

**Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.**

## **1. Understanding of the present situation**

### **(1) Why is it necessary to make efforts?**

After the Rio Summit in 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) were concluded and came into force, resulting in major progress of international efforts. In spite of this, the global environment has been rapidly worsening due to the development of economic globalization, rapid economic growth in emerging economies and developing countries, etc.

Efforts to prevent natural environment degradation and climate change are also essential to achieve quality growth that benefits the poor in developing countries and should continue to be promoted by international society.

### **(2) Japan's efforts**

Japan publicly announced Action for Cool Earth 2.0 for UNFCCC/COP21 in November 2015<sup>1</sup> with the idea of “two types of contributions consisting of contributing to support for developing countries and contributing to innovation.” In 2012, Japan announced the National Biodiversity Strategy to state its policy to promote the expansion of conservation activities and the sustainable use and mainstreaming of biodiversity through 2020.

Although the use of forests resulted in a decrease in the forest rate to about 50% during the Edo period, Japan was able to increase this rate to about 70% afterwards. Japan not only produces wood but also has forest management technology that helps prevent disasters (facilitates afforestation), conserves biodiversity, and prevents global warming. Japan's excellent satellite technology has also been widely used not only for tropical forest management in developing countries but also for agriculture development, food security, and the monitoring of disasters and climate change, etc.

### **(3) JICA's strength**

JICA has built a nationwide network to take advantage of Japan's excellent skills and experience, together with the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, universities, and private companies, etc. JICA's strength includes support for comprehensive capacity development in order to solve issues at cooperation sites in developing countries

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<sup>1</sup> 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

through technical assistance, such as providing recommendations on policies and systems, establishing a collaborative management system for forests and protected areas, etc., and providing forest management tools, in combination with yen loan for forest conservation projects. To strengthen these efforts and publish our achievements to international society, JICA has concluded cooperation agreements with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the International Tropical Timber Organization.

**2. Priority targets**

Goal 15 consists of nine targets (excluding Targets a, b, and c which concern means). Based on Japan’s efforts and JICA’s cooperation results and strength in the field of natural environment conservation, JICA will promote dynamic development beneficial to all people in cooperation with the various actors and the mobilization of every kind of development fund and along with Japan’s leading technologies in order to positively contribute to the following four closely related targets:

Priority targets	Selection reasons, approaches, etc.
<p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p>	<p>JICA has previous achievements in the area of forest conservation, afforestation, breeding, etc., through technical cooperation, grant aid, and yen loans. In addition, JICA also provides technical cooperation for the management of protected areas and wetlands, contributing to the conservation, recovery, and sustainable use of about 14.54 million ha from 2000. Moreover, based on discussions about the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, JICA has proceeded with the preparations stage for REDD+,<sup>2</sup> a forest conservation initiative since 2010, and will further contribute to conservation activities that use international society’s climate funds and private funds. In the future, JICA will further promote green economy development in the surroundings around protected areas.</p>
<p>15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</p>	<p>JICA has previous achievements in carrying out projects for combating desertification and conserving land, mainly in Africa. At the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), JICA launched an initiative to combat desertification and</p>
<p>15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</p>	<p>JICA has previous achievements in carrying out projects for combating desertification and conserving land, mainly in Africa. At the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), JICA launched an initiative to combat desertification and</p>

<sup>2</sup> This refers to “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation” or a financing mechanism.

	provide contributions through cooperation with other international agencies, etc.
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	JICA has previous achievements by having their on-site experience in managing protected areas reflected in national and local policies, systems, and plans in developing countries. JICA will continue to further contribute to the management of protected areas, including Payments for Ecosystem Services and the use and distribution of genetic resources.

### 3. Priority efforts to achieve the goals

#### (1) Basic policy for efforts

##### (1) Contribution to Japan's climate change measures (especially, the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM))

- JICA will strengthen forest management and support for Japanese private companies' acquisition of emission credits in cooperation with JCM-REDD+ projects carried out by Japanese private businesses (also contributing to Japan's achievement of the international commitment to reduce GHG emissions).
- To disseminate the framework of REDD+, JICA plays the central role in strengthening the activities of "Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+ (JP3-REDD+)" established through industry-academia-government cooperation, thereby contributing to the above efforts (the number of participating organizations as of July 2016 is 85).

