

(7) NGO Programmes

7-1) NGOs for Natural Environment Conservation in Japan

7-1-1) Number of Groups and Scope of Programmes

a) Number of Groups

According to the NGO Directory 94, there were about 300 of NGO groups in Japan, of which 137 operate in developing countries by means of provision of funds and supplies and technical cooperation. The following year the Environmental NGOs Directory 95, listed 4,506 of environmental NGOs in Japan, of which 283 (6%) have overseas operations of which only 163 groups include nature conservation in their project activities.

b) Scope of Programmes

Programmes conducted by environmental NGOs in Japan vary in the nature and scope of the operations, which can be broadly categorised as follows:

- Regional: environmental issues in a specific region or location in Japan;
- National: environmental education, nature conservation, recycling, etc. on a nation-wide scale ;
- International: environmental cooperation with developing countries, etc.

In terms of the actual nature of their programmes of activities, the same NGOs can be categories as follows:

- Practical: actual field implementation for tree planting, recycling, wildlife conservation, etc.;
- Public awareness/ advocacy: environmental education, policy advice, etc.;
- Academic : research and studies for environment conservation, in developing countries, etc.;
- NGO Support: funding assistance, information networks, etc. for other NGOs.

c) Japanese NGOs

According to the Environment NGOs Guidebook 95, Japanese NGOs are characterised in descending order of scale, as follows:

- Types of programmes: Public awareness/consultation > Academic > Practical type > Supporting type;
- Number of full-time staff: international > national > regional;
- Annual budget: International = National > Regional;
- Requiring specialist staff: International > National > Regional;
- Demands from the government: funding assistance requested in categories.

It is assumed that NGOs that act or will act internationally face difficulty in lack of funds and qualified specialist staff. While organisations working in nature conservation in a specific region or country, on a piecemeal basis, however there are no NGOs with the size or capacity to undertake a range of nature conservation on a truly international level, such as exist in other Western countries.

(財)自然環境研究センター(1996):環境事業団委託 開発途上地域環境保全活動方策
(自然環境保全活動)に関する調査報告書、自然環境研究センター

NGO活動推進センター(1988):NGOダイレクトリー - 国際開発協力を携わる民間公益団体、(財)日本シルバーボランティアズ

NGO活動推進センター(JANIC)(1996):NGOダイレクトリー '96、NGO活動推進センター

(財)日本環境協会 編(1998):平成10年版 環境NGO総覧、日本環境協会

(7) NGO Programmes 7-1) NGOs for Natural Environment Conservation in Japan

7-1-1) Number of Groups and Scope of Programmes

a) Subject of Business

Subject	Number of organisations	Ratio(%)
Environment Conservation	1,592	37.7
Environment conservation is not main subject but one of component	2,621	62.2

b) Type of Business (multiple response)

Type	Number of organisations	Ratio(%)
Practice (Project implementation on the ground)	3,044	72.0
Awareness building	3,074	72.7
Study and research	1,936	45.8
Assistance to other organisation	1,223	28.9
Advocacy	915	21.6
Others	200	4.7

c) Field of activity (multiple response)

Field	Number of organisations	Ratio(%)
Forest conservation, Greening	748	17.7
Nature conservation	1,902	45.0
Air quality conservation	399	9.4
Water quality conservation	1,558	36.9
Combating desertification	65	1.5
Wastes and recycle	2,128	50.3
Consumer education	1,580	37.4
Environment education	1,831	43.3
regional environment management	1,029	24.3
Others	282	6.7

d) Target Area (multiple response)

Area	Number of organisations	Ratio(%)
Within a municipality	3,965	93.8
Cross municipalities within a prefecture	815	19.3
Cross prefectures	837	19.8
National level	325	7.7
Others	489	11.6
International	53	1.3
Asian region	497	11.7
Africa region	209	4.9
Others	65	1.5
	223	5.3

(財) 日本環境協会 編 (1998) : 平成 10 年版 環境NGO総覧、日本環境協会

(7) NGO Programmes

7-1) NGOs for Natural Environment Conservation in Japan

7-1-2) Organisations and Systems

a) Organisations

In 1998, survey was undertaken by the Japan Environment Corporation (JEC) of major NGOs working in nature conservation, that were, or were considering operating outside of Japan through means of financial assistance from the JEC-initiated Japan Fund for Global Environment. In all valid responses were received from 19 organisations, four juridical foundations, one corporate body and 14 voluntary associations.

