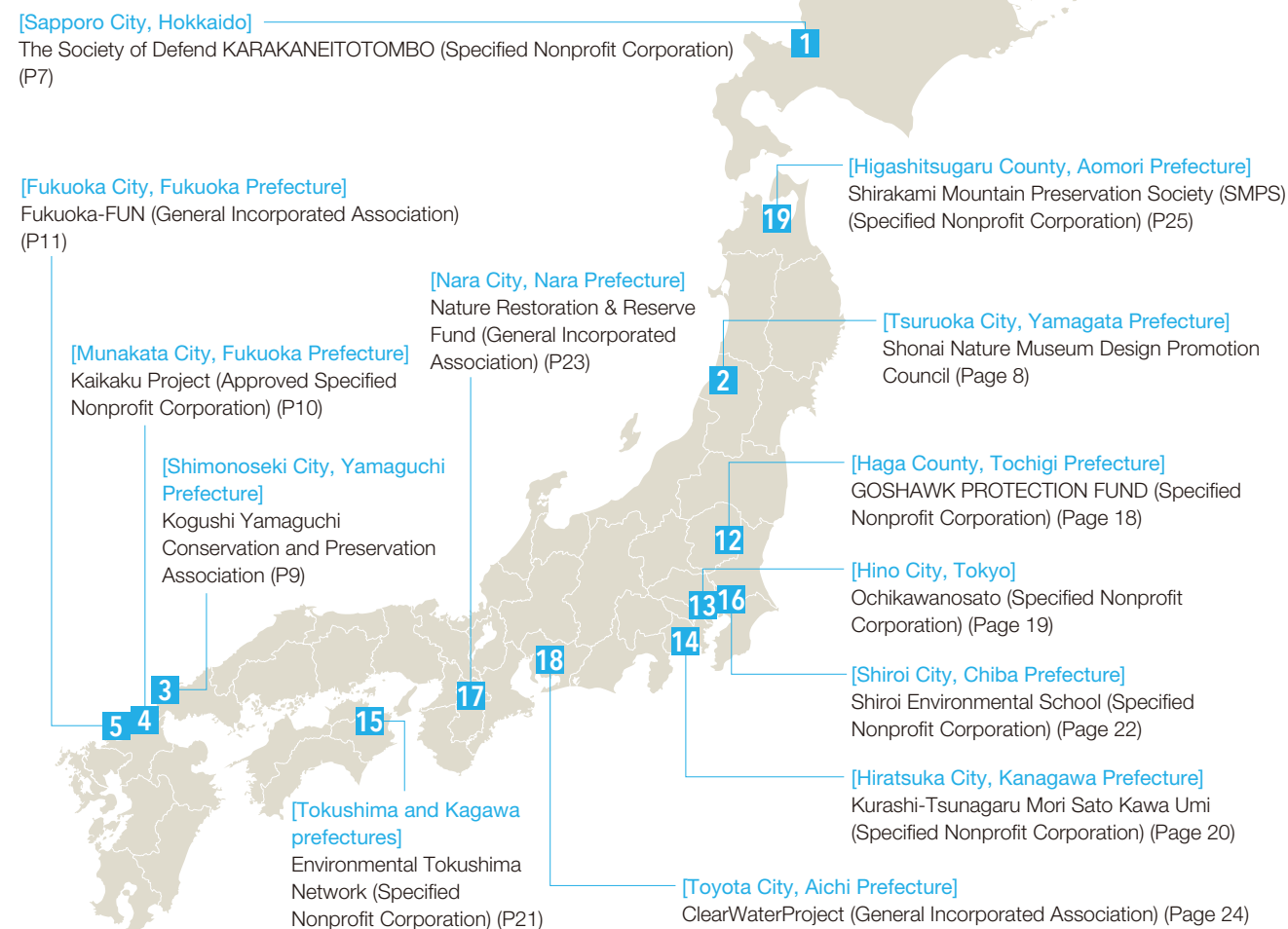
16th round (2nd year): List of supported organizations

No.	Organization	Project	Main region of activity	Page
12	GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Lotus Flowering Waterfront Restoration Project in Sashiba-no-Sato (breeding area of grey-faced buzzards)	Haga County, Tochigi Prefecture	18
13	Ochikawanosato (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Forest and Water Restoration Project by Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center	Hino City, Tokyo	19
14	Kurashi-Tsunagaru Mori Sato Kawa Umi (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Shonan Ikimono Gakko (Open-air Nature School) Project "Lively Kids, Vibrant Living Organisms, and an Energetic Community"	Hiratsuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture	20
15	Environmental Tokushima Network (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Setouchi/Naruto Project to Restore the "Sea That Has Turned into a Waste Bin"	Tokushima and Kagawa prefectures	21

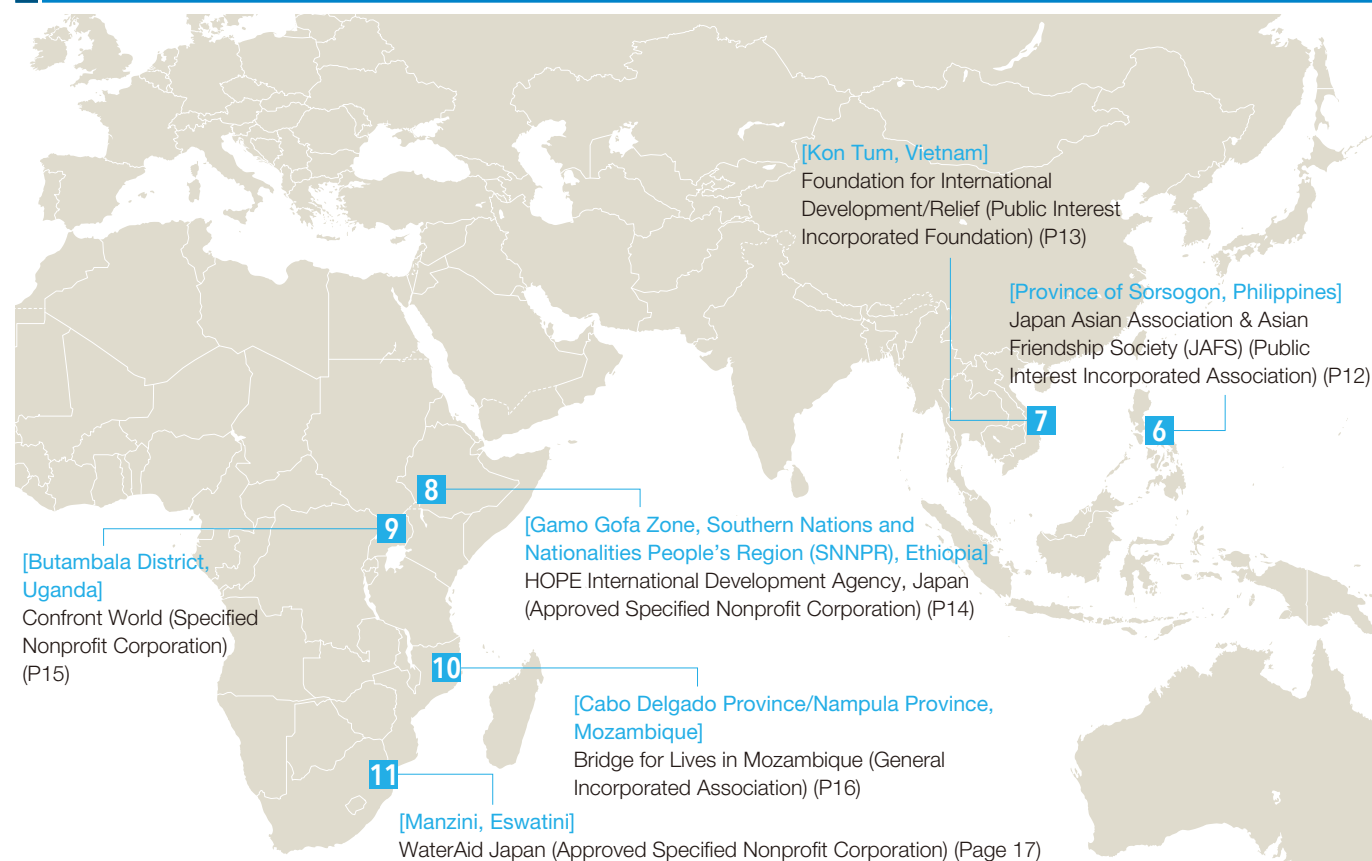
15th round (3rd year): List of supported organizations

