

**TOTO**



## TOTO Water Environment Fund

### Report on Activities of Sponsored Organizations in 2023

April 2023 to March 2024 (16th, 17th, and 18th rounds)



TOTO LTD.

(TOTO Water Environment Fund Administration Office)  
<https://jp.toto.com/company/csr/mizukikin/>



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# 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 the organizations working on the water-related environmental activities. The TOTO Water Environment Fund aims for sustainable development by providing not only goods/materials and money but also direct support for organizations.

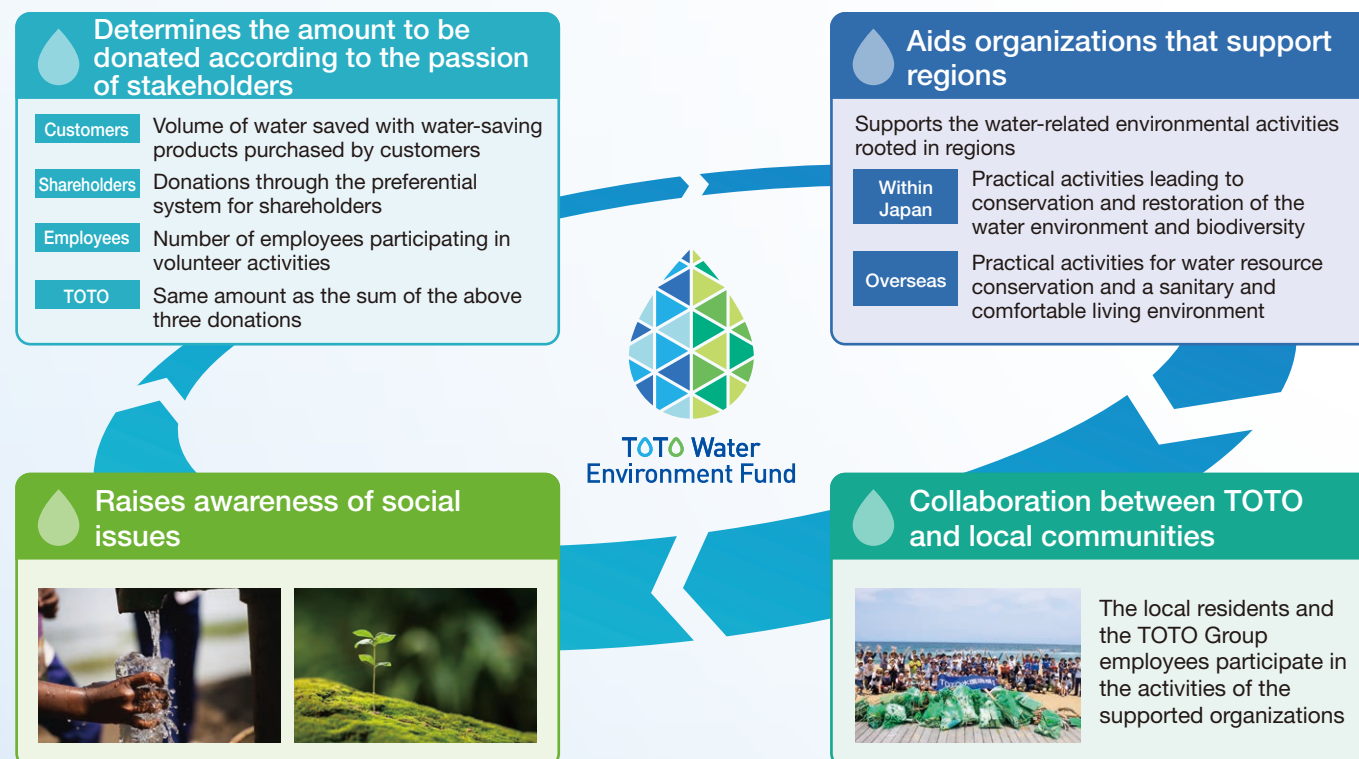


## Ideas incorporated into the new logo of TOTO Water Environment Fund

A drop symbolizing the origin of a water source is used as a motif to highlight the importance of water. Geometric triangle patterns in blue and green are designed to represent the close connection between water and the environment and how this initiative spreads worldwide.

This logo incorporates an intention to communicate the inherent beauty of water and the importance of the global environment.

## The TOTO Water Environment Fund circle



## Determines the amount to be donated according to the passion of stakeholders

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' involvement in the water-environment initiatives, the more money is allocated to the TOTO Water Environment Fund.

## Aids organizations that support regions

With a passion to solve the water-environment challenge with the organizations, the screening committee elected from among the TOTO Group employees select the organizations to support, based on whether their activities can be deeply rooted in the regions and are designed to be long-lasting rather than temporary. The TOTO Group has been organizing the TOTO WEF-Supported Organization Meetup events every year to establish a network of the supported organizations.



## Collaboration between TOTO and local communities

The local residents and the TOTO Group employees participate in the activities of the supported organizations. Even after the end of the funding period, they have been continuing exchanges with people in the local communities including the supported organizations, spreading the circle of participants in the activities for solving water environment challenges year by year.



## Raises awareness of social issues

The internal and external stakeholders' involvement in the TOTO Water Environment Fund raises their awareness of the social issues, spreading the circle of participants in the activities for solving water-environment challenges.



## Activities supported by TOTO in 2023



Total amount of grants

**27.11** million yen

## Results of activities implemented by the organizations with the grants

Number of supported organizations  
**20**

Number of activity events  
**870**

Number of participants in the activities  
**14,327**

Number of participants from TOTO Group **212**



Amount of waste collected  
**33,629 kg**



Number of trees planted  
**19,358**



Area preserved and developed  
**15,200,248 m<sup>2</sup>**



Number of controlled/eliminated organisms (animals/plants)  
**23,900 organisms / 250 kg**



Number of participants in environment, hygiene and sanitation education  
**42,443**



Number of units installed overseas (toilets, hand-washing equipment, feed water tanks, etc.)  
**43**

## 18th round (1st year): List of supported organizations

No.	Organization	Project	Main region of activity	Page
1	Koizumi Universal Beach Unit	Community Development to Improve the Water Environment and Preserve Nature —A Town Blessed with Sea, Mountains, and Biotopes	Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture	7
2	Shonai Nature Museum Design Promotion Council	Participatory Study on Sustainable Wetland Restoration and Continued Regional Culture by the Use and Circulation of Wetland Resources	Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture	8
3	Sazanami (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Restore Our Sea!	Narashino City, Chiba Prefecture	9
4	Everlasting Nature of Asia (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Marine Waste Ingestion Study and Awareness Raising Events for the Endangered Sea Turtle	Ogasawara/Kanto regions	10
5	The Foundation for Environmental Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of Mizushima (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation)	Seto Inland Sea Guard "Umibozu (roundheaded sea goblin)" Training Project	Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture	11
6	ABC Outdoor Education Center (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Kids Making Wiping Rags: Changing the Water Environment in Beppu City!	Within Oita Prefecture	12
7	Oita Environmental Conservation Forum (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Beppu Bay Eco Coast Project for a Rich Water Environment	Oita City, Beppu City, Hiji Town, and Kitsuki City	13
8	Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFS) (Public Interest Incorporated Association)	Resident-led Waste Management: For a Clean and Green Region, Schools, and Water Environment	Province of Sorsogon, Philippines	14
9	WaterAid Japan (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Water and Sanitation Program in Bihar State in India	Bhagalpur District, Bihar State, India	15
10	HOPE International Development Agency, Japan (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Tell Us! Health and Sanitation Related to Toilet	Southern Ethiopia Region, Ethiopia	16
11	Community Road Empowerment (CORE) (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Protecting Spring and Developing Strong Community through Planting Trees	Mukono District, Republic of Uganda	17
12	Confront World (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Construction of Toilets and Water Storage Tanks and Production of Soap in Uganda	Butambala District, Republic of Uganda	18
13	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, Republic of Mozambique	19