The survey revealed that the annual budget for each of the voluntary associations were all below JP¥ 50 million (including some below JP¥ one million) while those for the juridical foundations and the corporate body are all over JP¥ 50 million (including some over JP¥ 500 million). The survey also revealed that most of the voluntary associations either did not employ full-time staff or employed very few, while the juridical foundations and the corporate body consistently employed staff on a full-time basis; more than 30 members in some cases. Worthy of note is the revelation that even organisations with budgets below JP¥ 20 million employed only two to three members of full-time staff. All this suggests that voluntarism and the extremely low wages for staff are barely capable of sustaining NGOs.

For ten of the above organisations, the largest source of revenue was subsidies, while membership fees was the major source for four of them, and donations or business transactions for two others. Although 16 of the above 19 organisations have membership on an individual or group basis, the membership of 11 of these organisations is only 500 or less, while the largest membership was only 48,000. It is obvious this figure is much smaller than can be found for large NGOs in Western countries, and highlights the comparatively small base of support for NGO and their programmes in Japan.

b) Present Status of Overseas Projects

According to the above questionnaire survey, there were 54 cases instances of overseas projects undertaken by 19 organisations. 48 of these were in Asia/Oceania, 14 in Latin America, two in Europe and one in Africa. Funding is often in the form of several donor agencies supporting the one project, and 85% of the donor support in number came from Japanese funding organisations. This is due to some extent to the fact that it is possible to procure funds domestically but also may imply that many organisations are simply not acquainted with the means for procuring funds from overseas.

Most of the overseas projects are implemented in cooperation with local organisations or

with international NGOs in those countries. As far as the funding burden is concerned, the survey revealed that in nine cases the projects were fully supported by the Japanese side, while 80 to 90% of the support was provided in three cases and 70 to 79% in a further three. This indicates that the Japanese side usually procures the funds in most of the projects. Major obstacles to implementation of the programmes were indicated as: poor communications, funding, different system of doing things, cultural differences, and organisational difficulties.

It is considered that, besides nature conservation in a narrow sense, there are many programmes relating to nature conservation in such categories as forest conservation, environmental education and range management. According to Environment NGOs Guidebook 98, there are the following categories in the projects conducted in the field by environmental NGOs:

- Forest conservation and afforestation: tree planting, sustainable forest management, extension programmes such as improved charcoal production and cooking stoves, etc.;
- Nature conservation: wildlife and habitat conservation, biodiversity studies, nature observation, etc.;
- Air conservation: protection of the ozone layer, countermeasures for global warming, control of air pollution, improved efficiency of energy use, etc.;
- Water conservation: coastal marine conservation, control of water pollution, etc.;
- Prevention of desertification: tree planting, prevention of droughts, etc.;
- Recycling and waste: reduction of waste, cleanup, etc.;
- Consumption and lifestyle: low burden on environment, green consumers, etc.;
- Environmental education: public awareness of environmental issues;
- Range management: water/soil conservation, sustainable development in agriculture, environment-friendly towns/cities, etc.;
- Other.