No.	Organization	Project	Main region of activity	Page
16	Shiroi Environmental School (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Landscape Restoration in Beautiful Shimoteganuma Lake! 2022	Shiroi City, Chiba Prefecture	22
17	Nature Restoration & Reserve Fund (General Incorporated Association)	Nature Restoration Project for Terraced Rice Fields in Whole Valley for Learning and Practical Implementation	Nara City, Nara Prefecture	23
18	ClearWaterProject (General Incorporated Association)	Digital Picture-Book-Making Project Regarding Living Organisms	Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture	24
19	Shirakami Mountain Preservation Society (SMPS) (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Tree-Planting and Awareness Raising Activities to Protect the Environment against the High-Temperature Damage in Mutsu Bay	Higashitsugaru County, Aomori Prefecture	25

Regions of activities by supported organizations in 2022 (within Japan)



Regions of activities by supported organizations in 2022 (overseas)



Shinoro Fukui Wetland is one of a few wetlands remaining in Sapporo City. Although precious living organisms such as pygmy damselflies (*Nehalennia speciosa*) inhabit this wetland, they are in danger of extinction due to land reclamation by neighboring contractors. This Society was established by the local residents and the then adviser of the Science Study Club in Sapporo Takuhoku High School (the current chairperson of the Society) with an earnest wish to leave the nature of the wetland to local children in 1997. The Society has been working to protect and preserve the familiar nature including Shinoro Fukui Wetland in and around Ainosato Area, Kita Ward, Sapporo City.



At a study meeting called "Talking"



Let's Enrich the Water Environments in Ainosato Using Pygmy Damselflies as Indicators!

Region of activity | Ainosato, Kita Ward, Sapporo City, Hokkaido

Funding period | 1st year

The Society and the local residents dredge the ponds, plant marsh plants, and remove willow and exotic herbs to continually enrich the water environments in the Ainosato and Shinoro Fukui areas. Through these activities, the Society wishes to communicate the charms of living organisms that inhabit wetlands and the difficulty in maintaining and restoring the wetland environments to the local residents. The Society carries out activities to preserve wetland animals and plants such as pygmy damselflies (*Nehalennia speciosa*, 2.5 cm in body length) that inhabit cold wetlands and are designated as Near Threatened (in the IUCN system for classifying species at high risk of extinction), and cannot be found in Sapporo City except in Shinoro Fukui Wetland.

Having university students take the lead in working together with high school students to conduct environmental investigations using damselflies as an indicator encourages them to have an interest in living organisms and natural environments and further grow as people who are able to take specific actions.

Implementation result

- [1] Damselfly Pond was found to be a habitat for damselflies and dragonflies of kinds often seen in wetlands. Damselfly Pond itself is adjacent to Shinoro Fukui Wetland, an area that the Society has been working to preserve; therefore, future environmental improvement activities may help restore the wetland. In Tonneusu Pond, damselflies using plants that stick out the water such as Manchurian wild rice seem to be relatively few in number partly because of a large-scale machined dredging conducted in this pond in 2021.
- [2] In Damselfly Pond and Tonneusu Pond, at least double the initially planned number of marsh plants were successfully planted. Events involving the local residents were successful in attracting the participation of some residents in the Ainosato area and other residents from different areas (5 people).

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	10	▶	14
Number of participants in the activities	245	▶	180
Number of trees planted	700	▶	1,700
Area preserved and developed	600 m ²	▶	500 m ²
Number of controlled/eliminated organisms	200 kg	▶	150 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	30	▶	28

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

- [1] I was impressed by young people playing an active role in the event.
- [2] Looking back, I really had a good time though it was tough work.
- [3] Participating in this event made me think of the interactions between humans and nature.



Kids and adults working together!



Planting in the pond called Damselfly Pond

The Shonai nature Museum Design Promotion Council makes use of Miyakozawa Wetland, Takadate Mountain, and Oyama Kamiike/Shimoike as a field for learning about nature. This council was established in 2011 from a wish to create opportunities for the local residents including children to engage with nature so that they can enjoy feeling at one with nature. The council opened the Tsuruoka City Community Nature Study Center “Hotoria” and has been making various efforts to enable the local residents to readily use it for studying, maintaining the rich natural environment and ecosystem, and ensuring that activities can be carried out safely.



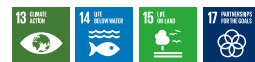
Wreath made from Manchurian wild rice



Participatory Study on Sustainable Wetland Restoration Methods via the Use and Circulation of Wetland Resources

Region of activity | (Miyakozawa Wetland and Oyamashimoike) Oyama Region, Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture

Funding period | 1st year



Miyakozawa Wetland have been becoming drier and drier in recent years, and reed and Manchurian wild rice (perennials of the grass family) have been growing thick there, causing land formation in the wetlands and the loss of habitats and growing environments for animals and plants. The council will create open water in the wetlands by proactively using wetland animals and plants such as Manchurian wild rice. The council will also carry out activities from food and animal feeding perspectives in addition to the traditional environmental preservation perspective, to widen the door for participation by the local residents so that different generations of people can enjoy such activities for various purposes. With a wider variety of stakeholders than ever, the council will work on new sustainable wetland restoration activities.

Implementation result

“Land formation” is an issue in wetland restoration, and in response the council organized various projects such as crafting and making food using Manchurian wild rice (a wetland resource), raising livestock, and raising people’s awareness. Different generations of people joined in the activities, resulting in increasing the reaping period and area to 0.4 ha from the initial 0.25 ha. Also, the organization processed the reaped Manchurian wild rice into powder by itself, taking more labor and time than expected, and this prevented it from carrying out some projects such as commercializing Manchurian wild rice powder (something it studied but could not put into practice) and food events. In 2023 and afterward, we would like to secure cooperation from local companies in processing the reaped Manchurian wild rice into powder and packing the powder into bags so that the organization can focus on projects for reaping Manchurian wild rice and using the processed powder.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	25	30
Number of participants in the activities	1,020	1,220
Amount of waste collected	—	120 kg
Area preserved and developed	0.25 m ²	0.4 m ²
Number of controlled/eliminated organisms	10,000	14,702
	20 kg	100 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	1,020	1,520



Reaping Manchurian wild rice



Completed goat shed

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Elementary school child in the 3rd grade>>

I took a close look at a goat for the first time. I had thought that goats would eat any kind of grass in wetlands before then, so I was surprised to find they had their likes and dislikes. I also learned that goat dung could be used to raise soybeans.

<<Supporter>>

After participating in the wetland management project using Manchurian wild rice and goats, I realized that nature would not directly be protected by humans but would indirectly be protected through humans using the Manchurian wild rice and goats. I would like to further enjoy using Hotoria, the Tsuruoka City Community Nature Study Center, and participating in their activities in the future while adjusting how often and how deep I engage in them.

