

# 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, we are also expanding our efforts in line with the Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry, which were set by the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan.

For instance, when building or renovating power plants in areas of sensitive biodiversity, as much as possible we strive to avoid or mitigate any impact on the environment and biodiversity in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and where necessary we also consider biodiversity offsets.

Response to the TNFD's recommendations

In April 2024, we declared our intention to disclose information following the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).\*

Going forward, we plan to enhance our disclosure based on the framework put forward by the TNFD's recommendations to promote biodiversity and natural capital conservation initiatives to create a nature-positive society. (For more information, see pages 54–56 of our Integrated Report 2024.)

\* An international initiative that aims to develop and offer a framework for the disclosure of nature-related financial information.

#### ◆ <Kansai Electric Power Group Environmental Policy 5. Conserving biodiversity>

##### 5. Conserving biodiversity

At the Kansai Electric Power Group, we recognize the importance of biodiversity. We properly assess, analyze and evaluate the impacts of our business activities and work to preserve biodiversity.

#### ◆ <Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry (revised on June 2024)>

As mentioned above, we are also expanding efforts that consider the Biodiversity Action Guidelines by the Japanese Electric Utility Industry set by the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan.

Each company in the electric utility industry will pay careful consideration to the sustainability of our natural capital, which includes biodiversity and ecosystems, and will conduct business activities that are in harmony with nature to help bring about a society in which humans and nature can coexist.

To create such a society, companies in our industry, but also their group companies and supply chains, shall promote initiatives aimed at the conservation, as well as the restoration, of natural capital such as biodiversity and ecosystems. In aiming for this nature-positive approach, we consider both global and local perspectives as well as an integrated approach to carbon neutrality and the circular economy as we go about our business activities.

- ① Ensure executives demonstrate leadership in promoting sustainability-focused management and clarify their company's philosophy and vision as they work to develop corporate organizations and systems.
- ② Appropriately identify and manage reliance and impact on natural capital (including biodiversity and ecosystems) and associated risks and opportunities. As part of business activities, carry out initiatives such as appropriate assessments of environmental impact and environmental conservation measures that take into account regional characteristics to work toward biodiversity conservation at a regional level.
- ③ In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electric power industry as a whole, on the supply side, utilize nuclear power generation (predicated on safety) and increase the use of renewable energies, and further improve efficiency and perform appropriate maintenance of thermal power generation. On the demand side, make all possible efforts to provide energy-saving and CO<sub>2</sub>-saving services.
- ④ Continuously work to address issues such as effectively using resources, reducing the amount of final waste requiring disposal, and appropriately managing waste to create a recycling-based society and reduce environmental impacts.
- ⑤ Promote technologies and R&D that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and seek to disseminate them.
- ⑥ Disclose information related to initiatives to conserve and restore natural capital (including biodiversity and ecosystems), and deliver easy-to-understand information and dialogue at the appropriate times to a broad range of stakeholders.
- ⑦ Engage in activities that lead to the creation of social value, such as forest conservation and environmental education, while cooperating with relevant local organizations and customers.
- ⑧ Encourage employees to enhance their awareness of efforts to conserve and restore natural capital (including biodiversity and ecosystems) through their participation in environmental education and environmental conservation activities inside and outside their companies.
- ⑨ Provide environmental education activities to customers and the next generation, and participate in and cooperate with educational activities in the community to widely spread awareness of efforts to conserve and restore natural capital (including biodiversity and ecosystems).



## Goals

Conservation of biodiversity

Consideration of biodiversity through business activities

## Efforts

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

In fiscal 2022 and 2023, we surveyed the area surrounding the hydropower plant located along the Kiso River system in Nagano Prefecture to better understand potential contributions to conservation of biodiversity. We will continue our survey on such areas this year and beyond.

### ● Protecting native species around Kurobe Dam

Ogizawa Station, the entrance to the Kurobe Dam, is equipped with floor mats designed to remove seeds from the soles of tourists' shoes as a means to control introduction of invasive species. The removed seeds are collected with a vacuum cleaner and incinerated.



Seed-removal floor mat

### ● Installing fish passages

Some hydropower plants are equipped with fish passages for anadromous fish, a means to operate in symbiosis with nature. A stepwise structure is put in place to control the flow rate and amount of water for the benefit of fish.



Fish passage installation

### ● Initiatives through our CIELIA condominiums

Through its CIELIA condominiums, Kanden Realty & Development Co., Ltd. promotes developments that consider biodiversity and the surrounding environment through measures such as exterior and planting plans that primarily utilize native plant species and different combinations of tall and short trees and varying types of ground cover. At its CIELIA CITY AKASHI OKUBO development, the company received certification from the Association for Business Innovation in Harmony with Nature and Community (ABINC).

### ● 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 Act 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 undertaking to minimize impacts on the natural environment and biodiversity as well as restore natural environments.



## ● Providing biotopes

Biotopes are located in the Okutataragi Pumped Storage Power Station to provide habitats for insects and amphibians. Plants and animals, including forest green tree frogs\*, have been found to inhabit areas around the biotopes.



Biotope

\* Forest green tree frogs: Increasingly endangered species specified in the 2017 Hyogo Prefecture Red List

## ● Sustainable management of watershed protection forests

Pruning and thinning are performed every year in cooperation with local forestry cooperatives, etc. for conservation and management purposes at watershed protection forests\* we own in Gifu Prefecture.



Watershed protection forest

\* Watershed protection forests are located upstream of rivers and water intake facilities, playing a crucial role in utilizing water resources.

## ● Protecting oriental white storks

In Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture, oriental white storks, which are designated a Special Natural Treasure in Japan, sometimes make their nests on utility poles and steel towers. 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.



White stork couple building their nest on top of an electric pole