##### (2) Strengthening forest management through combination with international society's climate funds, etc.

- JICA will support partner countries' access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), etc. by establishing systems and formulating plans through providing technical cooperation.
- JICA will support forest management activities with grant aid or yen loans, etc. to reduce financial gaps, because a "payment on results" approach is applied to many REDD+ funds in international society,

##### (3) Utilization of Japan's leading technologies

- JICA began to develop “the JICA-JAXA Tropical Forest Early Warning System” (JJ-FAST) that uses Japan’s Advanced Land Observing Satellite “Daichi-2” (ALOS2) which was announced together with JAXA at UNFCCC/COP21 in December 2015, thereby contributing to improving the forest governance of all tropical forests (in 52 countries).

**(4) Support for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and promotion of regional cooperation (scaling up from country level to regional level)**

- JICA is supporting capacity building through sharing its skills and experience in cooperation with RECs in Latin America and African countries, where it is difficult to provide bi-lateral projects in the nature conservation area to all countries in these regions due to limited budget, etc., although there is an urgent need for cooperation. Specifically, JICA has already started regional projects with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), and is preparing for projects with the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

**(5) Important Considerations**

- JICA will enable women, indigenous peoples, local communities, poor people, and vulnerable people to benefit from these projects, it is necessary to enhance participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building of stakeholders.
- JICA will actively disseminate its achievements at COPs of the three Rio conventions and various other international conferences.

**(2) Main issues to be tackled and program development (main target countries): numerical targets**

**(1) Strengthening of sustainable forest management in collaboration with various climate change funds Targets 15.1 + 15.2**

(\* also contributing to Goal 13)

<p><b>Program for Asia and Oceania:</b> JICA will support the strengthening of each country’s capacity to carry out REDD+ and its connection to projects financed by JCM and other Japanese private funds and international society’s climate funds, thus contributing to global warming measures.</p>	<p>Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, PNG, India (7 countries in total)</p>
<p><b>Program for the Amazon:</b> In the Amazon, the world’s largest tropical rainforest, JICA will promote the strengthening of forest management and research on REDD+ methodology, etc. in cooperation with each country and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).</p>	<p>Brazil, Peru, Colombia, ACTO countries (8 countries in total)</p>
<p><b>Program for Africa:</b> JICA will aim to strengthen the capacity to carry out REDD+ and develop projects</p>	<p>Ethiopia, Kenya, Botswana, Mozambique, Democratic</p>

that use international society's climate funds mainly in countries in the Congo Basin, etc., which has the world's second largest tropical rainforest. JICA will promote regional development through each country, COMIFAC, and SADC.	Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, SADC/COMIFAC countries (26 countries in total)
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[Quantitative targets through 2020]

- Total area of support targets: about 7.5 million km<sup>2</sup> (REDD+, forest survey, afforestation for conservation, etc.)
- Emission reduction expected in about 750,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the REDD+ plan target areas: 75 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

**(2) Improvement of livelihoods in vulnerable communities through the use of sustainable natural resources Target 15.3**

<b><u>Program for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience in the Sahel and Horn of Africa:</u></b> JICA will cooperate with UNCCD and other international agencies to support the target countries' sharing of skills and experience and access to funds, etc. concerning food security through land degradation measures, etc. (Related to TICAD VI)	Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Sahel and Horn of African countries (19 countries in total)
<b><u>Program for Supporting Land Degradation Neutral and Livelihood Improvement:</u></b> JICA will support soil conservation activities for watershed management and maintaining productivity. JICA will also support the continuous use of natural resources by promoting livelihood improvement activities, etc. by using non-timber forest product (NTFP) such as coffee, fruit, and honey. JICA will also cooperate with the private sector to support increasing the value-add of products and strengthening of the value chain.	Solomon islands, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Honduras, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Malawi, Madagascar, Iran (9 countries in total)

**(3) Conservation of biodiversity through management of protected areas and buffer zones Targets 15.1 + 15.9**

<b><u>Program for Management of Terrestrial Protected Areas:</u></b> JICA will actively support policies to establish and expand protected areas, to pay for ecosystem services and to establish an appropriate management model for protected areas in collaboration with communities, etc.	Malaysia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Uganda, Iran (5 countries in total)
<b><u>Central America Program:</u></b> In the Central America region, which is rich in biodiversity, JICA will strengthen the conservation of biodiversity in the region mainly through regional cooperation centering on the Central American Integration System (SICA).	Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, SICA countries (9 countries in total)
<b><u>Central Africa Program:</u></b> JICA will strengthen the capacity to manage protected areas and support the	Cameroon, Gabon, COMIFAC countries

utilization of genetic resources in countries in the Congo Basin, which is rich in biodiversity. JICA will promote the sharing of Japan's skills and experience in other countries through COMIFAC and others.	(10 countries in total)
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