

Ministry of the Environment



Introduction

4.6 billion years ago, in a corner of the universe, the earth came into existence. Upon its birth, it was a lifeless planet completely covered with fluid magma and vapor. Since the ozone layer had not yet been formed at that time, harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun poured directly to the surface of the earth.

Slowly as the temperature of the magma fell, the earth's atmosphere cooled and the vapor turned into water. The rain poured onto the ground, and formed the oceans that cover the earth. The first forms of life on earth emerged in the seas and these produced the oxygen of the atmosphere. The ozone layer, which is only 3mm thick (at atmospheric pressure), was formed over a period of more than 2 billion years. Only then, was it possible for life to survive on the ground.

The first species that appeared on the ground were plants. Due to the oxygen released by these plants, the atmosphere reached a point of balance that allowed more advanced forms of life to appear on the earth.

About 63 million years after the extinction of the dinosaurs, the human race appeared. Making use of their intelligence, humans developed various types of technology and social systems to make their lives more comfortable and convenient. Since the industrial revolution of about 200 years ago, human life has been increasingly based on mass production and mass consumption.

Right now, we face with serious environmental problems such as destruction of the ozone layer, global warming and desertification. And the huge quantity of products made with modern technology have resulted in a serious waste problem and chemical pollution that influences even our genes.

Now we need to reflect seriously on the 4.6 billion-year history of our planet earth – and its future.

Ministry of the Environment – Outline

(at the end of fiscal 2001)

1 secretariat, 4 bureaus, 3 departments,
3 councillors, 27 divisions



【Institutes and Organizations】

National Institute for Minamata Disease

【Independent Administrative Entity】

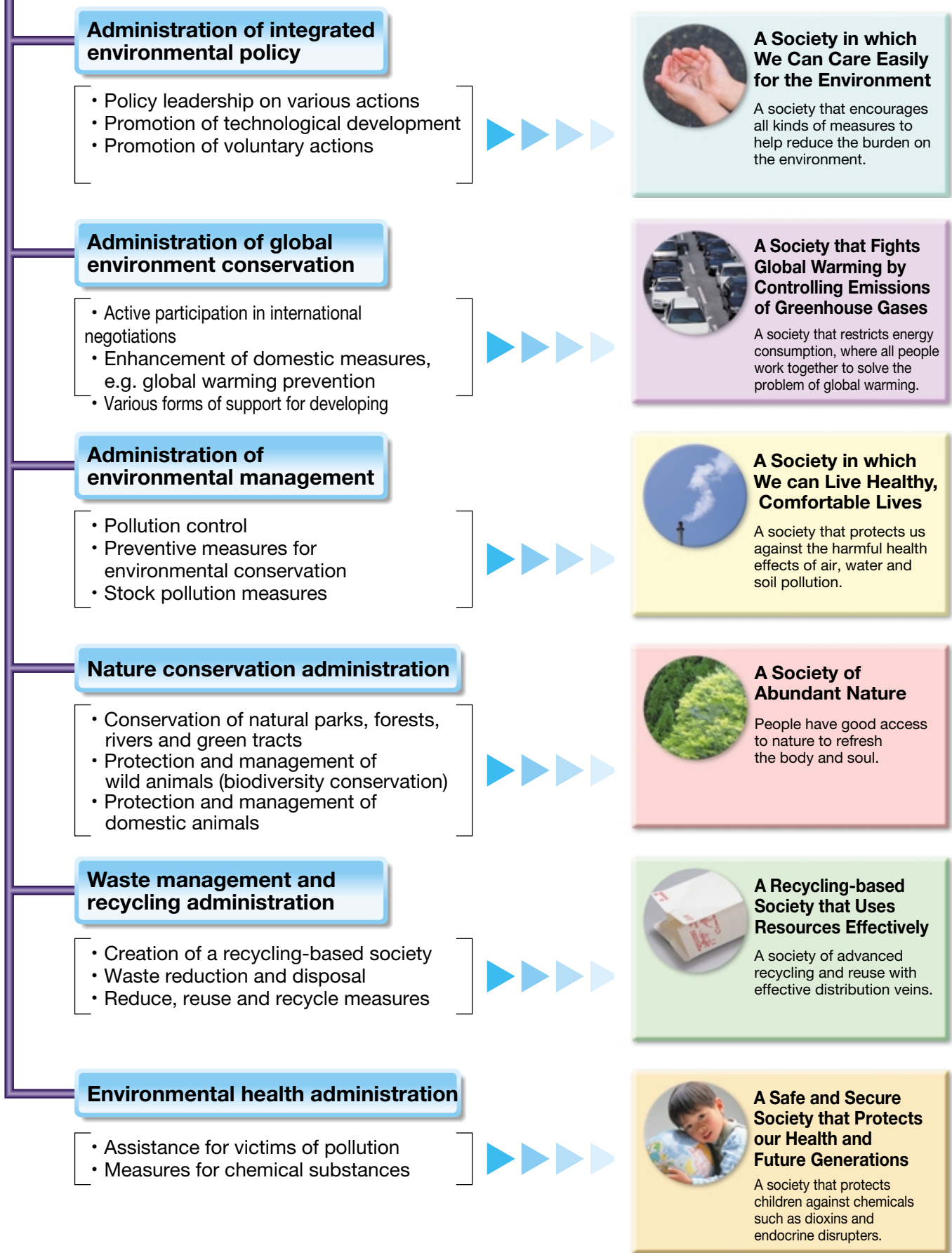
National Institute for Environmental Studies

INDEX

Introduction	1
Ministry of the Environment – Outline	2
Aiming to Construct a New Society	3
Key Words of Ministry of the Environment Measures	4
Environmental Policy of the Government and the Task of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE)	5
Introduction to the Activities of Ministry	
Departments and Bureaus	
Environmental Policy Bureau	7
Global Environment Bureau	9
Environmental Management Bureau	11
Water Environment Department	13
Nature Conservation Bureau	15
Waste Management and Recycling Department	17
Environmental Health Department	19
Minister's Secretariat	21
Environmental Information on the Internet	22
Organization of the Ministry of the Environment	23
National Parks, Nature Conservation Areas, etc.	24
Introduction to Affiliated Organizations	25
List of Public Service Corporations under Ministry	
Jurisdiction	30
History of Environmental Administration	33
State of the Global Environment at a Glance	35
State of Japan's Environment at a Glance	37
Basic Environment Law and Basic Environment Plan	39
International Organizations	41

Aiming to Construct a New Society

Ministry of the Environment





Mission

Conserving the environment, creating a healthy environment,
conserving the global environment, preventing pollution,
conserving the natural environment and creating a recycling-based society

Working together

Vision of a sustainable society

The ministry presents and promotes concrete measures to solve environmental problems.

Partnership

To solve environmental problems, each individual in society should participate in taking action. The Ministry of the Environment thinks and works together with citizens to solve environmental problems.

Environmental information

The ministry aims to inform the public in clearly understandable terms.

Public participation

The ministry reflects the voices of citizens in the policy planning process.

As a conductor of the government

As the government agency responsible for promoting and planning environmental conservation, the ministry implements the environmental policies of the national government.

With the world as a whole

The Ministry of the Environment takes initiatives in developing solutions to various global-scale environmental problems.

For the future

The Ministry of the Environment presents a vision for a new eco-friendly society.



Environmental Policy of the Government and the Task

The Ministry of the Environment plays the central role in government environmental policy. Generally, the ministry's work can be classified into three basic types.

- 1) Work for which the Ministry of the Environment is fully responsible.**
- 2) Work for which the Ministry of the Environment shares responsibility with another ministry.**
- 3) Work where the Ministry of the Environment provides advice from the perspective of environmental conservation.**

To perform this work efficiently, the ministry must cooperate with the environmental protection offices in different regions of the country, as well as with a research organization, the National Institute for Minamata Disease, and an independent administrative entity, the National Institute for Environmental Studies, and with special organizations such as the Environment Corporation and the Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation and Prevention Association.

Ministry of the Environment is fully responsible

The ministry exclusively handles planning and formulation of all government environmental policy and planning and all waste and recycling measures. In addition, it continues to perform all work that was carried out up to now by the Environment Agency.

- Government-wide environmental policy planning, drafting and promotion
- Basic Environment Plan/Regional Environmental Pollution Control Program
- Waste measures and hazardous waste import/export regulations
- Regulations, monitoring and measurement to prevent air pollution, water pollution, etc.
- Conservation and management of nature and preservation of biodiversity



Ministry of the Environment shares responsibility

Since the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for planning and drafting environment policy for the whole government, it works to set standards, guidelines, plans and regulations for all government activities in which environmental conservation is an objective. The other involved ministries then put into effect their measures based on these directions.

- Evaluation of chemicals control, manufacture and use of chemicals, PRTR
- Recycling
- Establishing facilities for pollution prevention
- Factory location regulations
- Radioactive substances monitoring and measurement
- Global warming measures, ozone layer protection and marine pollution prevention
- Conservation of forests, greenery areas, rivers, lakes and reservoirs and coastal areas

Ministry of the Environment gives environmental advice

There are many government measures that influence the environment even when they are not aimed at environmental conservation. For such activities, the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for dealing with any issue concerning environmental effects.

Environmental Policy Bureau

Policy and Coordination Division

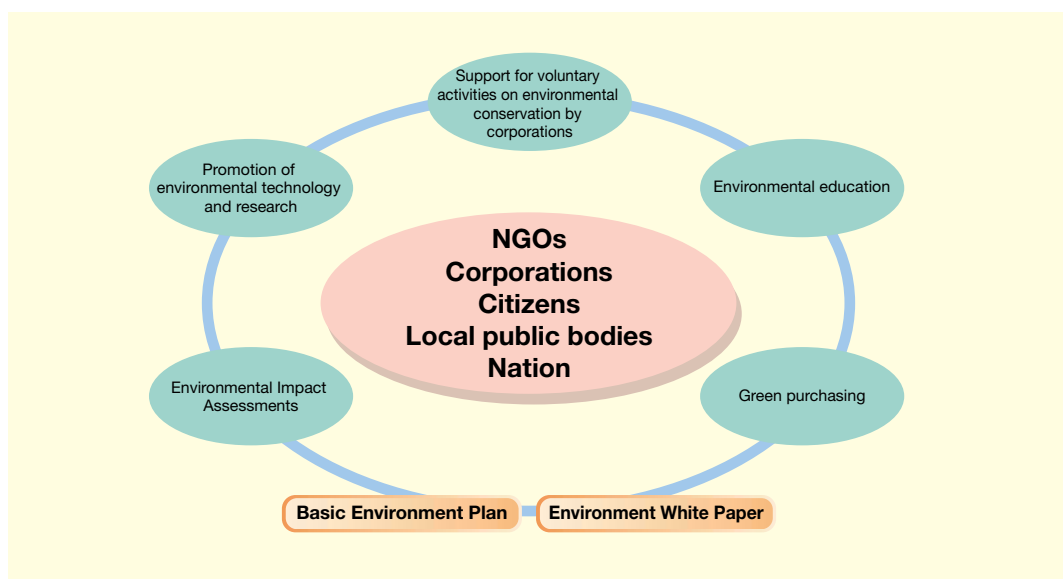
Environmental Strategy Division

Environment and Economy Division

Environmental Impact Assessment Division

Encouraging independent environmental conservation activities by a variety of organizations

The Environmental Policy Bureau carries out planning, drafting and promotion of basic policies related to environmental conservation, such as the Basic Environment Law, the Basic Environment Plan and environmental impact assessments. The bureau also handles general coordination of the affairs of related government bodies.



Basic Environment Plan

The Basic Environment Plan gives an outline of comprehensive and long-term measures relating to environmental conservation for the whole government. The first such plan was drawn up in 1994. In December 2000 the Cabinet approved a new Basic Environment Plan, representing a major revision of the first plan.

The new plan lists 11 strategic programs for making a transition to a sustainable society. It is through these programs that the environmental policies of the early 21st century will be implemented.

Information on the (new) Basic Environment Plan:

http://www.env.go.jp/policy/kihon_keikaku/index.html

Environment White Paper

The Environment White Paper is an annual report to inform citizens on the current state of the environment and environmental policy measures.

The main theme of the 2001 White Paper this year is "*Wa no Kuni*," making double-use of the character for "*wa*," which means both "the environment" and "circulation," to describe "*kuni*," which means country. The white paper states that Japan's role is to become a country where society has environmentally-sound material cycles that emphasize simplicity and quality, and to contribute to the international community based on the country's past experience.

To achieve this role, Japan needs to keep the activities of society and the economy within the finite limit of the earth and encourage all players in society to engage in dialogue to this end.

Information on the Environment White Paper:

<http://www.env.go.jp/policy/hakusyo/index.html>



Promotion of Environmental Education

To build an environment-friendly society, it is important that all citizens have a strong environmental understanding and consciousness and that they exercise this in all their activities that impact on the environment. To help promote environmental consciousness, the Ministry of the Environment implements various environmental education measures, such as the Junior Eco-Club.

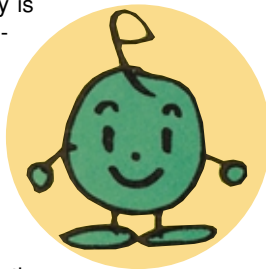
Junior Eco Club

The Ministry of the Environment is promoting the establishment of Junior Eco Clubs throughout Japan, for elementary and junior high school students and the adults who assist them with their activities. Through these clubs, the ministry is helping children to enjoy environment-related study and activities in their local communities.



Information on Junior Eco Clubs:
<http://www.env.go.jp/kids/ecoclub.html>

"Ecomaru," the Junior Eco Club mascot



Environmental Counselors

The Ministry of the Environment is enlisting individuals with extensive environmental knowledge and experience to serve society as Environmental Counselors. A complete list of these Environmental Counselors is available to the public. The ministry also holds seminars to help counselors improve their skills.

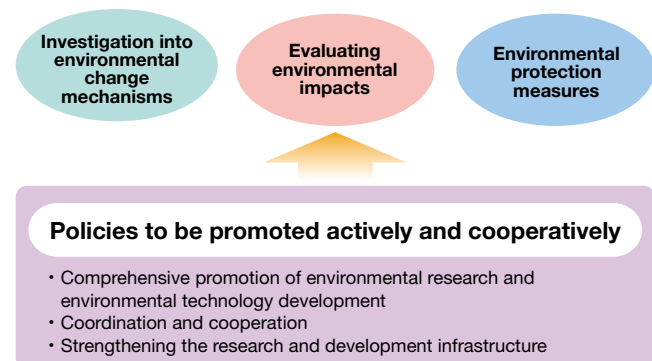
Information on Environmental Counselors:
<http://www.eic.or.jp/eic/db/counselor.html>

Promotion of Environmental Research and Technology

To help us solve our environmental problems, a wide range of research and technological development is necessary, in areas such as low environmental impact technology. In July 1999 the ministry drew up the "Basic Plan for Environmental Research and Technology" as a comprehensive program for future environmental research and technological development. Various measures are now being implemented on the basis of this plan.

The ministry has also established the "Fundamental Research Fund for Future Environment," which finances large-scale basic environmental studies in cooperation with industry, universities and public research institutes.

Information on environmental research:
<http://www.eic.or.jp/study>



Major tasks in environmental research and technology

Supporting Voluntary Environmental Activities by Corporations

As an important measure for encouraging voluntary environmental conservation activities in corporations, the Ministry of the Environment is actively encouraging corporations to adopt the Environmental Management Systems Standard (ISO14001) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Environment Activity Evaluation Programs. The ministry is also trying to promote the more widespread practice of environmental reporting and environmental accounting.

Promotion of Green Purchasing

In May 2000, a basic law promoting the purchase of environment-friendly products by the national government (Green Purchasing Law) was enacted. This law, which goes into effect from April 2001, will provide a strong boost to the practice of green purchasing by the public sector in Japan.

The ministry is also publishing lists of environment-friendly products that are suited to green purchasing, and supporting the Eco Mark program to help consumers to "buy green."

Information on green purchasing:
<http://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/index.html>



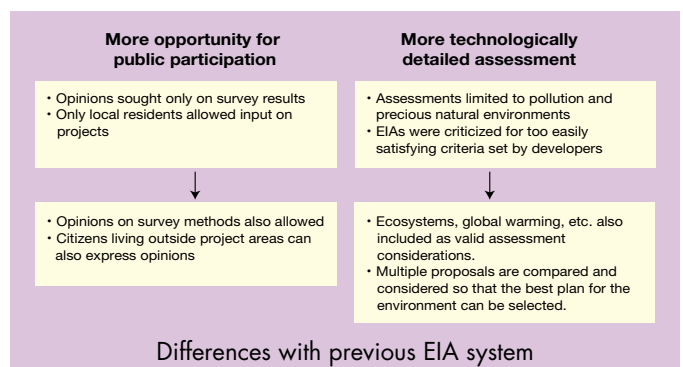
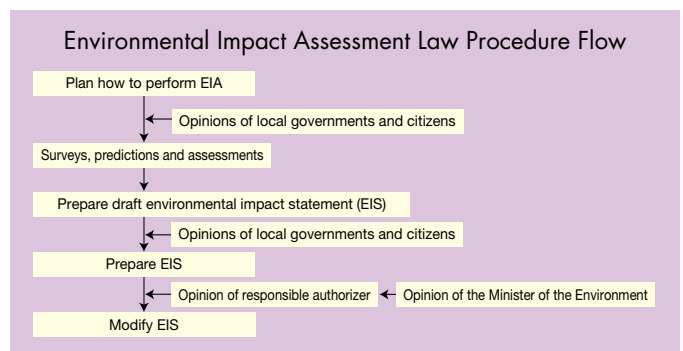
Eco Mark

Promotion of Environmental Impact Assessments

Environmental impact assessment means that before the commencement of large-scale development projects such as the construction of roads, airports and power stations, project planners must conduct preliminary surveys, predictions and assessments on the potential environmental impact of the projects, and consult with local governments and citizens, etc., to hear their opinions.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Law was enacted in June 1997 and has been fully in effect since June 1999.

Information on environmental impact assessments:
<http://www.eic.or.jp/eanet/assessment>



Global Environment Bureau

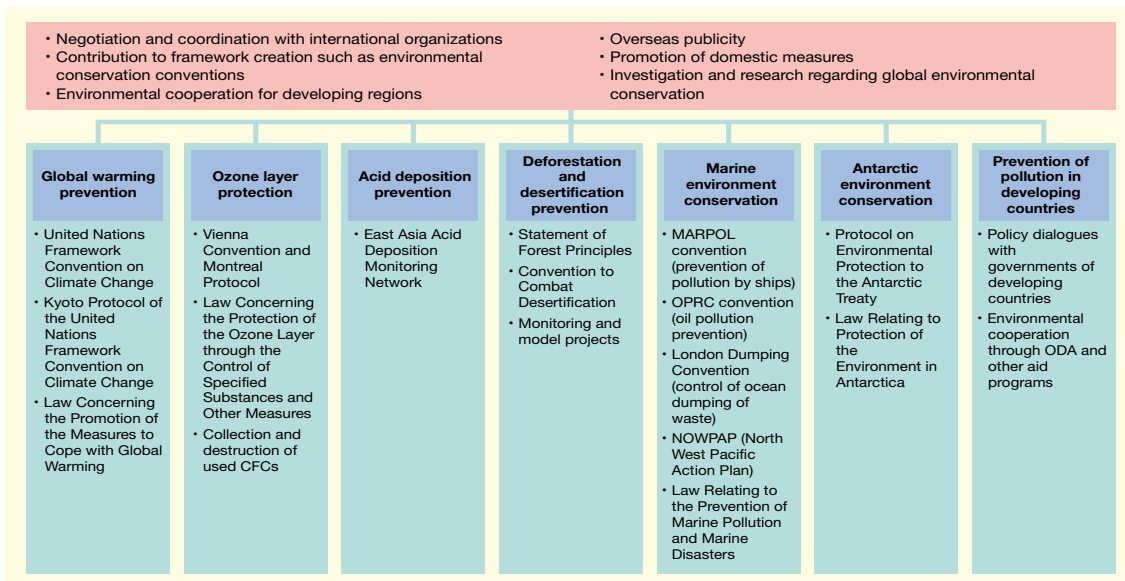
Policy and Coordination Division

Global Environmental Issues Division

Climate Change Policy Division

Preserving the riches of the global environment for future generations

The Global Environment Bureau tackles global environmental conservation issues such as global warming prevention and ozone layer protection. At the same time, it promotes the environmental policies of the entire government, it negotiates and coordinates with international organizations connected to the Ministry of the Environment as well as with foreign government bodies, and it handles administration work related to environmental cooperation for developing regions.



