

Biodiversity

Mitsui & Co. bases its environmental policy on nature conservation in consideration of biological diversity. We promote initiatives that lead to conservation of biodiversity through business. In addition, we have obtained FSC® and SGEC certifications for all of our company-owned forests, “Mitsui’s Forests,” which we own in 74 locations throughout Japan (approx. 44,000 hectares). Approximately 10% of the forest areas under our management have been designated as “biodiversity conservation forests,” and we maintain and manage these forests accordingly.

Business Initiatives relating to Biodiversity

Activity

Business	Description
Hydroelectric Power Plant Business	The Madeira River is a tributary of the Amazon River and forms part of the Amazon Basin, a region that is known for its rich biodiversity. Located on the Madeira River in northern Brazil, the Jirau Hydroelectric Power Plant has been closely watched by many parties, including local communities and NGOs, because of its location, and every possible step is being taken to ensure that the plant is operated in an environmentally responsible way. As part of an environmental program, we conducted preliminary surveys to identify every possible impact that could affect the local environment and local communities. We then built hospitals, schools, and new housing to improve the local living environment. Other initiatives include measures to protect flora and fauna, such as fish and mammals.
Forest Resource Business	Along with business partners, Mitsui is carrying out plantation business in Australia and Chile (the combined project area is approximately 20,000 hectares as of March 31, 2020), with the aim of ensuring the stable supply of wood chips, the raw material for paper. The business has acquired international forest certification from organizations such as FSC®, and manages forest resources responsibly. We also carry out measures in consideration of biodiversity protection.
Production and Sale of Rice	Toho Bussan, a subsidiary, supports the production and sale of rice using farming methods that encourage biodiversity, such as the minimum use of agrichemicals and chemical fertilizers.
Shipping Business	To prevent negative effects on the ecosystem by marine creatures in ballast water, we actively promote initiatives including installment of ballast water treatment equipment on vessels.
Production and Sale of Solar Marine Salt	Shark Bay Salt Pty, a Mitsui subsidiary, owns a solar marine salt field in Shark Bay, Western Australia. It produces and sells some of the world’s purest salt while actively working to improve the local ecosystems of Shark Bay, an internationally renowned World Heritage site. With a dedication to maintaining harmony with nature, the company continuously monitors the terrestrial environment and mangrove ecosystem both in the salt field and across the surrounding maritime environment, to ensure that its business operations have no impact on the local ecosystem. As a result of these efforts, local wildlife populations continue to prosper.

Biodiversity Conservation Activities at Mitsui’s Forests

Activity

Mitsui’s Forests are divided into Forests for Regeneration and Harvest (approximately 40% of the total) and Natural Forests and Naturally Regenerated Forests (approximately 60%). Especially important areas from the viewpoint of biodiversity are designated as Biodiversity Conservation Forests (approximately 10% of all Mitsui’s Forests). They are further categorized in accordance with their qualities into Special Conservation Forests, Environmental Conservation Forests, Water and Soil Conservation Forests, and Cultural Conservation Forests. By clarifying the conservation objective, such as conservation of rare species, we conduct forest management that is more strongly oriented toward the preservation of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Conservation Activities in Cooperation with NGOs

Activity

Conserving the Prey Lang Forest in Cambodia (REDD+*)

Prey Lang, located in the northeast of Cambodia along the west bank of the Mekong River, is the largest tropical lowland evergreen forest in Indochina. It is inhabited by many wild animals, including endangered species, and is also an important source of water for Cambodia. However, illegal logging, along with reclamation of land for farming by local communities, has resulted in progressive deforestation, loss of wildlife habitats, and an increase in GHG emissions that would normally be accumulated in the forests.

In partnership with Conservation International, an international NGO, Mitsui has been using the REDD+ mechanism established under the Paris Agreement in cooperation with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment to reinforce forest patrols to prevent illegal logging in the Prey Lang Forest. Moreover, Mitsui has been engaging in dialogue with local communities to provide support for activities, such as instruction for and promotion of organic farming and rice farming as alternative sources of livelihood that do not rely on logging, with the aim of contributing to forest and biodiversity conservation.



Tropical lowland evergreen forest in Prey Lang ©Jeremy Holden

* REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries): A scheme which provides economic incentives such as carbon credits through the mitigation of deforestation and degradation of forests in developing countries.