

Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund FY2018 Activity Grants List

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Constructing a rainwater capture system to provide safe drinking water and sanitation

Grant applicant: Ikaw Ako / Grant period: 3 years

Grant amount: ¥6.8 mn / Main activity area: Philippines

Project outline

This project, for three Philippines villages located on off-shore islands of Bohol Island and inland mountainous areas, will construct rainwater capture and purification systems to provide clean, safe drinking water. System sustainability will be ensured by having residents contribute to planning, construction and ongoing management, and water-related education and awareness activities will help control the spread of infectious diseases, contributing to the health of the local population.

Social issue to be solved

Safe drinking water is not easy to come by on the islands and in the mountains of Bohol State in the Philippines, and securing a water supply is an expensive undertaking. Limited economic resources means that residents of these areas have to rely on unsanitary water, leading to infectious diseases in children. There is an urgent need to secure simple, low cost and safe access to water, so this project will install a system that makes use of rain water.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- This program will be implemented in three villages, using a rain water collection system managed by local citizens as a sustainable source of safe drinking water.
- A project report will be developed containing information on the system, providing other localities with an easy way to assess its suitability. The system will also be hosted on a public website, enabling related institutions to promote their success and support wider adoption of rainwater systems.
- As described above, this activity contributes to securing safe drinking water. (⇒SDG6). The provision of safe drinking water will also reduce the incidence of infectious disease and improve general sanitation. (⇒SDG3). Moreover, the ability for citizens to have access to safe drinking water despite their economic situation will contribute to the reduction of inequality. (⇒SDG10).



Supporting energy generation and the ‘grow local, consume local’ movement

Grant applicant: Renewable Energy Promotion Association / Grant period: 3 years
Grant amount: ¥2.5 mn / Main activity area: Saitama Pref.

Project outline

This project will install biogas energy in an agricultural training facility managed by Miyashiro Town in Saitama Prefecture, with the aim of realizing a small-scale recycling of biomass that can be administered and run by local residents (including the elderly and people with disabilities) and students. Moreover, by increasing basic understanding of methane gas processing and providing opportunities to study operational technology, the project will promote the adoption of biogas and serve as a visible connection to local agriculture, restaurants and consumers through related events.

Social issue to be solved

From an economic viewpoint it is difficult for small-scale agricultural and farming enterprises to make effective use of agricultural and livestock waste for biomass power generation, but these difficulties can be overcome with the deployment of external human and technical support. If plant and livestock waste can be used to produce methane for electricity, fuel and feed, operating costs can be reduced, and it becomes possible for the operations themselves to be carried out by older citizens and people with disabilities, leading to greater employment opportunities. This is the background to the planned biogas plant of this project.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- Constructing and operating the planned biogas plant will verify the potential for small-scale agricultural enterprises to readily make use of these kinds of facilities.
- By collaborating with restaurants and others, the area will be able to realize recycling of waste biomass. Moreover, promoting the results of the project will facilitate adoption of the approach with other small-scale farming and agricultural enterprises in similar situations.
- As described above, waste material will be effectively reused as a resource (⇒SDG12), energy savings will be facilitated by using biogas to meet agricultural needs (⇒SDG7), and the operating facility will provide employment opportunities for the elderly and others (⇒SDG8).



Study of marine impact of wakame seaweed farming in the Sanriku region and regeneration and maintenance of rock fishing spots and seaweed beds

Grant applicant: Satoumi Farm / Grant period: 3 years

Grant amount: ¥3.3 mn / Main activity area: Miyagi Pref.

Project overview

This activity will measure the amount of wakame stem residue consumed as sea urchin feed in Shizugawa Bay, Minami Sanriku, and the amount of marine decomposition of stem residue, in order to understand its impact on the marine environment. The project will also conduct research and development on water quality improvement agents and seek to halve marine dumping of stem residue in order to promote the regeneration of seaweed beds and rock fishing spots.

Social issue to be addressed

Wakame farming is an active industry in Shizugawa Bay, Minami Sanriku, Iwate Prefecture, creating challenges for disposal of the stem residue left over from the process of scraping away the *makabu* (the flowering part of wakame). The current practice is to discard it into the sea as sea urchin feed, but confirmation of bleaching of rock fishing spots and rapid growth of sea urchin populations in the region has spurred the need for research into the relationship between these phenomena and the marine disposal of stem residue.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- Study the impact of wakame stem residue on the marine environment and develop a new way to use it. Share the results of the study throughout the region with the aim of cutting by half the amount of stem residue discarded in the sea.
- Introduce water quality improvement agents so that even if wakame stem residue is disposed of in the sea, it will not burden the marine environment, thereby reducing bleaching of rock fishing sites and allowing regeneration of seaweed beds and contributing to the conservation of marine resources.
- Contribute to the enhancement of marine resources (⇒SDG14) and promote sustainable aquaculture through the effective utilization of wakame stem residue (⇒SDG12).



