

# Forests × Decarbonization Challenge 2022

## Award Winners Report



# Table of Contents

1. Aim of the Initiative	....1
2. Review Committee	....2
3. Review by the Chairperson of the Review Committee	....2
4. List of award winners	....3
5. Introduction of the award winners' efforts	....4
6. List of Green Partner 2022	....24

# Aim of the Initiative

Forests account for two-thirds of Japan's land area, and proper management and conservation of these forests will help secure and strengthen the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> they absorb, contributing to the realization of carbon neutrality by 2050. Forests are also essential for the fulfillment of public beneficial functions, such as conservation of land, water resources, and biodiversity. We are working hard on forest management using public funding.

On the other hand, as interest in SDGs and ESG investments grows, forest creation with the support of corporations is spreading nationwide. Forest creation using the vitality of the private sector is important for the development of countermeasures against global warming through forest management as a national movement, and also to protect and pass down the abundant nature to the future. To this end, we aim to encourage more companies to participate in forest creation, and we have decided to launch a new initiative to honor forest creation by companies from the perspective of "decarbonization."

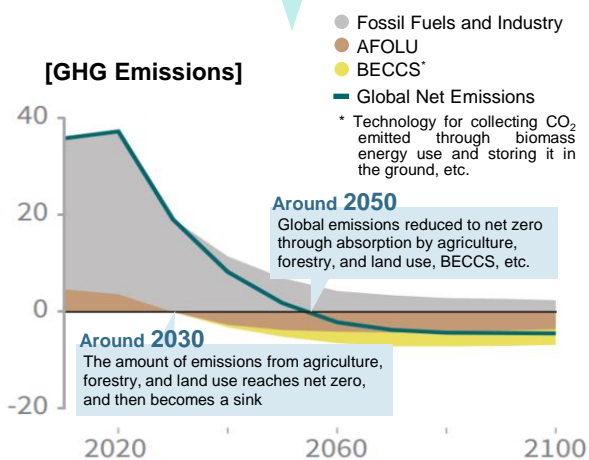
- **Application period:** Friday, February 18 to Friday, April 8, 2022
- **Number of applicants:** 55 (50 corporations, 3 organizations, 2 local governments)
- **Review standards:** "Amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by managed forests" and "details of forest management efforts" regarding forest management conducted in 2020 and 2021.
- **Eligibility:** Corporations, organizations, individuals, or local governments who conducted or supported forest management in 2020 and 2021.

## The importance of forests as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks is garnering attention worldwide!

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in 2021 (COP26), the Glasgow Climate Pact was adopted, reaffirming that efforts to achieve the 1.5°C target should be pursued. It also highlights the importance of forests as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks and reservoirs.

In order to achieve carbon neutrality, it is essential not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also to promote measures to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector. Therefore, forests are attracting increasing attention as a CO<sub>2</sub> sink.

Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission pathway under a scenario that limit temperature increase to 1.5°C



\* Created based on IPCC (2018) "Global Warming of 1.5°C", Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Makino Yamanoshita, Chisa Umemiya "Report on International Trends in Climate Change and forests - COP26" ("Somamichi" December 2021 No. 63).

# Review Committee

\* Honoric titles omitted

Norinchukin Research Institute Co., Ltd. - Chief Counselor	Yoshitsugu Minagawa Chairperson
Japan CSV Business Development Organization - Managing Director	Toru Kodera Acting Chairperson
Tokyo Chainsaws Co., Ltd. - Representative	Ryosuke Aoki
CDP Worldwide - Japan Associate Director	Miyako Enokibori
Yanagisawa Forestry - Representative Director	Kaoru Hara

## Review by the Chairperson of the Review Committee



**Yoshitsugu Minagawa**

Norinchukin Research Institute  
Co., Ltd.  
Chief Counselor

As interest in carbon neutrality by 2050 and decarbonization grows at an accelerated pace, it is the ideal time to establish an award system focusing on the role of forests as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks.

Although this was the first time accepting applications, we received entries from a wide variety of entities including corporations, financial institutions, non-profit organizations and local governments. They all left a lasting impression, as we were able to get a glimpse of their background and passion for forests. In addition, this included some corporations, urban municipalities, and other entities who, despite not having a direct relationship to forests or forestry, are engaging in forest management with the goal of contributing to the fulfillment of public beneficial functions, including prevention of global warming, the revitalization of hilly and mountainous rural communities, and so on.

I hope that this award will help to expand the range of efforts to achieve decarbonization through forest management and utilization of forest resources by diverse actors.

# List of award winners

Name	Prefecture	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption
 <b>GRAND PRIX (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Award)</b>		
Asahi Group Japan, Ltd.	Tokyo	816 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
 <b>EXCELLENCE AWARD (Forestry Agency Director-General Award)</b>		
Contribution to the "cut, use, plant" cyclical utilization of forests		
KOKUYO Co., Ltd.	Osaka	842 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
Koshii & Co., Ltd.	Osaka	346 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.	Tokyo	42 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities		
NPO Environmental Relations	Tokyo	100 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.	Shimane	41 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
Ikeda Town, Hokkaido	Hokkaido	10 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
Contribution to the fulfillment of public beneficial functions of forests		
Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	3,415 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
Pigeon Corporation	Tokyo	40 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year
Nissay Green Foundation	Tokyo	147 tCO <sub>2</sub> per year

## [Notes on the introduction of the award winners' efforts]

### ■ About "CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption"

This refers to the "Annual CO<sub>2</sub> absorption by forests managed between 2021 and 2022" submitted by each award winner at the time of application. For more information on how the amount of absorption is calculated, please refer to pages 24-25.

### ■ About "Main Management Items"

This report organizes the main management items into "planting," "weeding," and "thinning (including pruning and improvement cutting)". In addition, the "Age-class (Divided by 5 year-period steps. "Age-class 1" includes the 1st to 5th years after planting with the year of planting counted as the 1st year.)" is the unit used to indicate the age of the forest.

### ■ About the QR Code in "Overview of Award Winner"

The QR code allows you to visit a website that contains additional information about the efforts of each award winner. In addition, there is a link pasted on the diagram, so it can be accessed even when viewing this report on a computer.

# GRAND PRIX

[Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Award]

## Asahi Group Japan, Ltd.

The "Asahi Forest," which employees protect with their own hands

Creating diverse value, including CO<sub>2</sub> absorption and regional development



Abemaki forest (Miyoshi, Hiroshima)

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

**816** tCO<sub>2</sub> per year

### Main Management Items



**Thinning: 183 ha**  
Sugi (Japanese cedar) / hinoki (Japanese cypress)  
Age-class 7 to 15



**Planting: 8 ha**  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 1

### It all began with an Abemaki forest

In 1941, Dainippon Brewery Ltd., the predecessor of Asahi Breweries, a member of the same group, purchased an Abemaki (*Quercus variabilis*) forest in Shobara, Hiroshima, to replace imported cork used to line beer bottle crown caps with bark from the trees. In 1949, they established an on-site office to manage forests (now the Asahi Forest's Preservation Office), and for over 80 years have been engaged in the management of forests in order to fulfill their public beneficial functions.