In February 2016, egg masses of Kasumi salamanders (*Hynobius nebulosus*), designated as Near Threatened, were found in the upstream part of the Dodo River in Kogushi, Toyoura Town, and the volunteer-based Kogushi Kasumi Conservation and Preservation Association was established to protect and preserve its habitats. In 2019, it was revealed that the endemic species was the Yamaguchi salamander (*Hynobius bakan*) that inhabits the southwest part of Yamaguchi Prefecture and parts of Oita Prefecture, and then it was registered as a new species and designated as Vulnerable by the Ministry of the Environment and Yamaguchi Prefecture. The Association was renamed to the current Kogushi Yamaguchi Conservation and Preservation Association at the time, and has been working up until now.



Yamaguchi salamander



Education on the Natural Environment through Raising and Observing Yamaguchi Salamanders (*Hynobius bakan*)

Region of activity | Kogushi, Toyoura Town, Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Funding period | 1st year



The ecology of the Yamaguchi salamanders designated as Vulnerable (in the IUCN system for classifying species at high risk of extinction) remains a mystery in many respects. Based on an investigation on the ecology of the Yamaguchi salamanders as a learning resource, this project implements activities in a number of steps. They range from feeding and observing the salamanders in the hatching, metamorphosis, and growth processes in the neighboring elementary schools to releasing the grown salamanders at the site where they had been confirmed to have gone extinct to restore the ecosystem. The activities are part of education on the natural environment. This project aims to preserve the water environment of the salamanders’ habitat and encourages the school children participating in this project to understand the value of life, be proud of their hometown where such a rare species lives, raise awareness about protecting rich natural environments, and learn the importance of making efforts and devising ways to help through such activities.

Implementation result

[2022]

February: Collected eggs and started observation (7th)
 March: Started feeding salamanders after hatching
 May: Feeding, raising, and observing salamanders coming onto land after metamorphosis
 June: Introduced freezers, refrigerants, and refrigerators
 July: Children moved salamanders to containers to raise them and started to raise and observe them individually (16th)
 August: Raised in refrigerators during summer vacation
 October: Installed biotope (spawning site) (22nd)

[2023]

February: Collected eggs and started activities related to the elementary school (9th)
 March: Checked spawning status at biotope installation site (14th)

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	8	8
Number of participants in the activities	30	30
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	100 or more	100 or more
Other numerically measurable outcomes	1 location	1 location

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Female participant>>

After learning about the ecology of the Yamaguchi salamanders, we experienced feeding them. Observing the little salamanders eagerly eating red worms made me determined to protect the Yamaguchi salamanders and the natural environment in this region from then on.

<<Male participant>>

When I imagined that a rare species might lay eggs in the biotope we created, I felt a sense of wonder. Participating in this activity made me aware of how important it is to protect biodiversity.

<<Male participant>>

The project is based at a local small elementary school, and I was impressed that not only the current schoolchildren but also past students of the school cooperated in the activities carried out by the Society. I felt the children’s passion to prevent the species specific to the region from going extinct.



Creating a biotope



Preparation for moving to a cool place (refrigerator)

This organization was established by the original three members in 2010 from their wish to restore the beach to a condition where children can run barefoot.

The organization carries out activities to prevent crimes and solve environmental issues by means of sports. The organization aims to build a society where its activities enhance the well-being of individuals, empowering them to lead rich and fulfilling lives.



Children picking up trash



Developing Environmental Education Programs for Motivating Children

Region of activity | Munakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture

Funding period | 1st year

To create a good environment for the town, the organization mainly carried out beach cleanup activities with the participation of working adults in the past. The organization has planned a project for children as it believes that an activity from a different perspective is required to raise people's awareness of the environment. Based on the idea that a touching experience in childhood highly motivates people to act for environmental improvement, the organization conducts the following two programs. The first is a research program where children study the sea from the perspectives of the beach, the surface, and the underwater area, using these observations as the basis for independent research during the summer vacation. The second is a program where children pick up trash as if they were playing a game, giving parents and children a unique shared experience that raises their environmental awareness after participating.

Implementation result

- [1] Extra summer lesson "Independent Marine Research Program"
 - Number of participants: 6
 - Number of volunteers participated: 7
- [2] ADVENTURE Lite 2022
 - Number of participants: 39 including 14 groups
 - Collected waste: 200 kg
 - Participants' satisfaction: At an average of 4 or higher (in five levels)
 - Change in awareness and behavior (Percentage of participants who felt their awareness of the environment had been raised) 100%/answered by 8 groups
 - Number of student volunteers participated: 15

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	2	▶	2
Number of participants in the activities	110	▶	45
Amount of waste collected	200 kg	▶	200 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	67	▶	67



Field trip to the port



Hands-on experience on a fishing boat

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

- The children got interested in the environment by picking up trash.
- I was surprised with the large amount and many types of wastes dumped at the beach. After the event, I started noticing trash along the roadsides, and began picking it up and putting it in a trash bin.

While Hakata Bay plays an important role as a biotope for various living organisms, it has issues threatening the ecosystem, such as pollution due to an inflow of domestic wastewater from rivers. This organization was established in 2014 to protect the water environment by getting across to many people the charms and issues of Hakata Bay and the wonder and beauty of nature from the viewpoint of divers. Based on the philosophy of "handing down nature from generation to generation," the organization aims to hand down rich nature to the next generation by people who are proud of the seas near their home.



<<Participant in collecting eelgrass flowers and branches>>



Project for Restoring and Creating Eelgrass Beds, Seagrass That Revitalizes Marine Ecosystems

Region of activity | Hakata Bay and adjacent sea, Fukuoka Prefecture

Funding period | 1st year

The carbon derived from the carbon dioxide captured from the atmosphere and stored in the ocean by the actions of marine organisms is called blue carbon. Seaweed beds where seagrasses and seaweeds are growing thick attract attention as a source of blue carbon with important functions for achieving a decarbonized society. The seaweed beds in Hakata Bay are on the decrease, contributing to the ongoing loss of biodiversity there. This project aims to solve various issues such as rocky-shore denudation in neritic waters (a relatively shallow marine environment) and global warming through the restoration of seaweed beds by restoring/planting eelgrass, in cooperation with the government, fishery stakeholders, and researchers. This project also provides environmental learning opportunities for elementary, junior high, and senior high school students and vocational school students in Fukuoka Prefecture to raise awareness of the environment and cause behavioral changes, so that they can act to create a bountiful sea in the future.

Implementation result

- [Details of actions taken in 2022]
 - The organization worked in collaboration with the Fukuoka City government, community center, elementary and junior high schools, and private companies created eelgrass beds and provided environmental education.
 - The organization conducted fixed-point investigations in Odo Park (Nishi Ward, Fukuoka City).
- [Result indexes in 2022]
 - Number of events held: 5
 - Number of investigations on eelgrass beds: 25
 - Number of eelgrass seedlings made: 1,000
 - Number of eelgrass seeds used: 9,000
 - Eelgrass beds with a total area of about 1 ha were created in Odo Park (Nishi Ward, Fukuoka City) and Fukuham Beach (Chuo Ward, Fukuoka City).

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	6	▶	10
Number of participants in the activities	74	▶	276
Number of trees planted	1,000	▶	1,000
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	209	▶	295
Number of eelgrass seeds cast into the sea	4,000	▶	9,000



Orientation at the fishing village center



Collecting flowers and branches of eelgrass (Zostera marina)

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

- <<Participants in collecting eelgrass flowers and branches>>
 - I realized I would like to do what I can to protect the beautiful ocean and environment.
 - The event gave me a good opportunity to think about what I can do.
- <<Participants in the FUN cleanup day event>>
 - Although I knew about eelgrass as I had seen it on TV before the event, I found pleasure in actually touching the seeds and casting them into the water.
 - I felt the benefits that come from protecting sea creatures and increasing the amount of eelgrass. I would like to let more and more people know this.
 - If the activity to increase the amount of eelgrass gains popularity, this will provide a measure against global warming; I hope this activity will be continued in the future.