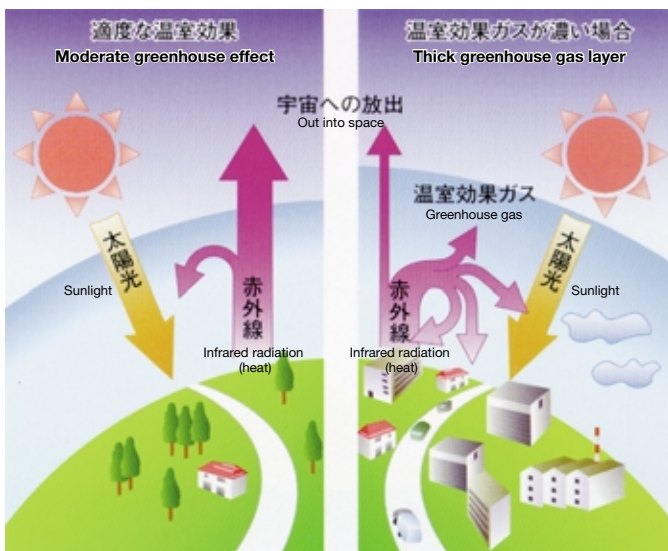
Global Warming Prevention

Many scientists throughout the world have forecast that the rise in atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, and the global warming will cause dramatic environmental changes, such as abnormal weather and sea level rises, that threaten the survival of human beings. The Kyoto Conference on Climate Change (COP3), held in Kyoto in December 1997, was organized to address this serious issue. The conference adopted Kyoto Protocol that set targets obligating each developed country to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by a specified percentage by the period 2008 to 2012. Japan's target is to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 6 percent of the amount in 1990.

Information on COP3:

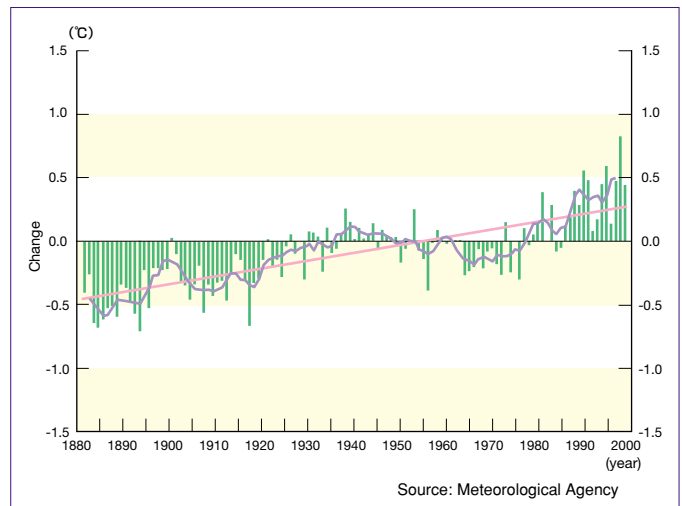
<http://www.env.go.jp/earth/cop/cop3>

The Ministry of the Environment is now considering the adoption of a wide variety of measures, including laws and taxes, to ensure that Japan can meet its target of 6 percent.



Greenhouse effect mechanism

Variation in annual average surface temperature of the earth over the last 120 years



Ozone Layer Protection

Over the last decades, the ozone layer, which serves to protect us from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation, has been slowly destroyed by atmospheric contaminants such as CFCs. To halt this destruction, the government has introduced production controls in accordance with related conventions and the Ozone Layer Protection Law. Furthermore, the ministry has been collecting used CFCs – and HFCs (so-called "CFC substitutes") that contribute to the greenhouse effect – from car air conditioners and other products and destroying them.

Acid Deposition Prevention

Acid deposition is a phenomenon in which rain and air become acidic by sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides released to the atmosphere through combustion of fossil fuels. Acid deposition is reported to be causing degradation of forests and serious damage to fish in wetlands. To address this problem, the Ministry of the Environment has initiated international cooperation such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET).

Marine Environment Conservation

Marine environments are threatened by the nutritive salts, toxic chemicals and other contaminants that flow into the seas as waste from land, as well as by major accidents involving large tankers and other ecological disasters. To reduce these threats, the ministry is monitoring marine environments and putting into place various measures based on related conventions and laws.

Global Environment Research and Monitoring

To solve global environmental problems, it is vital to conduct extensive investigations and research into the causes and effects of damaging phenomena and to develop technology and measures to counter such threats. It is also necessary to collect data on the global environment.

In cooperation with various research institutions in Japan and overseas, the Ministry of the Environment is promoting the research and development of methodology, technology and measures on global environment.

Information on the Global Environment Research Fund:

http://www.env.go.jp/en/org/gerf_E/index.htm

International Environmental Cooperation

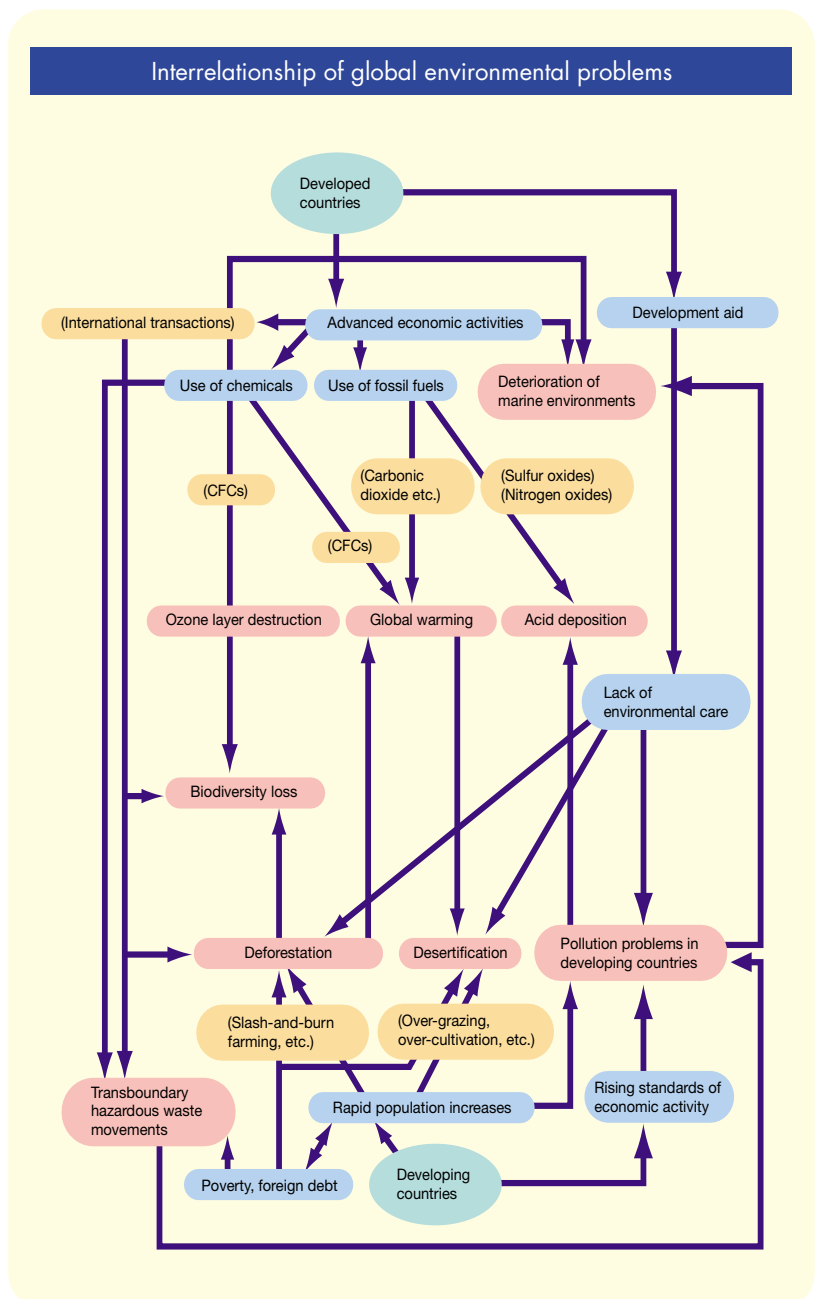
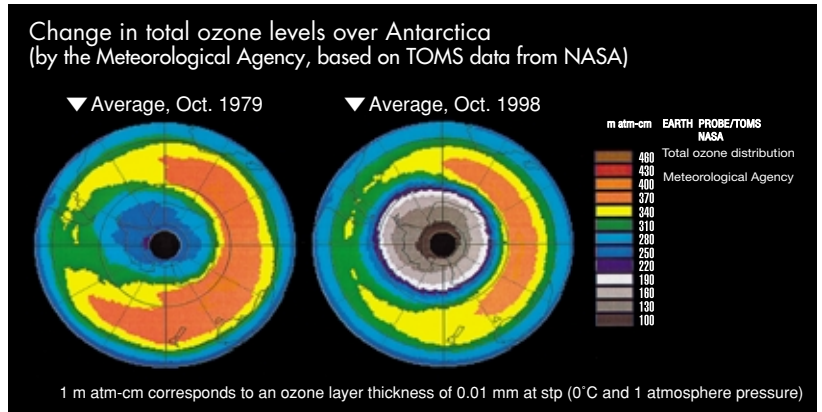
Due to advancing industrialization and increasing populations, many developing countries are now suffering from pollution and destruction of their natural environments – the same problems experienced earlier by developed countries. Utilizing its accumulated experience in tackling severe pollution, Japan is assisting countries all over the world – particularly developing countries – with formulating environmental measures aimed at sustainable development.

Information on international environmental cooperation:

<http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/index.html>



G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting (April 2000, Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture)



Environmental Management Bureau

Policy and Coordination Division

Air Quality Management Division

Environmental Transport Policy Division

For a safe and refreshing environment

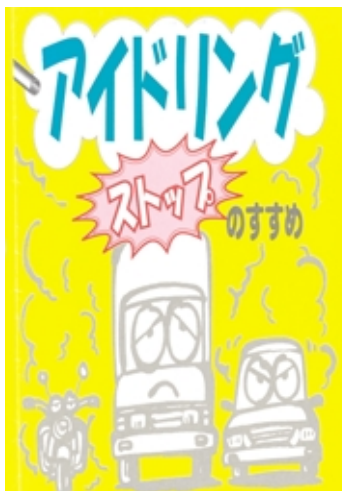
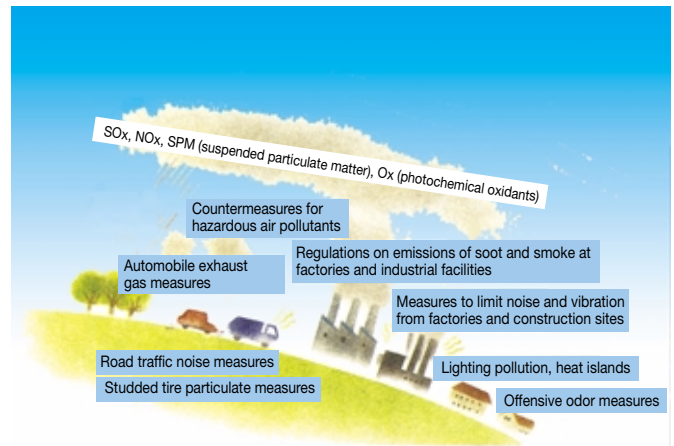
The Environmental Management Bureau is tackling air pollution issues generated by factories and automobiles, and problems of noise, vibration and offensive odors. It is also monitoring environmental pollution resulting from radioactive substances. Through these efforts, the bureau protects the health of citizens and conserves their living environments.

Preventing Air Pollution from Factories and Industrial Facilities (stationary sources)

To prevent air pollution from soot and smoke from factories and industrial facilities, the bureau regulates emissions, according to the Air Pollution Control Law, and monitors air pollution conditions. The bureau also works to implement pollution prevention systems at factories (pollution prevention managers).

Automobile (Mobile Sources) Pollution Measures

To prevent road traffic noise pollution and air pollution caused by nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) from automobiles, the bureau issues regulations relating to the exhaust emissions and noise levels of individual automobiles, and fuel quality. In big cities with heavy road traffic where air pollution caused by nitrogen oxides is particularly severe, the bureau is applying special exhaust emission regulations, according to the Automobile NOx Law, and introducing countermeasures to optimize traffic distribution and flows. In addition, the bureau is pushing the adoption of low-emission vehicles through tax incentives and other forms of assistance that encourage the purchase of low-emission vehicles.



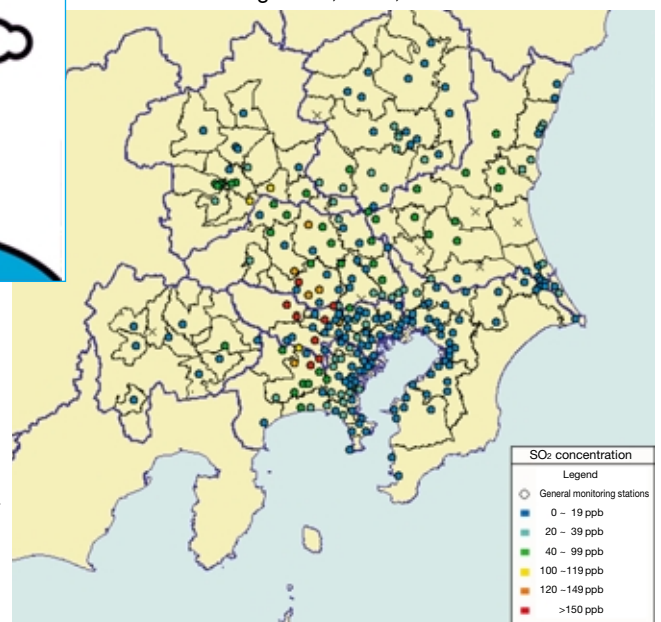
Our "Idling Stop Campaign" encourages all automobile users to contribute to reducing air pollution.



▲ Soramame-kun (Mascot of the Photochemical Air Pollution Information Online Network)

Soramame-kun Data (Air quality data, updated hourly, on the Ministry of the Environment web site.)

August 28, 2000, noon

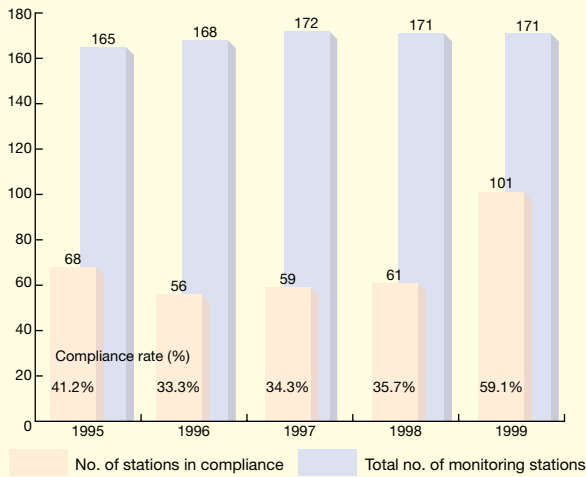
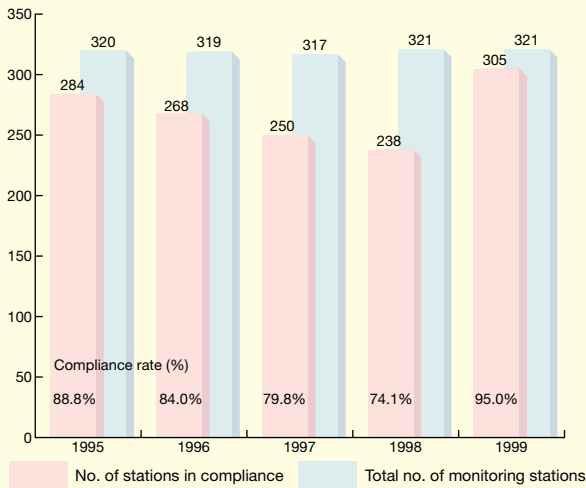


The Ministry of the Environment has operated its Photochemical Air Pollution Information Online Network since 1999. The service allows anyone to check air quality conditions at any time.

Information on Soramame-kun:

<http://www-aeros.nies.go.jp/>

Rate of compliance with environmental standard for NO₂ levels in big cities (Automobile NO_x Law)



Topic: Tougher measures for diesel vehicles

Over recent years, exhaust emissions from diesel vehicles, which contain nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, have become an increasingly serious concern. The bureau is now introducing tougher measures to deal with this air pollution issue. By 2005, it will put in place new, stricter exhaust emission limits for new diesel vehicles and greatly lower the permissible sulfur content of light oil fuels.

In addition, the Automobile NO_x Law has been revised and toughened, for example by adding particulate matter to the list of controlled pollutants and by requiring transportation companies to prepare plans on their vehicle use.

Living Environment Conservation Measures

To combat the problems of noise, vibration and offensive odors that degrade human living environments, the bureau imposes regulations on factories, industrial facilities and other sites in accordance with the Noise Regulation Law, Vibration Regulation Law and Offensive Odor Control Law. The bureau is also tackling issues such as low frequency sounds, heat islands and lighting pollution.

Other Activities

The bureau is monitoring radioactive substances in the environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Change in emission limits for heavy diesel vehicles and change in permissible sulfur content of light oil fuel

Fig. 1: Change in emission limits for heavy diesel vehicles

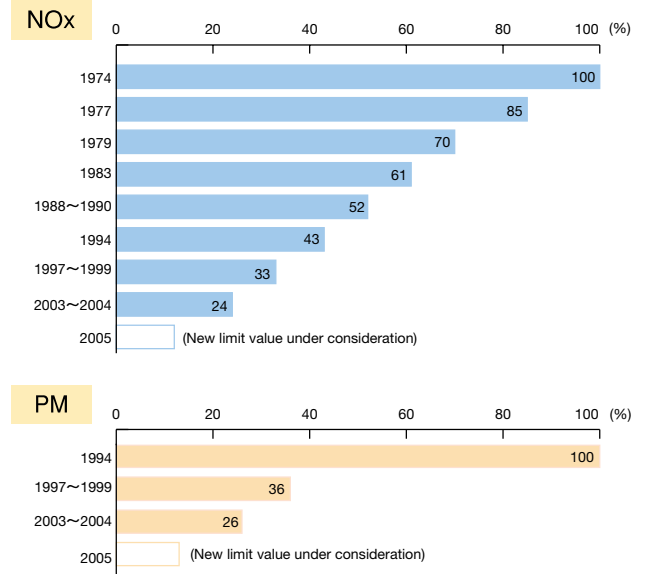
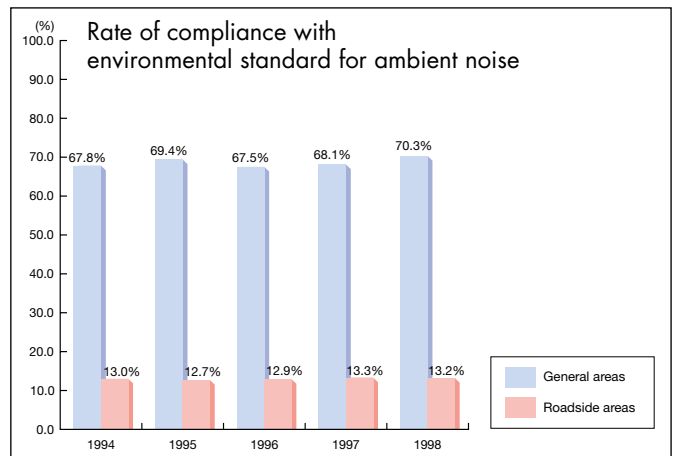
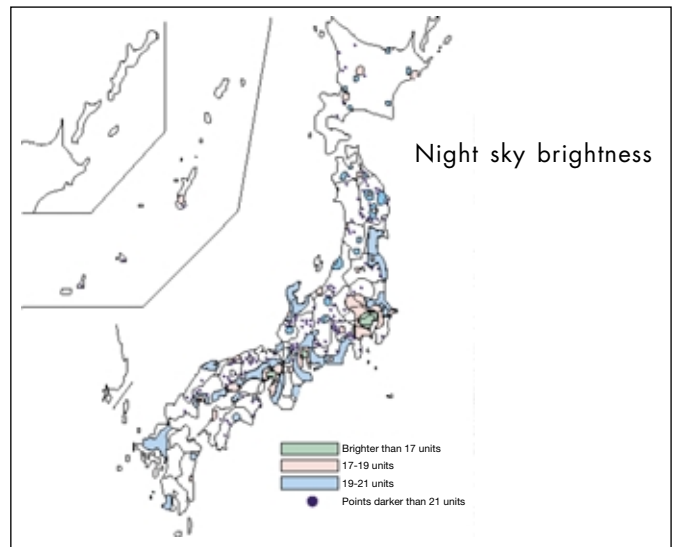
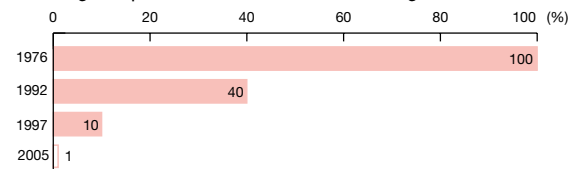