### Aiming for Sustainable Forest Management

Currently, the Asahi Forest has grown to 2,165 hectares, and the company has received the Collecting Forest Management Plan certification and is implementing sustainable forest management through systematic thinning to grow forests, logging to gather wood (harvesting) and reforestation (planting). In 2001, the company acquired FSC® certification, and recently supplied

FSC® certified materials for the National Stadium.

In addition, in order to reduce the cost of reforestation, which is an issue in forestry, they participated in the "Low-Cost Reforestation Project" with the National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative Associations and the Norinchukin Bank in 2021, and engaged in a demonstration experiment of reforestation using fast-growing trees Koyozan (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*).

### Connecting Asahi Forest and the Local Area

Utilizing the expertise of managing Asahi Forest for many years, the company concluded an agreement with private and public forests (owned by a property ward), which had not been well maintained in recent years, around Asahi Forest, incorporated said forests into the Collecting Forest Management Plan, and managed them in an integrated manner. In 2021, the company conducted thinning in these forests and returned the revenue from timber sales to the property ward, contributing to the local area both economically and environmentally.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Asahi Group Japan, Ltd.
- Representative Name: Kenji Hamada, President and Representative Director, CEO
- Address: 1-23-1 Azumabashi, Sumida-Ku, Tokyo
- Business content: Supervision of domestic business for Asahi Group Holdings, Ltd. (food and beverage business, etc.)

Click here!



Asahi Forest website

## Winner's Comment

I am very proud that our efforts last year, the result of forest management passed down from those who came before us, were evaluated highly and earned us such a prestigious award. This award will help spread awareness that responsible forest management practices can contribute not only to regional environmental conservation, but also to decarbonization. We hope that companies will continue to make more and more efforts, such as forest management.



The Asahi Forest's Preservation Office  
Director **Yoichiro Matsuoka**

Furthermore, the company has provided Asahi Forest to be used for forest environmental education for local elementary school students in Shobara, Hiroshima. The children can enjoy forestry experiences, such as sawing thinnings, walking through the forest, and nature observation, sparking interest in forests and forestry.

## Blessings of Asahi Forest

In order to manage a forest that supports living and nature, they are conducting biodiversity surveys of the entire Asahi forest, continuously monitoring each year, and making efforts to protect rare species, such as building nest boxes for dollarbirds.

They have also been certified by the Agency for Cultural Affairs to provide materials for the

restoration of buildings and other cultural properties. They are continuing forest management to contribute to the sustainability of their culture. In addition, the company is aiming to achieve "Water Neutrality" in 2025 by providing a stable supply of groundwater from Asahi Forest equivalent to the amount of water used in its domestic beer breweries, and will continue striving for proper forest management.

The blessings of Asahi Forest are diverse, including public beneficial functions such as CO<sub>2</sub> absorption, biodiversity conservation, and regional development. Disseminating information on these topics through the website is expected to raise awareness of the significance of forest management and lead to increased efforts.



A walk through the forest



A dollarbird using a nest box

## Review by the Review Committee

Although many companies are focusing on forest conservation, I highly valued the fact that their activities don't stop there, but also extend to the development of a Collecting Forest Management Plan, the use of thinnings, and the return of revenue to the local area. In the future, I expect them to foster next-generation human resources and create new value for forests.

Toru Kodera

### ■ What is the Collective Forest Management Plan?

The Plan is a five-year plan created by forest owners and others for forest management and protection for a cluster of forests they manage, and to be certified by municipalities.

### ■ What is forest certification?

A system in which a third-party organization certifies forests that comply with standards of forest management sustainability and consideration for environmental conservation. Examples include the FSC® certification, an international forest certification, and the SGEN certification, which is exclusive to Japan.

### ■ What is a fast-growing tree?

This refers to trees that grow faster than those traditionally used for forestry, and are expected to be used for timber quickly. Efforts are being made in various regions to verify conifers such as Koyozan and broadleaf trees such as Sendan (*Melia azedarach*).

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

“Cut, use, plant”  
Contribution to the cyclical utilization  
of forests

## KOKUYO Co., Ltd.

Leveraging the strength of a furniture maker  
Using thinned wood and managing forests  
in collaboration with the local community



Forest maintenance (thinning)

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

842 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Thinning: 97 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 10

### From furniture to the forest

Since 1998, KOKUYO has been working on the development of furniture using thinned wood produced by forest management, believing that by supporting appropriate forest management, they can contribute to the realization of a "sustainable society" and solve the challenges facing a "low carbon society," the "coexistence of society and nature," and a "circular economy." In 2006, they launched the "Yui-no-Mori Project" with the Taishocho Forestry Association (now Shimantocho Forestry Association) in Kochi Prefecture, with whom they had a business alliance to manufacture products using thinned wood, to develop a system for regional revitalization through forest management. Forest management has expanded based on the agreement concluded between the company, Kochi Prefecture, Shimanto Town, and the Shimantocho Forestry Association, and it now covers 5,425 hectares. Furthermore, they have received CO<sub>2</sub> absorption certification from Kochi Prefecture for yearly forest management based on the above agreement.

### High value-added local resources

By making effective use of thinned wood, such as making furniture, they are adding value to wood and generating funds for forest management by returning profits to the mountains.

The Yui-no-Mori project is FSC® certified, produces office furniture and other goods made from thinned wood supplied from certified forests, and sells them throughout Japan.

With the goal of a creating an "environmentally and economically virtuous circle,"



Glued Laminated Timber made from thinned wood  
under strict quality control

### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: KOKUYO Co., Ltd.
- Representative Name: Hidekuni Kuroda, Representative Director of the Board, President, and CEO
- Address: 6-1-1 Oimazato-minami, Higashinari-ku, Osaka City, Osaka
- Business: Manufacture, purchase, and sale of stationery and office furniture, Space design and consultation, etc.

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)



## Winner's Comment

Since the beginning of the Yui-no-Mori Project, we have been continuously active in forest conservation, believing that it is also effective for preventing global warming. I am very glad that this award acknowledged the value of that. We hope that CO<sub>2</sub> absorption through forest conservation will be recognized as a carbon neutral initiative by companies in the future.



Environmental Management Unit,  
Sustainability Office, CSV Management Division  
Senior manager, **Shinichi Saito**

that promotes the effective use of locally produced timber to revitalize the local economy, they began manufacturing reception counters for the town hall from locally produced materials from various areas and delivered them to the Shimanto Town Building in 2014. In 2021, the company expanded its efforts from Yui-no-mori to the whole country, including the delivery of reception counters made from local hinoki (Japanese cypress) to the new city hall in Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture.