Starting with water supply, Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFS) has carried out activities for environmental conservation, educational support, and assistance for independent living at the request of local communities. The Association aims to help regions become self-reliant in addressing local issues by combining necessary projects across these four fields. In Japan, the Association engages in public awareness and promotional activities to attract interest in Asia and its support activities, and it organizes charity events for the members in Japan to expand the network for supporting Asia and broaden its activities.



At the composting training



Resident-led Waste Management: For a Clean and Green Region and Blue Water Environment

Region of activity | Matnog Town, Province of Sorsogon, Philippines

Funding period | 1st year



In many rural areas in the Philippines, people throw away trash near water such as the seas and rivers, and this has been a major issue in the town of Matnog, the target region of the activities in this project. In this town, although activities to restore mangrove forests were conducted in the past, the plastic waste released from residential areas has prevented the growth of young mangrove plants on the shore. This not only leads to unsanitary living and water environments but also is affecting the living of local residents and causes marine pollution with plastics. This project promotes composting organic waste, greening, and recycling and raises the local residents' awareness of proper disposal of waste to improve the waste disposal situation in the region and households, while encouraging the local residents to take the initiative in solving the issue.

Implementation result

1. Building the clean and green regional center (Camachiles Village Composting and Seedling Raising Center was constructed to promote composting of organic waste and greening)
2. Installation of durable trash bins for recycling plastics (to let the local people form the habit of preventing littering and promote trash separation and recycling)
3. Clean and Green Neighbor Contest (exchange of information and mutual learning among local residents)
4. International cleanup events (held in 3 countries and 6 regions, to improve the local environments and jointly address the issue of global marine pollution with plastics)
5. Dissemination of information and networking (to enlighten and educate local residents and establish a cooperative relationship with the government by distributing brochures and posting information online using the center as the base for such operations)



High school students digging up sand and collecting trash



A youth leader instructing children to separate trash

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	60	▶	169
Number of participants in the activities	1,490	▶	5,882
Amount of waste collected	2,600 kg	▶	18,100 kg
Number of trees planted	600	▶	2750
Area preserved and developed	5,000,000 m ²	▶	15,000,000 m ²
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	250	▶	2732
Establishment of the composting and seedling raising center	1 unit/1 location	▶	1 unit/1 location
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	500	▶	1,527
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	240	▶	440

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Villager>>

Although I had found it difficult to work on protecting the local environment during busy days, I realized that with adequate preparation and access to the necessary materials and information, I could contribute in various ways, and I am very pleased about it.

In order to build a society where children worldwide can grow up in good health, the Foundation for International Development/Relief works with companies, organizations, and many individuals in Japan to promote international cooperation. To this end, the foundation has been providing locally rooted support across various fields, helping people around world to rise out of poverty and enabling communities to develop independently. The foundation has also been working to help natural disaster victims in Asian countries including Japan.



Training to popularize sanitary reform



Installation of "Mother's Space," Sanitation for the Minority Mountain Tribe

Region of activity | Within Kon Tum, Vietnam (Tu Mo Rong, Kon Plong)

Funding period | 1st year



In Kon Tum, a central highland region that is among the least developed places in Vietnam, people wash clothes in a river or at a well far from their homes and relieve themselves in nearby bushes, increasing the risk of infections and contributing to the high infant mortality rate. This project is to install multi-purpose self-made equipment Mother's Space that can be used by the residents to relieve themselves and wash clothes in two counties so that the sanitary environment in households and the region can be improved and hygienic behavior can take root with the residents.

Implementation result

The sanitary equipment, Mother's Space was successfully installed in 200 households across two counties as planned, under a local initiative that exceeded expectations, despite a slight delay in the activities this year (2022) due to ongoing COVID-19 impacts from the previous year. Members of the households that received the equipment in the previous year were often seen advising the target households in 2022 about the equipment's effectiveness and how to use it and ways to improve it. The administrative officers in the target region were surprised to see that pieces of homemade sanitary equipment —crafted from materials suited to each household, including the poorest— were completed one after another. They began introducing these activities and their results in workshops and meetings.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of participants in the activities	2,000	▶	2,000
Installation of sanitary equipment "Mother's Space"	200 units	▶	200 units
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	800	▶	800
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	1,950	▶	2,000

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Kon Tum Health Department Officer>>

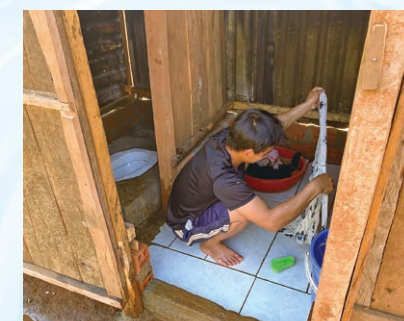
In the target region, although activities to install toilets and spread their use had been carried out for many decades, it was extremely difficult to popularize sanitation management. The use of sanitary equipment had not spread or taken root after the projects were completed. Unlike the previous activities, this Mother's Space activity can be highly evaluated in that a space was secured for mothers. I believe that the idea of providing not only a toilet, a physical thing, but also a space for people made a difference, attracting the active participation of many people and spreading the activity.

<<Villager who installed the toilet>>

I couldn't wait to use this sanitary equipment even before it was completed. We had shared a toilet with neighbors before that, making it difficult to keep it clean and controlled. Now, I have a toilet installed in my house so I can clean it every day and make it better to use and control by devising things such as adding a shelf. My family also became happier!



Setting up Mother's Space



Someone using Mother's Space

HOPE International Development Agency, Japan operates under the belief that basic rights essential for all people to live should be guaranteed regardless of where they live and everyone should be given opportunities to fully realize their abilities. The Agency implements projects that equip people suffering from poverty—yet unable to receive assistance—with the skills and knowledge needed for independent living. It also carries out development activities that help them build economically self-reliant communities through the effective use of locally available goods and materials.



Children drawing sanitation awareness-raising posters



We Communicate the Importance of “Toilets and Health”!

Region of activity | Oyda, Gamo Gofa Zone, Southern Nations and Nationalities People's Region (SNNPR), Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Funding period | 1st year

In the southern regions of Ethiopia consisting of many ethnic minorities, support has not reached the people living in rural areas. School children in these regions use unsanitary latrines with unstable footings. This project installs toilets and handwashing stations in schools, with the cooperation of parents, teachers, and local residents. It also provide teachers with hygiene and sanitation training and educates school children about hygiene and sanitation including the management of toilets and hand washing. In the schools where toilets were constructed through the activities in 2021, the project encourages the school children to lead in awareness-raising activities to use the toilets, eliminating open defecation.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	17	16
Number of participants in the activities	479	3,604
Installation of school toilets	2 units	2 units
Installation of hand-wash stations	1 location	1 location
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	210	210
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	25	25

Implementation result

At Kale Malo Elementary School, awareness-raising pictures such as about soap and hand washing were painted on the walls of the school latrines constructed last year. The WaSH club members carry out sanitation awareness-raising activities and clean the toilets and school premises and the school children have gotten accustomed to using the toilets. We held a workshop for drawing awareness-raising posters with the WaSH club members. The best posters were selected by TOTO employees so that a connection between the site and Japan could be created. Some students from Yongi Elementary School visited Kale Malo Elementary School to get to know each other and mutually learn about sanitation activities. Unfortunately, the students from Kale Malo Elementary School could not visit Yongi Elementary School due to postponed construction of toilets in Yongi Elementary School (because of a collapse of roads and bridges after continuous rain).



