

Climate Change

Tackling the Global Climate Challenge



Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time, posing a substantial threat to human security, stability, and prosperity across our societies.

JICA incorporates climate change considerations into projects and programs in various sectors, and uses diverse aid schemes to meet the needs of each partner country.

● Overview of the Issue and JICA Activities

The world took a major step to fight climate change in December 2015, when the Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) as the new international framework to replace the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, “Climate Action,” as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was set forth to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Behind these moves was the growing awareness that climate change is causing various threats, including more frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters.

JICA has developed climate change cooperation strategies, with focus on four priority issues, as noted below.:

1. Promoting low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development and infrastructure investment

JICA is supporting development of low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in developing countries with fast-growing economies.

2. Enhancing comprehensive climate risk management

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent, thus it is critical to consider the prevention and reduction of future climate-related risks. JICA promotes comprehensive risk management through an integrated approach, across various areas including disaster risk management and food and water security.

3. Supporting climate policy and institutional development


Climate change measures require long-term commitment, and JICA supports developing countries to develop their capacity to plan, implement, monitor and improve climate actions.

4. Enhancing conservation and management of forests and other ecosystems

Land use change as well as degradation and loss of forests and other ecosystems account for up to 30% of global cumulative anthropogenic GHG emissions. JICA is promoting sustainable forest management through, for example, strengthening the capacity of community-based forest management [→ see the Case Study on page 38].

Case Study


African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa



Collaboration among Development Partners to Support African Countries in Combatting Desertification

The Sahel and Horn of Africa region faces mounting developing challenges. People in the region are heavily dependent on natural resources. Drought and desertification are causing water shortages and environmental degradation, further exacerbating poverty. Poverty in the region constitutes a major factor for growing refugeeism and violent extremism, thus destabilizing the world. Regions exposed to drought and desertification are also vulnerable to climate change, which in turn accelerates desertification. Desertification is believed to be a factor for climate change. Appropriate response to desertification is urgently required as a way to strengthen resilience to regional climate change as well as to combat global climate change.

In August 2016, the governments of Kenya and Senegal, JICA, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) jointly launched this initiative during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Nairobi. The initiative is designed to facilitate measures against desertification through networking, knowledge-sharing, and improved access to development financing for the target countries, thereby helping to eradicate regional poverty and supporting regional sustainable development as part of efforts to build a more stable world. The initiative is built both on ownership by countries in Africa and on partnerships among development partners, including JICA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



At TICAD VI, JICA cohosted a side event designed to identify challenges in addressing desertification and discuss ways to promote the initiative.