## 17th round (2nd year): List of supported organizations

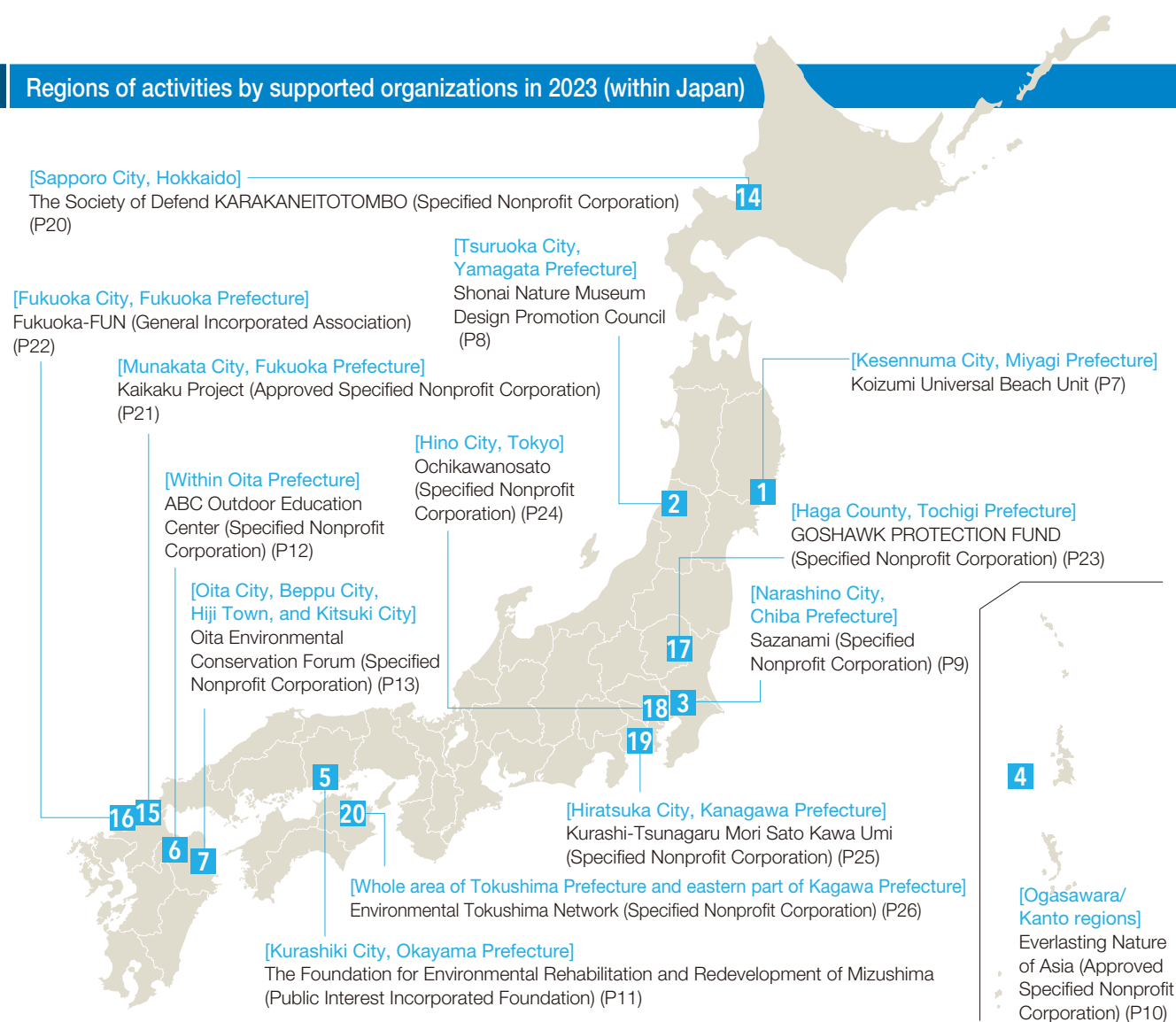
No.	Organization	Project	Main region of activity	Page
14	The Society of Defend KARAKANEITOTOMBO (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Let's Enrich the Water Environments in Ainosato Using Pygmy Damselflies as Indicators!	Sapporo City, Hokkaido	20
15	Kaikaku Project (Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Developing Environmental Education Programs for Motivating Children	Munakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture	21
16	Fukuoka-FUN (General Incorporated Association)	Project for Restoring and Creating Eelgrass Beds, Seagrass That Revitalizes Marine Ecosystems	Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture	22

## 16th round (3rd year): List of supported organizations

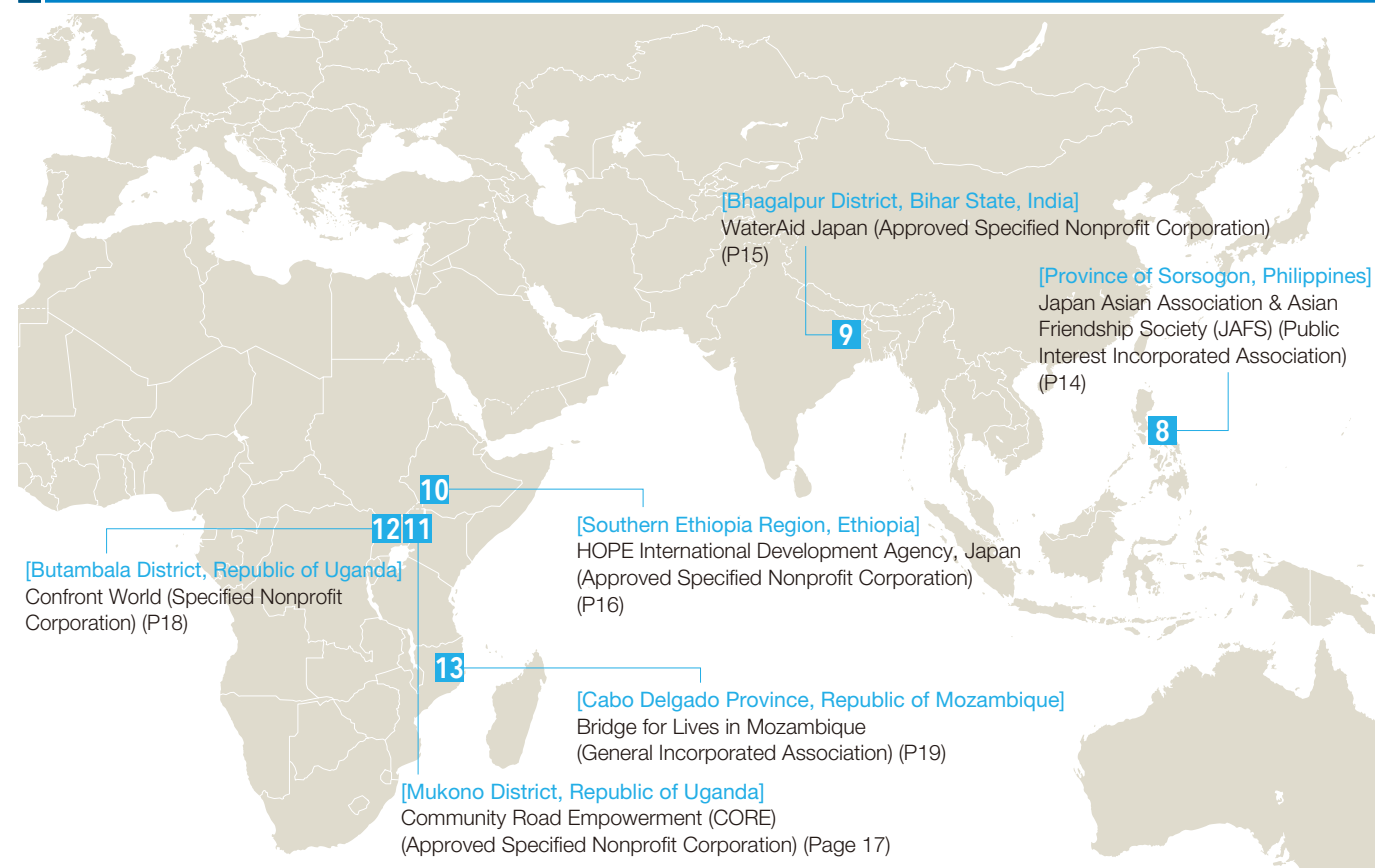
No.	Organization	Project	Main region of activity	Page
17	GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Lotus Flowering Waterfront and Wildlife Restoration Project in Sashiba-no-Sato (breeding area of the gray-faced buzzard-eagles)	Haga County, Tochigi Prefecture	23
18	Ochikawanosato (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Forest and Water Restoration Project by Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center	Hino City, Tokyo	24
19	Kurashi-Tsunagaru Mori Sato Kawa Umi (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Shonan Ikimono Gakkou Project: Healthy Children, Living Things and Local Communities	Hiratsuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture	25
20	Environmental Tokushima Network (Specified Nonprofit Corporation)	Setouchi/Naruto Project to Restore the "Sea That Has Turned into a Waste Bin"	Whole area of Tokushima Prefecture and eastern part of Kagawa Prefecture	26



## Regions of activities by supported organizations in 2023 (within Japan)



## Regions of activities by supported organizations in 2023 (overseas)



The whole Koizumi area in Kesennuma City, where this organization operates, was hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In 2019, nine years after the earthquake, the Koizumi swimming beach was opened; however, local residents' fear of the seaside remains serious because of their experience with tsunami, and the highest tidal embankment built in the prefecture further discourages people from visiting the beach. Under the circumstances, this organization was founded by local volunteers to create a beach where anyone can enjoy themselves safely and help the whole Koizumi area thrive.



