

4 Collaborating with Communities



Kuju Bogatsuru Marshland Environmental Preservation Activities

The Kuju Bogatsuru Marshlands are located in western Oita Prefecture and contain approximately 53 hectares (131 acres) of high-altitude marshlands surrounded by the Kuju Mountains.

In order to protect the Kuju Bogatsuru Marshlands and the rare plants found in and around it, Kyushu Electric Power joined with the Ministry of the Environment, the Taketa city government, the Kuju Nature Preservation Society and other members of local communities in 2000 to recommence long-neglected controlled burning activities. At present, our activities are primarily administered by the Kyuden Mirai Foundation (established in May 2016), which oversees not only the controlled burning activities but various other environmental preservation activities, such as invasive species eradication and Kyushu azalea conservation on adjacent Mt. Hijiidake (on land owned by the Kyushu Electric Power).

The ecosystem was registered in 2005 through the Ramsar Convention, an agreement which seeks to protect globally important wetlands.

Kyuden Mirai Foundation website (Japanese only)
(www.kyuden-mirai.or.jp)

Controlled Burning Activities

We carry out controlled burning which maintains the marshland environment by removing shrub and weed overgrowth and promoting new budding plants.

Every year between August and September, we perform perimeter clearing and burning around the main controlled burning area in order to prevent the controlled burn from spreading beyond its intended area, and then in March of the following year, we carry out the main controlled burn within the marshlands.

In FY2017, a group of 345 volunteers made up of people from the local community, Kyuden Group employees, their families and others, took part in the controlled burning activities.



Cutting grass to prepare a fire protection zone



Controlled burning—the entire wetland is covered in flames

Activity Expansion Efforts

In anticipation of a potential shortage of controlled burning leaders in the future, the Kyuden Mirai Foundation began a controlled burning leadership training course in FY2016 which is aimed at Kyuden Group employees. This course is comprised of practical training in such skills as grass cutter operation and classroom lectures about the activity history, safety instruction and the like. In FY2017, approximately 20 Kyuden Group employees took the course.



Practical instruction in the use of a grass cutter



Safety instruction to raise awareness of safety

Kyushu Azalea Conservation and Mountain Trail Improvement Activities

We clear away trees and plants (such as panicked hydrangea) which hinder the growth of the Kyushu azalea (a species classified as Near-Threatened in Oita Prefecture) and perform other activities aimed at protecting biodiversity.

We also maintain and improve mountain trails so that mountain wildflowers do not get trampled underfoot.

The activities held in April and November of 2017 were carried out with the help of 184 volunteers, including current and former Kyuden Group employees.



Clearing obstructing trees



Mountain trail improvement

Bogatsuru Leaflet Production and Distribution

In addition to ongoing activities in the Kuju Bogatsuru Marshlands, to follow the “conservation and utilization” principles of the Ramsar Convention, we laid down mats with brush bristles at trailheads that hikers are requested to wipe the bottom of their shoes on before hiking to prevent the seeds of non-native plant species from entering the area. We also produce and distribute rules for protecting the marshland, an area guide map, and leaflets about seasonal flowers.



Bristled mat to remove non-native plant seeds from hikers' shoes



Leaflet

Preserving Biodiversity

To continue preserving the abundant nature of Kyushu with due consideration for biodiversity, we manage company-owned forest land and green belts at our power stations. We also engage in efforts to protect the familiar plants and animals of Kyushu that are threatened with extinction.

Proper Management of Company-Owned Forests and Land

To ensure stable supplies of water for hydroelectricity generation, Kyushu Electric Power manages 4,447 hectares (10,988 acres) of company-owned forest land, mainly in the Aso–Kuju National Park area. Through headwater conservation, CO₂ absorption, and other means, we are working to maintain and enhance the public functions of our forest holdings. In March 2005, we acquired forest management certification* from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), confirming that appropriate forest management is being conducted. This was a first for an electric power company in Japan.

We are supplying some of the corporate forest's Japanese cedar wood as material for a large wooden roof to cover the stands at the New National Stadium (which will host the 2020 Summer Olympics).

*Certification issued by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC, headquartered in Germany) for environmentally conscious forest management

CO₂ Absorption and Fixation by Company-Owned Forests

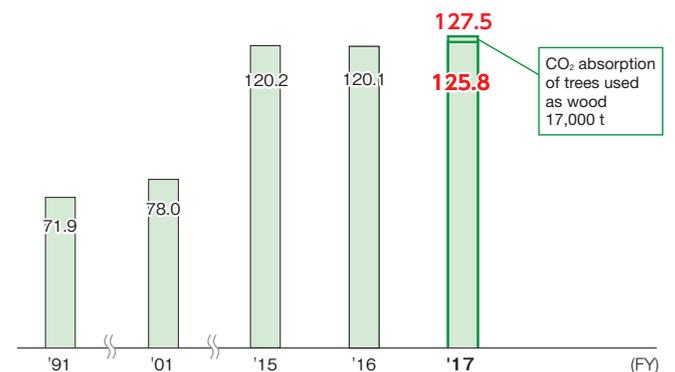
The CO₂ absorbed and fixed by company-owned forests is calculated to be 1,258 thousand metric tons for company-owned forest land as a whole, even if we subtract 17,000 metric tons of CO₂ absorbed by trees harvested for use as timber.



Company-owned forest (Lake Yamashita in Yufu City, Oita Prefecture)

CO₂ Absorption and Fixation by Company-Owned Forests

Unit: 10,000 t-CO₂ t = metric ton (tonne)



Note 1: Calculated based on measured values from forest survey according to Japan's national greenhouse gas inventory calculation method

Note 2: The amount of CO₂ absorption until FY'01 does not include trees younger than 15 years