Fig. 2: Change in permissible sulfur content of light oil fuel



Water Environment Department

Policy Planning Division

Water Environment Management Division

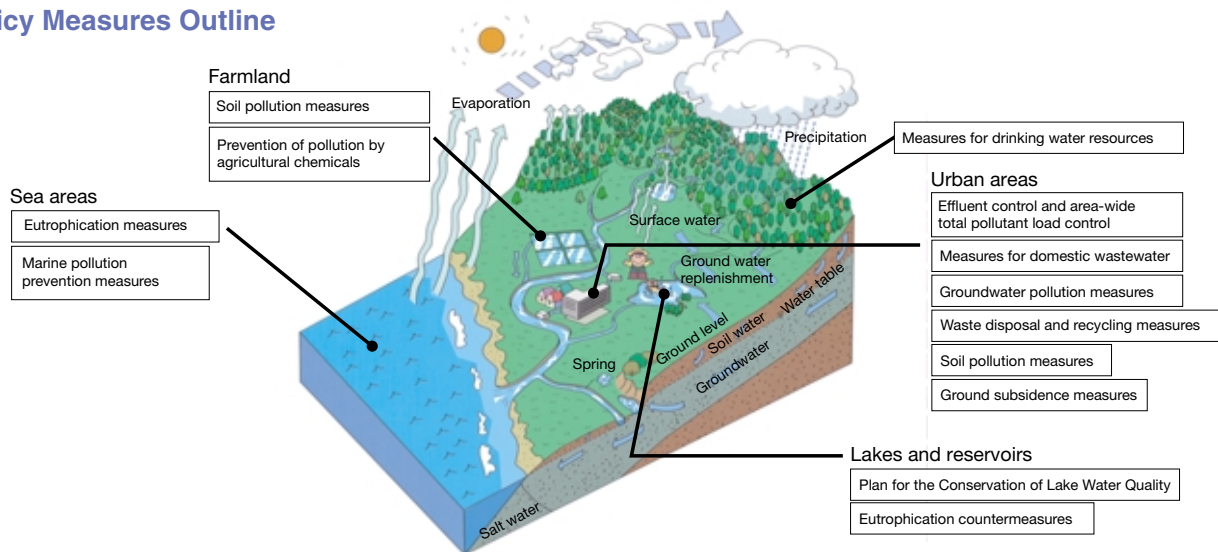
Soil Environment Management Division

Ensuring sound water cycles and revitalizing soil and ground environments

The Water Environment Department develops general measures to ensure sound water cycles, to prevent water pollution and to conserve underground water.

In addition, it works to rehabilitate soil environments so that future generations are not left with the burden of soil polluted by dioxins and other toxic materials.

Policy Measures Outline



Water Environment Conservation

- Ensuring and restoring sound water cycle
- Implementing measures to comprehensively conserve water quality, water quantity, aquatic organisms and waterside areas
- Based on Basic Environment Plan, in view of all water areas

Water Quality Conservation

- Establishment of environment quality standards for water pollutants: Basic Environment Law, Water Pollution Control Law
- Water quality conservation of rivers, lakes, coastal areas and groundwater
- *Enclosed sea areas (Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay, Seto Inland Sea)
- Area-wide total pollutant load control
- Water quality conservation focused on specified water areas
- Law Concerning Special Measures for Preservation of Lake Water Quality
- Implementing regulations on wastewater from factories and other measures in designated lakes such as Lake Biwa and Kasumigaura
- Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea
- Drafting an environmental conservation plan for the Seto Inland Sea (national government) and a prefectural plan for environmental conservation of the area (prefectural governments)

Soil Environment Conservation

- Setting soil environment standards: Basic Environment Law, Agricultural Land Soil Pollution Prevention Law
- Prefectural governors draft plans to deal with soil pollution of

agricultural land and implement specific countermeasures, e.g. top-soil replacement.

Urban areas, etc.

- Offering assistance by conducting surveys and giving guidelines on implementing measures regarding soil pollution and groundwater pollution

Prevention of Environmental Pollution by Agricultural Chemicals

Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law

- Setting environmental conservation standards to withhold registration of agricultural chemicals

Conservation of Ground Environments

Industrial Water Law

- Regulations on pumping of industrial water

Building Water Law

- Regulations on pumping of groundwater for buildings

Outline of countermeasures such as prevention of ground subsidence

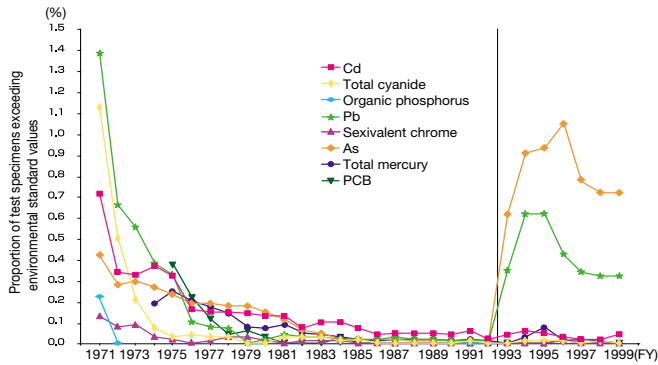
- Targets for groundwater pumping discharges (Nobi plains, Chikugo, Saga plains and northern Kanto plains)

Dioxin Measures

Law Concerning Special Measures Against Dioxin

- Setting environmental quality standards for water pollutants and soil, regulating wastewater discharges from designated factories and facilities, permanent monitoring of water quality and soil, and implementing measures to rehabilitate polluted soil

Change in proportion of test specimens exceeding health-related environmental standard values



Remarks:

1. Fifteen new health items were added in the March 1993 revision of environmental standards. Here, compliance rate figures are presented only for eight of the nine original health items (proportion of specimens with levels exceeding the environmental standard). The non-compliance rate for the ninth item, alkyl mercury, has been 0% since FY1971.
2. Since the revision to environmental standards of March 1993, the standard value for lead was changed from 0.1mg/l to 0.01mg/l, and the value for arsenic was changed from 0.05mg/l to 0.01mg/l. Also, since no trace of organic phosphorus was detected in test specimens, the environmental standard for this was eliminated altogether.

Ensuring Sound Water Cycles

Due to advancing urbanization and for various other reasons, the natural circulation of water in the environment has been altered, leading to problems such as the depletion of spring water and instability in river flows.

To solve these various problems, while maintaining an appropriate balance of water functions for human activities and environmental conservation throughout water cycles, it is important to establish a framework of policies that both enables people to enjoy the benefits of natural water cycles and preserves the integrity of these cycles for future generations. It is also vital to implement measures to restore water cycles for environmental conservation.

Related information:

<http://www.mlit.go.jp/tochimizushigen/mizsei/junkan/index.html>

Promotion of Dioxins Measures

To prevent environmental pollution by dioxins, the Water Environment Department is regularly observing environmental conditions and imposing regulations on factories and industrial facilities that discharge dioxins, according to the Law Concerning Special Measures Against Dioxin.

To deal with cases of contaminated water and soil, the department investigates the causes of the pollution and studies appropriate methods for eliminating them and reversing their damaging effects. At the same time, the department supports the work of local governments in this area by providing information to them. In these ways, it is effectively applying the law.

Conservation of Soil Environment and Groundwater Quality

Along with water and air, soil is one of the most vital elements of the environment. Healthy soil has the ability to recharge groundwater and keep it clean.

However, soil and groundwater that is contaminated by pollutants can cause serious damage to human health and living environments for very long periods of time.

To prevent such pollution, the Water Environment Department has set environmental standards for soil and groundwater. It also pursues a range of measures to ensure that these standards are met and maintained.

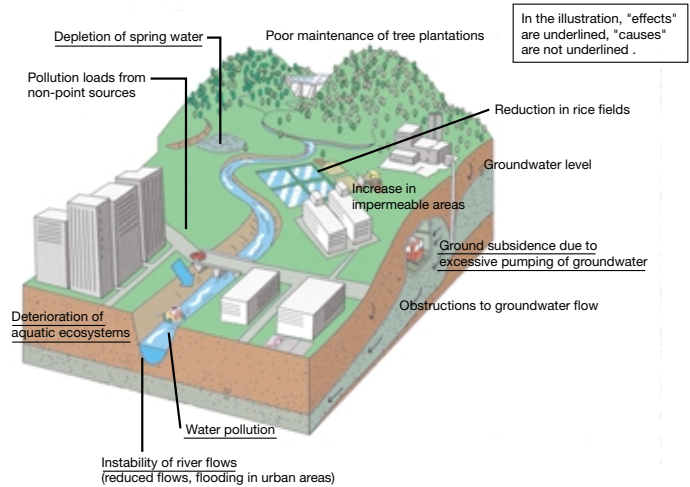
Related information:

<http://www.env.go.jp/water/dojo/ref01.html>

Achievement of Environment Quality Standards

In terms of toxic substances (health items) such as cadmium, water quality has satisfied EQS almost everywhere in Japan over recent years. However, EQS (BOD or COD) compliance rates for organic pollutants that cause offensive odors or tastes remain at unsatisfactory levels. In addition, a significant number of drinking water supplies and fisheries are affected by algal blooms, red tides or blue tides, most notably in enclosed water bodies such as lakes and reservoirs, inland seas and narrow bays (eutrophication).

To substantially cut levels of organic pollutants in water bodies, it is necessary to control wastewater from households as well as from factories and industrial facilities. It is also important to improve the various domestic wastewater treatment facilities in use, such as sewerage systems, sewerage treatment tanks and rural community sewerage systems for farming areas.



Selected 100 Exquisite and Well-conserved Waters and Best 88 Beaches

In March 1985, in order to rediscover clean and clear water resources that local communities around Japan have enjoyed and conserved for a long time and to inform people all over Japan about these, the Environment Agency developed a list of the "Selected 100 Exquisite and Well-conserved Waters."

This listing inspired these communities to form the All Japan Water Environment Conservation Council. The council holds a symposium at one of the selected water resources every year.

"Selected 100 Exquisite and Well-conserved Waters" web site:

<http://www.env.go.jp/water/meisui/index.html>

In order to expand public awareness and interest in water environment conservation, the department also keeps a list of the "Best 88 Beaches" around Japan to help people choose comfortable beaches to visit.

Nature Conservation Bureau

Policy and Coordination Division

Biodiversity Policy Division

National Park Division

Division of Park Facilities and Conservation Technology

Wildlife Division

For coexistence of people and nature

The Nature Conservation Bureau works to preserve and restore ecosystems and to ensure that humans can coexist with nature. It is also securing a variety of places to provide people with opportunities to enjoy nature, and to learn and feel nature's blessing.

■ Biodiversity Conservation

● National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity

All forms of life plays an important role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem in which they live. They also add an immeasurable richness to human life. To conserve our precious biodiversity, the government is currently implementing a number of measures based on the "National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity," which was formulated based on the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is currently implementing a number of measures based on this strategy.

■ Initiatives for Nature Conservation

● Nature Conservation Areas

Areas containing ecosystems whose original characteristics have been preserved without any human influence and areas with outstanding natural ecosystems have been designated as Wilderness Areas (5 areas) and Nature Conservation Areas (10 areas), respectively, to ensure that they are carefully protected.

● Natural Parks

Many of Japan's most scenic natural areas have been designated as National Parks (28) or Quasi-National Parks (55), both to protect their natural resources and to make them accessible to people for direct experience of nature.

The Ministry of the Environment has employs officials called "park rangers" in these National Parks to regulate development activities and to promote awareness and education about nature conservation.

● Conservation of Neighboring Nature

The Nature Conservation Bureau supports projects to restore and re-create habitats of various wildlife such as birds and dragonflies (biotopes). It also conducts studies to conserve natural areas in rural settings where human activities are important factors in shaping and maintaining the natural system. The bureau also cooperates with other ministries and agencies in formulating management plans for forests, rivers and urban green tracts, in the interest of nature conservation.



Yukiiri Country Nature Village (Chiyoda Town, Ibaraki Prefecture)

● National Survey on the Natural Environment

The National Survey on the Natural Environment (Green Census) is conducted to develop the status of the natural environment of the country such as species distribution and vegetation in cooperation with local governments, experts and citizens. The outcomes of the survey are open to the public through the Internet.

<http://www.biodic.go.jp/J-IBIS>



Nakadake crater of Mt. Aso and Miyamakirishima azaleas (Aso-Kuju National Park)

■ Promotion of Communication with Nature

● Facility Development in Natural Parks

The Nature Conservation Bureau is developing facilities to help people communicate with nature and learn more about the environment. These facilities within National Parks and Quasi-National Parks include visitor centers, nature observation trails, camping sites, public toilets and nature study facilities that allow people to deepen their understanding of nature through firsthand experience. The bureau also works to conserve marshes and restore vegetation.

● Closer Communication with Nature

Along with development of these facilities, the bureau is organizing various events to facilitate people to communicate with nature. These include a "Campaign to Communicate with Nature," nature interpretation, the Junior Park Rangers project and training of natural park advisors.

Illustration of "Walking Trail for Nature Education"



Endemic lady's slipper (Domestic Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)



Tsushima leopard cat (Domestic Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

Wildlife Management

Protection of Endangered Species

Capture and transfer of endangered species are legally regulated, and their habitat protected. Furthermore, Nature Conservation Bureau is engaged in recovery projects. At present, 57 domestic and about 600 international species are designated as endangered species by law.

Management of Wild Birds and Mammals

Capture of wildlife is prohibited except for special cases, such as authorized hunting. Important habitats for wildlife are designated as Wildlife Protection Areas (as of 2000, about 3,900 areas, 3.6 million ha in total).



Izunuma (Miyagi Prefecture, National Wildlife Protection Area, Ramsar site)

Humane Treatment and Management of Animals

In the recent shift to an aging society with fewer children, the significance of animals is growing. On the other hand, many problems are occurring, such as improper animal care causing trouble in and harm to neighborhoods, and the abuse of animals. To promote proper treatment of animals, the bureau supports the development of measures to assist animal dealers and pet owners to fulfill their responsibilities.

Promotion of International Cooperation

Japan has concluded bilateral conventions and agreements with the U.S.A., China, Australia and Russia to protect migratory birds and their habitats. In accordance with the Ramsar Convention, Japan is also providing special protection to internationally important wetlands that serve as water bird habitats. In addition, it is regulating the international trade of endangered species based on the Washington Convention (CITES).

In compliance with the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Ministry of the Environment is conserving Yakushima and Shirakami-sanchi, two of Japan's outstanding natural heritage sites. Furthermore, it engages in international cooperation to conserve coral reefs based on the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).



Coral reef (Iriomote National Park)

Waste Management and Recycling Department

Policy Planning Division

Waste Management Division

Industrial Waste Management Division

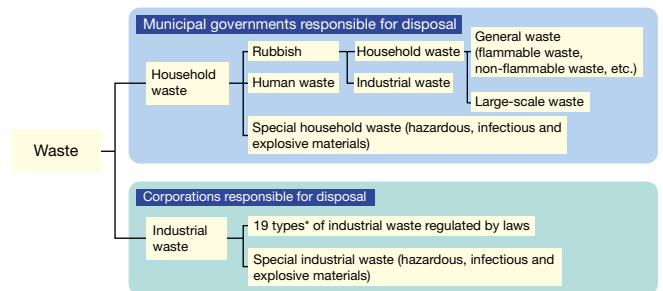
Aiming to create a recycling-based society

The Waste Management and Recycling Department works to control waste generation and to promote reuse, recycling and proper disposal of cyclable resources*, with a view to preserving living environments and making effective use of natural resources.

*"cyclable resources" is a new term indicating that all waste materials should be considered as resources for potential reuse and recycling.

Current State of Waste Treatment

Waste can be classified as either household waste, which is handled by municipal governments, or industrial waste, which is dealt with by the individual corporations that generate it. In recent years, the total volume of waste generated in Japan has remained quite steady. Still, the Waste Management and Recycling Department faces serious challenges, such as the growing shortage of space for final waste disposal, increasing incidents of inappropriate waste disposal, e.g. illegal dumping, and conflicts between different areas over long-distance transfer of waste and the establishment of waste treatment facilities.



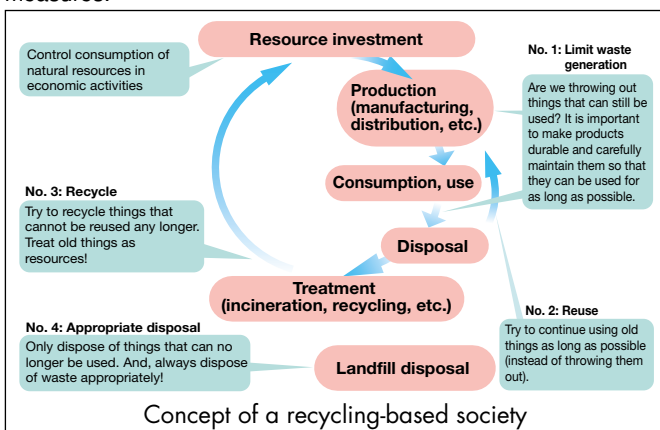
* Refuse, sludge, waste oil, waste acid, waste alkali, waste plastics, waste paper, waste wood, waste fiber, animal and plant remains, waste rubber, waste metal, waste glass and ceramics, slag, rubble, animal faeces and urine, carcasses, soot and dust, waste treated for the purpose of disposal

Creating a Recycling-Based Society

Enactment of the Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society

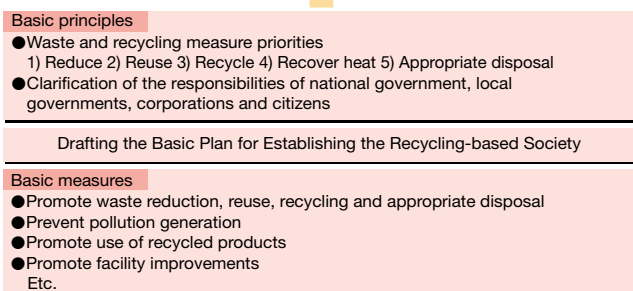
In May 2000 the Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society was enacted as a basis for the institution of comprehensive and systematic waste and recycling measures.

Currently, the department is preparing to draft a basic plan based on the new law and then to put in place effective concrete measures.



Concept of a recycling-based society

Formation of a Recycling-based Society



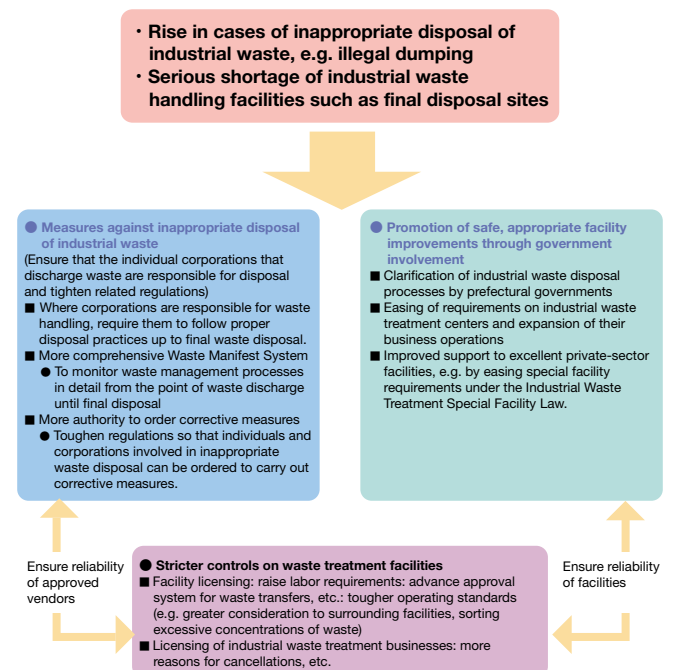
Structure of the Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society

Promotion of Proper Waste Treatment

Revision to the Waste Treatment Law

To try and solve various waste-related problems, in 2000 the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law were revised. In line with these changes, measures were taken to promote improvements to industrial waste treatment facilities, through government involvement, and to toughen waste disposal regulations.