Children joined the beach cleanup



## Community Development to Improve the Water Environment and Preserve Nature —A Town Blessed with Sea, Mountains, and Biotopes

Region of activity | Motoyoshi Town, Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture

Funding period | 1st year



The Koizumi area has struggled with waste problems. Although the organization has carried out cleanup activities in the past, only the same members participated in the activities and there was little interaction among local residents. The organization will implement cleanup activities and bird-watching walks involving local residents, other organizations, and the municipal government, aiming to share the idea that improving the water environment is connected to living, succession to future generations, and protecting nature and to maintain the Koizumi area blessed with a sea, mountains, rivers, and biotopes as a sustainable town where people can continue to live.

## Implementation result

The leaflets and posters promoting participation in the activities were effective, achieving participation of people aged 6 to 80. The involvement of participants from other organizations, the municipal government, and elementary and junior high schools enhanced cooperation among participants. It was also discovered that there was a significant amount of trash in Warabino River, Sodeo River, and Mount Tatsugane, new areas of the activities. Although those who joined a cleanup once were likely to participate again, the overall rate of local resident participation remains low. The project aims to design cleanup events that attract more people, such as the treasure-hunting beach cleanup for children introduced this time, to further raise local residents' awareness of the water environment.

## <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value	Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	10	10
Number of participants in the activities	885	400
Amount of waste collected	4,000 kg	5,800 kg
Area preserved and developed	—	29,700 m <sup>2</sup>

## Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Elementary school child in the 3rd grade>>  
I picked up a lot of trash, and I'm happy I could trade it for treasure.

<<Male teacher in his 20s>>  
We have a field trip in class, and so I wanted to learn more about wild birds, etc. Seeing the birds through a telescope was an unforgettable sight.

<<Male in his 30s>>  
I joined the cleanup activity because I was invited by a former classmate who is a member of KUBU (an abbreviation of the organization). I was surprised by how much trash there was on a side street off the one I usually take. I would like to become a member of the organization and take part in activities like this in the future.

<<Male in his 60s>>  
Seeing young children enjoy cleanups like this gives me hope for a better future. As an older man, I feel I should work harder too!



Cleanup at Koizumi Beach



Bird-watching walk



# 2 Shonai Nature Museum Design Promotion Council

[Representative] Shuji Sakurai

The Shonai Nature Museum Design Promotion Council was established in 2011 from the wish to create opportunities for local residents including children to engage with nature so that they can enjoy a sense of oneness with nature, using Miyakozawa Wetland, Takadate Mountain, and Oyama Kamiike/Shimoike as a field for learning about nature. Under this vision, the council opened the Tsuruoka City Community Nature Study Center “Hotoria” and has since been making various efforts to make it easily accessible for the local residents for learning, maintain the rich natural environment and ecosystem, and ensure that activities can be carried out safely.



National Water Chestnut Summit



## Participatory Study on Sustainable Wetland Restoration and Continued Regional Culture by the Use and Circulation of Wetland Resources

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

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

This project aims to improve the water quality in the ponds eutrophicated (made into lakes) by people by continuing the past project and using water chestnuts and lotus roots growing in reservoirs, a source of wetlands. This project also supports the Floating Grass Association, which has held the right to harvest the floating grasses in the ponds since the Edo period, enabling it to continue its activities and is expected to maintain the regional culture through the environment conservation activities. For water quality improvement, a filter system using the bamboo charcoal produced through the bamboo forest conservation activities in the surrounding regions is introduced to promote resource recycling across the wider regions.

### Implementation result

The project was implemented as planned. Regarding the use of wetland resources, the amount of lotus roots used was about five times that used last year; for example, they were cooked and served in nursery school lunches, helping educate children about the wetlands. While only those involved collected water chestnuts last year, this year participants ranging in age from 4 to 70 collected water chestnuts and experienced cooking them. This broadened the activities of the Floating Grass Association, which holds the right to harvest the floating grasses, and increased the association members' motivation; however, since decision-making authority lies with the association members who hold the rootstocks, consensus among the association members across generations could not be reached. This council should carefully discuss whether it is 'organization,' 'activities,' or 'landscape' that is the regional culture to maintain through environmental preservation.

### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	42	▶	48
Number of participants in the activities	1,750	▶	2021
Amount of waste collected	50 kg	▶	85 kg
Area preserved and developed	2,500 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	2,500 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of controlled/eliminated organisms	10,000	▶	23,900 Red swamp crayfish Devil's beggartick, tall goldenrod, etc.
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	1,000	▶	1282



Wetland preservation and management event



Harvesting the wetland resources (lotus root)

### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Girl, 4 years old>>

It was fun boarding a boat for the first time.

<<University student>>

This time the activity focused on the conservation of Monochoria korsakowii, so I cut down other plants. It was good to learn that the plants should be selectively cut depending on the region and purpose.

<<Female in her 30s>>

I also learned for the first time how water chestnuts grow in the pond.

<<Company president in his 60s>>

I was surprised that the wetland plants were eaten by people in earlier times. I would like to harvest water chestnuts myself next year.

<<Association member in his 70s>>

That was a good opportunity for us to think about the future of the Floating Grass Association and I feel it will lead to the future.

# 3 Specified Nonprofit Corporation Sazanami

[Representative] Taku Shimada

The organization carries out a wide range of activities, such as preserving the waterfront nature and biodiversity in Narashino, and providing environmental education for local residents, students, and children. Motivated by a desire to leave the familiar sea as much as possible to future generations of children, the organization established by volunteers in 2020 has been steadily working to improve the environment.



Whole staff of Sazanami



## Restore Our Sea!

◎ **Region of activity** | Tokyo Bay Area, Narashino City, Chiba Prefecture

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

The project implements coastal preservation activities and provides environmental education for nearby residents, to enable coexistence between humans and nature and maintain a sustainable waterfront environment along the shoreline of the Narashino landfill site in the closed-off section of Tokyo Bay. Through regular cleanups at the beach or waterfront living organism observation events, the organization would like to encourage children who will lead the future society to be kind to life forms, think about the meaning of living in the towns they live in, and have a spirit of self-reliance so that they can lead their lives responsibly as a human being.

The organization will also raise awareness and actively make policy proposals at the lectures and workshops that it hosts, in cooperation with academic societies, educational institutions, the municipal government, and local businesses engaged in environmental conservation in Tokyo Bay to realize an abundant waterfront environment.

### Implementation result

This year, the second since the nonprofit organization Sazanami was founded, was a year when the organization gained an important foothold for stable operation in the future. Although the organization successfully held monthly regular cleanups, it plans to increase the number of additional cleanups other than the regular ones.

Hosting two events (environmental meeting and forum) in the year was a significant result. Another milestone was organizing a living organism observation event in the untouched mudflats within Narashino City, something that had not been possible before.

As the organization begins new activities to create a sustainable waterfront environment, this year has provided an important foundation.

### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	20	▶	20
Number of participants in the activities	700	▶	700
Amount of waste collected	3,000 kg	▶	5,000 kg
Number of trees planted	100	▶	100 Sawtooth oak, konara oak
Area preserved and developed	10,000 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	10,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of eliminated organisms	100 kg	▶	100 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	200	▶	200

### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Male in his 50s>>

Akanehama Beach is a peaceful park spot with a full view of Tokyo Bay, but if you look beyond the seawall into the gaps between the tetrapods, you'll find large amounts of trash washed ashore and some of it has degraded into microplastics over time.

