

of experts for Shirakami-Sanchi, following the similar efforts for Shiretoko and Yakushima, Consequently, all the Japanese sites come to have the same system of knowledge-based conservation and management.

As for the Ogasawara Islands, for which the government submitted a nomination dossier to the World Heritage Center in January 2010, the government collaborated with relevant organizations to accept an on-site investigation by experts from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, an organization that assesses nominations, and to appropriately respond to requests for additional information. Measures were also considered for conserving the globally important natural value of the domestic candidate Ryukyu Islands (the islands southwest of Tokara Island are subject to review), while obtaining the cooperation of relevant people in the area.

Based on bilateral migratory bird conventions and other frameworks with the United States, Australia, China, Russia, and South Korea, joint research efforts were continued for Short-tailed Albatross, Steller's sea eagle, and the *Larus saundersi* Gull in order to conserve birds that migrate between the countries. In November 2010 in Niigata Prefecture, meetings of bilateral conventions and agreements and other frameworks for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats were held with Australia, China, and South Korea. Their information and opinions were exchanged concerning protective policies, studies, and research concerning migratory birds.

In June 2010, the 6th International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) East Asia Regional Workshop was held in Phuket (Thailand), and the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010 was formulated. The map of coral reef habitat in the Asian/Oceanic region that was created was made public on the related webpage.

The 9th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests was held from January through February 2011 in New York. Under the theme of "Forests for People,

Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication," consideration was given to assessment of the progress made on implementation of Non-Legally-Binding Instruments on all types of forests, and methods of implementing sustainable forest operations (provision of financing, technology transfers, etc.) At the High-Level Segment held during the forum, an official opening ceremony was held for the International Year of Forests, 2011, and a Ministerial Declaration was adopted clarifying the importance of sustainable forest management and implementation, as well as future efforts for international cooperation.

At the 46th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) that was held in Yokohama in December 2010, projects and activities for promoting development of tropical timber trade and sustainable tropical forest operations were approved. Decisions were also adopted concerning the ITTO's activity report on the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and action plans for the International Year of Forests, 2011.

In order to comprehensively assess and analyze the country's state and trends of biodiversity, including social aspects, Japan established the Committee on Comprehensive Assessment of Biodiversity in Japan in FY 2008, and the Committee released a report in May 2010. Further, with the aim of establishing indicators that will be important for assessing the state of achievement of targets in order to prevent loss of biodiversity on national land, the government conducted a review concerning special analysis and assessment methods for the state of and changes in the biodiversity of national land.

As for "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)," which are international efforts that conduct economic analysis on loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the government provided assistance for the compilation of the Final Report for COP10, and conducted the research on policies related to economic assessment of biodiversity with TEEB.

6. Basics for Various Policies, and Measures Related to the Participation of Various Entities and International Cooperation

(1) Government's Overall Efforts

(a) The environmental conservation expenditures

Regarding the governmental budget relating to environmental conservation, the Ministry of the Environment liaises with each government office and ministry and makes adjustments to their budgets relating to environmental protection, and presents and compiles those budgets into the environmental conservation expenditures to ensure that the government as a whole deploys the environmental protection measures effectively and efficiently. The total amount of expenditures in FY 2011 was JPY 1,209.1 billion.

(b) Check of the subsequent progress of the Basic Environmental Plan

The Central Environment Council reviewed the progress of the implementation of policies based on the Basic Environmental Plan and submitted a report to the government. In the 4th review of the Third Basic Environmental Plan conducted in 2010, the Council focused on the following five priority fields: 1) efforts for global warming, 2) efforts to ensure material recycling and to establish a sound material cycle society, 3) efforts to reduce environmental risks from chemical substances, 4) efforts for the conservation of biodiversity, and 5) promotion of developing human resources and communities for environmental conservation among the ten priority fields of the Plan. The result was reported by the Central Environment Council Chairman to the Minister of the Environment in October 2010, and the

Minister of the Environment later reported the result to the Cabinet.

(2) Environmental Impact Assessment

Among development projects such as constructing roads, dams, railways, airports, landfills/land reclamation and land readjustment, large-scale projects that could have a serious impact on the environment are required to follow the EIA procedure by the Environmental Impact Assessment Law (Act No.81 of 1997). By FY 2011, 196 projects were concluded with the procedure based on EIA Law. Eight of these projects started to carry out the EIA procedure and six of them were concluded with the procedure based on the EIA Law in FY 2010 (all included the screening process). These contributed to evaluating environmental protection properly for large-scale projects.

(3) Current State of Measures against Minamata Disease

Since the Supreme Court ruling on the Kansai lawsuit in 2004, 8,282 people have applied for certification under the Act Concerning Compensation and Prevention of Pollution-Related Health Damage (excluding those who withdrew their applications after issuance of the health care passbook). Also, 28,346 people have been newly issued a health care passbook (applications closed in July 2010), and six new lawsuits have been filed against the government for compensation.