Revisions to the Waste Treatment Law



Outline of law revisions

Waste Reduction Targets

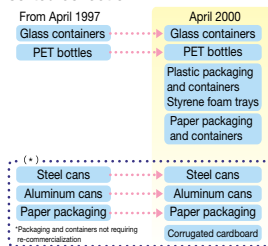
In response to concerns about dioxins, in September 1999 the government set waste reduction targets aimed at reducing the total volume of final disposal waste by half (relative to the 1996 level) by the year 2010. The ministry is now implementing measures to achieve these targets.

Recycling Promotion

Promotion of Container and Packaging Recycling

Container and packaging waste, including glass bottles, accounts for 60 percent of domestic waste by volume and 20-30 percent by weight. In 1995, the Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging was enacted in order to regulate a "recycling cycle" in which consumers sort out household waste, municipal governments collect it, companies re-commercialize it, and consumers purchase it in the form of recycled products.

Containers and packaging subject to sorted collection



Examples of recycled products



Containers and packaging subject to the recycling law

Recycling of Household Electrical Products

Since they are large and difficult to treat or recycle, most home-use air conditioners, TVs, refrigerators and washing machines end up at landfill sites, contributing to the shortage of final waste disposal capacity.

To address this concern, in 1998 Japan introduced the Home Appliances Recycling Law.

Recycling of Construction Waste and Food Waste

Waste materials such as wood and concrete from construction work accounts for 20 percent of all generated industrial waste and about 40 percent of all industrial waste at final disposal. It also makes up 90 percent of illegally dumped waste. Food waste from the manufacturing, distribution and consumption of food, makes up 30 percent of all generated domestic waste, although only 10 percent of it is recycled into products such as fertilizer.

Two new laws were introduced in 2000 to address these problems – the Law Regarding Recycling of Construction Materials and the Law Regarding Recycling of Food Circulation Resources.

Waste reduction targets

(decided September 28, 1999 at a meeting on dioxin measures attended by involved ministers)

By reducing the amount of waste generated and recycling more of both domestic and industrial waste, we aim to cut the total quantity of waste at final disposal by half (relative to the FY1996 level) by 2010.

Domestic waste

- 1) Cut total waste generation by 5% (53 → 50 million tons)
- 2) Raise the recycling rate from 10% to 24% (5.5 → 12 million tons)
- 3) Cut total landfill waste by half (13 → 6.5 million tons)

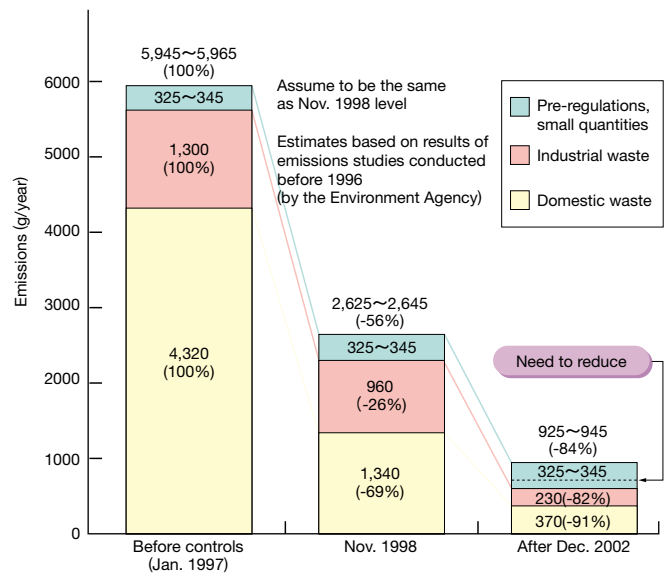
Industrial waste

- 1) Limit increase in generated waste to 13% (426 → 480 million tons)
- 2) Raise the recycling rate from 42% to 48% (181 → 232 million tons)
- 3) Cut total landfill waste by half (60 → 31 million tons)

Dioxin Measures for Waste Treatment Facilities

Waste incinerators are the largest source of dioxin pollution. In view of this, the ministry has set a target of cutting total dioxin emissions by approx. 90 percent (relative to the 1997 level) by the end of FY2002. It is now promoting measures towards achieving the target.

Estimates of dioxin emissions from waste incinerators



Breakdown of dioxin emissions

Dealing with Waste in Big Cities

Finding sufficient space for landfill disposal has been hard in big cities, due to their large populations and highly concentrated economic activities. In view of this, the department is promoting a plan to create new waste disposal sites on areas of reclaimed sea (Phoenix Plan), to be shared by multiple prefectures.

Proper Treatment of Domestic Wastewater

To address the problem of household wastewater, a major cause of water pollution, the department is working to set up a combined household wastewater treatment facility that is capable of treating both household wastewater and sewage waste together.

Environmental Health Department

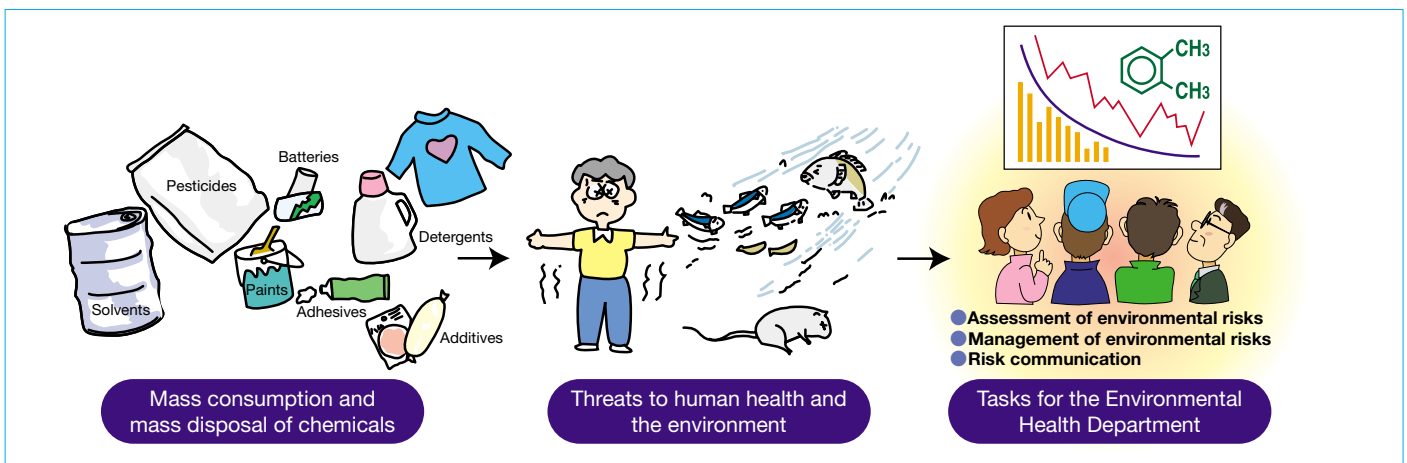
Policy Planning Division

Environmental Health and Safety Division

For the protection of human health and the environment from the adverse effects of chemicals

The Environmental Health Department takes comprehensive measures to prevent environmental pollution caused by chemicals from threatening human health and the environment.

The department also works to ensure prompt and fair relief for those who have suffered from the effects of pollution.



Reducing the Risks of Chemicals to the Environment

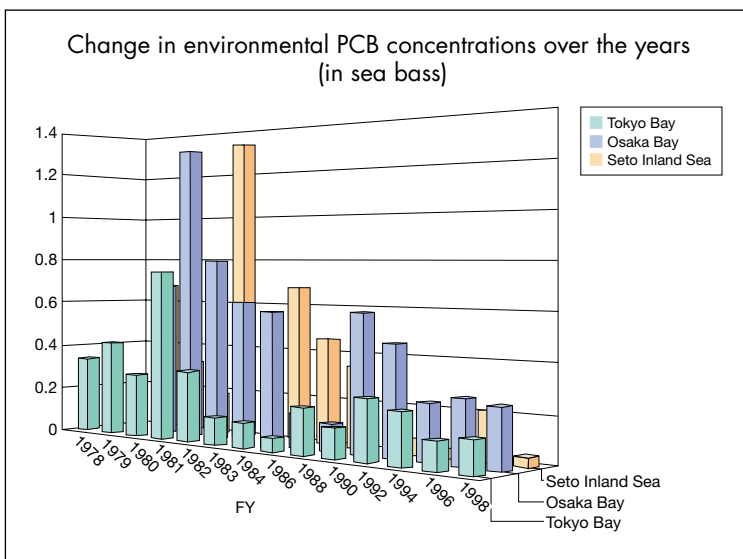
Environmental Problems of Chemicals

At present, there are believed to be about 100,000 kinds of chemical substances in commercial use throughout the world. About 50,000 of these are used in Japan. In addition to concern about these, the special problems of dioxins, endocrine disrupting chemicals and Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) have become more serious public issues. To guard against the threats of chemicals in the environment, the department monitors air, water and biota for signs of pollution and conducts scientific studies (environmental risk assessment). Then, based on the results of such studies, it implements appropriate measures to reduce any environmental risks.

What is an "environmental risk"?

A "risk" refers to an undesirable consequence and the degree of uncertainty associated with it. A risk is evaluated by the "probability of its occurrence" and the "size of impact" it can cause.

In this context, "environmental risks" correspond to the potential impediments that the burden of human activities can cause to the environment.



PCBs have been detected over wide areas in the general environment (water systems and the atmosphere). PCB concentrations in sea bass (fish) have not changed much in recent years, although the levels are much lower than decades ago.

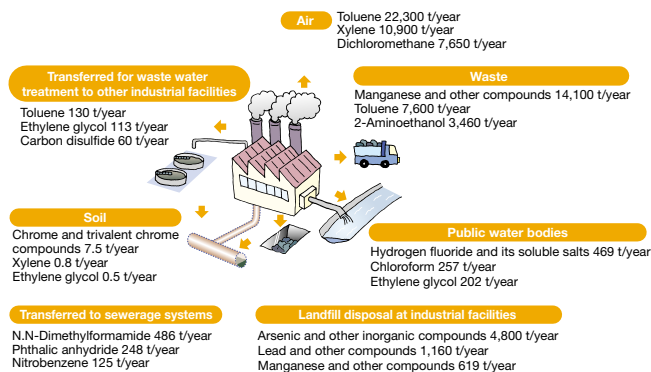
Implementation of the PRTR Law and the Chemical Substances Control Law

Under PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) system, companies are required to estimate the volume of hazardous chemicals released to the environment and transferred outside as wastes. Those data are then compiled and published by government authorities. Japan's PRTR system came into effect in FY2001, based on the Law Concerning Reporting etc. of Releases to the Environment of Specific Chemical Substances and Promoting Improvements in Their Management (PRTR Law).

In addition, based on the Law Concerning the Examination and Regulation of Manufacture, etc. of Chemical Substances (Chemical Substances Control Law), the government evaluates the safety of new chemicals which has not yet been manufactured or imported in Japan, and controls their manufacture, import and use if necessary.

Endocrine Disrupters

The term "endocrine disrupters" refers to exogenous substances which interfere with the normal function of hormones when taken into the body. Such disruption can lead to feminization, population declines and physical deformities in some species. Studies and research are currently being carried out around the world to verify whether endocrine disrupters influence the health of humans and wildlife and to find ways to identify specific chemicals that cause hormonal disruption. The Ministry of the Environment has been participating in international joint research projects and hosting international symposiums on this issue. Also in 2000, the ministry initiated a three-year project to carry out environmental risk assessments of over 40 chemicals.



Results of FY 2000 PRTR Pilot Project (The Environment Agency asked approx. 16,000 industrial facilities in 30 areas of Japan to submit reports on their discharges/emissions and waste transfers for 354 substances.)

International trends in chemical pollution control (POPs Convention)

POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) are hazardous chemicals, such as PCBs, DDT and dioxins, that do not readily degrade and that tend to accumulate in living organisms. High concentration of these chemicals can be found in humans, seals and even whales living in polar regions where these chemicals are not used. To prevent this kind of global-scale environmental pollution, the Stockholm Convention on POPs was adopted in May 2001 that requires the parties to ban the production and use of certain POPs, reduce their releases and facilitate certain environmentally-sound disposal. Significant effect are being made in Japan to join the convention as soon as possible.

Organism	Place	Effects	Presumed causative agent	
Shellfish	Ibonishi	Coastal areas of Japan	Masculinization, depopulation	Organotin compound
Fish	Rainbow trout	Rivers in U.K.	Masculinization, depopulation	Nonylphenol, animal-source female hormones *inconclusive
	Roach (a type of carp)	Rivers in U.K.	Hermaphroditism	
Reptiles	Crocodile	Lakes in Florida, U.S.A.	Hyperplasia of thyroid gland, depopulation	Unknown
Birds	Seagull	Five Lakes in U.S.A.	Feminization, thyroid gland tumors	DDT, PCBs *inconclusive
	Tern	Lake Michigan in U.S.A.	Reduced egg hatchability	
Mammals	Seal	Holland	Depopulation, weakened immunity	PCBs
	White dolphin	Canada	Depopulation, weakened immunity	
	Puma	U.S.A.	Stopped testicular secretion, reduced sperm counts	
	Sheep	Australia (1940s)	Frequent stillbirths, deformities	

Note: References from "Research Group Interim Report Regarding the Problems of Exogenous Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals" and "Chemicals and Ecotoxicity" (by Meiko Wakabayashi)

Compensation for Pollution-Related Health Damage

Prevention of and Compensation for Pollution-Related Health Damage

During its decades of rapid economic growth, Japan experienced severe cases of pollution-related diseases, such as Minamata Disease, Itai-itai Disease and Yokkaichi Asthma. To give relief to people whose health is damaged as a result of environmental pollution, the ministry administers a program in which compensation is paid to pollution victims by the polluters, in accordance with the Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation Law (or the Compensation Law, for short). At the same time, the government carries out projects aimed at early prevention of pollution-related health damage.

Minamata Disease

Minamata Disease was discovered around Minamata Bay in Kumamoto Prefecture in 1956 and around the Agano River in Niigata Prefecture in 1965. The condition, which affects the central nervous system, is caused by eating large amounts of fish and shellfish that have been polluted by methyl mercury discharged from chemical factories.

The corporations responsible for the pollution have paid compensation to the people certified to have suffered from the disease according to criteria based on the Compensation Law. In a Cabinet meeting after the political settlement to the issue in 1995, a "Statement of the Prime Minister on the Settlement of the Minamata Disease Issue" was released, and the national government and Kumamoto prefectural government jointly pledged to launch the comprehensive Minamata Disease medical care project and various other projects. The Ministry of the Environment has been making every effort to utilize Japan's experience of Minamata Disease for the pollution prevention on an international basis.



Seminar aimed at sharing the lessons and experience of Minamata disease (March 2001 in Vietnam)

Minister's Secretariat

Personnel Division

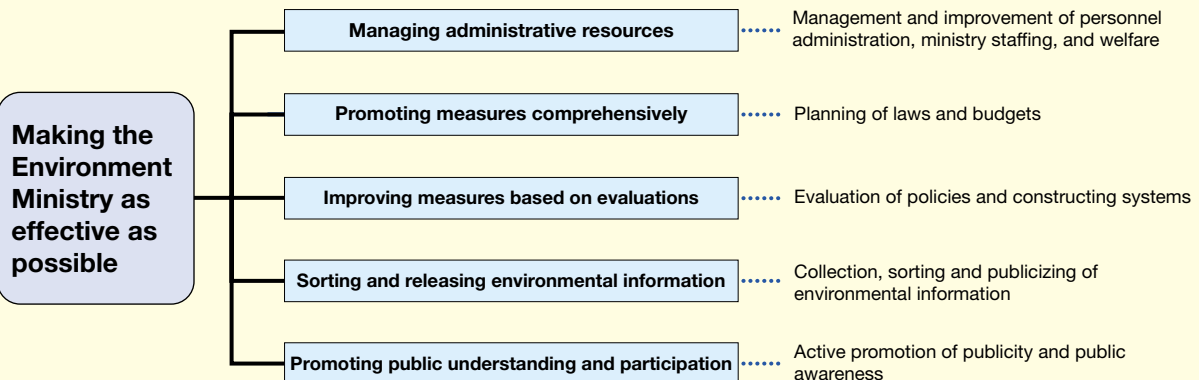
General Affairs Division

Budget and Accounts Division

Policy Coordination/
Evaluation and Public Relations Division

Smooth promotion of environmental management

The Minister's Secretariat is responsible for the general coordination of ministry affairs relating to personnel, laws and budgets. It also leads efforts on drafting environmental measures, makes policy evaluations, conducts publicity and collects environmental information. Through all these efforts, the Minister's Secretariat works to ensure that the Ministry of the Environment fulfills its duties as effectively as possible.



Promotion of Better Environmental Administration

The Minister's Secretariat comprehensively plans and drafts its measures in order to maintain consistency in all its environmental management policies and systems, and to ensure the availability of sufficient resources such as personnel and funding.

Making active use of policy evaluation processes introduced as a reform measure to all national government ministries, the secretariat is striving to provide a high-quality citizen-oriented administration.

Collection, Sorting and Publicizing Environmental Information

Through the investigations and collected information of a network of local environmental affairs officers and environmental monitors, the Minister's Secretariat closely monitors environmental issues and environmental conservation activities throughout Japan, as well as the environmental policies of local governments. It also listens actively to the views of citizens on environmental problems.

The Ministry of the Environment publishes its collected information on the Internet and through other media.

Active Promotion of Publicity Activities

Environmental problems can only be solved if all individual citizens develop a deeper understanding of environmental conservation and then reflect this in their concrete actions. Recognizing this, the Ministry of the Environment carries out publicity activities throughout the year, making use of various media.

The ministry also organizes events such as Environment Month, Global Warming Prevention Month and a broad range of other activities designed to inform and educate citizens about environmental problems.

Environment Day and Environment Month

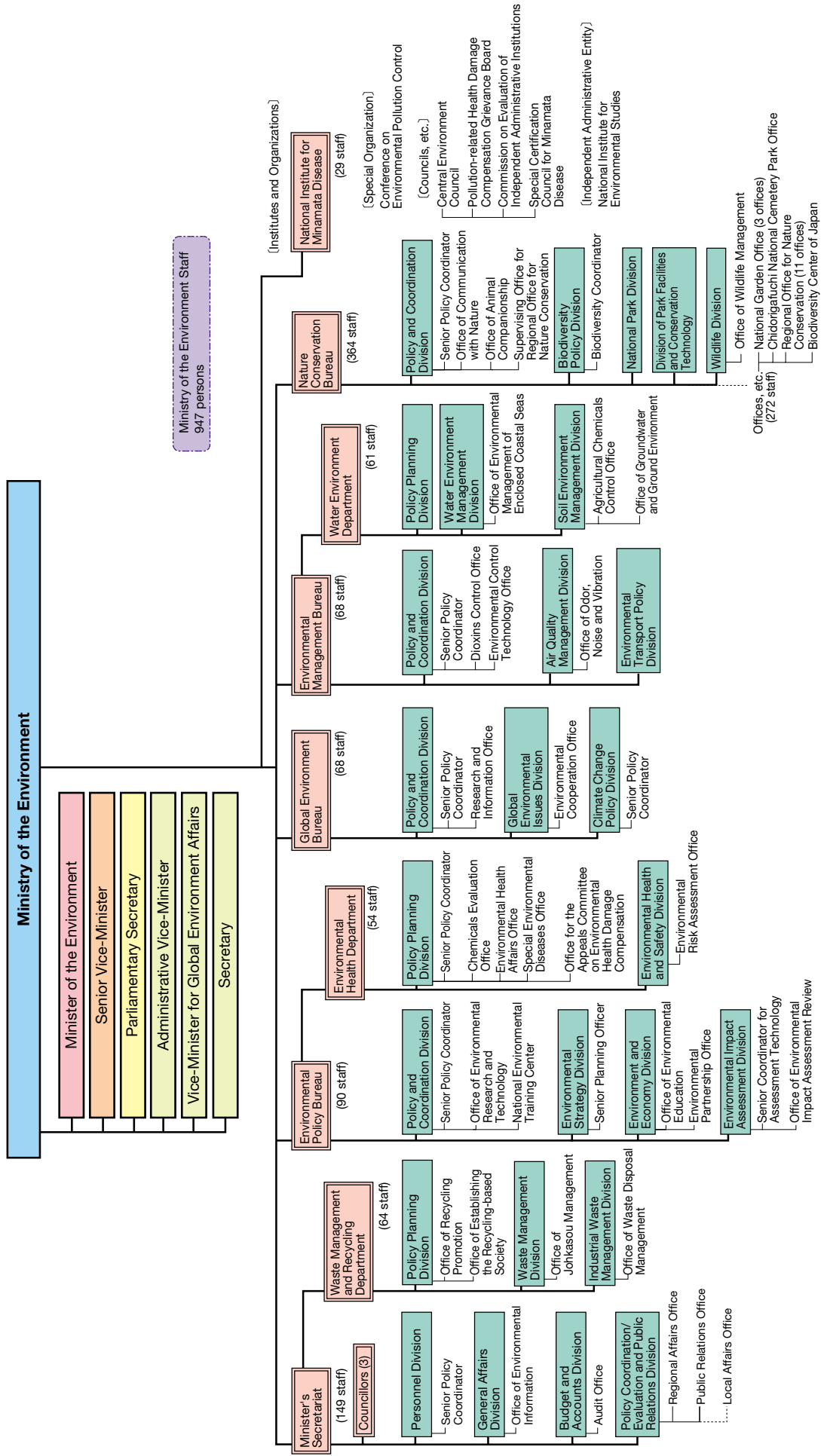
The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm 1972, over the two weeks from June 5. It was here that the Declaration on the Human Environment was adopted, setting universal targets for protecting and improving the environment for current and future generations of human beings, and expressing a determination to realize these aims.