Soso Rape Blossom Project: Putting a nuclear effected area at the forefront of clean energy and resource circulation

Grant applicant: Minami Soma Organization for Farmland Regeneration

Grant period: 2 years / Grant amount: ¥4.4 mn / Main activity area: Fukushima Pref.

Project overview

This activity consists of a business plan assessment and verification of biogas technology with the aim of using agricultural residue from rapeseed cultivation in the Soso Rape Blossom Project in Soso, Fukushima as the primary source of clean energy, generated locally for local consumption.

Social issues to be addressed

The Soso region in Fukushima Prefecture has suffered reputational damage as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake and contamination from the Fukushima nuclear accident, and food crop cultivation has been restricted. This led to the abandonment of large areas of farmland which prompted local residents to launch the Soso Rape Blossom Project to cultivate rapeseed, a plant that is not susceptible to the effects of radiation. This project seeks to use agricultural residue from rapeseed cultivation in methane fermentation and thereby promote clean energy and resource circulation and raise the morale of farmers.



Contribution to solving this social issue

- Construct biogas plant and related facilities in the Minami Soma region and contribute to the local production of clean energy for local consumption.
- Popularize the construction of small-scale biogas plants and help secure independent energy sources in other regions by expanding the results of the project.
- Help ensure a reliable source of energy (⇒SDG7) through the production of clean energy for local consumption, achieve resource circulation through the efficient use of agricultural residue (⇒SDG12), and improve crop utilization in contaminated areas (⇒SDG15)



Digging wells for a village and wild elephant sanctuary in Sabah, Malaysia, and talking with local people about conservation

Grant applicant: Borneo Conservation Trust Japan / Grant period: 2 years

Grant amount: ¥5.8 mn / Main activity area: Malaysia

Project overview

This activity involves the construction of a well at a wild animal sanctuary and breeding facility on the island of Borneo in Sabah, Malaysia, and the improvement of the conservation environment for elephants. It will also include construction of a well at an *Ecocamp* in the village of Padu Putih with the aim of providing a reliable fresh water supply.

Social issue to be addressed

Borneo in Sabah, Malaysia is experiencing deforestation as a result of procurement of timber for export, and its tropical rainforests are depleting rapidly amid the expansion of palm oil plantations. As a result, Borneo elephants are entering palm oil plantations with increasing frequency, causing agricultural damage and human injury, in many cases leading to the killing of elephants by humans. These events prompted the Borneo Conservation Trust Japan, Asahiyama Zoo, and the Sabah Wildlife Authority to jointly establish a temporary sanctuary for wild elephants in 2012. Securing a reliable fresh water supply has been a major challenge for the region, and this activity will include the construction of a well to meet the needs of the sanctuary and an *Ecocamp* in the same area.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- Construct wells at wildlife sanctuary/breeding facility and *Ecocamp* to improve the environment for protected elephants and secure a reliable supply of fresh water for the *ecocamp*.
- By improving the operating environment of the *ecocamp*, help develop the village of Padu Putih and promote eco-tourism. Using Padu Putih as a case study it may be possible to contribute to the economic development of other villages.
- Make this project the subject of environmental education materials and conduct educational activities to help raise awareness of conservation.
- Contribute to ensuring a reliable water supply by constructing wells (⇒SDG6), and through elephant conservation help protect ecosystems (⇒SDG15).



Project to restore Sumatran tiger populations through locally-led activities to prevent clashes between people and tigers

Grant applicant: WWF Japan / Grant period: 2 years

Grant amount: ¥12 mn / Main activity area: Indonesia

Project overview

This activity involves implementing village development activities based on local customs in areas surrounding tiger habitats. It aims to restore Sumatran tiger populations by mitigating clashes between people and tigers and contribute to the realization of a self-sufficient local economy and gender equality through methods such as securing means to improve the livelihoods of local people, promoting the participation of women in local decision-making, and establishing guidelines that will prevent clashes between people and tigers.

