

Overview of the "Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation Strategy in the 21st Century : Japan's Strategy for a Sustainable Society" (Tentative Translation)

Ministry of the Environment, Japan

I. State of the Global Environment and Key Challenges

Threat of Climate Change

Threats Resulting from the Unsustainable Use of Resources

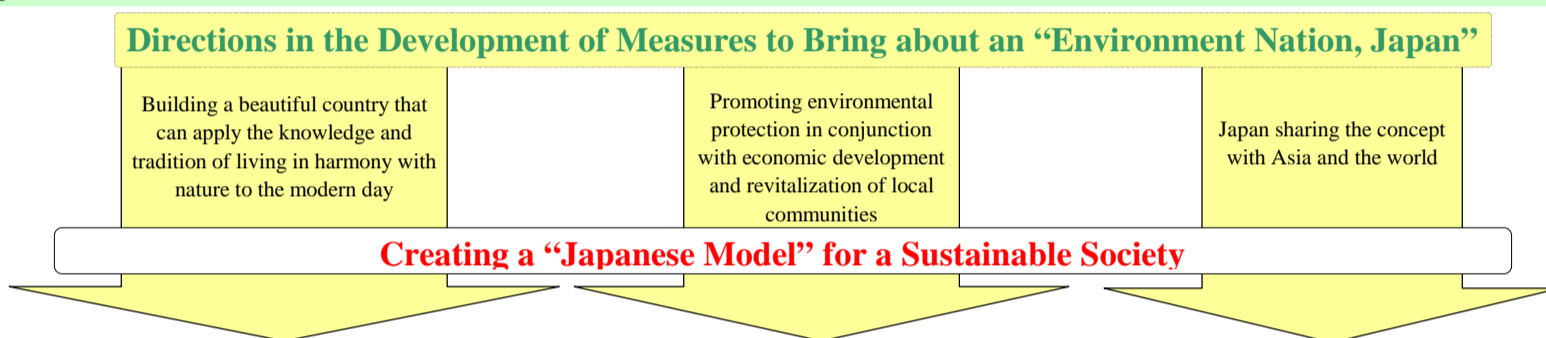
Threats to Ecosystems

A healthy environment rich in natural blessings has been created over the long history of the earth. These blessings should be passed on to future generations and shared among all generations. However, the load on the environment has come to exceed the environment's carrying capacity, gradually destroying the delicate balance of the earth's ecosystems. If this situation continues, it may hinder sustainable socioeconomic development. Global environmental problems are closely linked to human security issues and are among the greatest challenges facing mankind.



II. Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation for a better world

Japan will apply its wisdom and tradition of living in harmony with nature to the modern day, and, moreover, it will utilize its world-renowned environmental and energy-related technologies, its experience and knowledge from having overcome severe pollution, and its abundant human resources with great passion and capabilities in order to create a driving force for generating environment-oriented economic growth and invigorating local communities. Japan will cooperate with a broad range of stakeholders to create a Japanese model for an "Leading Environmental Nation" that contributes to the development and prosperity of the world, sharing this model with Asia and then with the globe.



III. 8 Strategies to be Implemented as Priorities in the Next One to Two Years

Strategy 1: International Leadership to Overcome the Climate Change Problem

"Cool Earth 50"
 (Proposal 1): Long-term strategy for reducing the world's overall greenhouse gas emissions
 -Cut global emissions by half from the current level by 2050 as a common goal for the entire world
 -Develop innovative technologies (zero emissions coal-fired power generation, nuclear power generation, solar power generation, fuel cells, etc.)
 -Create a low-carbon society (lifestyles harmonious with nature, energy-efficient transport systems including public transportation, compact urban development, etc.)
 (Proposal 2): Mid-term strategy and its implementation
 -"The three principles" for establishing an international framework to address global warming in 2013 and beyond:
 Principle 1: All major emitters must participate, thus moving beyond the Kyoto Protocol, leading to global reduction of emissions
 Principle 2: The framework must have flexibility and diversity, taking into consideration the circumstances of individual countries
 Principle 3: The framework must achieve compatibility between environmental protection and economic growth by utilizing energy conservation and other technologies.
 -A new financial mechanism for assistance to developing countries, energy-related measures, and examination of other