At my workplace, a group of volunteer employees gathers outside of working hours to engage in community and social contribution activities. With the cooperation of Sazanami, a total of 30 of us carried out a cleanup.

I've been living in Narashino for over 20 years, and I will continue joining cleanups at Akanehama Beach while continuing to ask myself what I can do to contribute to building a sustainable society.



Cleanup at Akanehama Beach



Narashino Environment Forum



This organization was established as a liaison in Japan for the Indonesia sea turtle research center, Yayasan Penyu Indonesia, dedicated to protecting sea turtles, and approved as a nonprofit organization in Kanagawa Prefecture in July 2002. At present, the ocean trash issue is becoming increasingly serious. On the other hand, the degree of impact of ocean trash on sea turtles, effects of toxins on microplastics, and long-term changes in the effects remain unexplained, and a continuous monitoring study is required to examine this. The organization works for this in combination with the environmental conservation activities.



Students from Ogasawara Junior High School picking up trash © ELNA



## Marine Waste Ingestion Study and Awareness Raising Events for the Endangered Sea Turtle

Region of activity | Ogasawara and Kanto

Funding period | 1st year

The project investigates the actual situation of accidental ingestion of artificial materials by green turtles—an endangered sea turtle species harvested for food in Ogasawara—and organizes experience-based events using ocean trash samples from the investigation to help the public understand the reality of marine pollution. The project also holds collaborative events with other organizations and seminars with guest lecturers, aiming to attract new participants and reach a broader range of people.

Since the organization previously investigated the ecology of sea turtles and their accidental ingestion of debris in the Ogasawara and Kanto regions, and this project is intended to share that knowledge in the regions, the target regions were set as Ogasawara and Kanto.

## Implementation result

The organization carried out an investigation on accidental ingestion of ocean trash by green turtles harvested for food (investigation of the individual turtles to be hunted) in Chichijima Island, one of the Ogasawara Islands and the awareness-raising event went as planned—or even more successfully than planned. While the organization held beach cleanups in Ogasawara, the total number of events and participants was lower than planned because of bad weather or ocean conditions. This shortfall will be addressed by continuing to hold cleanups in 2024. Although the organization also hosted awareness-raising events, attendance was lower than anticipated and some challenges remained. It will work to resolve these issues while using online venues.

## &lt;Numerically measurable outcomes&gt;

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	41	▶	50
Number of participants in the activities	395	▶	180
Amount of waste collected	—	▶	25 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	100	▶	113



Family discussion about ocean trash © ELNA



Independent research by parents and children © ELNA

## Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<University student volunteer>>

I was surprised that artificial materials accounted for a high percentage of the total amount of items accidentally ingested by sea turtles, as found in an investigation on their digestion. Many string-like materials were included and this made me imagine the effects of fishing.

<<University student volunteer>>

Although I don't think that most of the ocean trash was deliberately thrown into the sea, I felt a bit of resentment when I found obvious deli food packages.

<<Working adult>>

Once again, I realized how serious the impact of ocean trash is. Industries create products that will eventually become waste from a long-term perspective. This gave me a new viewpoint: should responsibility for the environment begin at the point of manufacturing?

In the Mizushima area in Kurashiki City, a national flag industrial complex was constructed after World War II. While it supported Japan's high economic growth, it caused pollution problems leading to the Kurashiki pollution lawsuit. Based on the fund incorporating part of the settlement in the lawsuit, the Foundation for Environmental Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of Mizushima (abbreviated as the Mizushima Foundation) was established in March 2000.



Umibozu Project

© The Foundation for Environmental Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of Mizushima



## Seto Inland Sea Guard “Umibozu (roundheaded sea goblin)” Training Project

Region of activity | Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture

Funding period | 1st year

(Initiative 1) Promoting the Umibozu cleanup campaign, trash picking in irrigation ditches

This initiative focuses on picking up trash in irrigation ditches within Kurashiki City on a regular basis. The organization systematizes and operates the volunteer activities by asking the participants to sign up Team Umibozu for protecting the Seto Inland Sea and setting up a LINE group (SNS) to share information.

(Initiative 2) Sharing information using the website and social network services

The organization shares information including calling for participation in activity events and reporting the results after the events using social network services such as Instagram, X (former Twitter), TikTok, Facebook, and Line group.

(Initiative 3) Holding result presentation sessions

This initiative aims to spread the outcome and to further facilitate the project by having the volunteer participants report on the activities and through an exchange of opinions among the participants regarding reducing trash in waterways.

## &lt;Numerically measurable outcomes&gt;

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	13	▶	12
Number of participants in the activities	249	▶	189
Amount of waste collected	—	▶	489 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	—	▶	4,489

## Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<High school student>>

After participating in the cleanup activities, I was surprised by the large amount of trash dumped over a certain period of time (about two months). Picking up trash in the sea and rivers is of course important, but I realized that we must think about proactively preventing the generation of trash.

<<University student>>

I was shocked that there was a lot of trash in the river although it superficially looked clean. Through the cleanup activity, I really realized that picking up trash in a nearby irrigation canal would prevent trash from being released to the sea.

<<Female in her 20s>>

I thought that if we considered picking up trash to be a form of treasure hunting then it would give us a clue to removing barriers for continuous efforts.



Separating and weighing the collected trash © The Foundation for Environmental Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of Mizushima



Exhibition at the ocean trash and plastics reduction forum © The Foundation for Environmental Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of Mizushima



The organization implements projects focusing on a sound upbringing of youth, and promotion of social education and international understanding. It invites people from private organizations, university professors, teachers, and social education officers to join the organization and rolls out projects that do not end up as just a volunteer activity or one-off project. It implements theme-based programs such as communication, leadership, and teamwork at a facility it has for educational adventure programs in Sumiyoshihama Resort Park.



Participants in the sea adventure program



### Kids Making Wiping Rags: Changing the Water Environment in Beppu City!

- Region of activity | Within Oita Prefecture
- Funding period | 1st year



Although Beppu City is a small hot spring area surrounded by Beppu Bay and Mount Tsurumi, sewage systems have not extended to every corner of the city and some untreated domestic waste water is still discharged into the sea and rivers. Many elementary school children are unaware of this fact. To address this issue, the project organizes study sessions for elementary school children to learn about domestic waste water and workshops where the children make wiping rags. By creating rags themselves, taking them home, and using them to clean dishes, the children become more aware of the water environment. In addition, the project also holds an event to pick up trash at Sakai River in Beppu City to raise awareness among both children and residents about wastewater and trash issues through cleanups in the river basins located in the city.

#### Implementation result

The organization was forced to change the project details as it could not proceed with it as initially planned. Although the organization planned to hold a workshop with 600 participants from 30 classes and a riverside event to pick up trash with 50 participants, it could hold only a workshop with approx. 175 participants from 7 classes at 2 schools in 2 cities. This represents an achievement rate of about 30% in terms of the number of participants. The organization could not hold an event to pick up trash because the area of activity spanned two cities. From next year, the organization will modify the plan to implement on-site workshops at schools in Oita Prefecture in order to bring the result nearer the plan.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	31	▶	7
Number of participants in the activities	650	▶	175
Amount of waste collected	15 kg	▶	—



Elementary school visit



Cutting clothes to make wiping rags

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Comment at the environmental lecture (from an elementary school student in the 4th grade)>>  
 · Trash and dirt go into rivers and the sea, killing fishes and birds. I want to keep the environment clean via the wiping rags I made.  
 · I was surprised by the fact that 200 L of water is needed to restore water contaminated with 1 mg of oil to a state where fish can live in it.  
 · I understood wiping rags are good for the environment. I want to save soap and water by using wiping rags to wipe off dirt.  
 · I would like to do what I can to make the sea more livable for fish such as using wiping rags to clean dishes.

In the areas around Beppu Bay, population aging and depopulation has been increasing and the natural environment in the farm and fishing villages has been deteriorating in recent years. This organization has been established as a nonprofit organization to assume the responsibility to preserve the rich ecosystem and biodiversity in Oita Prefecture, rehabilitate/restore a healthy natural environment, and pass it on to the next generation.