In December 1998, the Specific Non-profit Action Promotion Law was put into force to support programmes by non-profit organisations (NPOs), and we can expect that these and other developments will bring changes to both the nature and scope of NGOs and their programmes

(財)自然環境研究センター(1996):環境事業団委託 開発途上地域環境保全活動方策
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7-1-2) Organisations and Systems

a) Schale of Budget

Budget schale(¥)	Number of organisations	Ratio
less than 1 million	2,252	53.3%
more than 1 m, less than 5 m	698	16.5%
more than 5 m, less than 10 m	142	3.4%
more than 10 m, less than 50 m	211	5.0%
more than 50 m, less than 100 m	74	1.8%
more than 100 m, less than 500 m	90	2.1%
more than 500 m, less than 1 billion	25	0.6%
more than 1 billion	53	1.3%

b) Staff Size

Staff size	Number of organisations	Ratio
1person -10 persons	1,667	39.4%
11 - 50	1,025	24.2%
51 - 100	78	1.8%
101 - 200	37	0.9%
201 - 300	9	0.2%
301 - 400	4	0.1%
401 - 500	2	0.1%
501 - 1,000	5	0.1%
more than 1,000 persons	3	0.1%

c) Member ship

Number of members	Number of organisations	Ratio
1person - 10 persons	163	3.9
11 - 50	1,212	28.7
51 - 100	656	15.5
101 - 500	1,042	24.7
501 - 1,000	242	5.7
1,001 - 5,000	250	5.9
5,001 - 10,000	46	1.1
10,001 - 20,000	28	0.7
20,001 - 30,000	8	0.2
30,001 - 40,000	9	0.2
40,000 - 50,000	5	0.1
more than 50,001persons	22	0.5

(財) 日本環境協会 編 (1998) : 平成 10 年版 環境NGO総覧、日本環境協会

(7) NGO Programmes

7-2) Programmes for Supporting NGOs in Japan

7-2-1) Government Organisations

a) System of Subsidies for NGO Programmes

This system was started in 1989 by the Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and had contributed around JP¥ 1.6 billion for 341 cases by 1995. The system supports a maximum of 50% of the total cost of a NGO project in the range from JP¥ 1 to 10 million. The system aims to support and foster economically weak NGOs and their wide range of programmes, such as farming/fishing community development, developing human resources, health care, medical care, local industries, life environment, conservation of the environment and supplies transportation by private aid.

b) Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Projects

This small-scale grant assistance subsidises the cost of social development projects undertaken in 64 developing countries and one region at the grass-roots level. The reasons for introduction of the system are as follows:

- Necessity to precisely correspond to the diversified needs in developing countries;
- Good diplomatic effect by similar systems implemented by other major aid countries;
- Recommendation of introduction of the system by the ODA Administrative Inspection.

The Japanese Embassy in each country holds jurisdiction over the grant assistance. The system mainly supports NGOs (62% of the groups granted assistance), local public bodies and research/medical institutes. The amount of the budgets is rapidly increasing and the amount granted per case is JP¥ 5 million in average and JP¥ 20 million in maximum. It is possible for applications to be approved within a few weeks or months.

c) Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid

This system was started in 1990 by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to encourage international cooperation through participation of the people. In this system, 20% of the interest on the postal savings is regarded as donations and distributed to NGOs. Between 1991 and 1994, about JP¥ 8.4 billion was granted to 673 groups operating 914 projects. The system includes part of the personnel expenditure in the subsidy and to cover projects planned for a few years. Many projects are related to improve social welfare for people (women, children, farmers, slummer, refugees, etc.) in developing countries mainly in Asia. There are a few projects for environment-related programmes in the form of nature conservation

d) NGO support programme for international construction cooperation

There is a programme supports international cooperation by NGOs in the field of construction through an indirect way subsidising the cost to train and dispatch experts: it does not support NGO projects directly. For application to the programme, it is required to receive request, recommendation or approval from the public bodies, local communities or NGOs in the recipient countries.

e) NGO promotion programme for agriculture and forestry cooperation

There is a programme supports NGOs that cooperate in the field of agriculture and forestry by dispatch of experts, staff training, symposium, publication, etc. The amount of the subsidy in each expenditure item is limited. For application to the programme, it is required to receive request or recommendation from the public bodies in the recipient countries.

