

# Biodiversity Conservation

## Basic Concept

Our daily lives and business activities are supported by the natural resources, and if the biodiversity that is its basis is lost, the lives of people and company sustainability will be impacted in a major way.

Conservation of regional ecosystems is regarded as a critical issue affecting the Group's continuing development, and we are promoting activities with consideration for biodiversity, including the establishment and maintenance of biotopes, forest conservation, and other activities.

## Initiatives in Business Activities

### — Biotope Establishment

In 2000, we established a 7,500-m<sup>2</sup> biotope at the Chita-Midorihamma Works, and in 2010 we established the 600-m<sup>2</sup> Biotope Place at the Gas Energy Exhibition Hall. We also installed an 800-m<sup>2</sup> biotope at Group-incepted Minato AQUUS. In this way, we are working to conserve ecosystems, including rare local species, and to nurture endemic species. We are also having surveys of plant and animal species conducted by professional contractors.



Biotope at Chita-Midorihamma Works

### — Eradication Activities for Invasive Species

We are conducting eradication activities for Argentine ants at our Technical Research Institute.

The Argentine ant is a species native to South America and has been specified as a "designated invasive alien species" under the Act on the Prevention of Adverse Ecological Impacts Caused by Designated Invasive Alien Species. We cooperate with the activities of Tokai City in Aichi Prefecture, and conduct monthly eradication efforts.

### — Participation in the Inochiwotsunagu ("Connecting Life") Project

The Inochiwotsunagu Project is an initiative led by a student executive committee, in collaboration with 12 companies, administrations, experts, and NGOs in the Chita Peninsula coastal area. The project focuses on creating and conserving ecosystems in corporate green spaces and nurturing students as future leaders in building a sustainable society.

Toho Gas is actively participating in this project, working in collaboration with local students to engage in activities such as maintaining green spaces and biotopes and conducting eradication of invasive species and wildlife monitoring surveys at city gas manufacturing plants, including the Chita Midorihamma Works.

### — Conservation Activities Abroad

Toho Gas has been a member of the Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation since FY2014. Through the committee, we are providing aid for nature conservation activities by environmental NGOs in Indonesia and elsewhere around the world.

### — Endorsement of the Keidanren Declaration of Biodiversity and Action Policy

Toho Gas endorsed the Keidanren Declaration of Biodiversity and Action Policy in July 2020. The company's endeavors are congruent with this declaration and action policy, and we will continue to devote effort accordingly.

## TOPIC

### Recognized as a certified enterprise under Aichi Biodiversity Company Certification Program

In November 2022, Toho Gas was recognized by Aichi Prefecture as a certified enterprise under Aichi Biodiversity Company Certification Program.

Aichi Prefecture has been implementing this certification program since FY2022 to promote biodiversity conservation efforts by companies and spread excellent practices within the prefecture. Toho Gas became one of the first companies to receive this certification. The recognition highlights our exceptional contributions to biodiversity conservation.



Aichi Biodiversity Company Certification ceremony

## SDG Contribution Activities in the Local Community

In our efforts to contribute to sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the local community, we collaborate with various municipalities, citizen groups (NPOs), companies, educational institutions, and others to implement activities.

Activity	Cooperating partner	Description
Toho Gas Forests	Aichi Forest Office, Mitake in Gifu Prefecture, Odai in Mie Prefecture, Local Forest Associations, Etc.	Toho Gas has established Toho Gas Forest Odai, Toho Gas Forest Mitake, and Toho Gas Forest Seto in the three-prefecture Tokai region, where tree planting, thinning, clearing, and landscape maintenance activities are carried out by Group employees and family volunteers. We collaborate with local forest associations for some tasks, promoting activities with the support of the local community.
Satoyama Conservation	Nagoya Higashiyama Forest Conservation Group	In Higashiyama Forest in the City of Nagoya, which Japan's Ministry of the Environment has selected as an important satochi-satoyama with respect to biodiversity cooperation, we took part in activities with an NPO engaged in satoyama conservation, with Group employees and their family members carrying out thinning and other satoyama conservation efforts on a volunteer basis.
Biodiversity Education in Courses at Nagoya Open University of the Environment	Nagoya Open University of the Environment Center for Environmental Creative Studies	As part of Nagoya Open University of the Environment's registered courses, we held biodiversity courses for families, middle and high school students, utilizing the Biotope Plaza at the Gas Energy Exhibition Hall.
Environment Day Nagoya	Nagoya City	We have sponsored and participated in Environment Day Nagoya events organized by the City of Nagoya since the year 2000. Through these events, we conduct awareness activities related to the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), CO <sub>2</sub> reduction, and biodiversity, promoting our ESG management and SDGs initiatives.
Green Curtains	Nagoya City	In FY2022, we donated 500 bags containing seeds of the goya (bitter melon) and 728 goya (bitter melon) seedlings to the City of Nagoya, which were distributed to citizens at environmental events such as Environment Day Nagoya.
Higashiyama Botanical Gardens Hana-ippai "Many Flowers" Project	City of Nagoya Higashiyama Botanical Gardens	We have participated in preparing corporate flower beds in the Botanical Gardens since activities began in FY2008, with flower seedlings planted by employees and their families on a volunteer basis three times a year.
Osampo de Ikimono Mikke "Discover Living Creatures While Walking"	Aichi Prefecture, Forest Nature School	We have been sponsoring environmental events on the theme of encountering nature held by Aichi Prefecture and an NPO at Expo Memorial Park since FY2011. We provide support for planning and operation.
Cleanup Activities (Local Cleanup Projects)	Individual Offices, Local Governments etc.	As part of our community contribution efforts, Toho Gas Group business sites engage in cleanup activities, particularly during June, which is Environment Month.



Tree-planting at Toho Gas Forest Odai



Nagoya Open University of the Environment Biodiversity Course



Exhibition booth at Environment Day Nagoya



Osampo de Ikimono Mikke