Sea turtle release event



### Beppu Bay Eco Coast Project to Enrich the Water Environment

- Region of activity | Oita City, Beppu City, Hiji Town, and Kitsuki City, Oita Prefecture
- Funding period | 1st year



This project is designed to set up a base for education on the marine environment within Tanoura Beach in Oita City and to solve the issue of ocean trash including ocean plastics in Beppu Bay, and promote awareness-raising and educational activities to achieve Goal 14 (LIFE BELOW WATER) of the SDGs. The project also establishes a network with the residents in the coastal area of Beppu Bay to clean the beaches and look after the coastal vegetation on a regular basis in cooperation and preserve the healthy coastal ecosystem.

#### Implementation result

The organization created exhibition panels/partitions and materials for raising awareness of SDGs and placed them in the rest house of Tanoura Seaside Park and used them in the awareness-raising activities for SDGs. The organization held the five Beppu Bay Eco Coast Environmental Education events (environmental learning events and hands-on workshops) for developing the next generation including children and a total of 243 parents and children participated. These events touring five beaches in the coastal area of Beppu Bay were on a large scale, with the participation of 514 people in total, including local residents and university students. In addition, the Wide-area Collaborative Network Meetup event was held with three cities and one town, which worked together in this supported project, and it was participated in by nonprofit organizations, local residents and five students from two universities.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	5	▶	6
Number of participants in the activities	400	▶	514
Amount of waste collected	2,000 kg	▶	2,400 kg
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	200	▶	243



Beach cleanup at Sekinoe Beach



Classroom for learning SDGs at Tanoura Beach

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Female university student>>  
 Through collecting various data and materials, I learned a lot about the current circumstances of the marine environment.  
 <<Female university student>>  
 The workshop for SDGs was fun and I think children could learn SDGs there.  
 <<Female elementary school teacher in her 30s>>  
 That was a very good environmental education program. I thought it would be great if I could provide such environmental education in my school as well.  
 <<Male local resident in his 50s>>  
 I was surprised by how much plastic waste there was on the beach that I usually came to and enjoyed. I want to participate next time too.



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.



Participants in the Clean As You Go event © Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFS)



### Resident-led waste management: For a clean and green region, schools, and water environment

◎ **Region of activity** | Camachiles and adjacent villages, Matnog Town, Province of Sorsogon, Philippines

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

This project promotes trash separation and recycling, and composting in rural villages in the Philippines, a place lacking adequate waste disposal systems, to improve the unsanitary living and water environments. Building on the villages where activities were conducted last year, the project expands in wider areas. It focuses particularly on raising awareness of the environment among the children who will lead the future communities and their parents, helping create an atmosphere where they are motivated to work to conserve the local and global water environments in the future. The project also improves children's nutrition and supports low-income households by promoting safe vegetable cultivation and greening of the region with organic fertilizers, so that the project can take root in the region and continue in the future.

#### Implementation result

Compared with our initial expectations when planning the project, as we carried out the activities we found more people became interested and joined, allowing us to expand our efforts. We strongly feel the importance of creating an environment where activities can expand and continue, so that we can work together to solve local issues as well as global challenges. We came to understand that although individuals have limits, cooperation and collaboration make many things possible. We would like to share ideas and seek solutions to further improve the individual activities in the project. We hope to work together so that those who have lost hope in solving problems can take on a variety of challenges in the future.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	150	▶	440
Number of participants in the activities	4,960	▶	5,833
Amount of waste collected	2,600 kg	▶	18,950 kg
Number of trees planted	300	▶	1,036 Papaya, avocado, calamodin, mangrove, and other
Area preserved and developed	10 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	15 km <sup>2</sup>
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	730	▶	3,316
Number of composting units installed and farms established	4 units/ 4 locations	▶	4 units/ 4 locations
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	1,000	▶	5,696
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	730	▶	3,316



© Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFS)  
Mushroom cultivation training



© Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFS)  
Cleanup by children



#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Ms. Aiza Garalde, housewife in her 30s>>

We learned how to make compost at the center and set up a farm in the school using the equipment and plants provided. We can use a lot of the various vegetables harvested at the farm for children's daily meals, which is very helpful.

<<Administrative agricultural officer>>

I am very pleased that residents have gained confidence through their successful experiences with composting and plant cultivation, and that they are willingly working to improve their lives and community. I would like to enhance the support system so that they can keep working more constructively.

<<Tablac Elementary School Student>>

I enjoyed participating in the beach cleanup and online events. We are surprised to learn how other countries keep their regions clean.

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.



Hygiene and sanitation training at the health center for mothers and children

© WaterAid Japan



### Water and Sanitation Program in Bihar State in India

◎ **Region of activity** | Bhagalpur District, Bihar State, India

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

This project aims to conduct water quality tests, take measures based on the test results, and create a system to maintain and manage the water supply equipment in Bhagalpur District, Bihar State, India. This is an area that faces challenges of ground water contamination and inadequate maintenance and management of water supply equipment. The aim is to give the local residents sustainable access to safe drinking water. As a model case, the project repairs and maintains the currently broken water supply equipment such as a well, and provides training to raise people's awareness of hygienic habits. Through schools, community activities, and the health center for mothers and children, the project educates residents to adopt and continue hygienic habits—such as handwashing—especially in response to the explosive spread of COVID-19 in rural areas lacking medical infrastructure.

#### Implementation result

India has various water and hygiene issues including a water shortage caused by climate change, water quality contamination, inadequate maintenance and management of equipment, and lack of sanitation knowledge among residents. To enable the local government and residents themselves to solve these issues sustainably, a comprehensive approach—improving residents' knowledge of water and hygiene as well as strengthening the capacity of the organizations responsible—is essential. This project conducted water quality tests and implemented measures based on the results; created a system for maintaining and managing water supply equipment to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water; and provided training in communities, schools, and the health center for mothers and children to educate people to continue hygienic habits such as hand washing.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Repair of the broken water supply equipment (hand-pump well)	10 units	▶	13 units
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	2,000	▶	3,572
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	2,500	▶	15,673



#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Ms. Chanda Devy in her 30s>>

Before WaterAid Japan repaired the hand pump, the well was always dirty with stagnant water, posing a risk of infectious diseases. Thanks to the repair and construction of a drain ditch by WaterAid Japan, we could resolve such problem and got access to clean water.

<<Mr. Achilesh Lanjan in his 40s>>

After receiving training, we became able to monitor the water quality of our village. Before receiving the training, we didn't realize our responsibility and the importance of water quality.



Well before repair

Well after repair

© WaterAid Japan



Hygiene and sanitation session in school

© WaterAid Japan



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 the poorest people among the developing countries 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.



In front of the completed toilet

© HOPE Japan



### Tell Us! Health and Sanitation Related to Toilet

◎ **Region of activity** | Oyda, Southern Ethiopia Region, Ethiopia

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

This project constructs a toilet building with four compartments for girls to improve the health and hygiene of the children at Bagara Primary School located in Bagara County in Ethiopia. The project also raises awareness of school toilets and good hygiene and conducts classes to deepen understanding of menstruation among children and their parents. The construction of school toilets supported by the past two rounds of the TOTO Water Environment Fund revealed that people were living in unsanitary conditions because the community and school children had no proper knowledge or feminine hygiene products. In addition, the project set up the Girls Club and supports club activities that allow girls to consult the club about worries including menstruation.

#### Implementation result

The project constructed toilets (four compartments) with a hand-wash station at Bagara Primary School and carried out sanitation awareness-raising activities at the same time. The only existing toilet was dirty with sewage and could not be used by children with peace of mind. The hand-wash station provided beside the new toilets improved the hygienic environment and made the school environment better for children to study. The project also conducted classes for the children to learn about menstruation at the school. I felt the seriousness of the problem when hearing the girls' fear of having their first period unexpectedly without knowledge about it and seeing the actual circumstances where they could not deal with menstruation properly. The project provided cloth pads, and this was an impactful activity for protecting the dignity of people with regard to the use of toilets and menstruation.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	70	▶	90
Number of participants in the activities	450	▶	500
Installation of school toilets	1 unit	▶	1 unit
Installation of hand-wash stations	1 location	▶	1 location
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	450	▶	450
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	1,200	▶	1,200



Construction of toilets

© HOPE Japan



Distribution of napkins

© HOPE Japan

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Elementary school kids in the 3rd and 4th grades>>

We are very glad that we can now use a clean toilet. As a hand-wash station has also been made available, we will try our best to keep them nice by cleaning them.