f) Promotion programme for activities of forestry NGOs

There is a programme undertaken by Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center. The programme supports NGOs that work on afforestation in tropical regions or developing countries. The programme subsidises the costs of attending international conferences, surveys for project finding and counterpart training and also supports technical training, information services and network creation.

g) Japan Fund for Global Environment

Based on the results of the Earth Summit in 1992, this fund was established within the Japan Environment Corporation in 1993 to support NGO activities for global environmental conservation. National budgets and donations from the private sector contribute to this fund which provides assistance to project costs, human resources and information services. The fund is benefits a large number environmental NGOs, supporting a wide range of projects with a wide range of expenditure. The NGO projects supported are divided into the following three types:

- Projects in developing countries by Japanese NGOs;
- Projects in developing countries by local NGOs;
- Projects in Japan by Japanese NGOs.

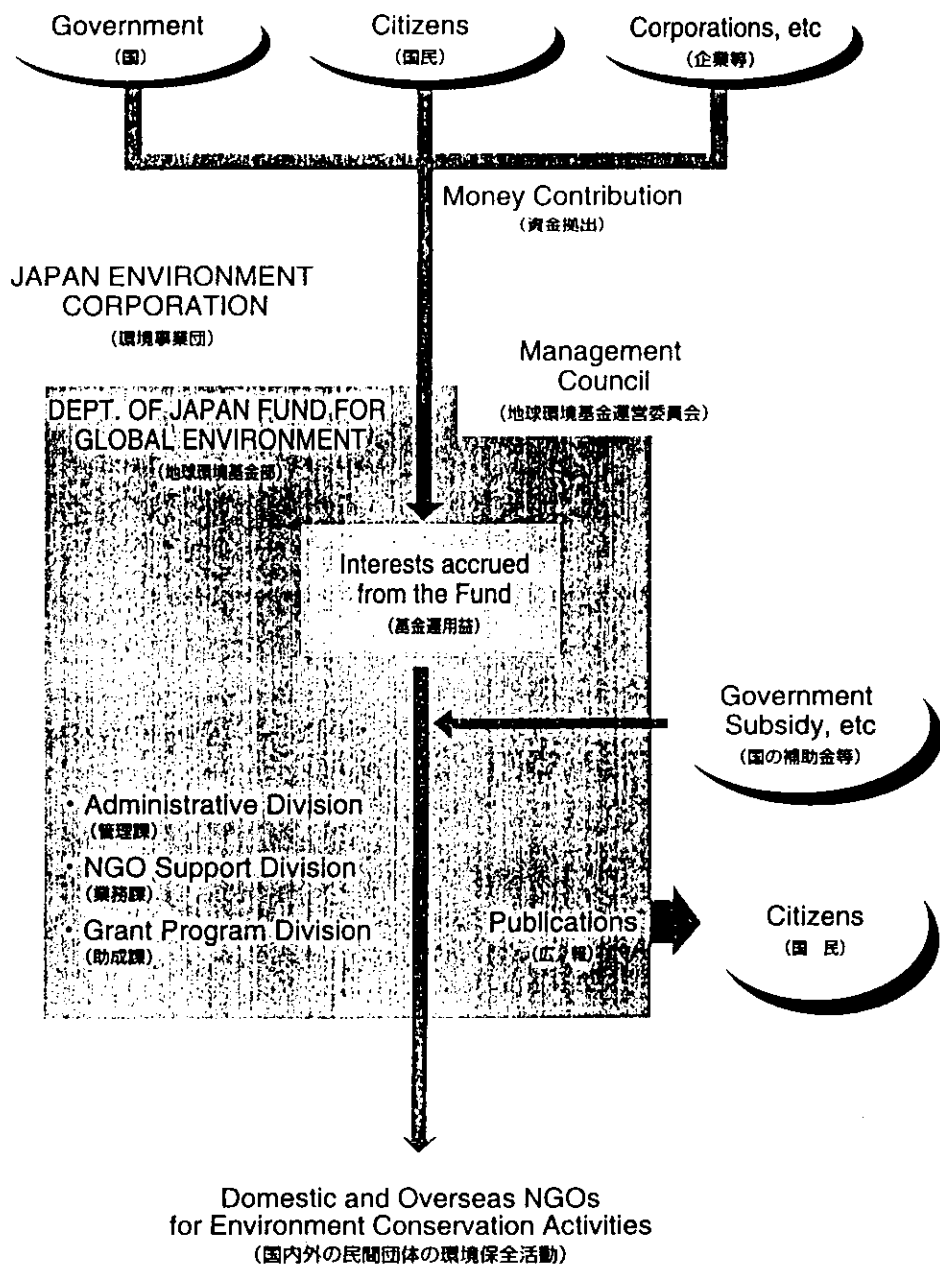
(財)国際協力推進協会(1995): わが国NGOに対する支援体制調査、国際協力推進協会