The increasing number of people asking for relief pushed forward a review to crystallize the new remedial relief measures for Minamata Disease victims. This led to the promulgation and enforcement of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Relief for Victims of Minamata Disease and Solution to the Problem of Minamata Disease (Act No. 81 of 2009; hereinafter referred to as "Special Relief Act") in July 2009 based on an agreement

reached by the Democratic Party, Liberal Democratic Party, and Komeito. In April 2010, the Cabinet decided on the implementation policy for relief measures stipulated by the Special Relief Act (hereinafter referred to as "policy for relief measures"). Based on this "policy for relief measures," the people recognized to be suffering from paresthesia of distal extremities or systemic sensory disturbance are eligible for a lump sum payment from the enterprises concerned, a medical care passbook and a subsidy for the self-pay portion of the medical treatment cost and medical care allowance by Comprehensive Measures of Minamata Disease. As for the people whose sensory disturbance is not as bad as the level eligible for the lump sum payment and who are suffering from symptoms shared by Minamata Disease, they are also eligible for health care passbooks and the subsidy for the self-pay portion of the medical treatment cost.

On May 1, 2010, then Prime Minister Hatoyama attended and gave prayers at the Memorial Service for Victims of Minamata Disease as the first prime minister to do so. Applications for benefits opened on the same day. As of the end of March 2011, the number of applications has come up to 26,419 people in total (14,824 people for Kumamoto Prefecture, 10,576 people for Kagoshima Prefecture, and 749 people for Niigata Prefecture). Also, the eligible people began to receive a lump sum payment under the Special Relief Act in October 2010.

In July 2010, the government appointed Chisso Corporation as a specified corporation and approved its restructuring plan in December 2010, so as to ensure that the company fulfills its compensation responsibility to the certified victims and continues to make lump sum payments under the Special Relief Act and settlement.

Also, settlement talks were held with some groups that had filed a lawsuit earlier. Both the plaintiffs and defendants accepted the opinion presented by the

Figure 6-1 Status of Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures in Accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Law.

(As of March 31, 2011)

	Road	River	Railway	Airport	Power plant	Waste disposal site	Landfill and reclamation	Area development	Total
Procedure	77 (22)	7 (0)	15 (4)	9 (0)	56 (12)	5 (1)	13 (3)	20 (9)	196 (50)
Procedure active	14 (0)	1 (0)	3 (1)	1 (0)	12 (0)	1 (0)	3 (1)	2 (0)	36 (2)
Procedure completed	54 (21)	5 (0)	10 (3)	7 (0)	39 (12)	4 (1)	9 (2)	14 (7)	138 (45)
Procedure discontinued	9 (1)	1 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	5 (0)	—	1 (0)	4 (2)	22 (3)
Minister of the Environment's opinion*	55 (21)	5 (0)	10 (3)	7 (0)	38 (12)	—	1 (0)	14 (8)	129 (44)

* Figures in () show the number of cases conducted under the Law in the way of procedure. Figures outside () include these numbers. When two projects are implemented together, it is counted as one.

** Those opinions include the opinion of "no opinion". The Minister of the Environment presents opinions only when the authorizing agency is a national organization.

*** The Misumi~Masuda 9th national highway, the Kajima joint power plant No5 machine installation plan, and the Yuasa~Gobou 42nd national highway widening completed the notification and the general inspection requirements in FY 2010 based on Article 27 of Environmental Impact Assessment Law.

**** The Japan Steel Works, Ltd. Muroran Plant Central power plant replacement plan, the Wakayama point power plant No1 machine replacement plan and Hachinohe Port Navigation anchor ground completed the notification in FY2010 based on Article 4-3-2 of Environmental Impact Assessment Law.

Kumamoto District Court in March 2010, establishing the basic agreement for an amicable settlement. A similar basic settlement was reached at the Niigata District Courts in Niigata, Osaka, and Tokyo, and the procedures for settlement had begun. In March 2011, settlements were reached at each District Court.

Finally, the government is strongly facilitating the enhancement of the health care and welfare provision in communities with Minamata disease incidents, and is promoting the revitalization and development of those communities, such as by attending and supporting the “Minamata Environmental Community Development Study

Group” sponsored by the City of Minamata.

(4) Policy related to International Initiatives

To counter with global environmental problems, the government 1) supports the activities of international organizations, 2) actively participates in the international negotiations of treaties and protocols, 3) cooperates with various foreign countries, and 4) actively provide assistance to the developing regions.

○Measures on Environmental Conservation to be Implemented in FY 2011

Measures on Formation of a Sound Material-Cycle Society to be Implemented in FY 2011

Measures on Conservation of Biodiversity and its Sustainable use to be Implemented in FY 2011

The Quality of the Environment in Japan 2011 (White Paper) reports measures on environmental conservation, formation of a Sound Material-Cycle Society and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to be implemented in FY 2011.

Chapter 1 Establishing a Low Carbon Society

Chapter 2 Conservation of the Atmospheric Environment, the Water Environment, and the Soil Environment

Chapter 3 Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

Chapter 4 Assessment and Control of Risks from Chemical Substances in the Environment

Chapter 5 Conservation of Biodiversity and Its Sustainable Use

Chapter 6 Basis of Various Measures, and Measures Facilitating the Participation of Various Entities and International Cooperation