Demonstration of toilet cleanup



Demonstration of hand washing

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Representative student from Kale Malo Elementary School, Melkamnesh Meshasha (upper grade)>>
I am very happy that the members of the WaSH club from Uba Yambala traveled all the way to visit us. I hope that the people in Uba Yambala will practice health and sanitation activities including cleaning up the toilets as we do here. It is very important to keep the toilets clean. Today, I let them know that we always use water to clean the toilets.

<<Advisory instructor in Uba Yambala, Astel Ali>>

Today, we learned a lot about hand washing and new toilets. Everything was a first experience for the children. I would like to share the information learned with other teachers when I go back to the school. We will keep the toilets as clean as students and teachers at Kale Malo Elementary School do.

<<Principal of Kale Malo Elementary School, Alamayo Almedy>>

We had an exchange with an elementary school in Garadida before. But this event, being the first for the WaSH clubs of both schools to meet each other, was a good experience for the children. We cannot improve the hygienic environment without water and so I hope that other schools will make it possible to supply safe water and construct toilets.

Confront World is an international non-governmental organization that operates in Japan and Africa, for the purpose of creating a world without absurdity, that is, creating a society where living is guaranteed and rights are protected so that all people can decide their future themselves. Based on the following two missions, the student and adult members construct and maintain schools and sanitary facilities: backing the independence of people facing a difficult situation such as conflict and poverty; and providing information and options to back the social contribution of people.



In front of the constructed water storage tank



Construction of Toilets and Water Storage Tanks and Production of Soap in Uganda

Region of activity | Butambala District, Republic of Uganda

Funding period | 1st year

In Butambala District, a rural village in the Republic of Uganda, it takes 2 hours each way to bring the water necessary for living. In the district, it is also difficult to obtain soap and hand washing equipment necessary to wash your hands. In cooperation with the local NGO, Confront World builds toilets, installs a water storage tank/water filters, and produces soap to improve access to water. The organization also raises awareness by providing hygiene and sanitation training to the local community.

Implementation result

- Construction of toilets for household use: 16 units
- Water storage tanks in schools: 1 unit
- Construction of water purification filters: 2 units
- Provision of simple hand washing equipment and soap to local residents: 400 households
- Production of soap Liquid soap: 1,100 L
- Solid soap: 750 bars

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	12	12
Number of participants in the activities	115	115
Installation of toilets	20 units	16 units
Installation of water storage tanks	1 unit	1 unit
Installation of hand-washing equipment	180 locations	165 locations
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	9,404	14,270
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	9,000	13,750

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Member from the partner NGO (JEDOV)>>

In Butambala District, children are busy bringing water home and so have no time to go to school. None of the households in the district has a toilet, causing the spread of HIV, which requires a sanitary environment. All the JEDOV members love this district and wish to make it a better place. Although the project is progressing well, I would like to increase the number of fans of the district and expand the support activities.

<<Resident of Butambala District>>

I am very grateful for the Confront World and JEDOV activities and would like to support them as they have been struggling to help people facing a difficult situation. The toilets built in the past had no door, so there was no privacy. These toilets made of banana leaves are very weak, and some children fell in the holes. The new toilets have a roof and door, which is very helpful.



Production of soap



Hygiene and sanitation training

In the Republic of Mozambique, one of the poorest countries in the world, most of the population is in poverty and has many issues difficult to solve. Bridge for Lives in Mozambique supports the country so that every resident can acquire the knowledge and wisdom needed to survive and overcome challenges by themselves, thereby contributing to improving the dignity of life of people in the country. The organization implements activities to improve the quality of life, such as establishing and managing educational facilities in slums, constructing water infrastructure and providing hygiene and sanitation training in undeveloped rural areas, and supporting activities of the artists who have their roots in traditional culture.



Water supply equipment installed in the project



Water Environment Improvement Activities for Evacuation Facilities in Conflict Areas in the Republic of Mozambique

Region of activity | Pemba, Cabo Delgado Province and Nampula, Nampula Province, Republic of Mozambique

Funding period | 1st year



Bridge for Lives in Mozambique constructed the Pemba refugees' home and the Nampula small private school to help the refugees who have been rapidly increasing due to domestic disputes. Both of the facilities have no water equipment, preventing the refugees from living a sanitized life. This project brings running water to the Pemba refugees' home and installs a well and water storage tank at the Nampula small private school to provide access to safe water for the refugees living there.

Implementation result

- Pemba refugees' home: Laying of water pipes
 - [1] Laying water pipes in the premises: 1 location
 - [2] Equipping with feed-water and drainage equipment: 1 location (including applying cement to the building)
- <Additional information>
A 40-meter-deep well was dug manually and a water supply pipe was laid up to the outer wall, enabling people on the passageways to use safe water.
- Nampula temple school: Deep-well-sinking and installation of a water storage tank
The ground was manually dug but the bedrock was too hard to dig further. After a geological survey was conducted via the electrical sounding method, the ground was mechanically dug, but no water came out. As an alternative, the nearby shallow well from which water came out only in the rainy season was repaired.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of participants in the activities	52	▶	62
Installation of wells and waterworks	2 units	▶	3 units
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	1,380	▶	3,015



Well construction work



Boring with an excavator

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Mechanical-well-sinking company>>

Like the case at this small private school, we experienced instances where no water came out when the ground was dug even after geological surveys were conducted because the Nampula region has hard bedrock. I hope that the government will construct water infrastructure as soon as possible.

<<Resident in the refugees' home area>>

I am very glad to be able to use clean water.

<<Resident in the Pemba small private school area>>

Their support such as water, foods, hospitals and medicines is of great help to us.

WaterAid tries to improve the lives of people who are the poorest in the world and likely to be left behind in society by providing three things essential for healthy life with dignity: clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene. Taking advantage of its expertise in the water and hygiene fields, WaterAid is currently based in 34 countries worldwide and is implementing water and hygiene projects in a total of 26 countries including in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America.



(Before implementation of the project) Residents using unsanitary water



Water and Sanitation Program in Manzini in the Kingdom of Eswatini

Region of activity | Lozitha, Ludzideludze, Manzini Region, Kingdom of Eswatini

Funding period | 1st year



In rural areas in Eswatini, a small country in southern Africa, two-thirds of the population do not have access to clean water due to improper management and maintenance of water-supplying facilities and climate change. This project installs water-supplying facilities suitable for the region and establishes a maintenance system for the facilities, and provides participatory hygiene and sanitation training in Lozitha, Ludzideludze to enable the local residents to lead a healthy life.

Implementation result

To enable all the 305 residents in Lozitha and about 255 residents in the neighboring villages to sustainably use clean water and all the 46 households in Lozitha to install and use the toilets by themselves, the organization implemented the following activities: [1] establishing and training the water management committee, [2] installing a feedwater system using photovoltaic energy, [3] selecting and training private operators taking charge of maintaining water supply facilities and collecting water charges, and [4] holding participatory hygiene and sanitation workshops for the residents. Although the initial plan expected that the number of residents in the neighboring villages who would be given access to the feedwater system installed in this project would be 300, the number was reduced to 255 as a result of studying the details of the feedwater system design and coordination with other feedwater systems. Although the estimated number of participants in participatory hygiene and sanitation workshops for the residents was 305, covering all the residents in Lozitha, the actual number of participants was 90 in total, that is, an average of 2 people from each household participated.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Installation of the feedwater system using photovoltaic energy	1 unit	▶	1 unit
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	605	▶	560
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	305	▶	90



Construction work for pipe network and feedwater systems



Water drawing place installed near the households

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Male resident>> (Mr. Tosh Dlamini)

We drank unsafe water that we brought from mountains (water sources) in the past but the water was so scarce that little was delivered to the other side (northern part) of the community, causing disputes over water.