Social issue to be addressed

In the areas around the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia, there have been frequent clashes between locals engaged in agriculture and endangered Sumatran tigers, which is making it difficult to protect these tigers. During fiscal 2017, village development activities brought to light new issues, including especially severe harm caused to livestock in the area by tigers, a lack of participation in village decision-making by women, and the fact that a local belief that encountering tigers is unlucky which leads to a tendency to hide such encounters is making it difficult to openly discuss countermeasures. In light of this, this activity will develop projects focusing on these newly identified issues, including research into livestock rearing methods, reflecting women's opinions, and making guidelines to prevent clashes between people and tigers into laws, thereby making countermeasures more effective.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- National park authorities will spread the knowledge gained through this activity across the whole of Sumatra, accelerating conservation activities and recovering the Sumatran tiger population to the national target of 650.
- Furthermore, the WWF will use its international network to apply the methods used in this activity in conservation activities in Myanmar, Thailand, and other countries, contributing to a solution to the issue of tiger populations being thinned by human activity on a global scale.
- As stated above, this activity will not only lead to the conservation of rare species by preventing a decrease in tiger populations (⇒SDG15), but also contribute to alleviating poverty by improving the livelihoods of local people (⇒SDG1), and the promotion of participation by women in local decision-making (⇒SDG5).



Sponsoring joint surveys, seminars and teaching materials and formulate environmental policies to strengthen Myanmar's environmental assessment abilities

Grant applicant: Saitama University / Grant period: 2 years

Grant amount: ¥5 mn / Main activity area: Myanmar

Project outline

Conduct surveys of quality of underground, river and lake water and river life in conjunction with local environmental assessment organizations, universities and environmental conservation groups in Myanmar. Through these activities, contribute to the actualization of the country's environmental policies by improving the technical knowledge and skills of local environmental assessment engineers and promoting continuous measurement and analysis.

Social issue to be addressed

Myanmar has bountiful nature inhabited by diverse wildlife, and although it has local laws for preserving biodiversity in place, they are little heeded and development is proceeding without adequate assessments being conducted. Although the Myanmar Environmental Assessment Association was established in March 2018 its technical knowledge and skills are limited, rendering data collection difficult. Against this backdrop, this project will furnish local personnel with technical knowledge and skills.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- Enable continuous measurement and analysis through surveys of water quality and river life conducted jointly with local residents.
- Through these activities, train local environmental assessment engineers and guide the way towards formulating necessary and feasible policies for protecting the environment (particularly policies for preserving water quality) in Myanmar.
- As stated above, we will contribute to the continuous implementation of environmental policies by contributing to Myanmar's measures for preserving water quality (⇒SDG 6) and improving the skills of local environmental assessment engineers (⇒SDG 4).



Connecting the divided habitats of endangered chimpanzees; Establish wide-area slash-and-burn management techniques using “green corridor” afforestation activities and drones

Grant applicant: Kyoto University / Grant period: 3 years

Grant amount: ¥7.2 mn / Main activity area: Guinea

Project outline

This project will independently develop fixed wing drones for monitoring forest fires in Guinea and establish methods for effectively monitoring fires in areas for afforestation, as well as conduct afforestation activities using the Azumaya Method. Also conduct joint training and research with local universities and train local personnel in sustainable forest management and the preservation of biodiversity. Provide the results to Guinean authorities and establish a collaborative structure for restoring forests that have been divided by nearby villages, such as the Mount Nimba World Heritage Site and Bossou.

Social issue to be addressed

A “green corridor” project in Guinea to restore the habitat of endangered chimpanzees by using savannah afforestation techniques has already been established, led by Kyoto University. However, the destruction of forests in afforestation areas and neighboring land is becoming serious due to burned fields created by slash-and-burn agriculture. This project will establish and support the introduction of slash-and-burn management techniques to restore the divided habitats of chimpanzees and other animals.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- Support the reconstruction of chimpanzee habitat in target regions through afforestation activities and the development of slash-and-burn management techniques.
- Expect to assist with climate change countermeasures by controlling deforestation by enabling the management of forests in the entire Mount Nimba World Heritage Site and eventually all of Guinea through the establishment of wide-area slash-and-burn and forest management techniques using drones.
- As stated above, contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in Guinea’s forest regions (⇒SDG 15), as well as reduce CO2 emissions through wide-area forest management techniques (⇒SDG 13), support the enhancement of a base for higher education through the training of local personnel, and connect to inviting a changeover to Guinean-led activities (⇒SDG 4).