Furthermore, in 2021, they launched "yuimori," a furniture brand that uses domestic materials such as wood and is based on the concept of making products that can be disassembled by material, which leads to recycling and appropriate disposal. They are accelerating "cut and use" efforts through Yui-no-Mori.

### "Visualizing" the effects of thinning

Every year, KOKUYO employees join the Shimantocho Forestry Association, Shimanto High School, Kochi Prefecture and Shimanto Town in Yui-no-Mori to monitor the change in



Vegetation survey with local high school students

vegetation due to thinning, water quality of the Shimanto River, and changes in the ecosystem. By "visualizing" the thinning effect, they are able to ensure proper forest management at the appropriate time. They also publish the results of their research on the Internet to promote the effects of forest management.

This initiative is highly regarded as a place for Shimanto High School students to rediscover the wonders of local nature and to develop human resources through interaction with workers.



Shimanto Town Office (furniture made using thinned wood from Yui-no-Mori)

### Review by the Review Committee

These efforts, which take advantage of their strengths as a furniture manufacturer and have been carried out in cooperation with the local community since 2006, should serve as a guide for many companies that engage in the efforts related to forests in the future. They have already expanded their activities nationwide, and we can expect further development.

Ryosuke Aoki

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

“Cut, use, plant”  
Contribution to the cyclical utilization  
of forests



Inside a company-owned forest

## Koshii & Co., Ltd.

Wood use that emphasizes yield  
Rejuvenating forests and  
strengthening CO<sub>2</sub> absorption ability

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

346 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year

### Main Management Items



Thinning: 40 ha  
Hinoki  
Age-class 3 to 13



Weeding: 3 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 1

### Forest management contributing to SDGs and decarbonization

The company was founded in the Meiji era to handle the preservation of wooden telephone poles and railroad ties, and acquired forests for the procurement of raw materials. The company now owns approximately 800 hectares of forest across six prefectures in Kansai and Kyushu.

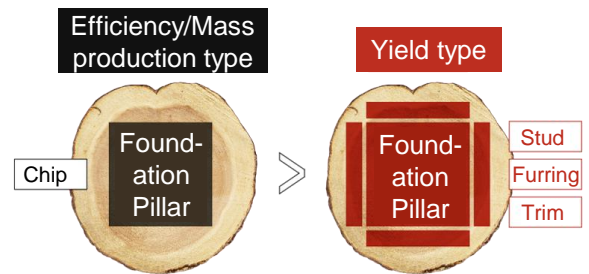
Believing that proper management of their own forests contributes not only to the 15th SDG, “Life on Land,” but also to the 13th SDG, “Climate Action” by ensuring the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by the forests, they are committed to sustainable forest management, including planting and wood use, with the approval of the Collecting Forest Management Plan.

Amid these circumstances, a so-called “wood shock” occurred around the second half of 2020 due to factors such as increased demand for housing in the United States and increased demand for wood, causing a surge in wood prices worldwide.

Imported wood was not available in Japan as it had been in the past, and due to growing interest in domestic wood and a growing demand for a stable supply of it in the market, the company endeavored to build a new supply chain for domestic wood utilizing the thinned wood of their own forests.

### Building a new supply chain

When a log is sawn, careful consideration is given to the standard of sawn lumber to be produced in accordance with the size of the logs without any waste, resulting in the reduction of leftover wood after sawing lumber, increasing the yield. By increasing the yield,



Wood sawing method to increase yield

### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Koshii & Co., Ltd.
- Representative Name: Jun Koshii, President and Representative Director
- Address: 1-2-158 Hirabayashi-kita, Suminoe Ward, Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture
- Business: Wood preservation, insect repellent, fire prevention, dimensional stability treatment, manufacturing of vehicle floorboards, wooden sashes and silviculture business, etc.

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

We develop products with a focus on yield and create a system of continuous supply for many customers, while increasing the value of each log and returning the added value to the mountain, leading to reforestation and silviculture. By leaving resources behind for future generations and continuing this circle of activity, we will make a sustainable decarbonized society a reality. I would like gratefully accept this award together with our partners from around the country.



President and Representative director  
**Jun Koshii**

the value of each log will increase, and by returning profits to the mountain, will in turn lead to reforestation.

For this reason, along with sawmill companies in each region, major builders, and hardware stores handling sawn lumber that agree with the idea of prioritizing yield over efficiency, they have established a domestic wood supply platform, "KISM," and have developed new products, such as materials for outer fences using leftover wood and DIY products, and expanded sales channels.

The "KISM" initiative involves Forest Owners' Cooperatives and the wood market in each region, and has built a supply chain for domestic wood in seven regions across the country, with an average of 500 cubic meters of logs per month being utilized in 2021.

Efforts that started in their own forest are spreading nationwide.

Through these efforts, some sawmills that sympathize with their philosophy have started making proactive efforts, such as hiring new staff to succeed and further develop the business, and discussing the introduction of a wood-drying kiln jointly with a group of sawmill companies.

The mountain that supplies logs, the sawmill that saws them, and the consumer who purchases wood products can carry out transactions that are beneficial to all parties, enabling reforestation after harvesting. This leads to sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest absorption through rejuvenation of the forest.



Work being conducted at a partner sawmill in Oita



Outer fence using a back plate



Hardware store event

## Review by the Review Committee

Despite efficiency being mainstream, the priority on the "yield of the sawmilling industry" using human skills and sparing no labor, should be highly regarded in terms of sustainable forestry management, and thus SDGs and decarbonization. In addition, their efforts are spreading throughout Japan through partners in the sawmilling industry, and I expect that it will spread through the entire lumber distribution system in the future.

Kaoru Hara

### ■ Regarding the so-called "wood shock"

For more information, please refer to Special topic 1 of the FY2021 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry: "Response to the wood shortage and price surge in FY2021."

Click here!



FY2021 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan (in Japanese)

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

“Cut, use, plant”  
Contribution to the cyclical utilization  
of forests



Forest management (thinned wood for use)

## TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.

Raising houses and forests in Tokyo  
"TOKYO WOOD" from the Tama region

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

42 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Thinning: 8 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 10

### Using Tokyo's trees to protect Tokyo's forests

Tokyo is thought of as a big city, but in fact, forests cover 40% of its area, and about 70% of that area is concentrated in the western part of the Tama region.

Approximately 60% of the forests in the Tama region are planted forests of sugi (Japanese cedar) and hinoki (Japanese cypress) planted after the war to be used for building materials, etc., and it is necessary to conduct thinning at appropriate times. However, due to sluggish domestic demand and competition with inexpensive imported wood, the price of logs of domestic wood decreased over a long period of time. The forestry industry stagnated, and planted forests began to be left unmanaged.

Amid these conditions, forestry workers, sawmills, pre-cut business operators, and home builders in the Tama area launched TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD., with the phrase "Made-in-Tokyo homes" as a motto

with the aim of maintaining a healthy forest through the establishment of a lumber production cycle in the forests of Tokyo.