To commemorate this conference, the United Nations designated June 5 as World Environment Day. Today, a wide variety of environment-related events are organized in many countries around the world. Japan too has designated June 5 as Environment Day, in accordance with the Basic Environment Law. Furthermore, the whole month of June has been designated as Environment Month. Each year during June many events are held throughout Japan to promote awareness of environmental conservation and active participation in environmental issues.



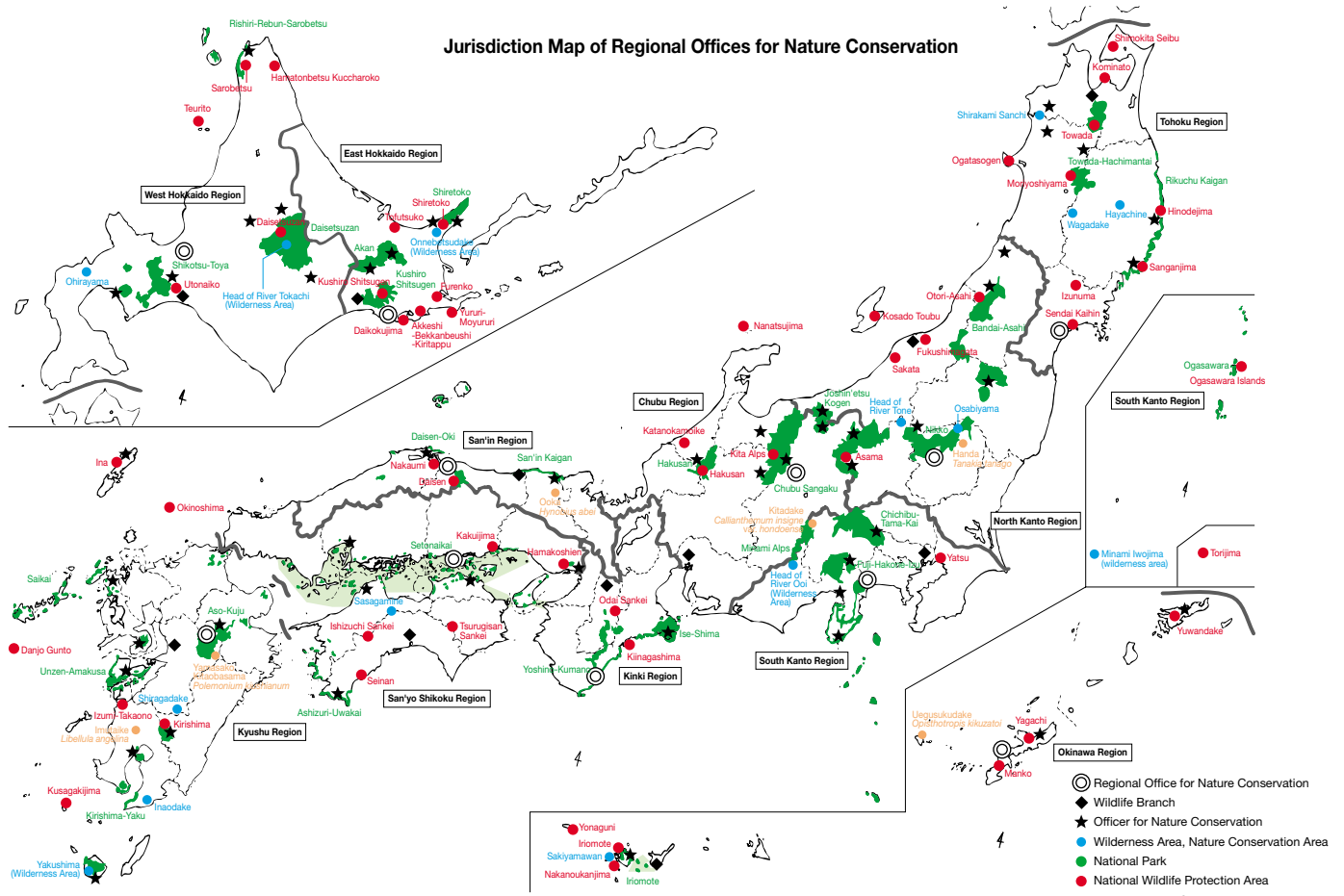
Organization of the Ministry of the Environment

Organization Chart (as of the end of FY2001)



National Parks, Nature Conservation Areas and Regional Offices for Nature Conservation

Location Map of National Parks, Wilderness Areas, Nature Conservation Areas, National Wildlife Protection Areas and Natural Habitat Conservation Areas



List of Regional Office for Nature Conservation, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Garden Office (3) Outer Gardens of the Imperial Palace Office Kitanomaru Branch Kyoto Gyoen National Garden Office Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden Office 	1-1 Kokyo-gaien, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0002 1-1 Kitanomaru-koen, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0091 3 Kyoto-gyoen, Kamigyō-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 602-0881 11 Naitocho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0014	03-3213-0095 03-3211-7878 075-211-6348 03-3350-0151
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Cemetery Park Office (1) Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery Park Office 	2 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075	03-3262-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Office for Nature Conservation (11) East Hokkaido Regional Office for Nature Conservation West Hokkaido Regional Office for Nature Conservation Tohoku Regional Office for Nature Conservation North Kanto Regional Office for Nature Conservation South Kanto Regional Office for Nature Conservation Chubu Regional Office for Nature Conservation Kinki Regional Office for Nature Conservation San'in Regional Office for Nature Conservation San'yo-Shikoku Regional Office for Nature Conservation Kyushu Regional Office for Nature Conservation Okinawa Regional Office for Nature Conservation 	Kushiro-chiho Godochosha, 10-3 Saiwai-cho, Kushiro-shi, Hokkaido 085-8639 Sapporo No. 2 Godochosha, Nishi 10, Odori, Chuo-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 060-0042 Sendai No. 2 Godochosha, 3-2-23 Honcho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi Prefecture 980-8795 9-5 Honmachi, Nikko-shi, Tochigi Prefecture 321-1434 164 Kyufudaba Motohakone, Hakone-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture 250-0522 124-7 Azumimura, Minamiazumi-gun, Nagano Prefecture 390-1501 2-4-20 Midorigaoka, Shingu-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 647-0043 Yonago-chiho Godochosha, 124-16 Higashi-machi, Yonago-shi, Tottori Prefecture 683-0067 Meijiseimei Okayama Kuwata-cho Bldg., 18-28 Kuwata-cho, Okayama-shi, Okayama Prefecture 700-0984 1180 Ooaza-kurokawa, Aso-machi, Aso-gun, Kumamoto Prefecture 869-2225 4F, Okinawa Tsukansha Bldg., 5-21 Yamashitacho, Naha-shi, Okinawa Prefecture 900-0027	0154-32-7500 011-272-1631 022-722-2870 0288-54-1076 0460-4-8727 0263-94-2024 0735-22-0342 0859-34-9331 086-223-1577 0967-34-0254 098-858-5824
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Center of Japan 	5597-1 Kenmarubi, Kamiyoshida, Fujiyoshida-shi, Yamanashi Prefecture 403-0005	0555-72-6031

Organizations devoted to environmental conservation

National Institute for Environmental Studies



16-2 Onogawa, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-8506
 Tel: 0298-50-2318/2310
 URL: <http://www.nies.go.jp/index-j.html>

Environmental Research for the 21st century

Outline of the National Institute for Environmental Studies

National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) was launched in March 1974 as Japan's central organization for environmental pollution research. In July 1990, NIES was totally reorganized in order to tackle a wider range of research demands, including global and natural environment issues.

Researcher's specialities cover a vast range of disciplines, including basic science, engineering, agricultural science, medical science, pharmacology, fisheries science and economics. NIES takes an interdisciplinary approach to research, with participation of researchers both from Japan and overseas. Comprehensive research projects are carried out using large-scale facilities, combining field research with laboratory work. Since April 2001 NIES has operated as an independent administrative entity, i.e. it is no longer a purely governmental organization.



A bird's-eye view of the National Institute for Environmental Studies campus

Aims of Environmental Studies

The environmental problems that need to be tackled in the 21st century are diverse and complex. Some global environmental problems even threaten the very survival of human beings – like global warming and ozone layer destruction; biological contamination by hazardous chemical pollutants such as dioxins and endocrine disruptors; and waste treatment and recycling. To solve these problems, it is essential to accumulate and make available solid scientific knowledge about these issues. That is why environmental research is so important.

Promotion of Environmental Studies

NIES will undertake higher quality research projects, making use of the greater flexibility and efficiency that operating as an independent administrative institution allows, in accordance with our five-year work plans for achieving the medium-term objectives set by the Ministry of the Environment. NIES will seek to achieve tangible accomplishments in important areas of research, through priority-based budget allocations and efficient utilization of personnel. These areas include six special high-priority research projects concerning the most socially urgent environmental research issues, as well as two areas of research involving policy responses to new environmental administration needs.

Six Special Priority Research Projects and Two Policy Response Research Initiatives

Six Research Projects

- 1) Climate Change Research Project
- 2) Ozone Layer Research Project
- 3) Endocrine Disruptors & Dioxin Research Project

Two Research Initiatives

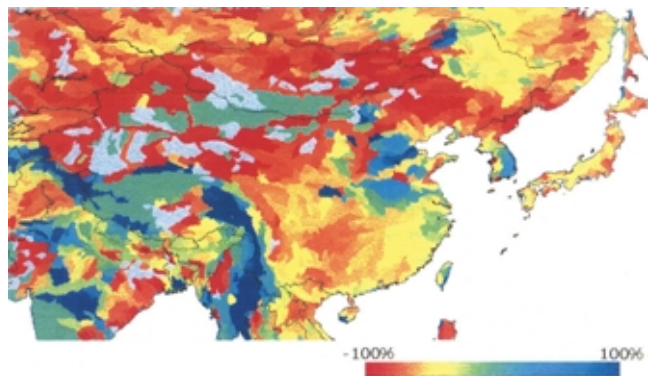
- 1) Research Center for Material Cycles and Waste Management

- 4) Biodiversity Conservation Research Project

- 5) Watershed Environment and Management

- 6) PM2.5 & DEP Research Project

- 2) Research Center for Environmental Risks



Increased risk of water shortages caused by global warming (when average temperatures rise by 2°C)

Four Centers and Their Missions

NIES operates four special centers in addition to its research divisions.

[Environmental Information Center] Collection, processing and provision of information from Japan and overseas about environmental conservation. Publication of NIES Research Report, etc.

[Center for Global Environmental Research] Integration of global environmental research (a navigator for global environmental research), support for global environmental research (supercomputing, global environmental databases, etc.) and global environmental monitoring.

[Research Center for Material Cycles and Waste Management] Research involving policy responses to environmental conservation issues (focused on waste management and recycling).

[Research Center for Environmental Risk] Research involving policy responses to environmental conservation issues (focused on environmental risk of chemical substances).



Research on shallow-sea ecosystems

National Environmental Training Institute

3-3 Namiki, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama 359-0042

Tel: 042-994-9303

URL: <http://www.neti.env.go.jp>

Since it was established in March 1973 as a training institute for personnel involved in Environment Agency-related administration work, the National Environmental Training Institute has conducted courses on environmental administration for large numbers of national and local governmental officers involved in environmental work. In FY2000, the institute held 18 courses on

■ Training courses (FY2001)

Administration

- Basic environmental administration
- Regional environment, Basic Environment Plan
- Environmental education
- Environmental impact assessment
- Natural environment
- Wildlife protection
- Air and traffic environment
- Noise and vibration prevention
- Water quality environment
- Groundwater, subsoil and soil environment conservation
- Chemicals administration
- Environment Ministry staff
- Training for new Environment Ministry staff
- Nature protection officers
- Waste and recycling

Total of 20 courses

Laboratory analysis

- Instrument analysis
- Air quality analysis
- Water quality analysis
- Offensive odor analysis
- Specific instrument analysis
- Special analysis topics
- Environmental monitoring (dioxins)
- Waste analysis
- Monitoring
- VOCs analysis

Total of 13 courses

International cooperation

- Global environment conservation
- Global warming measures
- Trainers for overseas trainees
- Introduction to international environmental cooperation
- Cultivation of international environmental cooperation experts
- Experts in international cooperation on the environment (according to specialty)

Total of 8 courses

environmental administration, one course on policy formulation, seven on international cooperation as well as laboratory work. The courses were attended by a total of 1,380 persons.

● International Cooperation Wing (completed in FY1997)

The building includes many energy conservation features, such as solar power generation systems.



A total of over 31,000 persons have completed training courses up to now. Of these, approximately 70 percent were local government employees, 20 percent were national government employees, with the rest from public-service corporations. The institute also hosts trainees from overseas.

Some new training courses were added in FY2001 to reflect the latest developments in environmental administration, including five courses related to waste and recycling and a VOCs analysis course.

National Institute for Minamata Disease

4058-18 Hama, Minamata-shi, Kumamoto 867-0008

Tel: 0966-63-3111

URL: <http://www.nimd.go.jp>

The National Institute for Minamata Disease was established in 1978 (under the name "National Minamata Disease Research Center") to carry out medical studies on Minamata disease as part of efforts to promote measures to address this environmental issue. The institute was designated as a WHO Collaborating Center in 1986.

In 1996, a new department, the Department of International Affairs and Environmental Sciences, was added and the institute's name was changed to the current "National Institute for Minamata Disease." In 1997, the International Research Collaborating Facilities were opened to boost international cooperation by providing a base for joint research projects.

The institute established Minamata Disease Archives in 2001 to collect, store and analyze Minamata Disease-related materials

and information in order to make them readily available both within and outside Japan.

■ Major Research Areas:

● Department of International Affairs and Environmental Sciences

This department carries out planning and overall coordination of international studies and research on Minamata disease, as well as social and natural sciences studies relating to the disease. It also collects, compiles, and distributes materials on Minamata disease in Japan and overseas.

● Department of Clinical Medicine

This department carries out clinical investigations into topics such as the treatment of Minamata disease and conducts the medical examinations required for these studies.

● Department of Basic Medical Sciences

This department conducts pathological, biochemical and physiological studies to investigate the effects of mercury compounds on living organisms, the dynamics of mercury in the environment and the mechanisms of disorders caused by chemicals.

● Department of Epidemiology

This department conducts epidemiological research and studies on Minamata disease.



The logo features a stylized version of the Chinese character for "water," which is the character read as "Mina" in "Minamata." The colors represent the blue sea and greenery of the Minamata area, respectively.

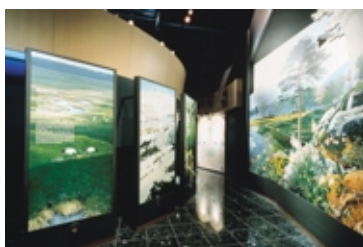
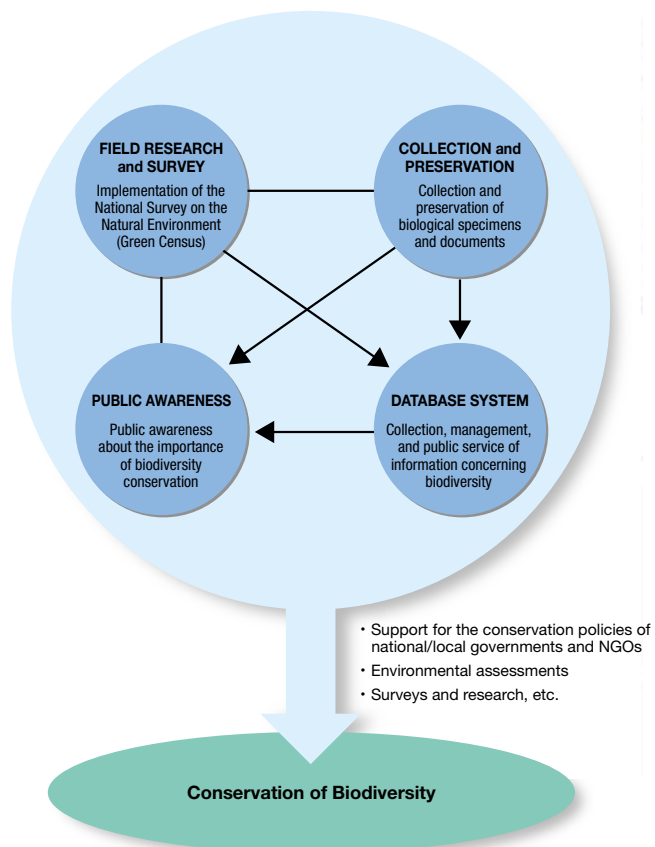


Biodiversity Center of Japan

5597-1 Kenmarubi, Kamiyoshida, Fujiyoshida-shi, Yamanashi 403-0005

Tel: 0555-72-6031 URL: <http://www.biodic.go.jp/>

As called for in the National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity, the Biodiversity Center of Japan was established in 1998 in Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture, under the former Environment Agency. Responsibilities of the center include: planning and implementation of the National Survey on the Natural Environment – formerly performed by the agency headquarters; digitization of the survey results; broad dissemination of information to the public, such as through the Internet; systematic collection and storage of specimens of fauna and flora; and management of exhibition rooms and a website on biodiversity conservation for educational purposes. Bringing these functions into full and synergic performance, the Biodiversity Center plays an important role as a clearinghouse for general information in the nation's natural environment and biodiversity, through such means as supporting the planning of conservation measures by the central and local governments and NGOs, and providing natural environment information for environmental impact assessments.



Exhibition room: Presentations that explain biological diversity in an easy-to-understand and enjoyable way.



External view of the Biodiversity Center of Japan

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

1560-39 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama-machi, Miura-gun, Kanagawa 240-01948

Tel: 0468-55-3700 URL: <http://www.iges.or.jp>

Kita Kyushu Office: 093-513-3711 Tokyo Office: 03-3595-1081

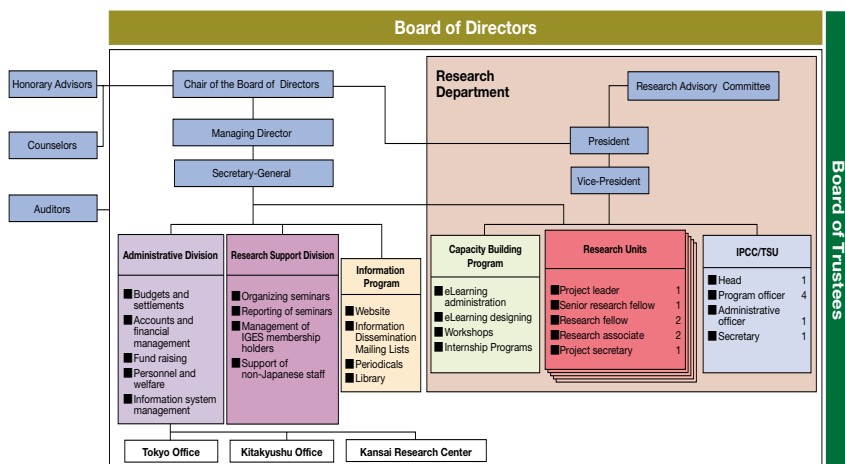
The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) undertakes practical policy research concerning the creation of innovative policy measures for sustainable development and strategies for addressing environmental problems. IGES hopes to see the results of its research reflected in the policy-making of national and local governments (around the world) and in the actions of companies, NGOs and citizens, to help effect a transition to sustainable economic development, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. IGES has also set up a technical support unit for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a contribution to finding a solution to global warming.