(財)自然環境研究センター(1996): 環境事業団委託 開発途上地域環境保全活動方策(自然環境保全活動)に関する調査報告書、自然環境研究センター

環境事業団(1998): 平成11年度地球環境基金助成金募集案内、環境事業団

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 7-2-1) Government Organisations

Mechanism of the Japan Fund for Global Environment (Japan Environment Corporation)



Japan Environment Corporation (1999): Japan Fund for Global Environment (brochure)

(7) NGO Programmes

7-2) Programmes for Supporting NGOs in Japan

7-2-2) Private Funds and Foundations

a) The development of Environment Aid Foundations

In the late 1960s, people began to become aware of environmental issues such as pollution, conservation of the natural and historical environment. With the creation of the Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control in 1970, in 1971 the Japanese government established the Environment Agency to tackle environmental issues at national level. Research programmes on these environmental issues became active and new organisations, institutes and university departments were established, such as the National Institute for Environmental Pollution (1974).

Three private foundations were established in 1974 to provide for support for environmental studies: The Tokyu Foundation for Better Environment, the Nissan Science Foundation and the Toyota Foundation. Following this, more began to spring up, such as the Foundation of River and Watershed Environment Management (1975), the Nippon Life Insurance Foundation (1979) and the Fuji Film Green Fund (1983). Of particular significance is the fact that these foundations started to provide assistance to NGOs.

In the 1980s, the environment foundations extended their scope internationally towards nature conservation in developing countries and the conservation of natural ecosystems on a global scale. These included the Defence of Green Earth Foundation (1983), the Foundation for Earth Environment (1987), the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (1989), the Aeon Group Environment Foundation (1991) and the Sumitomo Foundation (1991).

b) Categories of Assistance

Private funds and foundations that assist research and NGO activities in the field of nature conservation in overseas countries are divided into four main categories based on kind of assistance they provide. The categories are: for academic studies, for NGO programmes in Japan, for overseas NGOs and for local Japanese NGOs.

1. Organisations mainly assisting academic studies

Asahi Glass Foundation, Sumitomo Foundation, Foundation for Earth Environment, Toyota Foundation, Nissan Science Foundation, Nippon Life Insurance Foundation, etc.

2) Organisations mainly assisting NGO programmes in Japan

Aeon Group Environment Foundation, Global Citizens Foundation, Niwano Peace Foundation, Mitsubishi Bank International Foundation, Hino Green Fund, etc.

3 Organisations assisting overseas NGOs

Asian Community Trust, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, Pro Natura Foundation

(Japan), Nagao Natural Environment Foundation, Defence of Green Earth Foundation, etc.