We had to drink the water drawn as-is because there was nowhere to purify the water before drinking. There was no water storage tank to distribute the water drawn to more people.

<<Female resident>> (Ms. Tsakasile Dlamini)

I'm glad that we can drink clean water and reduce the spread of diseases thanks to support from WaterAid. We were able to have a kitchen garden and this will completely change our way of life.

The GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND was established in 1989 to protect goshawks with a focus on monitoring the poaching of goshawks in Nasunogahara. The fund works to create an environmentally sound society through research and studies on eagles and hawks including goshawks and activities to preserve their habitats. The fund is also involved with a wide range of activities such as running Sashiba-no-Sato Nature School where children can learn about a life with nature through playing in nature.



Group photo taken at the observation event



Lotus Flowering Waterfront Restoration Project in Sashiba-no-Sato (breeding area of grey-faced buzzards)

Region of activity | Ichikai Town, Haga County, Tochigi Prefecture

Funding period | 2nd year



The grey-faced buzzard (*Butastur indicus*), a member of the hawk and eagle family, is at the top of the food chain in nature because it hunts in paddy fields and eats small animals and insects. For this reason, protecting its habitat contributes to preserving the region's distinctive natural environment and healthy ecosystem. This project restores the waterfront and wetland by raising lotuses in abandoned rice paddies in the satoyama (village forest). This helps secure habitats for amphibians and water bugs of endangered species and provides feeding grounds for grey-faced buzzards and produces lotus roots.

Implementation result

- [1] The project started managing two sites of rice paddies in a marshy valley where lotuses were planted in 2021 and looked after 10 a (1,000 m²) this year.
- [2] Nature observation event: Held 3 times, participated in by 76 people
- [3] Investigation of living organisms: Conducted 6 times for recording rare species such as Japanese fire-bellied newt.
- [4] An exchange of opinions with local residents deepened their understanding of the project and increased their interest in its activities.



Looking for living organisms in the observation event

Investigation of living organism: Japanese fire-bellied newt (*Cynops pyrrhogaster*)

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	10	18
Number of participants in the activities	87	113

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Participant in the observation event>>

I enjoyed observing various living organisms. I was surprised that there were so many. The lotuses were beautiful.

<<Local resident>>

Their cooperation in the environmental conservation and community development in the region is of great help for us.

Ochikawanosato was established in 2020 to help develop communities where seniors can live comfortably, working-age adults can enjoy relaxed weekends, parents can raise children with ease, children can grow up in a free and open atmosphere, and people of all generations can actively interact. Based at Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center, the organization implements various activities to promote peoples' interactions in the region in cooperation with the local community associations and civic activity groups.



Forest and Water Restoration Seminar (Summer)



Forest and Water Restoration Project by Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center

Region of activity | Ochikawa, Hino City, Tokyo

Funding period | 2nd year



In the wooded area of Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center, the soil became compacted, young plants struggled to grow, and fallen leaves were carried out to make fertilizer, preventing the formation of leaf mold after the area was opened to the public. In recent years, the number of standing dead trees and fallen trees has become more noticeable. In this project, the organization works with local people to restore the circulation of the water and air in the soil and to rehabilitate the wood through activities such as soil improvement workshops. It also develops projects in which children can participate to raise their awareness of shaping and nurturing the future environment themselves.

Implementation result

Through the two Forest and Water Restoration Seminars held last year, the land has changed: soft weeds now grow under the trees, and Japanese zelkova and chestnut oak seedlings have begun to sprout. In July and December, the participants learned about the relationship between the nearby rivers and the underground water veins. They then trimmed bushes around the park, which caused water to spring up in a grassy field within the park. They built a water channel along the path of the spring water and directed it to a depression. A month later, waterside plants had grown around the channel like those along a natural stream, and the water that had collected in the depression had not flowed out but had begun seeping into the soil. The spring that emerged in December is still gushing, and the water within the earth has begun to flow.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	3	3
Number of participants in the activities	170	183
Area preserved and developed	10,000 m ²	11,000 m ²
Number of types of living organisms found around rice fields	43	51

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Female participant from Chuo Ward>>

I saw water spring forth before my eyes, and I still can't believe such a miraculous thing happened. I'm curious to see how this spring will change.

<<Female neighbor in her 90s>>

I'm amazed at how different the view is when I step into this park. I never imagined how beautiful it would be when covered with fallen leaves!



Investigating living organisms around rice fields



Grooving, digging holes, and spreading charcoal and fallen leaves

Based at the natural playground, Banyu Mizube no Gakko (waterfront nature school), the organization carries out activities to protect and preserve the region's natural environment and provides environmental education for children and creates opportunities for them to engage with nature in local rivers. This organization was established in April 2001 and then reorganized as an incorporated nonprofit organization in May 2017 to strengthen the governing system and expand its movement. The organization is currently running projects such as an eel habitat creation campaign and a town planning campaign that promotes coexistence between people and other living organisms.



Building a small pond for damselflies and dragonflies



Shonan Ikimono Gakko (Open-air Nature School) Project "Lively Kids, Vibrant Living Organisms, and an Energetic Community"

◎ **Region of activity** | Hiratsuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture

◎ **Funding period** | 2nd year

In the downstream area of Sagami River, there are few places where people can engage with nature in the river due to the construction of embankments and riverside parks, as well as water pollution from increasing urbanization. In addition, the spread of video games and the loss of nearby playgrounds have distanced children from nature. For these reasons, the organization conducts about 50 environmental learning programs each year under the motto: "Lively kids, vibrant living organisms, and an energetic community." The goal is to turn Banyu Mizube no Gakko into an outdoor learning museum. The organization works on maintaining the ecosystem so that activities in the museum can be carried out on a long-term basis.

Implementation result

- Turning the environment itself into an outdoor learning museum
 - (1) The organization held the Banyu Mizube no Gakko operating council and gained the consent of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the land owner and Hiratsuka City, the land manager.
 - (2) The organization carried out ecological uplift activities such as cutting grass with the Living Organisms Team, looking after bamboo forests, and creating the Totoro labyrinth in a bamboo forest with children.
 - (3) For preserving biodiversity
 - [1] Restoring an Amur silvergrass (*Miscanthus sacchariflorus*) field by weeding it to preserve the habitat of the Eurasian harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*)
 - [2] Installing and monitoring Ishikura Cage, a net cage specifically designed to create a biotope, for the eel habitat creation campaign
 - [3] Installing a device made by stacking leaves, stones, and tree branches as an open space for living organisms
- Environmental learning activities

To encourage the members to take the initiative, the organization held Shonan Slow Workshop to increase the quality of life, where the participants enjoyed activities such as dyeing with natural vegetable-based dyes. It also held Shonan Picnic Below Embankment for SDGs, an event to promote SDGs and more than 1,300 visitors attended the event. For the above events, two persons were appointed as new operating committee members.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	31	56
Number of participants in the activities	560	2,980
Area preserved and developed	90,000 m ²	90,000 m ² <Estimate>
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	560	2,980



Upstream and downstream exchange event



Night walk event

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Participant: Mr. I>>

I experienced three fun things today. The first was cutting bamboo. I cut my finger a little but I realized that I need to use more force when cutting. The second was making a tent from bamboo. Although tying the strings was hard, staying in the tent I built myself was great! And the third was playing hide-and-seek and tag. I couldn't find everything in the first hide-and-seek. I want to find a caterpillar of a Japanese circe butterfly (*Hestina persimilis japonica*) by myself next time.

<<Participant: Mr. H>>

Banyu Mizube no Gakko is a paradise for living organisms, where I can see birds flying in the sky, plants growing in the fields, young worms under fallen leaves, and insects flitting through the grass, and fish breaking the water's surface. I love such Mizube no Gakko. I hope this fun environment stays just the same when I grow up.