Four functions

IGES has four functions: to implement strategic research, to apply relevant research, to develop human resources for global environmental issues, and to serve as an information center on global environmental problems.



4 functions of IGES



Organization of IGES

Global Environment Information Centre

United Nations University, 1F, 5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925
 Tel: 03-3407-8107 URL: <http://www.geic.or.jp/geic>
 Closed: Sundays, Mondays, national holidays and sorting days (generally 4th Friday of the month)

The Global Environment Information Centre, which was set up by the Environment Agency in 1996, implements the following projects:

To understand the environment and to learn about different environmental initiatives

■ Environment library

Collecting books on the environment and making available the latest information on the activities of NGOs and corporations

■ Multimedia environmental presentations

Offering environment-related information via the Internet and fax newsletters

■ Exhibitions

Reporting on the current state of the environment and various environmental protection activities



Promoting participation and action

■ Providing "venues for activities" to citizens

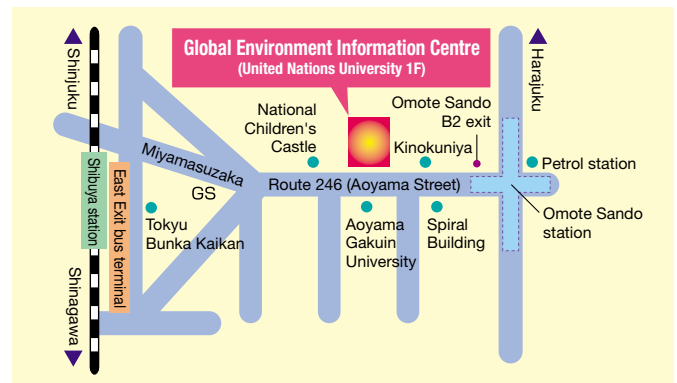
Offering free use of conference rooms, as venues for study meetings or social events, as well as printers and other facilities

■ Environmental counselling

Giving advice on environmental study and NGO and volunteer activities

■ Network formation

Organizing exchange meetings between NGOs or between NGOs and companies, and communicating with environmental information centers throughout Japan



Japan Center for Climate Change Actions (JCCCA)

5-53-67 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

Tel: 03-3406-5010 URL: <http://www.jccca.org/>

JCCCA was established in July 1999 pursuant to "Law Concerning the Promotion of the Measures to Cope with Global Warming" that was brought into force in April 1999, for the purpose of disseminating information on measures and actions for reducing GHG emission.

■ Management System

The steering committee, consisting of representatives of NGOs, industries and local governments, decides center's projects and budget.

■ Activities

● Information Database and Library

JCCCA collects, analyzes and provides information and materials on scientific mechanism, policy measures and activities around the world concerning climate change.

● Lifestyle Change

JCCCA facilitates to change our lifestyle which leads to less GHG emission.

● Education and Publicity

JCCCA carries out educational programs and public relations activities in order to disseminate the information on the state of climate change and the importance of activities for less GHG emission.

● Networking with Prefectural Centers for Climate Change Actions

JCCCA supports local activities in collaboration with prefectural centers for promotion of activities to cope with climate change.

● Research

JCCCA researches the state of climate change and problems caused by climate change.



Japan Environment Corporation

Nittochi Bldg. 1-4-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013

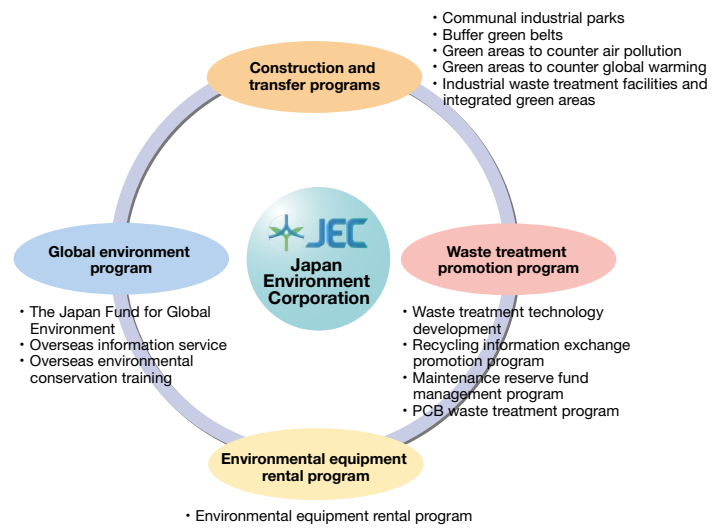
Tel: 03-5251-1017 URL: <http://www.jec.go.jp/>

The Japan Environment Corporation was established in 1965 (as the "Pollution Control Service Corporation") as part of efforts to address the serious pollution problems that emerged in the 1950s. It was set up as a specialist national institution to support environmental conservation measures. The corporation has implemented environmental conservation programs throughout Japan to meet the needs of society. Through its work it has played a leading role in this field.

The corporation continues working to find solutions to the global-scale environmental problems of today and to promote the creation of a recycling-based society that does not burden the



Fukushima (Futaba) district-specified industrial waste treatment facility



environment. As a professional environmental conservation body, it provides funds and technical support to local governments and corporations for the construction of zero-emissions industrial areas, industrial waste treatment facilities, and green areas to counter global warming. It also assists in the environmental conservation activities of NGOs.

Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation and Prevention Association

4-1-4 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032

Tel: 03-3586-1156 URL: <http://www.kouken.or.jp/>

The Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation and Prevention Association was established in 1974, under the name "Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation Association." The aim of the association is to assist people who suffer from health problems caused by air pollution or water pollution. This is done by collecting money from the companies responsible for pollution, e.g. factory or industrial facility, to pay for pollution victims as compensation for medical expenses and as disability benefits. The collected money is entrusted to prefectural governments for distribution.



Since the association was established, the nature of environmental problems has changed. For example, air pollution has improved significantly over the years. In this view, in March 1988, the Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation System was revised. Now, in addition to securing funds to pay compensation to individual victims of pollution-related health problems, the association finances and manages various pollution-related health damage prevention program. These projects include measures to complement national and local government efforts to prevent recurrence of previous health



damage caused by air pollution; to improve environmental air quality; and to protect or restore the health of people living near pollution-affected areas.

List of Public Service Corporations under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Environment

Public Service Corporations (selected)

(As of April 2001)

Name of the corporation	Address of the main office	Telephone number
<Under supervision of the Minister's Secretariat>		
Environmental Information Center	8F, Office Toranomon1Bldg., 1-5-8 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001	03-3595-3992
Earth, Water and Green Foundation	6F, Nishi-shinbashi YK Bldg., 1-17-4 Nishi-shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003	03-3503-7743
<Under supervision of the Waste Management and Recycling Department>		
Ecological Life and Culture Organization (ELCO)	6F, Sunrise Yamanishi Bldg., 1-20-10 Nishi-shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003	03-5511-7331
Japan Environmental Sanitation Center	10-6 Yotsuya-kamicho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture 210-0828	044-288-4896
The National Federation of Industrial Waste Management Associations	4F, Daini-AB Bldg., 3-1-17 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032	03-3224-0811
Japan Industrial Waste Technology Center	2F, Nihonbashi Koa Bldg., 2-8-4 Nihonbashi-horidomecho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0012	03-3668-6511
Japan Industrial Waste Management Foundation	Sakura Shinbashi Bldg., 2-6-1 Shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0004	03-3500-0271
All Japan Private Sewerage Treatment Association	7F, Tokyo Yofuku Kaikan, 13 Ichigaya-hachimancho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0844	03-3267-9757
Japan Education Center of Environmental Sanitation	2-23-3 Kikukawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo 130-0024	03-3635-4880
Waste Water Treatment Equipment Engineer Center	Kojimachi 4-chome Bldg., 4-3 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083	03-3237-6591
Japan Sewage Works Association	1F, Nihon Bldg., 2-6-2 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004	03-5200-0811
Japan Waste Management Association	7F, IPB Ochanomizu, 3-3-11 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033	03-5804-6281
Japan Sewage Treatment Plant Operation and Maintenance Association, INC.	5F, Sakura Bldg., 1-3-3 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047	03-5281-9291
Japan Waste Research Foundation	4F, Kagurazaka 1-chome Bldg., 1-15 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0825	03-5261-9391
Japan Environmental Facilities Manufacturers Association	6F, Nihonbashi Koa Bldg., 2-8-4 Nihonbashi-horidomecho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0012	03-3668-1881
Japan Pest Control Association	4F, Kanda Higashiguchi Kyodo Bldg., 3-3-4 Kanda-kajicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0045	03-5207-6321
Japan Waste Management Consultant Association	506, Tokyo Sakurada Bldg., 1-1-3 Nishi-shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003	03-3593-6736
Japan Container and Package Recycling Association	Yusei Gojokai Kotohira Bldg., 1-14-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001	03-5532-8597
<Under supervision of the Environmental Policy Bureau>		
Hitachi Environment Foundation	c/o Hitachi, Ltd., Shinmaru Bldg., 1-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8220	03-3212-2747
Japan Environment Association	7F, Toranomon Takagi Bldg., 1-7-2 Nishi-shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003	03-3508-2651
Global Environmental Forum	1-9-7 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0041	03-5561-9735
Japan Groundwork Association	2F, Daiichi Tomo Bldg., 1-12-10 Hamamatsucho, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0013	03-3435-1421
Japan Ecology Foundation	7F, Akasaka Tokyo Plaza, 2-14-3 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0014	03-5521-1771
Center for the Redevelopment of Pollution-damaged Areas in JAPAN	4F, Sanyo Bldg., 1-1-1 Chibune, Nishi-yodogawa-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 555-0013	06-6475-8885
Center for Environmental Information Science	Tourant 88 Bldg., 4-7-24 Kudan-minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0074	03-3265-3916
Interdisciplinary Research Institute of Environmental Sciences	9F, Daiichi Bldg., 9-1 Tawara-honmachi, Atami-shi, Shizuoka Prefecture 413-0011	0557-84-2388
Japan Association of Environment Assessment	2F, Nichigetsukan Kojimachi Bldg., 1-3-7 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083	03-3230-3583
<Under supervision of the Global Environment Bureau>		
The Defense of Green Earth Foundation	B1, Bajichikusan Kaikan, 1-2 Kanda-surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062	03-3233-3376
AEON Group Environment Foundation	1-5-1 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba Prefecture 261-8515	043-212-6022
Global Environment Center Foundation	2-110 Ryokuchikoen, Tsurumi-ku, Osaka-shi 538-0036	06-6915-4121
Green Cross Japan Foundation	2F, Uchida Bldg., 6-4-5 Shimo-ochiai, Saitama-shi, Saitama Prefecture 338-0002	048-854-4665
Yasudakasai Environment Foundation	1-26-1 Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8338	03-3349-3204
Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan	7F, Shibakoen Annex Bldg., 3-1-8 Shibakoen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011	03-5472-0144
Association of International Research Initiatives for Environmental Studies (AIRIES)	4F, Urban Shibakoen, 3-1-13 Shibakoen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011	03-3432-1844
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	1560-39 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa Prefecture 240-0198	0468-55-3700
Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center	6F, Tower III, 5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama-shi, Toyama Prefecture 930-0856	076-445-1571
<Under supervision of the Environmental Management Bureau>		
Japan Society for Atmospheric Environment	4F, Koei Bldg., 1-29-8 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022	03-3341-5632
Odor Research and Engineering Association of Japan	3F, Kakuchi Bldg., 2-25-5 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033	03-3811-9854

●Public Service Corporations (selected)

Name of the corporation	Address of the main office	Telephone number
Institute of Noise Control Engineering of Japan	3-20-41 Higashi-motomachi, Kokubunji-shi, Tokyo 185-0022	042-325-1652
Japan Environmental Measurement and Chemical Analysis Association	Hanabusa Bldg., 1-9-8 Irifune, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0042	03-3553-7207
National Association for Promotion of Environmental Conservation	2F, Taisei Bldg., 3-14-10 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033	03-5684-5730
<Under supervision of the Water Environment Department>		
Japan Water Cleanup Association	102 Rex Yushima, 2-31-10 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0034	03-3818-3653
Kurita Water and Environment Foundation	3-4-7 Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8383	03-3347-3121
Marine Ecology Research Institute	5F, Teikokushoin Bldg., 3-29 Kanda-jimbocho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051	03-5210-5961
Japan Society on Water Environment	201 Green Plaza Fukagawa Tokiwa, 2-9-7 Tokiwa, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0006	03-3632-5351
International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC)	1091 Oroshimocho, Kusatsu-shi, Shiga Prefecture 525-0001	077-568-4567
Japan Environmental Technology Association	6F, Toranomon KT Bldg., 5-11 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001	03-3431-5462
Seto Inland Sea Environment Conservation Association	3F, IHD Center, 1-5-1 Wakihama-kaigandori, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo Prefecture 651-0073	078-241-7720
International Center for Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (International EMECS Center)	3F, IHD Center, 1-5-1 Wakihama-kaigandori, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo Prefecture 651-0073	078-252-0234
Geo-environmental Protection Center	7F, 4-2 Koujimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083	03-5215-5955
<Under supervision of the Nature Conservation Bureau>		
The Garden Society of Japan	301 Fukuda Bldg., 1-6-3 Nishi-waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051	03-3204-0595
National Parks Association of Japan	4F, Toranomon Denki Bldg., 2-8-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001	03-3502-0488
Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	6F, Odakyu Minami-Aoyama Bldg., 7-8-1 Minami-aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062	03-3409-1821
Japan Animal Welfare Society	Daigo-Yazawa Bldg., 3-1-38 Motoazabu, Minato-ku Tokyo 106-0046	03-3405-5681
Chidorigafuchi Senbotsusha Boen Hoshikai	2 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075	03-3261-6700
Japan Geothermal Energy Association (JGEA)	7F, Shinkawa Ohara Bldg., 1-27-8 Shinkawa, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0033	03-5541-8273
Oze Kinrosha Kyuka Center	329 Tokura, Katashina-mura, Tone-gun, Gunma Prefecture 378-0411	0278-58-7511
Japan Sports Fishing Association	3F, JSC Bldg., 2-22-8 Hacchobori, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0032	03-3555-3232
The Sanwa Midori Fund	2F, Sanwa Bank Tokyo Bldg., 1-1-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004	03-5252-1111
The Alpine Guide Society of Japan	105 Maison Yoyogi, 2-39-7 Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0053	03-3379-4183
The Tokai Foundation	3-21-24 Nishiki, Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi Prefecture 460-0003	052-211-0909
Greenery by Golfer's Group	5F, Daini Watanabe Bldg., 1-7-3 Higashi-azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044	03-3584-2838
Japan Wildlife Research Center	3-10-10 Shitaya, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8676	03-5824-0960
Japan Pet Care Association	2F, Kondo Bldg., 3-6 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0825	03-3235-7855
Japanese Society of Humane Care of Animals	23F, Shin-aoyama Bldg. West, 1-1-1 Minami-aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062	03-3475-1695
National Garden's Preservation Association	1-1 Kokyo-gaien, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0002	03-3211-7648
Japan Walking Association	2F, Daini-ryumeikan Bldg., 3-20 Kanda-ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8368	03-3295-1002
The Foundation for Earth Environment	2F, Miyao Bldg., 52-5 Ichigaya-yakuojimachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0063	03-5369-4821
Nagao Natural Environment Foundation	3-10-10 Shitaya, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8676	03-5824-0771
Hino Green Fund	3-1-1 Hinodai, Hino-shi, Tokyo 191-0012	042-586-5369
The Association of National Trusts in Japan	3F, Takaseki Bldg., 1-12-6 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0034	03-5817-7541
Pro Natura Foundation (Japan)	2F, Shoto Annex, 1-25-8 Shoto, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0046	03-5454-1789
The Japan Environmental Education Forum	4F, Twins Shinjuku Bldg., 5-10-15 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022	03-3350-6770
Totoro Fund	101 Taisei-koporasu, 4-20-2 Kotesashicho, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama Prefecture 359-1141	042-947-6047
Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J)	3F, Yamaji Sanbancho Bldg., 5-24 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075	03-3265-0521
Marine Park Center of Japan	7F, Sanko Mori Bldg., 1-3-1 Atago, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0002	03-3459-4605
Ecosystem Conservation Society-Japan	3F, RJ Plaza, 2-30-20 Nishi-ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-0021	03-5951-0244
Towadako Kokuritsukoen Kyokai	16 Aza-towada, Ooaza-Okuse, Towadako-machi, Kamikita-gun, Aomori Prefecture 018-5501	0176-75-2425
Natural Parks Beautification and Management Foundation	8F, New Nishi-shinbashi Bldg., 2-11-6 Nishi-shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003	03-3592-1171

● Public Service Corporations (selected)




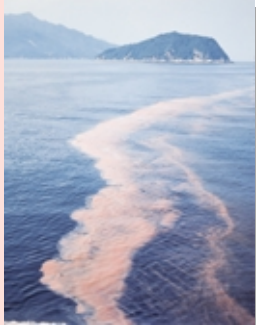
(As of April 2001)


Name of the corporation	Address of the main office	Telephone number
Nature Conservation Fund for Honshu-Shikoku Bridges and Their Environs	705 Akasaka Omotemachi Bldg., 4-8-19 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052	03-3408-4021
Oze Preservation Foundation	1-1-1, Otemachi, Maebashi-shi, Gunma Prefecture 371-8570	027-220-4431
Japan Spa Association	8F, Kokusai Kanko Kaikan, 1-8-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005	03-3231-1640
Hot Spring Research Center	3-42-10 Takada, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-0033	03-3987-0751
National Park Resort Villages of Japan	10F, Sumitomo Fudosan Ueno Bldg. No. 6, 5-24-8 Higashi-ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8601	03-3845-8651
Kokumin Shukusha Kyokai	5F, Seiko Toranomon Bldg., 1-8-10 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001	03-3581-5310
Japan Hunter's Association	3-2-11 Kudan-kita, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0073	03-3234-8080
All Japan Hunting Club	3F, Yoneyama Bldg., 1-19-15 Sugamo, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170-0002	03-3944-2681
Japanese Society for Preservation of Birds	3F, No. 10 Tanaka Bldg., 3-54-5 Wada, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166-0012	03-5378-5691
The Mt. Fuji Natural Zoological Park Association	2-14, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083	03-3341-2291
Wild Bird Society of Japan	1F, Odakyu Nishi-shinjuku Bldg., 1-47-1 Hatsudai, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0061	03-5358-3513
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Japan)	6F, Nihon Seimei Akabanebashi Bldg., 3-1-14 Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0014	03-3769-1711
Yamashina Institute for Ornithology	115 Konoyama, Abiko-shi, Chiba Prefecture 270-1145	0471-82-1101

● Charitable Trust (selected)

Name of the corporation	Address of the main office	Telephone number
Takara Harmonist Fund	Fukushishintaku Team, Consulting-bu, The Yasuda Trust & Banking Co., Ltd., 1-2-1 Yaesu, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8670	03-3274-9210
The Charitable Trust Taisei Corporation Natural and Historical Environment Fund	Fukushishintaku Team, Consulting-bu, The Yasuda Trust & Banking Co., Ltd., 1-2-1 Yaesu, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8670	03-3274-9210
Espec Foundation for Earth Environmental Research and Technologies(Charitable Trust)	Eigyo-daiikka, Hojineigyo-bu, Osaka Branch, The Yasuda Trust & Banking Co., Ltd., 3-7-12 Kitahama, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 541-0041	06-6202-1239