<<Principal of Bagara Primary School>>

The toilet we previously used were very dirty with sewage and children were reluctant to use it. I think that installing toilets with privacy allows children especially girls to use them with peace of mind. I am very grateful for it.

<<Female in her 20s>>

I wore a cloth pad overnight, and it was my first time using one that felt this comfortable. During my period, carrying a heavy load to the market used to be really tough, so this is amazing!

Community Road Empowerment (CORE) was established in 2007 to support the construction and improvement of farm roads by farmers themselves to invigorate rural areas in the developing countries and contribute to reducing world poverty.

The organization develops appropriate technologies as an engineering team and transfers and establishes technologies in local communities, aiming to enable the local residents in developing countries to solve problems by themselves in ways suitable for the communities. In many developing countries, infrastructure such as farm roads has yet to be developed. To help develop such roads in these countries, the organization works on activities focusing on constructing farm roads by the sandbagging method that can be used by anyone. The organization also works to improve the local living environment and living of the community residents and plant trees.



At the environmental talk event © Community Road Empowerment (CORE)



### Protecting Spring and Developing Strong Community through Planting Trees

◎ **Region of activity** | Nakisunga Sub County, Mukono District, Republic of Uganda

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

Lack of access to safe water is a challenge that Mukono District faces, and water collecting has been overconcentrated on a single water supply point. Local primary schools use old fuel-inefficient ovens which are inconvenient for preparing meals and require a large amount of firewood, spurring deforestation in the region. With a focus on access to water and environmental conservation, this project installs new wellhead protection equipment in Nakisunga Sub County, the place with the poorest access to water in the district. The project also raises seedlings and plants trees in cooperation with the environment club at Namakwa Primary School to foster awareness of the environment and contribute to forest conservation in the region.

#### Implementation result

The project protected the spring in Lucera Village, a place with very poor access to safe water, and installed a tap and watering place for livestock, enabling easy access to water for 700 residents. It also installed a seedling raising field at Namakwa Primary School, where 70 student members of the environment club raised seedlings and produced 16,030 young plants. Stationary was given to 179 primary students as proof of their work raising seedlings, for which their parents were very grateful.

The project provided workshops to raise awareness of the use of safe water, sanitation, and environmental conservation for the residents and primary school children in three villages, contributing to awareness raising and behavioral changes in the whole communities.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	11	▶	15
Number of participants in the activities	238	▶	278
Number of trees planted	15,000	▶	16,030
Area preserved and developed	15 ha	▶	15 ha
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	100	▶	100
Installation of wellhead protection facility for spring at Lucera Village	1 unit	▶	1 unit
Installation of seedling raising field at Namakwa Primary School	1 location	▶	1 location
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	800	▶	800
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	150	▶	131



Protection and development of the spring

© Community Road Empowerment (CORE)



Children raising seedlings

© Community Road Empowerment (CORE)

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Female in her 70s>>

I have been living near the developed spring for 20 years. The water from the spring was dirty and could barely be used for washing clothes, and I used to go to a well at the next village to draw water to be used for cooking. Walking a long way to draw water was tough for an old person like me. I am very happy that protecting the spring and installing a tap in this project enabled us to drink clean water easily. I am grateful for it.

<<Primary school child in the 7th grade>>

I learned various skills such as making a seedbed, seeding, and transplanting seedlings to a pot by participating in the activities held at the seedling raising field. In addition to seedling-raising management, I learned that planting trees helps conserve the environment. In the workshop for raising awareness of the environment, I learned the meaning of climate change and its effects and that planting trees can be of some help to control the effects.



Confront World is an international non-governmental organization established in 2018, for the purpose of creating a world without absurdity, that is, creating a society where living is guaranteed and rights are protected so that everyone 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 under difficult situations such as conflicts and poverty; and providing information and options to back the social contribution of people.



Fabrication of simple hand-washing equipment © Confront World



### 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 area in the Republic of Uganda, it takes two to three hours each way for children to bring water, preventing some children from going to school. It is becoming difficult to obtain soap and hand-washing equipment due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization provides water infrastructure support to prevent infectious diseases in the region by implementing the project to build toilets for household use, install a water storage tank and water filters, develop the infrastructure including a soap production facility, and provide hygiene and sanitation training to the local community in cooperation with the local partner nonprofit organization.

#### Implementation result

The actual number of beneficiaries of the water sanitation project in 2023 was more than 8,000. While promoting hygiene and sanitation education throughout the year, the project constructed toilets and water storage tanks for household use.

In the hygiene and sanitation education, the project focused on installation of hand-wash equipment and training on hand washing and provided public facilities, such as schools and the health center, and households with the necessary goods and materials and information. The project worked on reducing threats such as infectious diseases and abduction by constructing toilets at households especially those with HIV carriers.

Although these activities may seem modest at present, the organization is confident that they, along with educational efforts, will raise awareness of personal hygiene, improve sanitation across the region, enhance residents' financial situation, and increase their knowledge.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	11	▶	11
Number of participants in the activities	102	▶	102
Water storage tanks in schools	1 unit	▶	1 unit
Construction of toilets for household use	16 locations	▶	16 locations
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	5,962	▶	8,352
Number of participants in hygiene and sanitation education (total)	5,750	▶	8,040



Hand washing training using soap © Confront World



Toilets for household use under construction © Confront World

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Person involved in local nonprofit organization>>

There are two pits (holes) per toilet for people to relieve themselves and a body washing facility. We constructed toilets specifically for households with HIV-positive children. I am grateful for the support.

<<Resident of Butambala District>>

The water storage tank is now located near the school, reducing the time required for children to draw water. This allowed children to concentrate on classes, resulting in 700 children doing better in school. Furthermore, installing a water filter has enabled children to drink safe clean water.

In the Republic of Mozambique, 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.



Hole digging to bury an underground tank © Bridge for Lives in Mozambique



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

◎ **Region of activity** | Pemba, Cabo Delgado Province, Republic of Mozambique

◎ **Funding period** | 1st year

The project installed a water supply tower to facilitate the water supply from the deep well built in the previous year at Natite House of Peace (Casa de Paz), an evacuation facility built by the organization in Pemba City with an ongoing influx of refugees from terrorism and disputes intensifying in the northern part of Mozambique. The project also sets up a new common watering place in the Espansaon district and provides an underground tank at the place. The project protects the residents in slums including the refugees from terrorism and disputes in the northern part of Mozambique and improves their living environment for good hygiene by giving them to access safe water smoothly and efficiently.

#### Implementation result

The water supply tower constructed at Natite House of Peace to facilitate the water supply from the deep well has been greatly appreciated by the residents in slums who were previously troubled by the unstable water supply from the outer wall. In addition, installing a robust lid of iron bars to prevent dirt from getting in the underground tank ensured the water in the tank was kept clean.

The new common watering place set up and the underground tank installed in the Espansaon district enabled the residents to access safe water smoothly and efficiently. Because the investigation revealed that no water comes out even if running water is brought into the district, a deep well will be dug manually in or after the next year to solve the shortage of water.

Through the efforts mentioned above, the project contributed to improving the water and hygienic environment for about 10,000 residents in both of the districts.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of participants in the activities	50	▶	47
Number of underground tank lids, water supply towers, and underground tanks installed	4 units	▶	3 units
Setup of Natite House of Peace and Espansaon Common Watering Place	2 locations	▶	2 locations
Number of beneficiaries (actual)	10,050	▶	10,035

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Girl in her teens living in a slum>>

I'm happy that more water is coming from the tap than before.

<<Female refugee in her 20s>>

It's very good to have a water drawing place because I had to travel a long way to buy water.

<<Female in her 30s living in a slum>>

The water inside the tank can be kept clean as the lid installed prevents dirt from getting into the tank.

<<Female in her 30s living in House of Peace>>

I realized that a lot of people working for everyone here was great.



Manufacturing the underground tank lid © Bridge for Lives in Mozambique



Constructing the water tower © Bridge for Lives in Mozambique



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 with an earnest wish to leave the nature in the wetland to local children as their local area in 1997. The Society has been working to protect and preserve the familiar nature including Shinoro Fukui Wetland in and around the Ainosato area, Kita Ward, Sapporo City.