Environmental Tokushima Network was established for all people in Tokushima Prefecture in 2008 to promote the coexistence of nature and society, contribute to societal development in harmony with nature, preserve the global environment and ecosystems, and support consumer protection. The organization promotes projects in areas such as environmental protection, forest preservation, energy saving, consumer protection, and assistance for house building, drawing on its broad expertise and qualifications in environmental, consumer, and energy issues.



Green lecture on demand at Tokushima Prefectural Kawashima High School



Setouchi/Naruto Project to Restore the "Sea That Has Turned into a Waste Bin"

◎ **Region of activity** | Whole area of Tokushima Prefecture and eastern part of Kagawa Prefecture

◎ **Funding period** | 2nd year

In recent years, while concerns have been rising about the impacts of microplastics in the oceans on the ecosystem, the increase in empty plastic (PET) bottles washed up on Naruto Beach has become noticeable. This project has been carrying out participatory cleanup activities and environmental learning workshops, aiming to increase people's interest in waste washed ashore and take cooperative action with the local community. In 2022, the organization held symposiums and training sessions to reduce plastic waste in the Seto Inland Sea and share information on its activities nationwide, in cooperation with organizations addressing ocean plastic pollution in the nine prefectures bordering the Seto Inland Sea.

Implementation result

In this project in 2022, we approached 43 organizations based in 10 regions bordering the Seto Inland Sea, and visited and made arrangements with the organizations in 7 regions out of 10. Although the organizations from Yamaguchi and Oita prefectures could not participate in the forum and the initially planned venue was changed for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we secured another venue in Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture where our organization is located and successfully held the forum with help from the regional government. On this occasion, we visited many other regional organizations in Setouchi Area and traveled across two straits to see the beaches where cleanup activities have been conducted and the capes and peninsulas in the northern, southern, eastern, and western ends of the Seto Inland Sea area. This travel allowed us to check the Seto Inland Sea again and realize the future challenges in our activities against environmental pollution due to ocean plastics.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	8	12
Number of participants in the activities	115	240
Amount of waste collected	-	201 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	120	274
Number of organizations cooperating in the regional activities	10	23

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Associate Prof. Tomoya Kataoka, Civil and Environmental Engineering Course, Engineering for Production and Environment, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Ehime University>>
Thank you for inviting me to this forum. I think many nonprofit organizations in Setouchi Area gathering and sharing information on their activities made this forum the only productive opportunity in the Shikoku region, and it enables the participants here to reflect the information in their own activities. Participating in this forum has fueled my passion to do research and development that will help your activities in the future.

<<Mr. Tadasuke Yoshioka, Representative of One-hand Seto Friend (Kagawa)>>

I would like to thank you for giving me this valuable opportunity today. I truly enjoyed the forum and found it to be a great experience for learning and raising my awareness. I also appreciate the staff's efforts for planning and running this event. Although our organization is still in its early stages, I was inspired and impressed by learning more about the goals, fields, and areas of your organization's activities. I believe your organization has many more strengths that make it a top leader in the Shikoku region in the fields of environmental and community development. We look forward to receiving your guidance and would like to keep working together with your organization in the future as well.



At the ocean trash forum



Joint ocean trash cleanup activity with regional cooperation organizations

The Shiroi Environmental School was established in 2000 to implement projects to restore and preserve the nature of satoyama (village forests) and abandoned wet and dry fields in the Hokusō Region (the north part of Chiba Prefecture) including Shiroi City where the environment has been deteriorating. Its goal is to create a peaceful and comfortable community by preserving valuable satoyama rich in lush vegetation and diverse wildlife and passing them on to the next generation. The organization also provides opportunities to educate children about environmental conservation such as through the Rice Field School and organizes exchange among local residents where they can experience the traditional culture in the region.



Collection of waste on the banks of Shimoteganuma Lake



Landscape Restoration in Beautiful Shimoteganuma Lake! 2022

◎ **Region of activity** | Hiratsuka Area, Shiroi City, Chiba Prefecture

◎ **Funding period** | 3rd year

The water quality of the Teganuma lakes located in the northern part of Chiba Prefecture has deteriorated so much that the lakes came to be known as the dirtiest lakes in Japan, due to rapid urban development from the mid-1950s to the 1960s. This project works on improving embankments and restoring abandoned farmland scattered throughout the basins to enhance the water quality of the Teganuma lakes. It also aims to restore the Teganuma lakes into a waterfront that feels familiar to people and where children can interact with living organisms, by maintaining and enhancing their biodiversity.

Implementation result

Aging farming population in the Hiratsuka area and lack of successors is an unavoidable fact. The organization's efforts to reduce abandoned farmland, restore archetypal scenes in Japan and engaging with living organisms by collecting trash and planting landscape plants made impressions on many local residents who participated in the project and provided them with peace of mind. The project made the participants sense that healthy water is essential as the basis for engaging with nature and various living organisms in this region. The collaborative work between local residents and other citizens and activities to use idle land and remove invasive alien species helped local farmers maintain and continue farming.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	24	▶	22
Number of participants in the activities	1,200	▶	554
Amount of waste collected	300 kg	▶	100 kg
Area preserved and developed	13,000 m ²	▶	13,000 m ²
Number of controlled/eliminated organisms	-	▶	852 kg Alternanthera philoxeroides
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	145	▶	102
Maintenance of embankment on the south of Shimoteganuma Lake	500 m	▶	1,000 m



Removal of invasive alien species



Water quality inspection at Shimoteganuma Lake

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Cleanup on embankment on the south of Shimoteganuma Lake>>

This is the third year since 2020, when we began collecting trash and cutting grass on the embankment. Although I was shocked by the large amount of illegally dumped bulky waste in the first year, I'm glad to see that the amount collected is now small and that the lake's landscape has remained beautiful this year.

<<On-board observation event and water quality inspection at Shimoteganuma Lake>>

The view from the boat was amazing. I realized that many waterbirds live in Shimoteganuma Lake. I felt disappointed to see so many mute swans there, especially as they were tearing up the fields of nearby farms.

The Nature Restoration & Reserve Fund was established in 2006 to contribute to biodiversity through expanding the spaces inhabitable for wildlife. The organization works to secure and maintain habitats for saving and raising many living organisms, and to establish nature reserves by not only protecting pristine nature but also restoring and preserving secondary nature—such as agricultural land—that has been formed over many years through interactions between humans and nature.



Digging a pond in an abandoned paddy field



Nature Restoration Project for Terraced Rice Fields in Whole Valley for Learning and Practical Implementation

◎ **Region of activity** | Nara City, Nara Prefecture

◎ **Funding period** | 3rd year

The secondary nature—habitats that were once suitable for wildlife while being used by humans—is increasingly being devastated, taking the form of dried paddy fields, land contaminated with pesticides, and abandoned farmland." This project restores the whole valley into a haven for wildlife by reviving and preserving the secondary nature that once existed, by using the abandoned intervalley terraced rice fields. It offers engaging green activities for people of all ages, incorporating elements of ecology, healing, and universal design, so that a broad range of people can participate in its activities.