### Made-in-Tokyo homes

What would make consumers in Tokyo, a major consumer area, where competition with imported wood and wood from other regions is fierce, choose to build their homes using Tama wood? The answer chosen was in the method of using woods that conveyed the good quality of Tama wood.

Wood is a natural material, and each piece is unique and also has a different moisture content, so it is important for house builders, who make extensive use of wood, to have a mutual understanding with suppliers and to be supplied wood of stable quality. Through trial and error, the company has set strict quality standards for the wood supplied by its members, and builds houses from naturally dried solid wood that has met these standards, allowing you to feel the warmth and aroma of the wood.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.
- Representative Name: Hiroyuki Nakajima, Representative
- Address: 5-8-15 Maihara-cho, Koganei City, Tokyo
- Business activities: Housing sales and planning, design, manufacture and sales of furniture and interior accessories, web media operations

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

I have always vaguely felt that our efforts to expand the use of trees in Tokyo also contributed to decarbonization, but I feel that this award has made it more clear. In the future, we will continue to conduct forest management and wood distribution that can exhibit the trustworthiness and concrete foundation of the local area, contributing to the realization of carbon neutrality by 2050.



TANAKA FORESTRY CO.,LTD.  
Representative director,  
**Soichi Tanaka**

The wood that meets these standards is called "TOKYO WOOD," and efforts are being made to make Tama wood into a brand.

## Raising houses and forests in Tokyo

Trees are cut and used, profits are returned to the mountains, and forest management continues. If this cycle doesn't work, it will be impossible to maintain a healthy forest in the future.

Tanaka Forestry Co., Ltd., a member of the company, has received certification for their Collecting Forest Management Plan and is working on forest creation with an awareness of transformation into mixed forests of conifers and broadleaf trees by repeated thinning and selection cutting.

The harvested logs are steadily supplied to contractors through the sawmill, which is also a member of the company, and an average of 60 houses are built annually using TOKYO WOOD.

In addition, bus tours of the forest, wood market, and sawmill are held for families who plan to build houses using TOKYO WOOD. The participants were impressed and surprised by the "forests of Tokyo" and the fact that "houses were built even from trees in Tokyo," and they have earned high praise.

From forestry workers to home builders, everyone is working together to promote wooden houses and sustainable forest management.



Construction of a house using TOKYO WOOD



Bus tour for families planning to build houses using TOKYO WOOD

## Review by the Review Committee

The entire team works together to contribute to sustainable forest management and decarbonization by using domestic solid wood to build houses, promoting the benefits of wood use and its contribution to the environment, and distributing profits upstream.

We also highly valued their overall efforts, including forest management that takes into account the landscape and ecosystem.

**Kaoru Hara**

### ■ What is natural drying?

It is one of the drying methods for wood. In contrast to "kiln drying," in which the temperature and humidity are controlled artificially using a dryer, the wood is stacked in a place with good conditions, such as ventilation, for a certain amount of time to dry.

### ■ What is selection cutting?

This is a method of logging (harvesting) a section of the trees in the area, which is part of the logging process to renew the forest, including gathering. It is sometimes scheduled to be repeated every few years or every few decades to turn the forest into a mixed forest of conifers and broadleaf trees.

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities

## NPO

## Environmental Relations

Give a "Present Tree" to a loved one  
Aiming for reforestation and regional development



Planting a Present Tree in Ashigawa, Fuefuki

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

100 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Planting and weeding: 37 ha

Broadleaf trees, etc.  
Age-class 1 to 3

### Planting commemorative trees in places where forests should be created

Japan has abundant forests, but there are cutover areas and forests that have been damaged by weather or disease and are not being managed, due to reasons such as lack of funds or the owner's age.

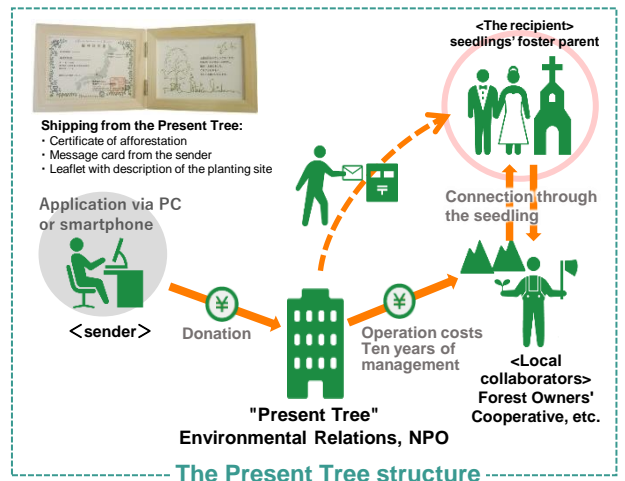
The organization decided to plant a tree as a gift and started the "Present Tree" initiative in 2005, leading to forest regeneration and regional development by planting commemorative trees as "gifts" in such places. To date, the organization has engaged in forest creation in 37 locations in Japan.

### Taking care of the forest with the region

The Present Tree program solicits donations from residents and businesses in urban areas for planting trees. A person can donate as a gift to a loved one or themselves, and the person who receives the gift will become the seedling's "foster parent."

The organization and the foster parent will work with the local area to care for the forest over the next ten years.

Regarding the planting of trees and care afterwards, such as weeding, the organization has concluded a 10-year (20 years in some places) forest management agreement with the forest area owners and local governments, and has also concluded a contract with the Forest Owners' Cooperatives in each region to conduct forest management.



### Overview of Award Winner

- Company Name: NPO Environmental Relations
- Representative Name: Atsuko Suzuki, President
- Address: 2-3-12 Kanda-ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
Kanda-ogawamachi Building, 8th floor
- Business activities: Management of the forest restoration project "Present Tree," environmental education, support for reconstruction and community development

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

Plant a tree as a gift! 17 years have passed since we first said those words. Since then, we have received a number of awards, but it is a great honor to receive an award from the Forestry Agency, the central figure of the forestry industry. Although the present tree forest is still young, small in scale and small in absorbed CO<sub>2</sub>, we will continue this project and pass on our trees to future generations, along with several local communities and foster parents, as a present to the future.



President  
**Atsuko Suzuki**

The key to planting trees is the species selection.

For the Present Tree initiative, the aim is to create forests that are small but diverse and fulfill public beneficial functions by selecting tree species that are suitable for the vegetation of each region, mainly broadleaf trees.

### Aiming for reforestation and regional development

Through the Present Tree program, "Foster parents" are invited to the planting area to conduct planting activities and care for the trees while interacting with locals by enjoying delicious food, beautiful scenery, and various experiences in the local area through "Present Tree planting events" that are held in each region every year.