(Proposal 3): Measures to ensure Japan's achievement of its Kyoto Protocol target, including the launch of a national campaign
 -Revise the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan (within FY2007), including through the addition of new measures
 -Have government take the lead in implementation, request municipalities and major business entities to make their reduction plans public, and urge them to accelerate their actions
 -Launch a national campaign (make "Cool Biz" a standard practice, reduce the amount of waste generated, have incandescent light bulbs replaced with fluorescent lights, undertake ESCO projects, etc.)
 -Monitoring/forecasting of global warming; careful consideration of adaptation measures
 -Steady progress to achieve forest absorption target

Strategy 2: Conservation of Biodiversity for the Sustainable Use of Nature's Blessings for the Current Generation and Generations to come

Proposing the Satoyama Initiative to the world to build a society in harmony with nature, and promoting the "Beautiful Nature of Japan Campaign"
 Undertake a comprehensive biodiversity review and create a comprehensive ecosystem monitoring system, and launch the project "Our Life on Biodiversity"
 Provide a hundred-year vision, promote the creation of a country in harmony with nature, promote an ecological network concept, continue the practice of *satochi-satoyama* into the future, and formulate a comprehensive strategy for conserving biodiversity in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries

Strategy 3: Creation of Sustainable Material Cycles through the 3Rs

Establish Japan as the base for promoting the 3Rs in Asia, sharing Japan's 3R systems, technologies, and experiences with the world; formulate a sound material-cycle society vision for East Asia; create a sound material-cycle society in East Asia
 Improve overall resource productivity and minimize environmental load in products' life cycles, promote sound material cycles from the local level, and build a socio-economic system that fosters the spirit of "mottainai"
 Promote waste-based electricity generation, and utilize waste-based biomass effectively
 Promote the 3R Initiative within the G8 through resource productivity targets and reviews

Strategy 4: International Cooperation Utilizing the Experience and Knowledge Derived from Having Overcome Pollution

Launch the "Clean Asia Initiative," aimed at low environmental pollution; utilize Japan's excellent environmental technology and human resources; establish an environmental information network for monitoring-related information, etc.
 Promote international cooperation with emphasis on the environment by strategically increasing ODA with the human security view point
 Enter into an aquatic environment partnership with China and other countries and contribute to resolving water and sanitation issues, with the International Year of Sanitation (2008) as a turning point

Strategy 5: Economic Growth Centered on Environmental and Energy-related Technologies

Promote "eco-innovation," establish Japanese technology as the international standard, and conduct strategic public relations campaigns overseas
 Promote environment-related capital investment and support green businesses, such as by making environmental loads from business activities "visible"
 Revise chemical management schemes in line with global trends
 Disseminate and further develop Japan's superior cutting-edge energy conservation technologies
 Promote the use of renewable energies; expand the production and use of bioethanol for fuel
 Use nuclear energy with the utmost emphasis on safety

Strategy 6: Creation of Vibrant Local Communities that Utilize the Blessings of Nature

Revitalize agriculture, forestry, and fishery operations, such as through promoting environment-friendly, sustainable farming practices; create reinvigorated rural communities through the participation of all stakeholders
 Create the world's most advanced environmental model city and promote sustainable cities with low environmental loads, such as compact cities
 Create bountiful *satoumi* (community-based inshores), restore rich river and lake environments, and create lifestyles which have contact with water
 Launch the "National Movement for Fostering Beautiful Forests in Japan" and promote proper forest management using domestic lumber

Strategy 7: Educating People to Feel for the Environment, Think for the Environment, and Act for

Launch the "21st-Century Environmental Education Initiative" to provide environmental education for anyone, anywhere, and at any time
 Launch initiatives for training international environmental leaders in Asia
 Launch national citizen's campaigns for promoting actions by citizens, such as switching to energy-efficient products and bringing one's own reusable shopping bags
 Promote participation by various stakeholders in environmental policy making and implementation and promote consensus building among them; strengthen local capacity for protecting the environment through collaboration among citizens

Strategy 8: Creating a System to Support a "Leading Environmental Nation"

Conduct a comprehensive review on the use of market mechanisms, including a domestic emissions trading system and environmental taxes
 Promote consideration of the environment in finance, and popularize environmental reporting and environmental accounting systems
 Encourage the private sector to participate in green purchasing, such as through furnishing product information
 Set up a system to accommodate the effectuation of the Environmental-Conscious Contract Law
 Steadily monitor the implementation of strategies for building a 21st-Century Environment Nation