Beekeeping business with the goal of economic independence for Amazonian natives in Brazil

Grant applicant: Rainforest Foundation Japan / Grant period: 1 year
Grant amount: ¥2.8 mn / Main activity area: Brazil

Project outline

This project will develop a sustainable beekeeping business that preserves the rainforest, for four tribes in the upstream region of the Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon River. Establish a structure for the production, management and market distribution of honey by the indigenous people by providing guidance on techniques to beekeepers.

Social issues to be addressed

Although there is no established monetary economy in the tributary of the Amazon River in Brazil, modernization is progressing rapidly. For this reason, Brazilian indigenous people in the region need ways to establish economic independence while maintaining and regenerating the natural environment, without losing their traditional culture and way of life. Beekeeping was introduced in a FY2017 project, but this project will establish an independent beekeeping business for the indigenous people by constructing a market distribution structure for the honey produced.

Contribution to solving this social issue

- Establish economic independence for four tribes that have started beekeeping businesses by marketing their money. Also, by marketing honey harvested with sustainable methods to Brazilian society create opportunities for them (and global society) to understand and respect indigenous peoples' work.
- Expand the effects of preservation of the rainforest and economic independence of indigenous peoples throughout the region through the spread of beekeeping techniques to other tribes.
- As stated above, contribute to reducing discrimination (⇒SDG 10) by supporting economic independence while maintaining the independence of Brazil's indigenous territories. Also, in developing beekeeping business in a form the maintains the ecosystem of the rainforest, contribute to preserving the terrestrial ecosystem and to sustainable resource management (⇒SDGs 15 and 12).



Resource rotation and regeneration of human connections, for the development of a symbiotic society.

“Kids cafeterias on a regional platform”

Grant applicant: NPO Hotline Shinshu / Grant period: 3 years

Grant amount: ¥10 mn / Main activity area: Nagano Pref.

Project outline

This project will provide food and necessities donated by companies and individuals to the needy at Shinshu Kids Cafeteria and Children’s Support Relay (food banks) at 72 locations in Nagano Prefecture. Encourage the establishment of these activities in this region by having them meet the needs of users through the gathering of case studies.

Social issues to be addressed

Aim to resolve two social issues simultaneously: support for the needy and food losses.

As NPO Hotline Shinshu provides multifaceted support for people in difficulty, it has become clear that the number of people in need of food or necessary infrastructure or isolated from society is growing.

At the same time, food losses and waste occur, and municipalities are coming to recognize this as an issue. In light of this situation, this project will provide food and necessities donated by companies and individuals to the needy.



Contribution to solving this social issue

- Simultaneously supports the needy and reduces food losses through companies, farmers, etc. donating food and necessities they were planning to throw away.
- Activate regions by raising the standard of living of needy people by providing them with foods and necessities. Also, by providing places to live in the region, train people who can participate in solving regional problems.
- As stated above, this activity will contribute to reducing food wastage (⇒SDG 12) and to supporting the needy (⇒SDG 1).



Initiatives to revitalize the litate village region

Grant applicant: Resurrection of Fukushima / Grant period: 3 years

Grant amount: ¥10 million / Main research area: Fukushima Prefecture

Project outline

This project, with the cooperation of the people of litate, Fukushima Prefecture, provides regional exchange areas, facilities for farm-stay experiences, and opportunities for farming experiences. In addition, the project develops a maps to introduce the region and conducts measurement of environmental radioactivity levels and activities for the regeneration of agriculture and forests. Through these activities, it aims to secure employment and income in the region, regenerate the community, increase returnees to the village, and facilitate interaction and exchange between cities and rural communities.

Issue to be addressed

This project supports the regeneration of litate following the lifting of the evacuation order placed on the village after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. With the evacuation order for the majority of the litate's regions lifted at the end of March 2017, the village is now beginning efforts to rebuild residents' livelihoods, resume farming, and ensure the village's culture is preserved.

Contribution to solving social challenges

- Increase the number of returnees to the village, regenerate the community, and increase interaction and exchange between cities and rural communities, by securing employment and income opportunities
- Through successfully regenerating a regional community affected by the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, serve as model for community regeneration for other regional communities and contribute to the reinvigoration of regions across the country
- This project contributes to the regeneration of agriculture and forests in a disaster-struck area (⇒SDG15) and environmental safety by measuring radiation levels (⇒SDG15). In addition, it helps maintain and improve regional sustainability (⇒SDG12).