L'Occitane Tree Planting Ceremony (Present Tree in Yamato, Kumamoto)



Chopstick making workshop (Present Tree in Ashigawa, Fuefuki)

In 2021, the "CreCla Forest" was established in Fuefuki City, Yamanashi Prefecture through a donation from NAC CO.,LTD., the company of "CreCla" water server, and its users were invited to the tree planting event. With the cooperation of the city's Forest Owners' Cooperative, planting activities and chopstick making workshops were held, and were highly acclaimed by participants.

The total number of foster parents recruited so far has exceeded 300,000 and the local governments of the planting areas also have high expectations for this as a way to increase the exchange population and related population through forest management activities.

### Review by the Review Committee

The concept of "caring for the trees for 10 years" has many benefits, not only promoting exchange between the local area and cities, but also for regional economic activity. We hope that this 10-year period will be used even more effectively and further developed as an effective measure for promotion of hilly and mountainous rural communities.

Toru Kodera

#### Efforts to promote reforestation

For more information, please refer to Special topic 1 of the FY2020 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan: "Sustainable Forestry Management that Leverages the Potential of Forests"

Click here!



FY2020 "Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan"

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities



Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope) activities

## The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.

Protecting the hometown forests and livelihood

"Partnership Power" through the strength of regional banks

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

41 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Planting and weeding: 5 ha

Broadleaf trees, etc.

Age-class 1 to 3

### Protecting the hometown forest

Tottori and Shimane are the prefectures most affected by population decline, low birthrate, and aging society. In other words, they are facing issues, and problems related to regional economic sustainability, such as labor shortages in various industries, have emerged earlier than in other regions. Recently, responding to environmental issues and climate change have also been taken up as regional issues.

In light of these circumstances, San-in Godo Bank, as a regional financial institution, has been working toward to the resolution of social and environmental issues, thereby contributing to the local economy and improved sustainability of the community.

The forest situation is no exception. Although both prefectures are areas of lush nature, with over 70% of their area being covered by forests, the area of forests that have not been adequately managed has increased due to factors such as a lack of labor. Amid these circumstances, the bank has been taking efforts for many years,

with the mottos of "protecting our hometown forest" and "everyone doing what they can," such as communicating the current state of forests and the importance of preservation through practical activities by bank directors and employees and exchanges with local volunteer organizations, while caring for forests with locals and passing the torch to the next generation.

### "Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope)" activities

In the "Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope)" program ("Gogin" is an abbreviation of Godo Ginko (Bank)), which started in 2006, directors and employees of the bank and their families actually enter one of six forests in Tottori and Shimane prefectures twice a year, create forests with scenery worthy of a World Heritage Site, and conduct forest management that handles challenges faced by forests in each region, such as cutting invasive bamboo in water conservation forests and converting it to broadleaf trees. To date, approximately 9,700 people have participated and planted about 17,600 trees, among other efforts.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.
- Representative Name: Toru Yamasaki, President and Representative Director
- Address: 10 Uomachi, Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture
- Business activities: Banking

Click here!



winner's website (in Japanese)



## Winner's Comment

It has been 15 years since the bank began forest preservation activities, and we are full of gratitude to 10,000 directors and employees in total who have participated, as well as those who have supported us. We will continue contributing to decarbonization through our "own sweat" and will pass the torch to the next generation. In addition, we will work with other organizations and strive to raise environmental awareness and disseminate information to contribute to the creation of sustainable communities.



Head of the Regional Development Department  
**Yasushi Mori**

In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> absorption in the forests has been certified by the "Shimane CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption Certification System" in Shimane Prefecture. Furthermore, regarding the status of "Gogin Kibo no Mori (Forests of Hope)" activities, a report called "Morimori Newsletter" is published twice a year. Efforts are being made to publicize and educate on forest preservation activities by disseminating information, such as posting it on the website, distributing it to administrative agencies, and showing it to bank visitors.



activity report "Morimori Newsletter"

## Expanding the Forest Preservation Circle

In addition, in an effort to expand the circle of forest preservation activities in cooperation with the region, a network of volunteer organizations and non-profit organizations from Tottori and Shimane was formed. "Protect Our Forests! The San-in Network Council" was established in 2006, and the bank serves as the secretariat, providing opportunities for members to interact and exchange information. As of the end of March 2022, there are 50 members in Tottori and Shimane.



Members exchange at "Protect Our Forests! The San-in Network Council"

In addition to providing support for workshops, exchange projects, and other events held by members, the bank has provided support for the revitalization of activities by member organizations since 2018 through the "Friendship Branch System" by stocking PR magazines for members' forest-creating activities at the bank's branch offices and through employee participation in events held by members, contributing to regional development through forest preservation.

## Review by the Review Committee

It is wonderful that financial institutions based in the region are actively promoting forest preservation activities by making use of their strengths and expanding their circle to include various other groups. We hope that forestry workers will join the circle in the future in order to further develop forest management and utilization.

Ryosuke Aoki

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to the development of hilly and mountainous rural communities

## Ikeda Town, Hokkaido

Town-led broadleaf forest management

Revitalization of local nature and industry



Technical training course for the management of broadleaf forests

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

10 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Thinning: 4 ha  
Broadleaf trees  
Age-class 9

### Charcoal-producing tradition and forest management

Hokkaido's Ikeda town is located slightly east of the center of Tokachi Plain, and about 60% of the town is covered by forests. About half of them are broadleaf forests made up of a variety of tree species. These forest resources have been used for charcoal production since about one hundred years ago, and the town is known as one of the leading charcoal producing areas in Hokkaido.

However, as the charcoal production industry declined with the spread of fossil fuels, many of the broadleaf forests in the town were left completely unmanaged after they were clear-cut and coppiced about 50 years ago. In such forests, the simple structure of the canopy layer makes it difficult for the sun to enter and the presence of many thin trees make it challenging to conduct the management and maintenance necessary to develop a healthy forest. Furthermore, the Karamatsu (Japanese larch) that account for about 40% of the town's forests are approaching the point of being used as wood,

so forestry workers are focusing on cutting and replanting them, making it difficult to secure workers to cut down broadleaf trees for charcoal production. This has posed a threat to a valuable local industry as charcoal producers in the town face a shortage of lumber.

### Enriching the forest with the cooperation of various people

Facing this situation, the town began holding technical training workshops for local residents interested in forest management in 2017, in cooperation with the Ikeda Town Forestry Group, which consists of forest owners and other people interested in forests and forestry, in order to train the next generation of broadleaf forest managers. As for workshops, experts from within Japan and overseas are invited to the SGEN certified town-owned forests to conduct training on the techniques for handling chainsaws necessary for forest management, methods of selecting trees and creating of forestry operation roads in consideration of the environment, and to create mixed forests of various species and sizes of trees with high biodiversity.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Name: Ikeda Town, Hokkaido
- Representative Name: Yoshihiro Yasui, Mayor
- Address: 7-11, Nishi 1, Ikeda Town, Nakagawa District, Hokkaido
- Activities: Town governance

Click here!



winner's website (in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

At first, the aim was to develop local industry, but thanks to the participants, we were able to conduct a wide range of activities, such as supplying raw materials to woodworking brands and implementing forest environmental education. If the results of forest management, including decarbonization, can receive high praise, I think that many people can get involved in forest management and feel like they're a part of it.