History of Environmental Administration

	Environmental trends in Japan	Social background
Dawn of pollution control and protection of nature	1880s Ashio copper mine pollution incident, Besshi copper mine smoke pollution incident	 <p>Ashio copper mine in the 1870s (photo courtesy of Ashio Town)</p>
	1895 Hunting Law is enacted.	
	1897 Forest reserve system is introduced. (Forest Law is enacted.)	
	1911 Factory Law is enacted.	
Addressing serious pollution problems during the rapid-growth phase of the Japanese economy	 <p>Chisso Minamata plant in the 1960s (photo courtesy of Minamata City)</p>	<p>1945 The Pacific War ends. Economy White Paper, "The Post-war is Over!"</p> <p>1964 Tokyo Olympics</p>  <p>First edition of "Silent Spring," the book that first raised the alarm about the threat of chemicals in the environment</p>
	1931 National parks system is introduced.	
	1957 Natural Park Law is enacted.	
	1950s & 1960s Increasingly serious pollution problems throughout the country, most notably the "four major pollution outbreaks" (Minamata disease, Niigata Minamata disease, chronic cadmium poisoning and Yokkaichi asthma)	
	1958 Water Quality Conservation Law and Factory Effluent Control Law are enacted.	
	1962 The Law Concerning Controls on the Emission of Smoke and Soot is enacted.	
	1962 "Silent Spring" (by Rachel Carson) is published.	
	1967 Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control is enacted (establishing environmental quality standards, developing regional environmental pollution control programs, etc.).	
	1968 Air Pollution Control Law and Noise Regulation Law are enacted.	
	1968 Kanemi Yusho PCB pollution outbreaks occur.	
Improving and strengthening pollution control and natural conservation management	1970 Pollution Countermeasures Headquarters is set up. Diet session on pollution is held. (14 pollution-related laws are approved.)	1970 Osaka EXPO
	1971 Environmental Agency is established.	 <p>Red tide around Shodo Island in the Seto Inland Sea (photo by Masami Esaka, courtesy of Bon Color)</p>
	1971 Offensive Odor Control Law is enacted.	
	1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment is held in Stockholm and the Declaration on the Human Environment is adopted.	
	1972 The Club of Rome releases "The Limits to Growth."	
	1972 Nature Conservation Law is enacted.	
	1973 Pollution-related Health Damage Compensation Law is enacted.	
	1976 Vibration Regulation Law is enacted.	
	1978 Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea is enacted.	
	1973 Oil shock	

	Environmental trends in Japan	Social background	
Recognizing the importance of addressing global environmental problems	1980	1985 Tsukuba EXPO, start of the "bubble boom," Japan's per-capita GNP is world's highest.	
			Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat) goes into effect in Japan.
			Washington Convention (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) goes into effect in Japan.
			London Convention (Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter) goes into effect in Japan.
	1987		Brundtland Commission announces its report, "Our Common Future," in Tokyo and the concept of sustainable development is proposed in the report.
	1988		Law Concerning the Protection of the Ozone Layer through the Regulation of Specified Substances and Other Measures is enacted.
	1989		Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer go into effect in Japan.
	1989		Council of Ministers for Global Environment Conservation is set up.
	1989		The Director-General of the Environment Agency is appointed as a minister of state in charge of global environmental problems.
	1990		Action Program to Arrest Global Warming is decided.
	1991		Law for Promotion of Utilization of Recyclable Resources is enacted.
	Working towards building a sustainable society		1992
		Law Concerning Special Measures for Total Emission Reduction of Nitrogen Oxides from Automobiles in Specified Areas (Automobile NOx Law) is enacted.	
1992		Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is enacted.	
1992		Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) is held in Rio de Janeiro and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 are adopted.	
1992		Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage takes effect in Japan.	
1993		The Japan Fund for Global Environment is set up within the Japan Environment Corporation.	
1993		Basic Environment Law is enacted.	
1993		Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal goes into effect in Japan.	
1993		Convention on Biodiversity goes into effect in Japan.	
1994		United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change goes into effect in Japan.	
1994		Basic Environment Plan is decided by the Cabinet.	
1995		Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging is enacted.	
1995		National Strategy of Japan on Biodiversity is formulated.	
1995		New measures to deal with the Minamata disease issue are approved by the Cabinet.	
1996		Convention on Prevention of Desertification is enacted.	
1997		Environment Impact Assessment Law is enacted.	
1997		The Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Conference on Global Warming) is held and the Kyoto Protocol is adopted.	
1997		"Our Stolen Future" (by Theo Colborn) is published.	
1998		Specified Household Electric Appliances Recycling Law is enacted.	
1998		Law Concerning the Promotion of Measures to Cope with Global Warming is enacted.	
1999	Law Concerning Reporting etc. of Release to the Environment of Specific Chemical Substances and Promoting Improvements in their Management (PRTR Law) is enacted.		
1999	Law Concerning Special Measures against Dioxins is enacted.		
2000	Six recycling-related laws, including the Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society, are formed.		
2001	Environment Agency becomes the Ministry of the Environment.		
		 <p>Kyoto Conference on Climate Change (COP3) in 1997</p>	

State of the Global Environment at a Glance

Today, the world's environment is facing a serious crisis.

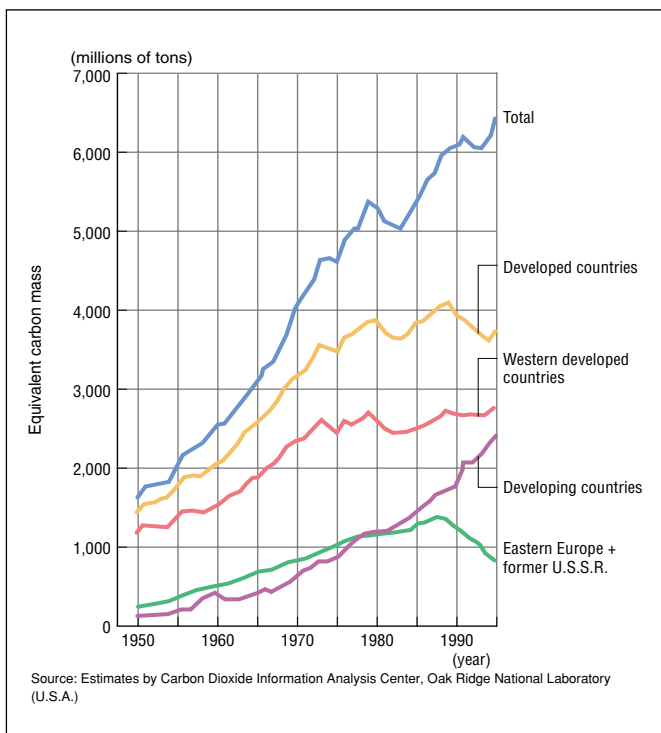
Along with the mass consumption of resources and energy – mostly in the industrialized countries – the earth is under threat from a growing number of global-scale environmental problems, such as global warming. At the same time, developing countries are facing their own crises, such as accelerating deforestation and desertification, and severe pollution like that experienced in past decades in Japan, often against a backdrop of population explosions and rapid industrialization.

Japan needs to make an active contribution to these problems, by making available all of its accumulated experience and technological expertise and by reforming its social and economic activities to help lighten the burden on the world's environment.

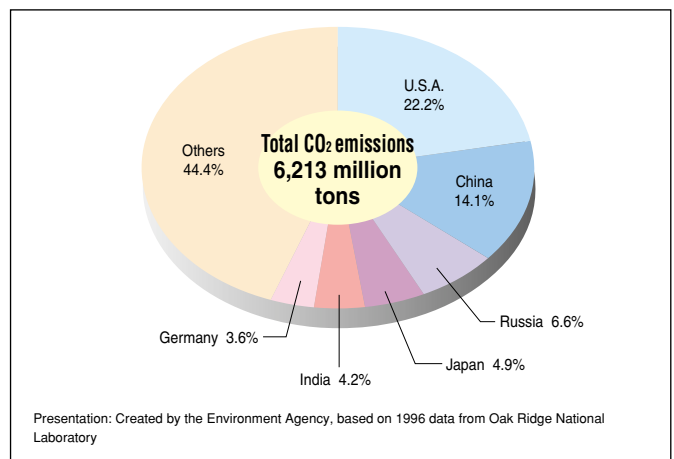
The Growing Global Threat and Consciousness of Environmental Problems

Global warming is expected to cause a variety of major changes in the natural environment, such as climate shifts that accelerate the melting of polar icecaps and raise sea water levels, destruction of ecosystems, food shortages, increased incidence of natural disasters and various threats to human health. The main cause behind global warming is carbon dioxide emissions. Japan generates 4.9 percent of the world's total CO₂ emissions, the fourth largest contribution of any nation.

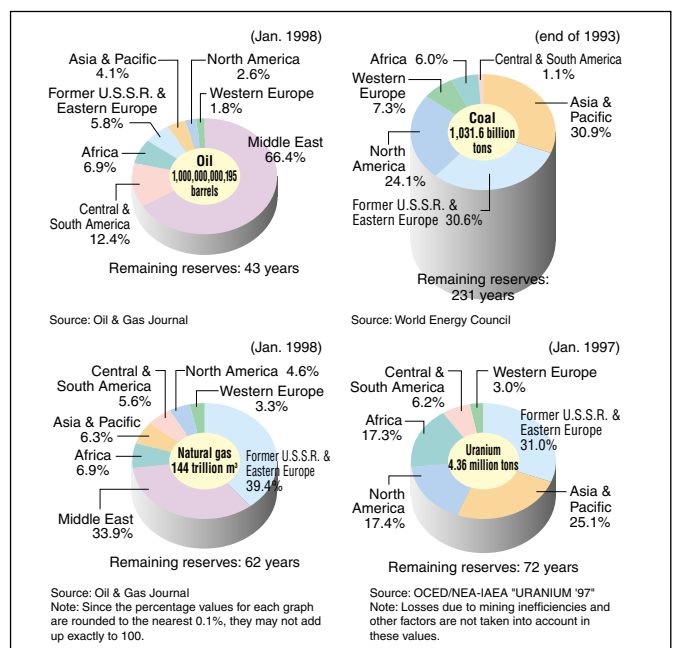
World CO₂ emissions (1950-1995)



CO₂ emissions by country



Quantity of verified, extractable reserves of major energy resources



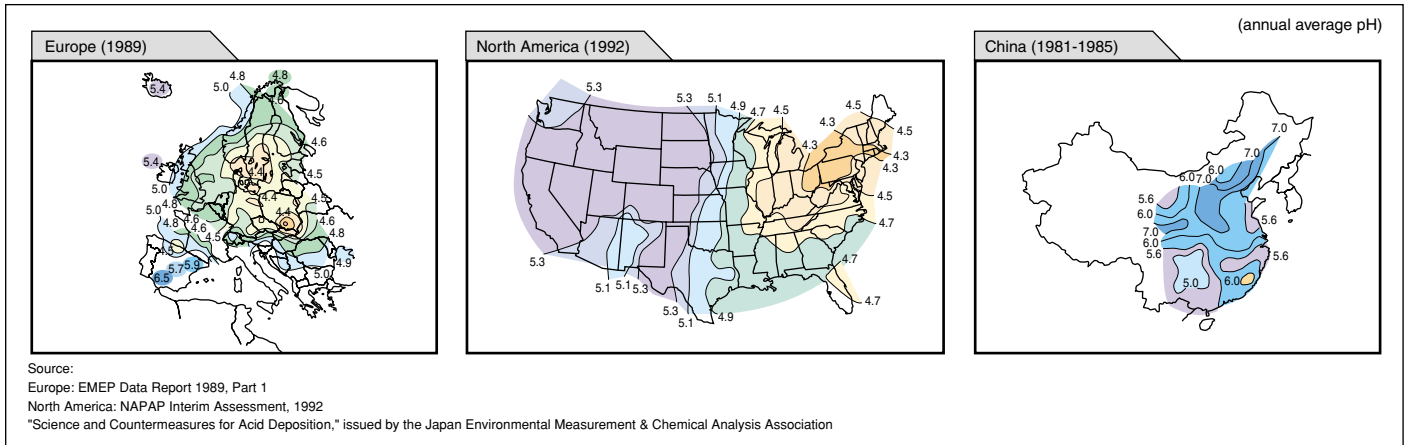
Depletion of Energy Resources

There is serious concern that the world's limited energy resources will be exhausted in the near future. In order to preserve some of these limited energy resources for future generations, it is essential to use remaining energy reserves sparingly and to take up the important task of developing new energy resources and making sustainable use of renewable forms of energy.

Current State of Acid Deposition and Countermeasures

In many areas of the world including North America, Europe and China, acid deposition is reported to be causing serious damage to ecosystems, such as the acidification of wetlands and degradation of forests. To assess the current state of this problem, international acid deposition monitoring program has been implemented in North America and Europe, based on the conventions. Similar regional monitoring program started in East Asia, including Japan. It is expected that further regional measures will be taken in the future.

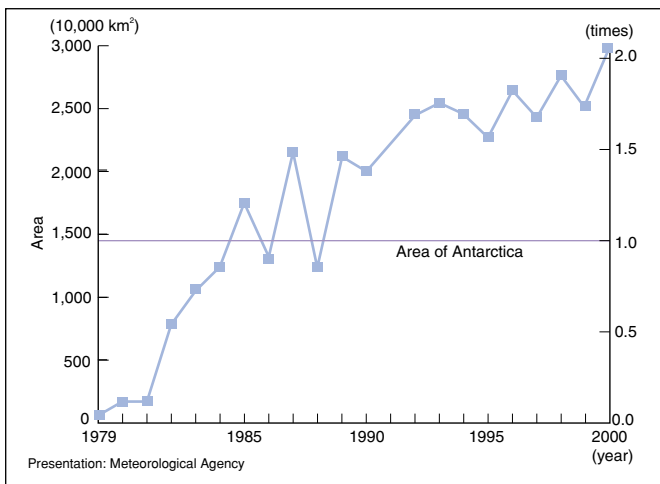
Acid deposition in overseas countries



Ozone Layer Destruction

The earth's ozone layer is being destroyed everywhere around the planet, with the exception of the tropical belt. Ozone is being depleted especially fast in high latitude areas. Measurements in 2000 in Antarctica discovered the largest hole ever observed in the earth's ozone layer.

Change in ozone hole size



Biodiversity Reduction

Biodiversity is an inherently precious resource. For example, it enriches the living environment of humans and helps people feel at ease.

Current state of endangered species

Threatened animals

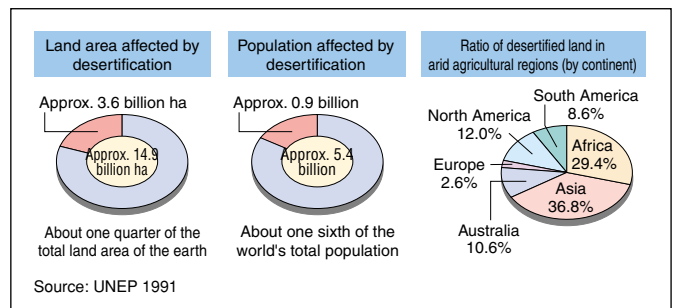
Current condition	Mammals		Birds		Reptiles		Batrachians		Fishes	
	No. of species	Prop. (%)	No. of species	Prop. (%)	No. of species	Prop. (%)	No. of species	Prop. (%)	No. of species	Prop. (%)
Total number of species researched	4,763	-	9,946	-	7,970	-	4,950	-	25,000	-
Species not currently endangered	3,633	73	8,763	87	7,679	96	4,887	97	24,247	97
Species facing a growing threat of extinction	610	13	680	7	130	2	83	2	452	2
Endangered species	520	14	503	6	161	2	63	1	301	1

Source: 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Current State of Desertification

There are two main factors behind desertification – climate and human activity. Climatic factors include drying of land due to wind and the reduction of the water-holding capacity of the ground. Human factors include excessive grazing by livestock, beyond the ability of grasslands to regenerate, as well as over-harvesting of firewood for fuel.

Current state of desertification



Many species of flora and fauna are becoming extinct today, not as a result of any natural process but rather due to human socio-economic activities. Species are disappearing from the face of the earth faster than at any time in the history of the planet.

State of Japan's Environment at a Glance

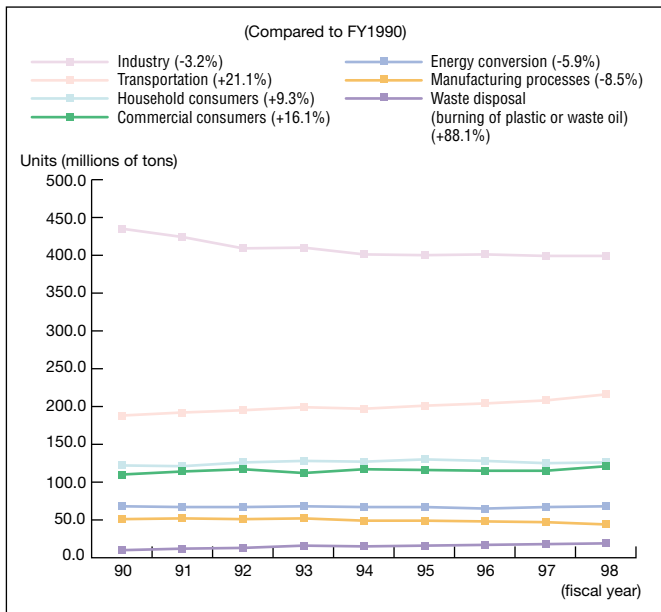
A look at the current state of Japan's environment shows that industrial pollution has improved over recent years. However, problems stemming from intensive economic activities and lifestyles are becoming more and more serious. The modern way of life has given rise to a broad range of environmental problems, such as air pollution in large cities, contamination of waterways by household wastewater, and growing quantities of waste and hazardous chemicals in the environment.

Global Warming and Personal Lifestyles

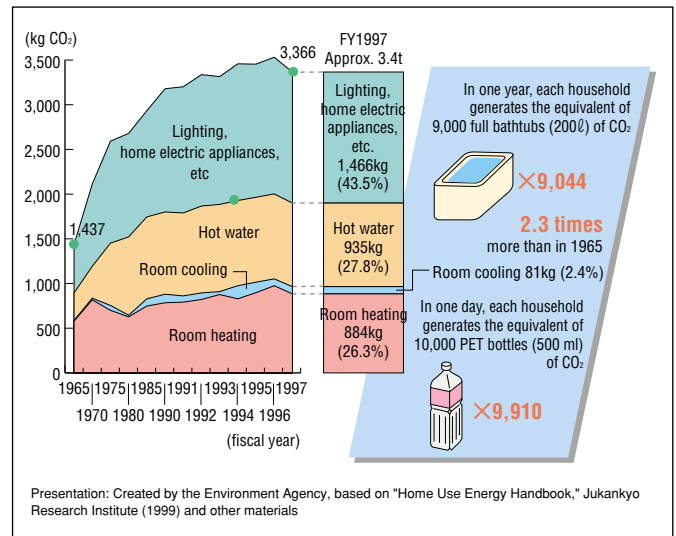
In FY1997, 12.6 percent of Japan's total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions was produced by households. Nearly half of this resulted from electric power generation. This clearly reveals that

the use of home electric appliances makes a major contribution to atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Change in CO₂ emissions



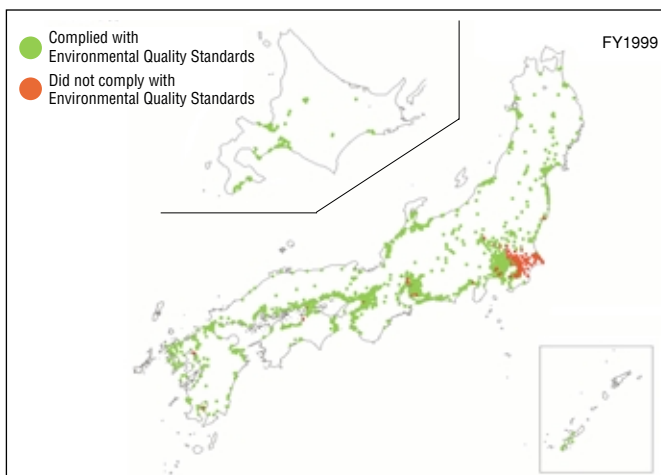
Change in annual CO₂ emissions per household



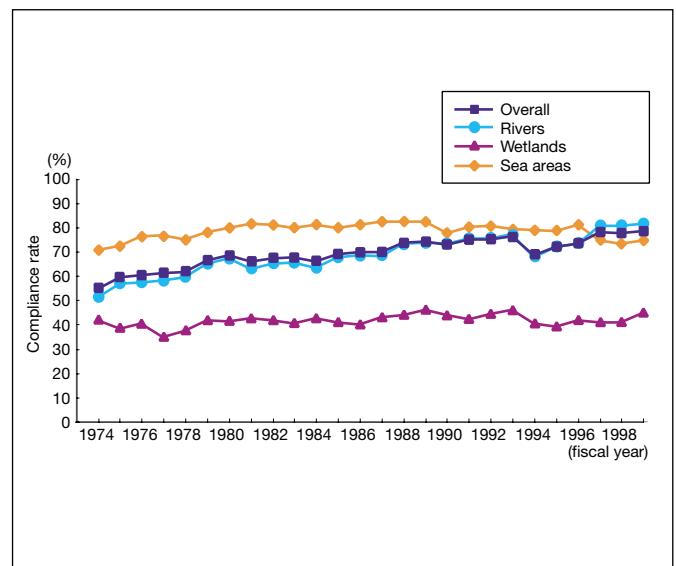
Air Pollution and Water Pollution

Levels of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) have not improved in and around big cities. Water pollution is also still a problem. While levels of heavy metals in water have fallen significantly in recent years, organic water pollution from household wastewater has improved only slightly, especially in enclosed water areas such as lakes, inland seas and inner bays, and in rivers in big cities.

