

Efforts Toward Conserving Biodiversity



ENVIRONMENT



Policy and Concept

In line with the Kansai Electric Power Group Environmental Policy, our Group recognizes the importance of biodiversity, working on conservation by properly understanding, analyzing and assessing the impact that our operations may have on biodiversity. Moreover, in line with the Biodiversity Action Guidelines of the Japanese Electric Utility Industry, which were set by the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, we are expanding operations while recognizing the importance of biodiversity. For instance, when building or renovating power plants in areas of sensitive biodiversity, as much as possible we strive to prevent or reduce any impact on the environment and biodiversity in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Law and where necessary we also consider biodiversity offsets.

Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry (revised on June 2020)

In the electric power business, we are committed to using the blessings of nature in a sustainable manner while minimizing the impact on biodiversity.

In view of the "integration of business activities and environmental measures" encompassing a wide range of environmental activities, or so-called "environmentally integrated management" that has been required recently, we have revised the Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry. Based on these Action Guidelines, we will continue to strive for sustainable business activities while appreciating the blessings of nature.

Code of Conduct

As a member of the international and local communities, not just as an electric power company, we keep in mind that biodiversity is an important foundation of a sustainable society and realizing such a society is our responsibility. We will actively promote the following business activities that bring benefits to biodiversity, thereby realizing a sustainable society.

I. Promoting environmentally integrated management that contributes to biodiversity

- ① When supplying electricity, carry out corporate management while recognizing the effects of business activities on achieving various goals related to SDGs with due consideration to biodiversity.
- ② In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electric power industry as a whole, make utmost efforts to use nuclear power generation with the basic premise of ensuring safety, increase the use of renewable energies, further improve efficiency and perform appropriate maintenance of thermal power generation, and provide energy-saving and CO₂-saving services that contribute to a low-carbon society.
- ③ Continue to engage in 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) activities, such as effective use of resources and reduction of final waste disposal, to create a recycling-based society and reduce environmental load.
- ④ Regarding biodiversity efforts, deliver easy-to-understand information and dialogue appropriately to a broad base of stakeholders.

II. Steadily engaging in actions that contribute to biodiversity

- ⑤ When conducting business activities, properly assess, analyze and evaluate the impact on biodiversity, and strive for conservation and sustainable use.
- ⑥ Promote technologies and R&D that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and seek to disseminate them.
- ⑦ Work to conserve biodiversity by voluntarily and proactively engaging in activities that lead to the creation of social value, such as forest conservation and environmental education, while cooperating and collaborating with relevant local organizations and customers. At the same time, contribute to achieving SDGs.
- ⑧ Encourage employees to enhance their awareness of biodiversity by participating in environmental education and environmental conservation activities inside and outside the company.
- ⑨ Provide environmental education activities to customers and the next generation, and participate in and cooperate with educational activities performed in the community to widely spread awareness of biodiversity.

Goals

Conservation of biodiversity

Consideration of biodiversity through
business activities

Efforts

Examples of specific efforts related to Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry II — ⑤

Monitoring of the habitats and lives of flora and fauna at locations around the power plant

While we contribute to conserving local species around the Okutataragi Pumped Storage Power Station as part of our nature conservation efforts, we conducted literature and field surveys in fiscal 2020 to monitor the habitats and lives of flora and fauna (forest green treefrogs, etc.) at locations around the power station. Based on the results, we will go on with further study on biodiversity conservation activities.

Protecting native species around Kurobe Dam

Our Company runs electric buses along the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route that connects Nagano Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture. Along with not emitting exhaust gases, these vehicles rarely startle animals with their sound because they run extremely quietly. Kurobe Dam, which is situated in a national park, receives one million visitors annually. At Ogizawa Station, which is the entrance to the Nagano Prefecture side, the seeds of plants that do not naturally grow in Kurobe sometimes get brought over on the soles of the shoes of tourists. Thus, we have placed seed removal mats at the station ticket gates to prevent the influx of non-native species. The removed seeds are collected with a vacuum cleaner and incinerated.