Industrial Development Division, Ikeda Town  
Head of Forestry **Kenta Yamamoto**

These forest creation activities have contributed to the expansion of the connected population, as not only residents of the town, but also people from neighboring municipalities participate. They have also led to efforts spreading to other regions, such as forest owners who come to observe managing their own broadleaf forests.

## Local industry utilizing broadleaf forests

In order to provide a stable supply of broadleaf logs to charcoal producers in town, the town started a reward system in 2019, aimed at participants in technical workshops and others, for cutting and carrying logs for these producers. As a result, charcoal producers are now supplied with enough logs to make approximately 1.7 tons of charcoal annually from town owned forests, etc. Furthermore, the town supplies white birch bark and logs to the craft brand "White Birch × Ikeda," which was formed by woodworkers and designers in 2020, and contributes to developing local industry through broadleaf forest management.



Japanese white birch debarking experience with  
Ikeda High School

Also, the forests are used as a place for local high school students to get practical experience by making products from forest resources.

Through the management of the broadleaf forests, the town protects the local nature and traditional industry while supporting budding new industries, leading to regional development.



"White Birch × Ikeda" White Birch Coaster

## Review by the Review Committee

This is a good example of fostering collaboration with forestry workers and residents, while spreading to private forests, neighboring municipalities, and local industries. I thought it was wonderful that the town was working from a large perspective, such as inviting experts from overseas and obtaining an internationally accepted certification, despite being a small scale effort.

Miyako Enokibori

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to fulfilling the public beneficial functions of forests



## Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Implementing forest management by zoning  
Contributing to the promotion for reforestation throughout the country

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

3,415 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

Main Management Items



Thinning: 121 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 3 to 19



Planting and weeding: 750 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 1 to 2

### Management of company-owned forests nationwide

The company's origins can be traced back to "management of forests surrounding the copper mine." Over 300 years ago, "House of Sumitomo" opened Besshi Copper Mine (Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture). They had began collecting timber from the forests, which had been essential as fuel for copper smelting. As copper mining activities progressed, the surrounding forests were in serious situations of being devastated by cutting own of trees and the emission of sulfurous gas from copper smelting. At this time, the company carried out Great Afforestation Plan with the Spirit of "Kokudo Ho'on" (gratitude for nature's resources). The rich forests of the mountains have been restored today.

Currently, the company owns about 48,000 hectares of forests, about 1/800th of Japan's land area, in four locations: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. The wide-ranging company-owned forests are appropriately managed based on the basic philosophy of "sustainable forestry"

(, in which new trees are planted to replace harvested timber).

### Implementing "sustainable forestry"

The basic philosophy of "sustainable forestry" has been passed down to present-day management of company-owned forests. In order to maintain the public beneficial functions of forests, the company has obtained SGEF Forest Certification (see P.5), and has zoned their forests into "working forests", which emphasize wood production, and "conservation forests", which emphasize environmental conservation.

In "working forests," it is stipulated that, based on the company's original "Riparian Forest Management Manual," the area within approximately 15 meters of the water's edge should be protected as a riparian forest management area, and that when adjacent forests are clear-cut, the remaining forests should be cut after confirming that the trees replanted in the previously cut area have taken root. The company conducts forest management with consideration for preventing interference

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.
- Representative Name: Toshiro Mitsuyoshi, Representative Director, President, and Executive Officer
- Address: 1-3-2, Otemachi, Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo
- Business activities: Environment & Resources Business (including management of company-owned forests), Timber & Building Materials Business, Overseas Housing and Real Estate Business, Housing and Construction Business, Lifestyle Services Business

Click here!



winner's website

## Winner's Comment

I am very honored that our efforts based on the basic philosophy of "sustainable forestry" passed down by our predecessors has been highly regarded. The "sustainable forestry" philosophy also leads to the realization of a decarbonized society, such as through the improved carbon-absorption ability of forests and carbon fixation by using logged wood. We will continue making efforts to promote reforestation throughout the country through sapling business and other activities, while maintaining appropriate forest management.



General Manager, Forest Department,  
Environment & Resources Division  
**Kenji Terazawa**

with the public beneficial functions of forests as much as possible. In "conservation forests," the company promotes forest management through appropriate thinning and other measures to maintain functions such as water source conservation and prevention of sediment loss.

In addition, the company strives to maintain biodiversity in company-owned forests by preparing a "Sumitomo Forestry Red Data List" for each region of the company-owned forests, distributing it to employees and workers and having them keep it on hand, and confirming the existence of rare species before starting operations.

## Spread of technology produced in the company-owned forests

In order to maintain the public beneficial functions in areas where trees were harvested in "economic forests," secure future timber resources, and demonstrate its carbon absorption functions, it is important to revitalize the planted forest as quickly as possible. However, reducing the cost of reforestation and the burden of forestry labor are major hurdles to achieve this. To that end, the company is producing containerized seedlings that are fast-growing and help reduce reforestation costs, such as the "elite trees", as well as developing drones that carry seedlings, which is a large burden. In particular, the company provides a stable supply of high-quality seedlings not only to company-owned forests, but to forests around the country, contributing to the progression of nationwide reforestation.

### ■ What is the "elite trees"?

The "elite trees" are varieties for forestry with superior growth which were selected from varieties obtained by artificial hybridization between trees with good growth and wood quality. It is expected that planting the "elite trees" will reduce the number of weeding and the cost of reforestation.



Development and sales of forestry transportation drone "Morito"

Containerized seedlings (Japanese larch)

Sumitomo Forestry Company Group is engaged in business based on wood, from forest management to procurement and manufacture of wooden building materials, wood construction, and wood biomass power generation, both domestically and internationally. The "Sumitomo Forestry's WOOD CYCLE" of logging, processing, use, reuse, and reforestation provides unique "Sumitomo Forestry's wood solutions," and the company is working toward the realization of a decarbonized society.

## Review by the Review Committee

As a large company, they are taking a leading role in many aspects, from regional efforts to technological development, and are systematically tackling the conservation of biodiversity. Biodiversity is attracting more attention worldwide recently, and we hope to see global initiatives.

Miyako Enokibori

### ■ What are containerized seedlings?

They are seedlings grown in a multi-cavity container, making the soil and roots form a "root clump." Because these seedlings can be expected to survive even when these are planted outside of optimal planting seasons (spring and fall), it's possible to introduce and spread an "integrated harvesting and planting system" in which harvesting and planting are performed consecutively.

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

## [Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to fulfilling  
the public beneficial functions of forests

# Pigeon Corporation

"Raising trees and raising children"  
Creating a forest for children



A boy plants a seedling for his new-born sister in a tree planting ceremony.