Implementation result

The COVID-19 pandemic continuing since 2020 made it difficult to invite participants extensively but it caused an increase in the demand for outdoor activities that can be participated in by families; therefore, the organization took measures such as running programs for families and family discounts. As a result, some loyal participants offered assistance to the project as volunteers, helping strengthen the project's management structure. At the same time, the number of participants in the event reached a record high level in 2021. In nature restoration, the number of collapsed embankments increased due to a growing population of wild boars and more activities were cancelled because of rain, preventing the planned transformation of dry land into wetland. However, development and holding of the local farmers' networking programs helped strengthen the cooperative system, secure cooperation in patrolling for alien organisms, and share traditional techniques for embankment construction and repair.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	44	▶	53
Number of participants in the activities	300	▶	709
Area preserved and developed	8,700 m ²	▶	8,300 m ²
Number of controlled/eliminated organisms	-	▶	102 Red swamp crayfish, American bullfrog
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	250	▶	665



Building a footpath with a traditional construction technique (bamboo fence)



Durable footpath completed in the project

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Participant>>

Although I participated in this project for my child who loves living organisms, I myself become entranced by the interesting themes and content and started to look forward to each event.

<<Local resident>>

I learned that paddy fields were a good habitat for wildlife, and began removing red swamp crayfish and American bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) as soon as I found them.

<<Local resident>>

I didn't realize that local paddy fields are such an attractive place (for wildlife). I saw many living organisms when drawing water from paddy fields. I don't mind my paddy fields being used to study wildlife.

ClearWaterProject was established in 2013 to create a rich waterfront environment and culture, guided by the vision “Leave rivers, oceans, and lakes—where children can jump in with shining eyes—to future generations.” It helps local residents observe the waterfront environment and record and share their findings to visualize problems, develops a portal site to promote environmental improvement, and shares information on nearby rivers, including places to play and ways to enjoy playing there, to increase the number of people who love rivers.



Living organisms observation event



Digital Picture-Book-Making Project Regarding Living Organisms

- Region of activity | Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture
- Funding period | 3rd year

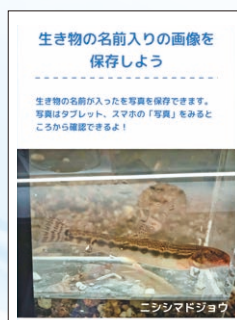
While loaches designated as an endangered species are seen in Iwamoto River running in Toyota City, the number of alien species is increasing. This project monitors rare and alien species in Iwamoto River over time, compiles the data obtained into educational materials, and provide environmental education so that more people can feel more familiar with nature. It also works with local residents and elementary school children to remove alien species and restore a water environment free of invasive organisms. The project aims to foster younger generations who will protect the river environment and to establish a water environment capable of sustaining rare wildlife by establishing connections between nature and local residents, organizations, and the government.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	8	6
Number of participants in the activities	-	22
Creation of application	1	1



Digital picture book [1]



Digital picture book [2]

Implementation result

As the fruit of investigating the organisms living in Iwamoto River conducted with local residents and children, the organization made the “Iwamoto River Living Organisms Picture Book.” In response to increasing demand for tablet-based education during the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization made the picture book available in PDF format and further developed an application with a new AI-powered automatic fish species identification feature, allowing children to enjoy learning from the picture book in a more engaging way. For native loaches, this is the only application equipped with AI that can identify three species. This “environmental learning × digital” initiative attracted attention in Toyota City, the organization’s base of operations, as a new approach to environmental education, and the organization was interviewed. The organization plans to promote the popularization and use of this picture book in local elementary schools and children’s groups, using it as an opportunity to attract interest in rivers.



Sampling by parents and children



Sample found

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

<<Participant in her 30's (female)>>

Although I had noticed the river because my grandparent's home is located near it, the site of the activity, I didn't realize that I could observe living organisms or play there. If I have another opportunity to visit the river, I would like to play there.

<<Elementary school girl in the 4th grade>>

It was fun seeing the percentage of species identified shown even for an organism I didn't know. I learned places where organisms might live from the picture book.

The Shirakami Mountain Preservation Society (SMPS) was established as an organization to restore and regenerate Japanese beech tree forests in Shirakami Mountain in 1993 when Shirakami Mountain was listed as a world heritage site. In Shirakami Mountain, Japanese beech trees were cut before the mountain was listed as a world heritage site, and so trees are still being lost in quite a few parts of the mountain. To pass the natural heritage of Shirakami Mountain on to the next generation, the organization works on raising and planting seedlings of broad-leaved trees such as Japanese beech trees. It also conducts guided tours and dispatches guides, and provides environmental education to foster an understanding of nature conservation.



At the activities in 12th Mutsu Bay Tree-planting Ceremony Connecting the Ocean and Mountains



Tree-Planting and Awareness Raising Activities to Protect the Environment against the High-Temperature Damage in Mutsu Bay

- Region of activity | Hiranai Town, Higashitsugaru County, Aomori Prefecture
- Funding period | 3rd year

In response to a massive death of scallops, a major marine product in Mutsu Bay, resulting from the increased seawater temperature due to hot weather in 2010, the organization has been working on tree planting to protect Mutsu Bay from high-temperature damage. Planting broad-leaved trees in the mountains around Mutsu Bay allows the water stored in the mountains to run through the mountain streams and rivers into the sea, reducing the seawater temperature and purifying the seawater in Mutsu Bay. Through environmental training and seminars, the organization advocates the importance of preserving the natural environment in the bountiful sea and Mutsu Bay nurtured by the water system in the Hakkoda Mountains.

Implementation result

Despite the three years being in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 10th to 12th Tree-planting Ceremonies Connecting the Ocean and Mountains were successfully ended. In the tree-planting ceremony in 2022, 150 people including executives participated. In the fall, the seeds of Japanese oak and beech trees were collected and a total of 10,000 seeds were planted. The tree-planting ceremonies were held at the new forested sites for these three years in a row and seedlings for tree-planting in the coming six years were secured, which was a significant result. At the end of September, the project received a visit from the domestic inspection team of the Keidanren Nature Conservation Council (KNCC). On that occasion, the inspection team, the mayor of Hiranai Town, and the executive director of the Scallop Fishermen's Union exchanged opinions, and the inspection team inspected the forested sites and participated in tree planting. In March, the organization gave a presentation on this project at the Keidanren Kaikan to report the progress of the activities for SDGs.

<Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	43	63
Number of participants in the activities	250	430
Amount of waste collected	80 kg	100 kg
Number of trees planted	150	230
Area preserved and developed	10,000 m ²	10,000 m ²
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	80	92



Seeds of a Japanese beech tree



At a temporary planting of broad-leaved trees in fall

Voices from those who engaged in the activities

Many high school students voluntarily participated in our tree-planting ceremony, including high school students in Aomori City. We received many comments, such as “It was fun,” “I learned the importance of tree planting,” and “I would like to engage in more specific activities for SDGs.” Some students participated for two years in a row.

Past funding results

Round	Period	Amount of money	Number of organizations
1st	October 2005 to September 2006	10.9 million yen	12
2nd	October 2006 to September 2007	15.6 million yen	12
3rd	October 2007 to September 2010	80.51 million yen	29
4th	October 2008 to September 2009	12 million yen	16
5th	October 2009 to September 2010	11.02 million yen	18
6th	October 2010 to September 2011	7.51 million yen	10
7th	April 2012 to March 2013	9.80 million yen	16
8th	April 2013 to March 2014	10.07 million yen	20
9th	April 2014 to March 2015	13 million yen	25

Round	Period	Amount of money	Number of organizations
10th	April 2015 to March 2016	14.3 million yen	22
11th	April 2016 to March 2017	15.56 million yen	24
12th	April 2017 to March 2020	95.31 million yen	35
13th	April 2018 to March 2021	17.52 million yen	10
14th	April 2019 to March 2022	24.65 million yen	10
15th	April 2020 to March 2023	26.56 million yen	10
16th	April 2021 to March 2024	27.47 million yen	12
17th	April 2022 to March 2025	24.78 million yen	11

*For the 3rd and 12th, the grant amounts were increased to commemorate the anniversaries of the founding of TOTO, respectively.

Cumulative total 416.56 million yen 292 organizations