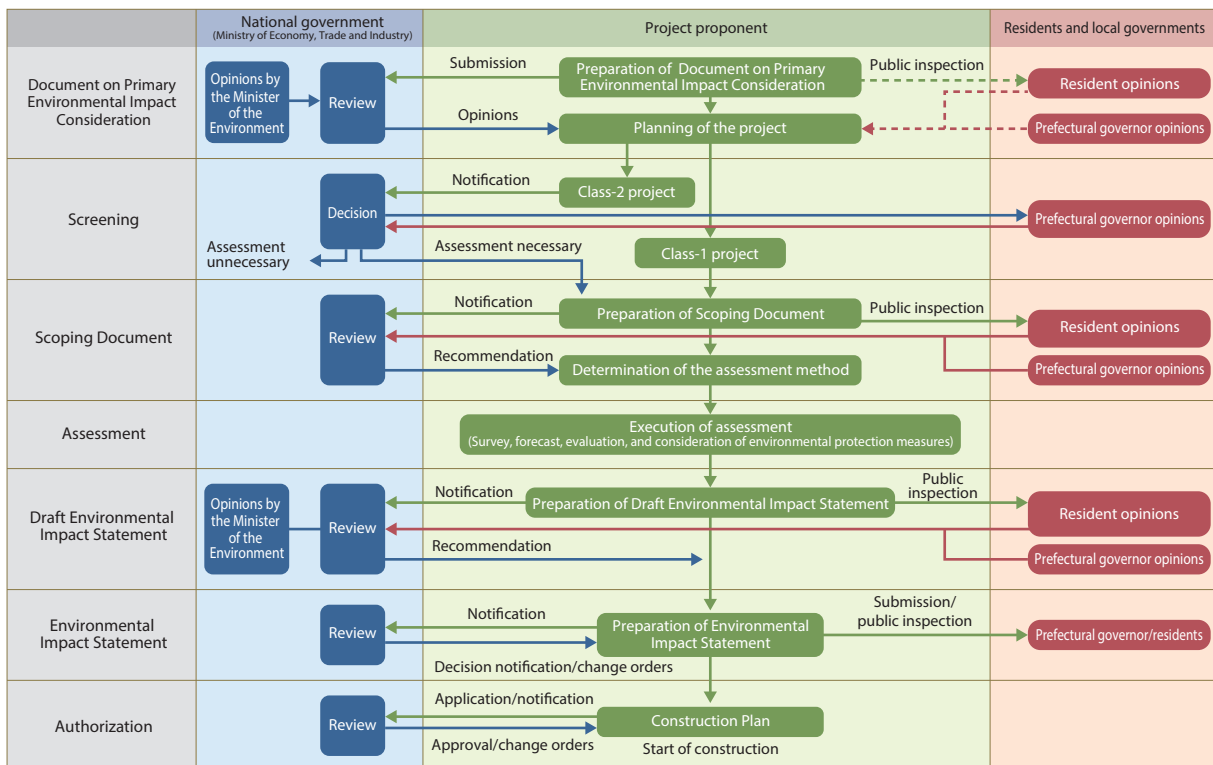
Seed-removal floor mat

Execution of environmental impact assessment

An environmental impact assessment system estimates and evaluates impacts on the environment of business activities and investigates necessary countermeasures before the execution of large-scale development projects.

In Japan, the system based on the Environmental Impact Assessment Law stipulates subject business survey items, procedure protocols, and other requirements. In suitably implementing environmental impact assessment for power plant construction (including new, expansion, or replacement) in the electric power business, along with utilizing the extensive knowledge that we had accumulated before the establishment of this law, we are, for example, listening to the opinions and recommendations of local residents, regional organizations and the national government. Furthermore, through environmental protection measures based on the opinions of experts and others, we are making efforts to minimize impacts on the natural environment and biodiversity as well as restore natural environments.

Environmental assessment procedures

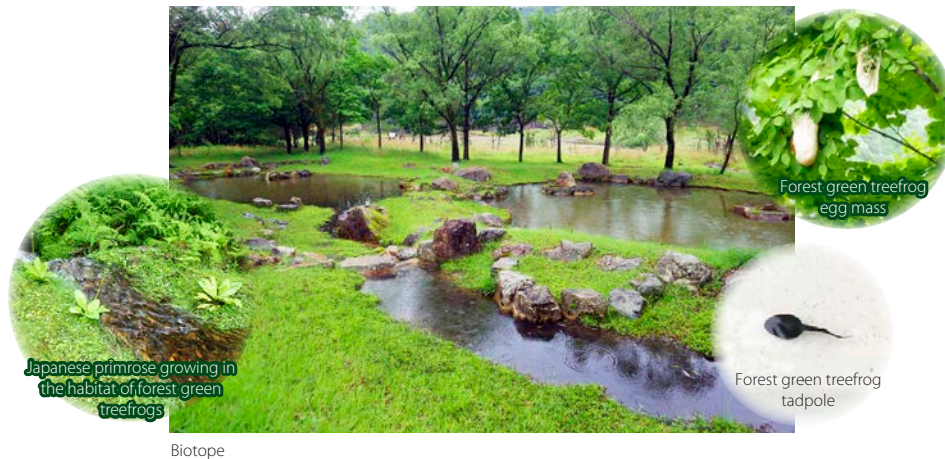


● Examples of specific efforts related to Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry II — ⑦

◆ Natural forest creation

In order to make forests that are similar to nature at power plants in a short period of time, we are trying to create environments that protect the original biodiversity of the region by selecting cultivated tree saplings that are suited to the region, and planting different species densely in close proximity.

Moreover, in order to maintain natural forests, as we look to the guidance of experts, we are undertaking continuous efforts to preserve biodiversity, including measures to further diversify species and eliminate invasive species.



◆ Protecting oriental white storks

In Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture, released oriental white storks, which are designated a Special Natural Treasure in Japan, sometimes make their nests on utility poles and steel towers. Not only are there concerns about accidents, but there are also fears that storks could be electrocuted. For these reasons, Kansai Transmission and Distribution, Inc. patrols carefully, removing nests as quickly possible and conducting measures to discourage them from coming near utility poles in cooperation with the local governments. In these ways, we are both protecting the storks and maintaining the safety and stability of the power supply.