Group photo of participants



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



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

◎ **Funding period** | 2nd year

To enrich the water environment in the Shinoro Fukui and Ainosato areas, Kita Ward, Sapporo City, the project aims to preserve marsh animals and plants such as *Nehalennia speciosa* designated as Near Threatened (in the IUCN system for classifying species at high risk of extinction) (2.5 cm in body length) by dredging ponds, planting marsh plants, and removing willow and exotic herbs in cooperation with the local residents. Having university students take the lead in working together with high school students to conduct environmental investigations using dragonflies as an indicator encourages them to have an interest in living organisms and natural environments and further grow as a person who is able to take specific actions.

#### Implementation result

Because COVID-19 was classified as a Category V Infectious Disease by the Japanese government this year, all events could be held in the same way as that before the pandemic of COVID-19 occurred. More than 80 percent of the participants were local residents partly because the event was announced on a circular and the Society's website and through social network services and word of mouth. With regard to "Using Pygmy Dragonflies as Indicators" seen in the project title, a high diversity of species has been maintained thanks to the dredging operation. We think that the operations of the administration office can be further improved and so we would like to put the lessons learned from the activities this year to good effect in 2024.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	9	▶	10
Number of participants in the activities	110	▶	202
Amount of waste collected	10 kg	▶	20 kg
Number of trees planted	300	▶	500 <small>Iris ensata, Hosta sieboldii var. rectifolia, Gentiana triflora var. japonica, and Lobelia sessilifolia</small>
Area preserved and developed	300 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	400 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of eliminated organisms	100 kg	▶	150 kg <small>Reed, bur reed</small>
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	50	▶	86



Maintenance of Dragonfly Pond



Investigating living organisms in marshlands

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Male in his teens>>

I was very surprised that the types of dragonflies we could catch changed in less than a year.

<<Male in his 40s>>

I learned the importance and difficulty of protecting the natural environment through my own experiences.

<<Male in his 20s>>

It was my second time participating in the activity since I was a high school student and I realized it was hard work but fun.

<<University student>>

I was very surprised by the fact that the number of red dragonflies significantly decreased and the place was full of summer darters. I am very curious about the trend in the next year and afterward

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.



Adventurous trash picking "ADVENTURE Lite"



### Developing Environmental Education Programs for Motivating Children



◎ **Region of activity** | Munakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture

◎ **Funding period** | 2nd year

When participants in the past activities were asked, "What made you environmentally conscious?" a common answer was "childhood experiences." Such experiences include fishing, marine sports, and memories of playing in the sea with their families. We found that a touching experience in childhood highly motivates people to act for improving the waterfront environment. Recently, however, children have come to play in many different ways, and many have had little experience with playing in the sea. The purpose of this project is to provide experiences for children who will shape the future, allowing them to feel a strong connection with the sea and be inspired by it.

#### Implementation result

The two beach cleanup events for children raised their awareness of the environment and allowed them to understand the importance of protecting the sea. The activities carried out in an isolated island made the children feel ties with the local community, which was a step toward a sustainable future. They also provided an opportunity for them to further know the region where they live. Although the project had more participants than initially planned, we would like to get more children involved in it to further raise their awareness of the environment by upgrading the contents of the plan and continuing the activities. We would also like to enhance the project by incorporating into it things that encourage children to take autonomous actions.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	2	▶	2
Number of participants in the activities	40	▶	83
Amount of waste collected	200 kg	▶	180 kg

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Elementary school child>>

There was a lot of trash that had drifted from foreign countries and I thought that I would call on other people not to litter thoughtlessly.

<<Junior high school student>>

I was shocked by the presence of large pieces of trash on the beach. I became determined not to litter the beach because all the trash on the beach goes to the sea.

<<Female high school student volunteer>>

I had a good experience and received a lot of stimulus.

<<Parent in his 40s>>

That was a very good opportunity for children to think about the environment.



Experience of pulling oar with local fisherman



Making special tongs



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 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 the 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 of home.



FUN Cleanup Day

© Fukuoka-FUN



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



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

◎ **Funding period** | 2nd 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 created there.

This project carries out the activities to restore and create eelgrass beds, seagrass that revitalizes the marine ecosystem, in the sea around Fukuoka, in order to preserve the biodiversity that is being lost due to reduced seagrass beds.

It aims to solve various ocean issues such as rocky-shore denudation in neritic waters and global warming by increasing eelgrass and to create a bountiful sea by sharing information with the local community and raising awareness among the community.

#### Implementation result

The project was successful in restoring and creating eelgrass beds while effectively communicating the appeal of the sea from the viewpoint of divers. We believe this project was able to motivate participants to preserve the marine environment in a positive way by engaging them in practical activities, including collecting eelgrass flowers and branches, sorting seeds, planting seedlings, and sowing the seeds in the sea. We consider that the project successfully created effective eelgrass beds by carrying out the activities in cooperation with research/educational institutions and fishery stakeholders. Opportunities for the project to be reported on by the media increased, enabling us to widely communicate the activities.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	5	▶	11
Number of participants in the activities	399	▶	634
Number of trees planted	1,500	▶	1,654 Eelgrass
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	393	▶	426
Number of eelgrass seeds cast into the sea	5,000	▶	20,000



Sorting eelgrass seeds

© Fukuoka-FUN



Environmental lecture at elementary school

© Fukuoka-FUN

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Participant in his 20s>>

Searching for eelgrass flowers and branches felt like a treasure hunt, and I was as absorbed in it as I was in my childhood.

<<Participant in his 30s>>

It was a very good experience that I was able to engage in the activities together with people from diverse positions, united by a common purpose.

<<Participant in her 40s>>

I felt it was a very valuable time because participating in the project gave us opportunities to act and think.

<<Participant in her 50s>>

There are things I can't experience on my own, but because we were given the chance to do them together, I was able to take that first step.

The GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND was established in 1989 to protect goshawks with a focus on monitoring the poaching of goshawks in Nasuogahara. 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.



Tasting of lotus leaf tea

© GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND



### Lotus Flowering Waterfront and Wildlife Restoration Project in Sashiba-no-Sato (breeding area of the gray-faced buzzard-eagles)



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

◎ **Funding period** | 3rd year

Various types of wildlife such as hawks and gray-faced buzzard eagles (designated as Vulnerable), which are called an indicator species of satoyama (village forest), live in Ichikai Town, Tochigi Prefecture, and this town has been selected as an important satochi/satoyama (mountain village/village forest) by the Ministry of Environment. On the other hand, the number of abandoned rice paddies in the marshy valley has been increasing due to the aging of the producers and the hard work required for cultivation, and this is reducing biodiversity. This project restores the waterfront and wetland by raising lotuses in abandoned rice paddies in the marshy valley to secure habitats for amphibians and water bugs of endangered species and feeding grounds for gray-faced buzzards and produce and sell lotus leaves, flowers, and roots. The aim is to provide comprehensive solutions to regional issues, such as creating a sustainable region by linking the preservation of regional biodiversity with economic activities, creating beautiful landscapes and providing the elderly with motivation in life, and taking measures against wildlife damage by boars.

#### Implementation result

In this year, two new sites were added as areas for planting and preserving lotuses, making a total of four sites. This is twice the initial target. One of the sites has become a place loved by the local residents as it is large in area and the lotuses there bloom with glorious flowers. Many rare aquatic organisms living in the wetland have also been observed. In the seven observation events held in the year, a lot of children living in and outside the town visited this place and interacted with the nature and living organisms. For the lotus tea product, the package design has been finalized, and it is almost ready to go on sale. Although the initial target of going on sale within the project period could not be achieved, it will go on sale within this year.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	14	▶	36
Number of participants in the activities	68	▶	197
Number of trees planted	50	▶	30
Area preserved and developed	1,000 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	1,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	40	▶	89



Preparation of the planting site using heavy equipment

© GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND



Observation event: Explanation of living organisms

© GOSHAWK PROTECTION FUND

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Male cooperator for operation in his 60s>>

I am very thankful that we can repair waterways using heavy equipment.

<<Investigator in his 60s>>

There are not many places where these many rare species can be observed.

<<Elementary school child>>

I enjoyed observing various living organisms.

<<Female in her 20s>>

I was deeply moved by seeing a spawning site and egg batches of Japanese brown frogs.



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.