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

40 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

### Main Management Items



Thinning: 22 ha

Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 4 to 7



Planting and weeding: 7 ha

Broadleaf trees  
Age-class 1 to 2

## Planting trees for new-born babies

As a company that manufactures and sells childcare products, Pigeon started the "Newborn Baby Commemorative Tree-Planting Campaign" in 1986, in which many people share the excitement and joy of giving birth and raising babies, and contribute to the creation of forests in which the natural environment is permanently protected for the next generation of babies.

Parents with new-born babies can apply for this campaign, and they will receive a wooden "letter from the forest". Babies and their families who wish to participate in the event will be invited to plant trees in "Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori" in Ibaraki Prefecture. After the families plant trees, Miwa Wood Cooperative Association is entrusted to manage the forests: they weed the forests every year for several years after the planting and keep and maintain thereafter as the forest of all babies who applied for this campaign.

Over 200,000 babies in total have participated in the event, where people raise forests in a similar manner to how they raise children.

## Rich forests that foster diverse animals

In the early days of the campaign, the company concluded a "Forests for Corporations" contact for national forests in Hitachinomiya City (formerly Miwa Village), Ibaraki Prefecture and started to plant sugi and hinoki.

They acquired forests in the city in 2007, and have been planting trees in Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori since. At the time of acquisition, the forest consisted of a single species of conifers, and the trees were ready for use as timber. Therefore, they harvested the trees for building materials and planted broadleaf tree seedlings on the area where the trees were harvested. As the forests have become mixed forests of conifers and broadleaf trees, various kinds of vegetation have been generated by the formation of leaf mold.

### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Pigeon Corporation
- Representative Name: Norimasa Kitazawa, President and CEO
- Address: Nihonbashi Hisamatsu-cho 4-4, Chuo Ward, Tokyo
- Business: Manufacturing, sales, and import/export of child care, maternity, women care, home health care, and nursery products, and childcare services

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)

## Winner's Comment

I am very honored that our forest management through the "Pigeon's Newborn Baby Commemorative Tree-Planting Campaign" has been highly evaluated. We have been planting trees since 1986, and in order to preserve a rich natural environment for the future of babies, we will contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society by continuing tree planting and managing the forest appropriately.



Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer  
**Tadashi Itakura**

In order to achieve a biodiverse forest, Pigeon has arranged a biotope in Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori. Since starting this initiative, various creatures such as frogs, loaches, mayflies, and fireflies have appeared in the forest. As the company has developed the forest and made the ecosystem richer, you can see birds that were not able to be seen before, such as gray wagtails and butcherbirds, so it's safe to say that the forest management has conserved biodiversity.

The company has repeatedly conducted research on the forest with specialists in order to plan a long-term management for Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori.

## Connecting people and forests

In addition to participating in the tree planting ceremony, the families that participated in the campaign visit Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori to see how the trees they planted have grown at important points in their child's life. The company built a log house called "Sukusuku House" in the forest. Inside, there is a list of tree planters' names and messages from parents to children.



People from Miwa Wood Cooperative Association (at a tree-planting ceremony)



Tree planters' names and messages in Sukusuku House



The family that visited the forest can look back on the time they planted trees, and Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori and the families have been connected for many years.

As urban residents visit the forest through these efforts, they can interact with the natural environment and realize about how getting in touch with nature is important and how forest management is meaningful and important.

## Review by the Review Committee

By connecting the birth of babies and tree planting, the company effectively makes children realize how important forests are.

We also appreciated the fact that they have conserved biodiversity by creating diverse forests through planting trees, and that the concrete effects of these efforts are being demonstrated.

Yoshitsugu Minagawa

### ■ What is Forests for Corporations?

This system allows companies to use profit-sharing forest systems to manage forests as a place for social contribution, employee education, and interaction with customers.

Click here!



Visit the Forestry Agency website (in Japanese) for more information.

# EXCELLENCE AWARD

[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to fulfilling the public beneficial functions of forests

## Nissay Green Foundation

Forest management with an emphasis on public beneficial functions together with forestry workers and volunteers



Volunteers thin out Nissay Kumamoto Forest

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

147 t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year

### Main Management Items



Thinning: 25 ha  
Sugi / hinoki  
Age-class 4 to 6



Planting and weeding: 11 ha

Todomatsu (*Abies sachalinensis*) / Karamatsu (Japanese Larch)  
Age-class 1

### 39,000 participated in tree planting and raising

Nissay Green Foundation was established in July 1993 with the aim to "protect and nurture the greenery, and thereby contribute to the extensive environment conservation".

Back before the foundation was established, Nippon Life Insurance Company consumed a lot of paper and was interested in conservation and regrowth of forest resources. In order to plant trees and raise forest resources that match the amount of paper it uses, the company started a campaign aiming to plant one million trees in "Nissay Forests" in 1992, for which Nissay concluded agreements and contracts on forest management with forest owners and forestry workers. In line with this, the company established the foundation. As a result of continuing to plant 100,000 trees each year, the company achieved one million trees planted in 2002.

As part of Nissay's project to manage forests for the future, the foundation has conducted weeding, cutting of branches, and thinning, as well as planting trees since 2003 so that the seedlings the foundation planted can grow better. So far, the foundation has planted 1.38 million trees in approx. 204 locations (471.2 ha) in Japan, and approx. 39,000 volunteers participated in Nissay's forest management programs (as of March 2022).

### To create a sound forest

Of the 204 Nissay Forests in Japan, 190 are national forests for which the foundation has concluded a "Forests for Corporations" contract with the government (See P.21 for details). By using the system, the company is working on the management of a variety of forests in national forests throughout Japan, not only with conifers, but also with broadleaf trees.

#### Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Nissay Green Foundation
- Representative Name: Ichiro Shimizu, Chief director
- Address: Toranomom NN Building 8F, 1-21-17 Toranomom, Minato Ward, Tokyo
- Business: Operates "Forest Development Project" and "Projects for Developing Forest-loving People" in "Nissay Forests"

Click here!



winner's website  
(in Japanese)



## Winner's Comment

Thank you very much for choosing us for the "Excellence Award [Forestry Agency Director-General's Award]". I would like to thank many people who have been working with us for many years, including District Forest Offices, forestry workers, and volunteers. We will continue to work to ensure that our activities contribute further to the environment.



Chief Director  
**Ichiro Shimizu**

Every year the foundation receives an "Environmental Contribution Evaluation", which a Regional Forest Office (which manages national forests) has conducted since 2003 for companies who have concluded "Forests for Corporations" contracts. The forests the foundation has managed nationwide have been reported to have stored 1,703 t-CO<sub>2</sub> and stored and purified rainwater equivalent to 120,760,000 two-liter plastic bottles for a single year in 2020. The foundation is widely spreading the information through its website and other locations and trying hard to make the results and significance of its forest management activities known to people.