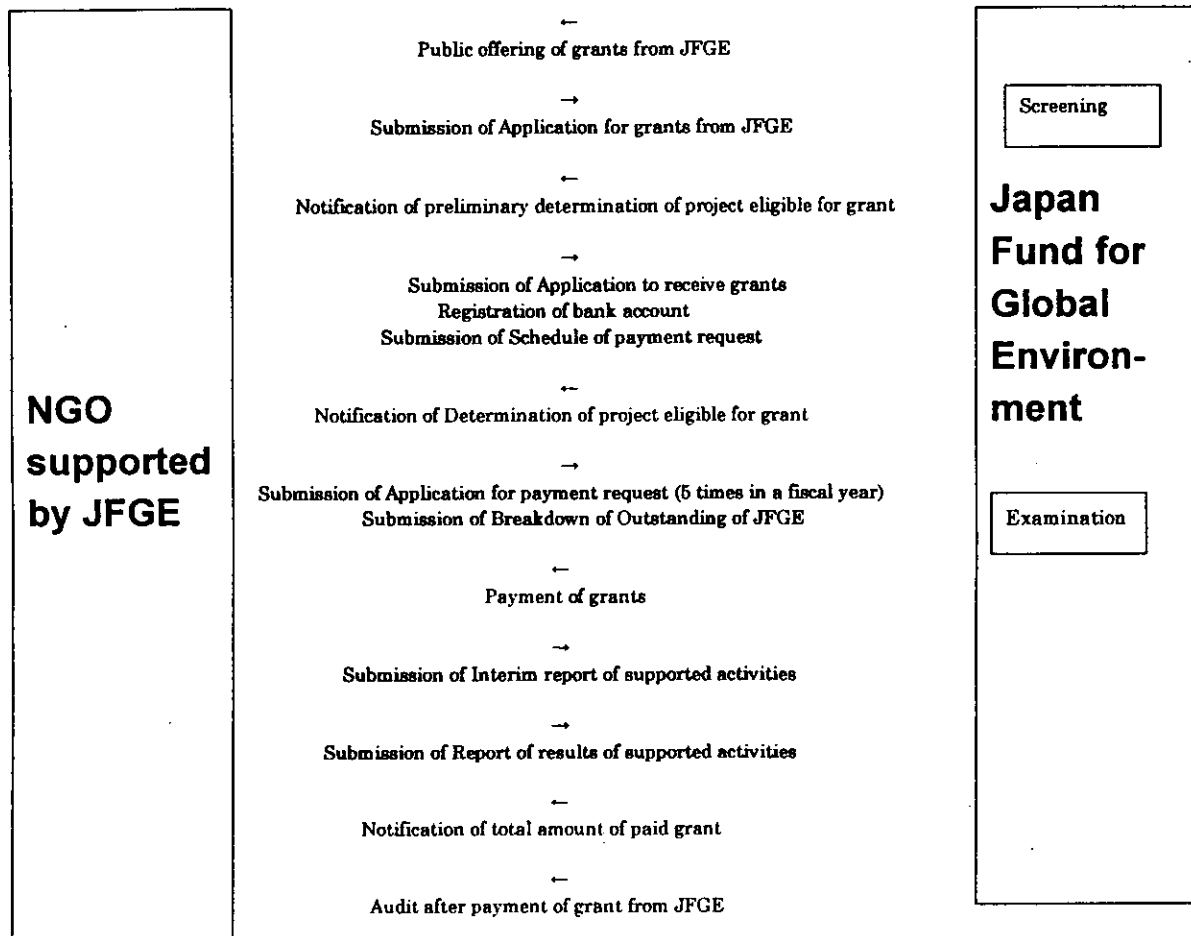
4 Organisations assisting Japanese NGOs.

Ayus Buddhism International Cooperation Network, Rissho Kosei-kai Fund for Peace, etc.

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(7) Activities of NGOs 7-2) Programmes for Supporting NGOs in Japan
 7-2-2) Private Funds and Foundations

Flow of the procedures for grants from JFGE



Department of Japan Fund for Global Environment, Japan Environment Corporation
 (1998):Information on Japan Fund for Global Environment for Fiscal Year 1998 (April 1998 to
 March 1999)