Learning at a rice field

© Ochikawanosato



### Forest and Water Restoration Project by Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center



- Region of activity | Ochikawa, Hino City, Tokyo
- Funding period | 3rd year



In the wooded area of Hino Municipal Ochikawa Exchange Center, young plants do not grow because the trees in the wooded area in the premises are old and the soil is compacted by people walking, putting the wood in a critical condition. This project works with local people who use the place to restore the circulation of water and air in the soil and to rehabilitate the wood through activities in the form of a workshop. It also demonstrates the restoration of water circulation through the emergency well, biotope, rice field, and wood within the premises and the recovery of biodiversity in the investigation of living organisms in the rice field.

#### Implementation result

Through three years of forest improvement activities, notable changes were observed. In the first year, cherry trees that had never flowered came into full bloom. In the second year, a spring emerged in the middle of the plain, creating a water channel and transforming the surrounding vegetation. In the third year, we investigated plants, birds, and insects seen in the forest to check the changes and completed the living organism map explained with illustrations. This allowed the visitors to the park to get interested in and feel an attachment to the fresh look of the rehabilitated park and a variety of plants and living organisms that can be seen there.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	19	▶	13
Number of participants in the activities	251	▶	281
Number of trees planted	0	▶	8
Area preserved and developed	3,000 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	3,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	50	▶	72



Investigating living organisms

© Ochikawanosato



Map making

© Ochikawanosato

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Female in her 30s>>

Although I wasn't sure where to start mowing at first, once I looked at the landscape with nature's patterns in mind, I felt I could see the path of the wind.

<<Mother in her 30s>>

I didn't expect that the children would play with such delight, getting covered in mud in the rice field as soon as they stopped worrying about getting dirty. They laughed with such happy faces!

<<Elementary school child in the 6th grade>>

When observing a tiny bug as small as the tip of my nail under a microscope, I found their humorous and cute movements surprisingly refreshing.

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.



Shonan picnic (evening with lamplight) © Kurashi-Tsunagaru Mori Sato Kawa Umi



### 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 | 3rd year



The organization expands this visualization project with the participation of local residents to turn the Banyu Mizube no Gakko into an outdoor learning museum and upgrade its functions as the natural ecosystem field. With the concept that the "forest and sea are connected with each other," it carries out activities to conserve the natural environment and provide environmental education in the basin of Sagami River. Through these activities, the organization establishes a system for operating the Banyu Mizube no Gakko on a long-term basis, develops environmentally conscious citizens, and strengthen its activity base.

#### Implementation result

Aiming to turn the Banyu Mizube no Gakko into an outdoor learning museum, the project carried out environment control activities such as cutting grass, created a butterfly garden and an open space for living organisms, and installed nature guide boards. The project organized a variety of events such as fish investigation, Kawa no Shizen Gakko (river nature school), and investigation of living organisms at night. It also organized Shonan Picnic Below Embankment for SDGs, an event to promote the SDGs campaign, and a grand exhibition, which was the first attempt to publicize the activities. As a result, it successfully held a total of 75 events with the participation of 1,945 people and won the grand prize of Mainichi Chikyumirai Award.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	39	▶	75
Number of participants in the activities	580	▶	1,945
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	580	▶	1,945

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Elementary school child>>

Today, we cultivated the butterfly garden. It was raining at times while working, making me feel refreshed.

<<Father of elementary school child that participated>>

I learned that there are tons of ways to enjoy observing familiar organisms such as spider's webs and bats if we have knowledge about them.

<<Elementary school child>>

I saw a cool Japanese luna moth (Actias artemis) in the night walk event. Although I approached and photographed it, I couldn't take a perfect photo and so I tried again and again. After being taught how to take a good photo by other people, I became able to take a perfect photo of the moth's face and I was very happy.



Gardening for butterflies

© Kurashi-Tsunagaru Mori Sato Kawa Umi



Night walk event: Light trap

© Kurashi-Tsunagaru Mori Sato Kawa Umi



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.



Driftwood art illuminated by the setting sun © Environmental Tokushima Network



### 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** | 3rd year

Empty PET bottles washed up on Naruto Beach in Tokushima Prefecture. In recent years, concerns have been rising about the impacts of microplastics in the oceans on the ecosystem and marine pollution has been expanding on a global scale. We, producers and consumers of many plastic products in Japan, are not irrelevant to the issue of marine pollution. The purpose of this project is to realize the current circumstances of measures against the items washed ashore in the region and think about how we can preserve and pass assets on to the next generation.

We aim to take actions to encourage as many people as possible to recognize ocean plastic as a serious issue, raise awareness about waste plastics, thermal recovery, and the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), and deal seriously with the ocean trash issue while envisioning the future of Setouchi.

#### Implementation result

In the latter half of this year, we did yet-to-be-completed follow-ups for the wide-area ocean trash cleanups conducted in parts of the Setouchi area (Imabari, Yamaguchi, and East Kagawa), and held a relocated exhibition of driftwood art created in the former half of this year (within Naruto Uchinoumi Park) and a panel exhibition for reporting the current situation of ocean trash at Setouchi Naruto Beach.

In addition, briefing sessions for reporting additional special activities were held at three sites (one site in Marugame City and two sites in Naruto City), making the current situation of the “Setouchi turning into waste bin” widely known to the local residents as the report on the activities supported over these three years.

The project yielded results beyond our expectations such as winning the company/organization award in the Decarbonization Challenge Cup 2024 and reporting the activities to the Mayor of Naruto City.

#### <Numerically measurable outcomes>

	Planned value		Result
Number of activity events in the funded project	3	▶	14
Number of participants in the activities	40	▶	46
Amount of waste collected	500 kg	▶	680 kg
Area preserved and developed	3,020 m <sup>2</sup>	▶	3,648 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of participants in environmental education (total)	0	▶	379

#### Voices from those engaged in the activities

<<Participant in Decarbonization Challenge Cup: Female housewife living in Kanagawa Prefecture in her 40s>>

Although I had an image that the Seto Inland Sea was very beautiful because it was far from the Kanto area. But after watching the final presentation this time, I understood that there was a mountain of environmental problems, even more than I could have imagined, regarding the beach. I was impressed by the project title, “Sea That Has Turned into a Waste Bin.” I am greatly interested in the driftwood art created by an amateur artist group.

<<Male member in his 40s of Environmental Policy Division in Naruto City>>

In addition to the usual annual clean-ups of the organization, I am looking forward to the report because it should clearly explain the current situation and issues at Naruto Beach, which have not been investigated by public agencies or companies before.



Cleanup at Naruto Beach



Creating driftwood art

### 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
10th	April 2015 to March 2016	14.3 million yen	22

Round	Period	Amount of money	Number of organizations
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
18th	April 2023 to March 2026	27.33 million yen	13
19th	April 2024 to March 2027	27.6 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 **471.49 million yen** **316 in total**



# Activities carried out by the TOTO Group to contribute to the environment

The TOTO Group carries out a variety of activities to contribute to the TOTO Water Environment Fund in Japan.

environment both in and outside Japan, other than the TOTO Water Environment Fund in Japan. The main initiatives are presented below.

## TOTO Water Environment Fund affiliated with China Environmental Protection Foundation

The fund established as TOTO Water Environment Fund in China in 2008 has contributed to water saving and conservation of water resources in mainland China through activities such as donating products to orphanages, providing education on the water environment, offering scholarships to university students, and supporting the construction of water supply equipment. In 2021, the TOTO Water Environment Fund was selected as an excellent example of an excellent company practicing CSR in China in the “2021 Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting in China” by China Philanthropy Times, a media organization run by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.



## In-class lecture to teach students about water saving at elementary schools

The group provides environmental education by giving lectures at local elementary schools so that children can learn that saving water in daily life helps preserve the global environment and water resources as well as reduce CO<sub>2</sub>.



## Trees planting activity

The group started the TOTO Acorn Reforestation Project in Japan in 2006. The employees grow acorns that they picked up by hand at their workplaces or home, bring the grown seedlings back to the forest, transplant them there, and then cut grass in cooperation with the local people. The overseas group companies also carry out planting activities on a regular basis to contribute to environmental conservation and raise the employees’ and their families’ awareness of environmental conservation.



## Cleanup activity

The TOTO Group practices neighborhood cleanups at its bases throughout the world. Through the cleanups, the group expresses gratitude for being able to operate in the regions and shares the information that a lot of ocean trash is derived from trash from land within the group, and helps to conserve the global environment for the purpose of reducing ocean trash.