Hands-on  
experience  
(ESD: Learn from  
forests)

Original guidebooks  
of trees in the school



## Making forests' public beneficial functions known to people

The foundation holds events for all ages, including forest experience workshop and nature observations in Nissay Forests, as well as forest management activities. The foundation also holds workshops for students on summer vacation for their independent research or wood handcrafts using thinned wood from Nissay Forests, and donate original guidebooks of trees in the school and plates with tree names for schools. In addition, the foundation started online environmental classes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Through these efforts, the foundation has been able to communicate the public beneficial functions and attraction of forests in an easy-to-understand manner, and increase people's interest in and understanding of forests.

## Review by the Review Committee

I express my deep respect for the foundation's forest activities that have continued from the start of the forest management by the foundation.

We highly valued its efforts in the circulation cycle of forests, including silviculture and thinning, as well as planting. We hope the foundation will convey the value and charm of forests to more people.

Toru Kodera

### ■ What is "Environmental Contribution Evaluation" of Forests for Corporations?

This is an initiative in which the Regional Forest Office takes into account forests for which a company concluded a "Forests for Corporations" agreement, and numerically expresses the forests' contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> storage, water resource conservation, and mountain conservation and tells the company the result upon the company's request, so that the company can explain their contribution to environmental conservation in their environment reports and other documents.

# List of Green Partner 2022

Applicants for the "Forests × Decarbonization Challenge 2022" will be listed on the Forestry Agency website as "Green Partner 2022" which contributes to decarbonization through forest management, along with their CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount and other relevant data. Green Partners 2022 can use the "Green Partner 2022 Mark" to promote their forest management efforts.



Green partner 2022 mark

CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount refers to "Annual CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount by forests managed between 2021 and 2022", which was submitted by each applicant.

Company/organization name	Prefecture	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (t-CO <sub>2</sub> / year)	How to calculate CO <sub>2</sub> absorption
Akamatsu Kaseikougyou Co.,Ltd.	Tokushima	12	B
"Iida no Mori wo Sodateru Kai" of Iida Region Youth Development Liaison Council	Kumamoto	4	C
Asahi Group Japan, Ltd.	Tokyo	816	A-a-1
Ajinomoto AGF, Inc.	Tokyo	6	A-a-1
Arakawa Chemical Industries, Ltd.	Osaka	6	B
Imari Mokuzai	Saga	23	A-a-1
Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.	Hyogo	7	A-a-1
NPO Environmental Relations	Tokyo	100	A-a-1
Kyudai Rinsan	Oita	1,303	A-a-1
Construction Management Shikoku Co., Ltd.	Kagawa	81	B
Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan Inc.	Tokyo	42	A-a-1
KOKUYO Co., Ltd.	Osaka	842	B
Koshii & Co., Ltd.	Osaka	346	A-a-1
The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.	Shimane	41	B
Sanden Corporation	Gunma	9	B
JX Nippon Mining & Metals Corporation	Tokyo	9	B
Shigasato Moriei Co., Ltd.	Kyoto	135	A-a-1
Shikoku Create Association	Kagawa	32	B
Shimizu Corporation	Tokyo	3	A-c
Shimizu Seiko Co., Ltd.	Osaka	12	B
Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	3,415	A-a-1
Tanji Satoyama Preservation Association	Hyogo	8	A-a-1
The Chugoku Bank, LTD.	Okayama	15	B
TSUMURA & CO.	Tokyo	31	B
Tokyu Resorts & Stays Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	17	A-a-1
TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.	Tokyo	42	A-a-1
TEPCO Renewable Power, Incorporated	Tokyo	49	A-a-2
Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo	Tokyo	27	B
Toyota Boshoku Shiga	Shiga	11	B

Company/organization name	Prefecture	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (t-CO <sub>2</sub> / year)	How to calculate CO <sub>2</sub> absorption
Nice Corporation	Kanagawa	85	A-b
Nakagawa Co., Ltd.	Wakayama	8	A-a-2
Nakabayashi Co.,Ltd.	Osaka	28	B
Nissay Green Foundation	Tokyo	147	C
Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	364	A-a-1
Nihon Forest Co., Ltd.	Oita	34	A-a-1
Higashi Shirakawa Village Forest Owners' Cooperatives	Gifu	187	A-a-1
higomokuzai inc.	Kumamoto	631	A-a-1
Pigeon Corporation	Tokyo	40	A-a-1
Hitachi Metals, Ltd., Yasugi Works	Shimane	11	B
Hiranogumi Co., Ltd.	Iwate	15	A-a-1
Hiramatsu Ward Forest Association	Hyogo	21	A-a-1
FUJIFILM BI Yamagata Corp.	Yamagata	13	B
VENICHU CO., LTD.	Osaka	3	B
Hokuetsu Corporation	Tokyo	433	A-a-1
Ikeda Town, Hokkaido	Hokkaido	10	A-a-1
Hokkaido Electric Engineering Co., Ltd.	Hokkaido	14	C
Sumitomo Mitsui Card Co., Ltd	Tokyo	218	A-a-1
Mitsubishi Motors Corporation	Tokyo	13	B
Miyoshi Sangyo Co., Ltd.	Kagoshima	1,904	A-a-1
MORIYA CO., LTD.	Miyagi	17	A-a-1
Yachi Ringyo Co., Ltd.	Iwate	123	A-a-1
The Yamagata Bank, Ltd.	Yamagata	342	B
Yuasa Lumber Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	22	A-a-1
Yukiguni Maitake Co., Ltd.	Niigata	5	A-a-1
Watarai Electrical Construction Co., Ltd.	Yamagata	58	B

## [How to calculate CO<sub>2</sub> absorption]

Each applicant selected how to calculate CO<sub>2</sub> absorption from the following choices.

**A** Calculation method based on "Calculation Method for Carbon Dioxide Absorption by Forest" (3Rinseiki No. 60 Notice by Director-General of Forestry Agency on December 27, 2021)

**a** Method for calculating the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by forests per year

**1** Simple method

**2** Detailed method

**b** Method for calculating the additional amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by forests as a result of reforestation and growth

**c** Method for calculating soil carbon (in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) retained by forest growth

**B** Calculation method based on the certification system for CO<sub>2</sub> absorption by some prefectures

**C** Calculation method based on the environmental contribution rating of "Forests for Corporations" in national forests

**Q.** How much CO<sub>2</sub> do the forests we manage absorb?

**Q.** How much do we need to manage forests to obtain an absorption amount that matches the CO<sub>2</sub> we emit in our business operations?

**Why not calculate it?**

**Here is all you need:**

- ✓ Location of forest (Prefecture)
- ✓ Forest area
- ✓ Tree species (such as sugi, hinoki, karamatsu, etc.)
- ✓ Forest age

Click here! /



Visit the Forestry Agency website (in Japanese) for more information.