Rate of compliance with Environmental Quality Standards for SPM



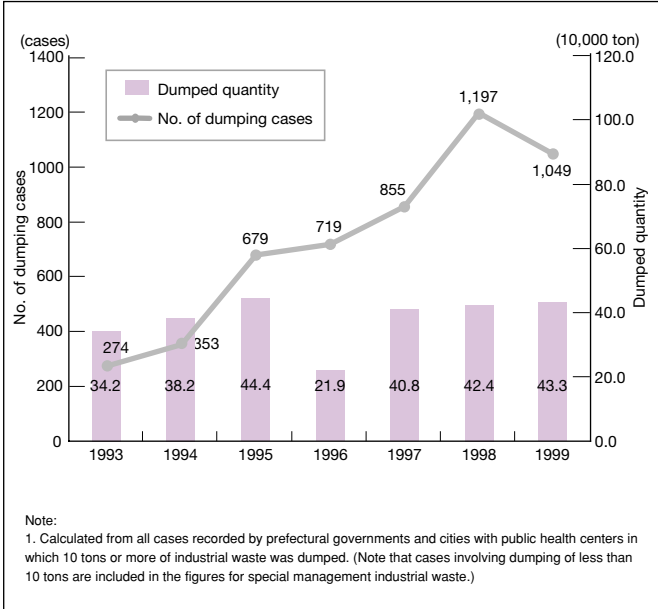
Change in rate of compliance with environmental standards (BOD or COD)



Waste and Recycling

The total waste (domestic waste) generated in Japan in FY1997 was approximately 51.2 million tons, an amount that would fill Tokyo Dome (volume 1,240 m³) 138 times over. This works out to 1.112 kilograms per person every day. This massive amount of waste is giving rise to problems such as a severe shortage of final landfill sites and a rise in the incidence of illegal waste dumping. If these problems are not dealt with, our living environment and industrial activities will be seriously disrupted.

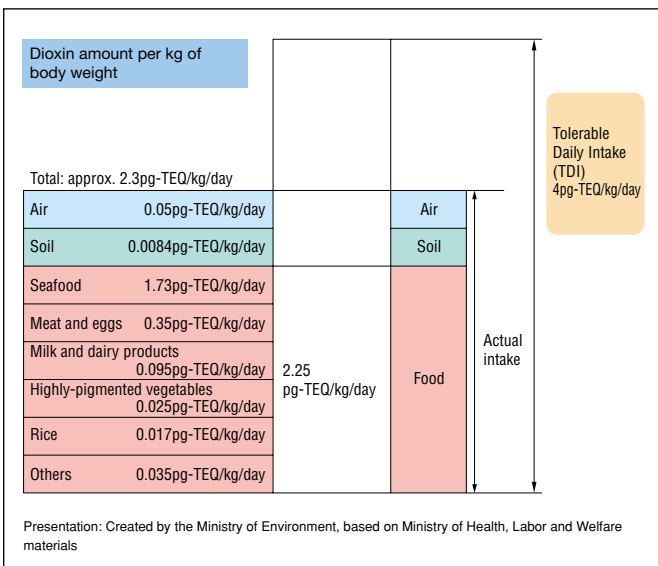
Change in number of cases and scale of illegal waste dumping



Environmental Risk Management of Chemicals

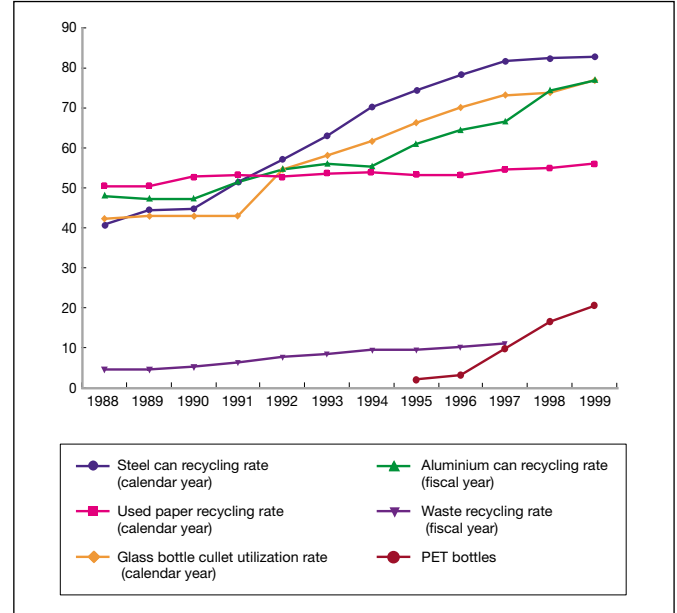
At present, there are thought to be over 50,000 different chemical substances commercially available in Japan. Many of these are known to be carcinogenic and genotoxic. Such substances can present a serious risk to the health of human beings and ecosystems if they are released to the environment. One type of chemical that has drawn a lot of attention in recent years is dioxins, which tend to accumulate in the body of humans and animals.

Daily ingested quantity of dioxins per day per person in Japan



For this reason, there is an urgent need to improve waste treatment facilities, for example by developing treatment technology that does not burden the environment and final landfill sites that can coexist harmoniously with surrounding environments. Furthermore, it is essential to take measures to limit the amount of waste generated by society and to promote reuse and recycling of all "cyclable" resources.

Change in recycling rates and related measures

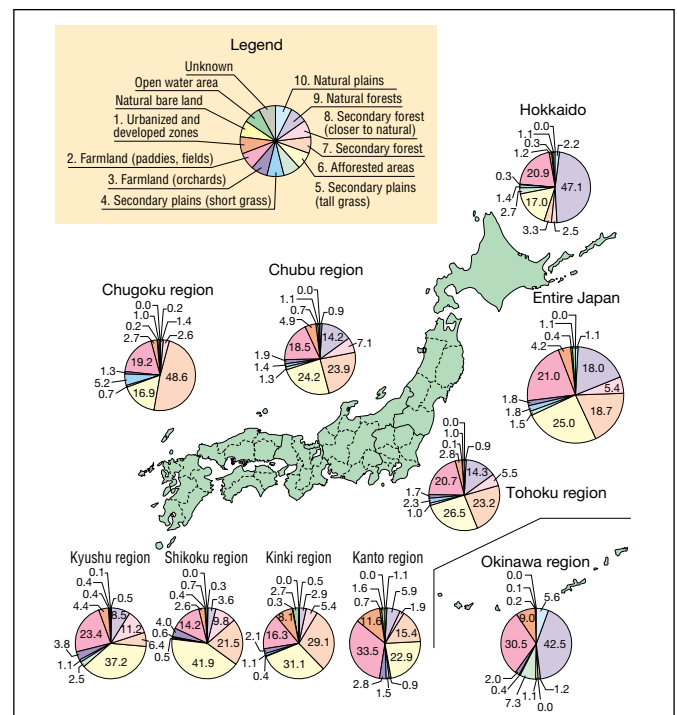


Natural Environment of Japan

The Japanese archipelago is rich in geographical features, with mountains covering close to three-quarters of the country's total land area.

Less than 20 percent (19.1%) of Japan's total land area remains covered by virgin vegetation of natural forests or plains. And more than half of this (58.8%) is on the island of Hokkaido.

Classification of vegetation zones in Japan by region



Basic Environment Law and Basic Environment Plan

The Basic Environment Plan is based on the Basic Environment Law, which outlines the general direction of Japan's environmental policies. The Basic Environment Plan seeks to achieve environmental conservation goals through cooperation between all sectors of society.

The plan maps out the basic approach of environmental policies from a perspective that extends to the mid-21st century and it sets four long-term objectives. It also defines the kind of initiatives that need to be taken by the early 21st century in order to meet these objectives.

■ Enactment of the Basic Environment Law

Before the enactment of the Basic Environment Law, Japanese environmental policies had been based on two fundamental laws – the Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control, enacted in 1967, and the Nature Conservation Law, enacted in 1972. These laws, which were drafted to address serious industrial pollution and to preserve the natural environment, worked quite successfully.

However, as Japan's social/economic system and consumer lifestyles came to rely more and more on mass production, mass consumption and mass disposal, this legal framework (which consisted mainly of restrictions) could no longer deal adequately with some of the newer and more complex environmental problems that emerged – like those relating to urban and household-generated pollution and the global environment.

Thus, in November 1993, the Basic Environment Law was enacted to chart the direction of Japan's basic environmental policies. The primary purpose of the law is to ensure that the environment is protected to serve the needs of future generations. This can be achieved by working to shape an economically sustainable society that does not unduly stress the environment, and by contributing positively to the conservation of the global environment.

■ A Summary of the Basic Environment Law

In its first chapter, the Basic Environment Law sets out three basic principles for environmental conservation, and the responsibilities of each sector of society – national and local governments, corporations and citizens – in living up to these principles.

The second chapter gives a list of basic environmental conservation policies, including the formulation of the Basic Environment Plan, the promotion of environmental impact assessments, economic reforms to remove obstacles to environmental conservation practices, and measures to deal with global environmental problems. The third chapter lists the councils needed to develop the policies listed in chapter two.

Structure of the Basic Environment Law

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1 Purpose
Article 2 Definition

(Basic Principles)
Article 3 Enjoyment and Future Succession of Environmental Blessings
Article 4 Creation of a Society Ensuring Sustainable Development with Reduced Environmental Load
Article 5 Active Promotion of Global Environmental Conservation through International Cooperation

(Responsibilities)
Article 6 Responsibility of the State
Article 7 Responsibility of Local Governments
Article 8 Responsibility of Corporations
Article 9 Responsibility of Citizens

Article 10 Environment Day
Article 11 Legislative Measures, etc.
Article 12 Annual Report
Article 13 Prevention of Air Pollution and the Like by Radioactive Substances

Chapter 2 Basic Policies for Environmental Conservation

<Section 1 Guidelines for Policy Formulation>
Article 14 Guidelines for Policy Formulation

<Section 2 Basic Environment Plan>
Article 15 Basic Environment Plan

<Section 3 Environmental Quality Standards>
Article 16 Environmental Quality Standards

<Section 4 Environmental Pollution Control in Specific Areas>
Article 17 Formulation of Regional Environmental Pollution Control Program
Article 18 Promotion of Attainment of Regional Environmental Pollution Control Program

<Section 5 Implementation of Policies for Environmental Conservation by the State>
Article 19 Consideration in Formulation of Policies by the State

Article 20 Promotion of Environmental Impact Assessment
Article 21 Regulations to Prevent Interference with Environmental Conservation

Article 22 Economic Measures to Prevent Interference with Environmental Conservation

Article 23 Promotion of Construction of Facilities and Other Projects for Environmental Conservation

Article 24 Promotion of Use of Products Contributing to Reduction of Environmental Load

Article 25 Education and Learning on Environmental Conservation
Article 26 Measures to Promote Voluntary Activities by Private Organizations

Article 27 Provision of Information
Article 28 Implementation of Research
Article 29 Improvement in Systems for Monitoring and Others
Article 30 Promotion of Science and Technology
Article 31 Settlement of Environmental Pollution Disputes and Relief of Damage

<Section 6 International Cooperation for Global Environmental Conservation, etc.>

Article 32 International Cooperation for Global Environmental Conservation, etc.
Article 33 Ensuring International Cooperation for Monitoring, Observation and Others
Article 34 Measures to Promote Activities by Local Governments and Private Organizations
Article 35 Consideration in Implementation of International Cooperation and Others

<Section 7 Implementation of Policies by Local Governments>
Article 36 Implementation of Policies by Local Governments

<Section 8 Cost Bearing and Financial Measures>
Article 37 Cost Bearing by Causers
Article 38 Cost Bearing by Beneficiaries
Article 39 Financial Measures for Local Governments
Article 40 Cooperation between the State and Local Governments

Chapter 3 Councils and Other Organizations with Environmental Conservation-Related Council Systems

<Section 1 Councils and other organizations with environmental conservation-related council systems>

Article 41 Central Environment Council
Article 43 Councils and other organizations with council systems relating to environmental conservation of prefectures
Article 44 Councils and other organizations with council systems relating to environmental conservation of cities, towns and villages

<Section 2 Conference on Environmental Pollution Control>

Article 45 Establishment and mandates
Article 46 Organization, etc.

*Articles in red are new principles and policies based on the Basic Environment Law.

Formulation of the New Basic Environment Plan

The New Basic Environment Plan, "Guidepost for the Environmental Century," was ratified by the Cabinet in December 2000. The Basic Environment Plan, which is based on the Basic Environment Law, outlines comprehensive and long-term measures relating to environmental conservation for the entire government.

Under the heading of "the current environmental status and the challenges for environmental policies," the plan describes "directions for environmental policies at the start of the 21st century," painting a picture of the ideal sustainable society that all of society should aspire to achieve. To make this kind of a society a reality, the plan calls for "incorporation of environmental

considerations into every activity," "application and combination of policy methodology," "participation of every entity in society" and "efforts at every level, from local to international." In this process, according to the plan, four long-term objectives should be aimed for – "environmentally sound material cycle," "harmonious coexistence" "participation" and "international activities."

The plan also gives more concrete measures, including a list of 11 strategic programs that need to be tackled intensively during the period of the plan.

Furthermore, to ensure that it is effectively implemented, the plan calls for the government to enhance its systems for implementing measures and monitoring their progress.

Structure of the Basic Environment Plan, "Guidepost for the Environmental Century"

Part 1

Current environmental status and the challenges for environmental policies

Part 2

Directions for environmental policies at the start of the 21st century

● The desired society = **A sustainable society**

● Four long-term objectives

Environmentally sound material cycle

Realization of a socioeconomic system based on recycling, to minimize the burden on the environment

Harmonious coexistence

To ensure a sustainable coexistence of nature and humans

Participation

To promote participation of every entity of society, so that each shares fairly in bearing the burden

International activities

To promote international approaches to environmental conservation

● Environmental policies for constructing a sustainable society

Basic concepts for environmental policies ("polluter pays principle," "eco-efficiency," "precautionary approach," "environmental risk," etc.)

Incorporation of environmental considerations into every activity

Application and combination of policy methodology

Participation of every entity in society

Efforts at every level, from local to international

Part 3

Specific implementation of environmental protection measures

Implementation of strategic programs

Environmental issues (per field)

- Promotion of measures to prevent global warming
- Efforts to secure a sound material cycle and to establish a recycling-based society
- Efforts toward reducing traffic-related environmental loads
- Environmental conservation efforts to secure a sound water cycle
- Promotion of countermeasures for chemical substances
- Efforts for conservation of biodiversity

Political measures

- Providing environmental education and learning
- Efforts to create a greening mechanism for social economy
- Promoting environmental investment

Efforts from all stages

- Promoting efforts for community improvement
- Promoting international contribution and participation

Environmental conservation policy systems

Part 4

Effective implementation of the plan

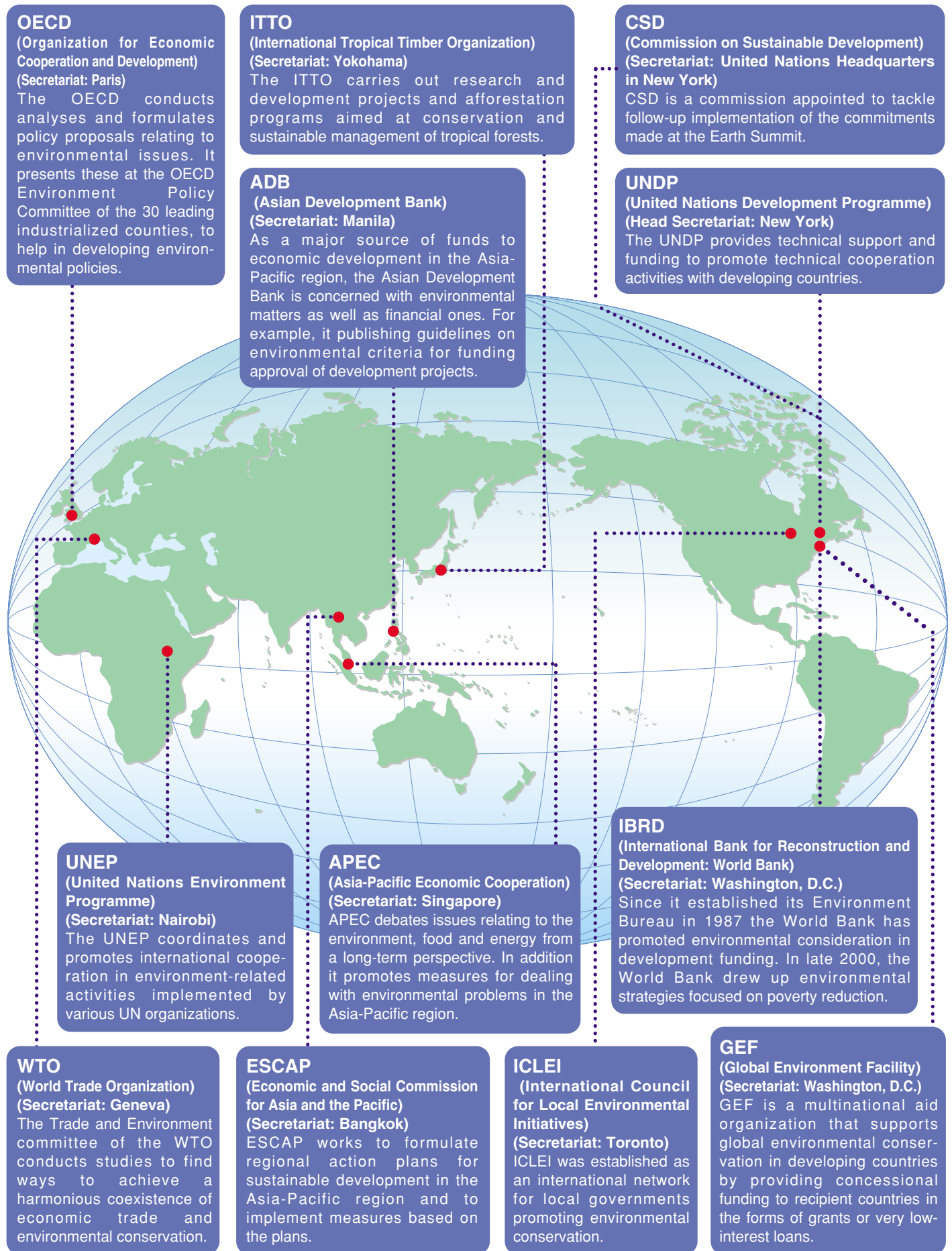
Stronger promotion systems

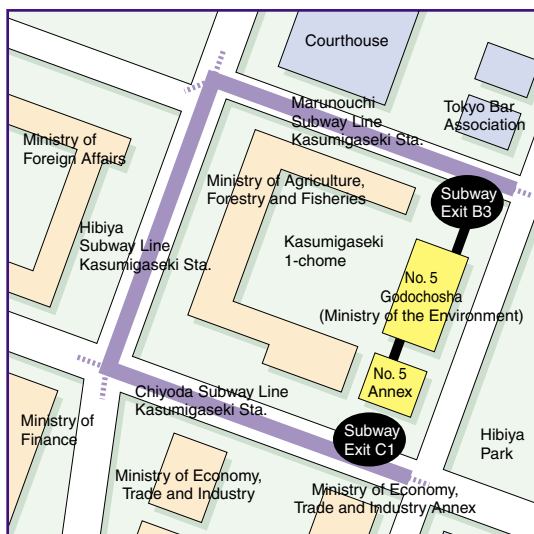
- Discussing ways of introducing environmental management systems to the government
- Relevant government ministries promote policy methods incorporating environmental considerations

Monitoring the plan's progress

- Relevant government ministries monitor their implementation voluntarily
- The Central Environment Council monitors their implementation and reports to the government
- Government reports check results to the Diet (Environment White Paper) and reflects this in its budgetary policy

International Organizations Tackling Global Environmental Conservation





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<http://www.nimd.go.jp/>
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<http://www.biodic.go.jp/>
- Global Environment Information Centre
<http://www.geic.or.jp/>



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