

Organization

(As of September, 2010)

● Board of Directors

Chairman of the board of the Directors: Sadatoshi TABATA, Professor Emeritus, Chiba University
Executive Director: Akira KAMEYAMA, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

● Secretariat (24 staff)

Secretary General: Noriko KAIHATSU

Conservation Project Division: Making policy recommendations on nature conservation; conservation activities; maintenance and conservation of natural environments

Conservation Research Division: Research and studies on nature and nature conservation; collecting and providing information

Education & Public Awareness Division: Training of NACS-J Nature Conservation Educators and promoting environmental education

PR & Publication Division: Publication of bimonthly bulletin "Shizen Hogo (Nature Conservation)"; website management; expansion of supporters

Administration Division: Operational management of the Secretariat; general affairs, accounting, personnel and labor; membership management

● Membership: approx. 21,000 members/lots in total (including approx. 12,000 Individual Members)

History

In 1949, the Oze Marsh Conservation Union (Oze Hozon Kiseidomei) was formed. A campaign against the construction of a hydroelectric dam which would submerge the Ozegahara marsh was started.

In 1951, the Union was expansively reorganized as the Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J). A "special committee on ecology" was established.

In 1960, NACS-J became an incorporated foundation (basic fund of 1 million yen). "Shizen Hogo" was first published. It also became a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

In 1978, the Nature Conservation Educator system was first introduced.

In 1989, RDB (Red Data Book) plant species were made public.

In 1992, Participated in the Earth Summit in Brazil (with an exhibition booth)

Born in Japan Nature Conservation NGO

NACS-J was originally formed in 1949, shortly after the end of World War II, in order to protest against the construction of a hydroelectric dam in Ozegahara. Started as a group of volunteers, NACS-J later obtained corporate status to make socially-accepted recommendations and became the first incorporated foundation as a nature conservation group in Japan. We don't have any branch offices but have partner groups of our members. Directors are in principle non-executive without salary. Paid full-time staff in the Secretariat are promoting activities in cooperation with NACS-J members throughout the nation with the support of experts in various fields.

Financials—Supported by Membership Fees and Donations

Over 40% of the income comes from membership fees and donations. Especially individual members are the practitioners/supporters of local nature conservation activities, and equally importantly they are the financial supporters at the same time. All the expenditures are exclusively used on nature conservation activities. As most of our activities are supported by members and volunteers, they are worth more than the value of the expenditure indicated in the accounting report.

● You may receive a tax incentive related to a designated corporation for increasing public interest.

The Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J)

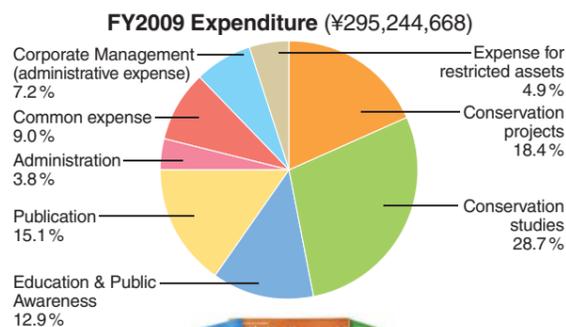
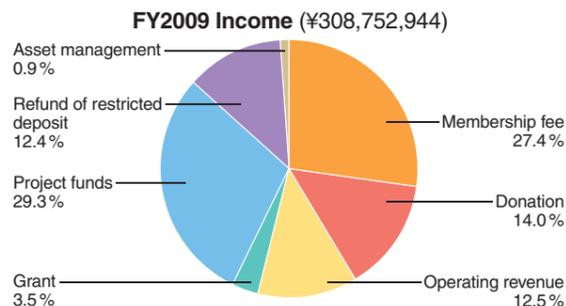
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Ozegahara around 1965



Bimonthly bulletin "Shizen Hogo"

cover photo: Osamu MAKISHI, Nobuo ITOH, Junichiro TANABE

<http://www.nacsj.or.jp>

NACS-J

What NACS-J would like to conservation is—
Abundant Nature that Supports Our Daily Life

To conservation nature, we attach great importance to our principles below:

Through Solving Problems In-situ—
we create a society where we live in harmony with nature and natural life forms

In cooperation with researchers and scientists—
we work **Based on Scientific Grounds**

To Make Everyone a Local Nature Conservationist—
we promote the training of volunteers and citizen-based surveys

Financed Mainly from Individual Donations and Membership Fees—
so that we take independent position on our advocacy for protecting nature

日本自然保護協会

THE NATURE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF JAPAN

● NACS-J's Goals:



This landscape, my grandfather used to love so much—
It's our turn to conservation it

Our daily life—
It can't stay like this forever, can it?

We should revisit our local natural blessings (ecosystem services)

I wish we could recover our connection with nature

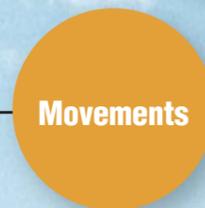
I want to conservation the world's biodiversity!
To begin with, we should take care of our own biodiversity ourselves

This nature will be gone, but there is still another somewhere else—
No, you can't think like that!

● NACS-J's Approaches:



- We make recommendations to the national and local governments with the aim of realizing a sustainable society built upon the mechanism of nature.
- We urge political/system reforms backed by local input from nationwide NACS-J members.
- We voice our opinions in decision make process where we are invited as adviser.



- We make people all over Japan aware of local problems and issues work to solve.
- We seek solutions, carrying out discussions with people in a variety of fields such as researchers, local citizens, governments, corporations, the media and more.
- We take the following 3 steps: i) Preserving nature we are about to lose, ii) Establishing systems to protect nature, and iii) Improving nature we've successfully preserved.



- We are increasing the number of those who love local nature, who also notice the mechanism of nature as well as the relationship between man and nature.
- We build problem-solving abilities of the nation by widening the circle of "nature conservation" through developing human resources and increasing the number of people sharing the same vision.
- We provide "Nationwide Nature Surveys" in which the whole family can participate and enjoy checking the condition of nature, as well as providing corporations with support in their employee training.



- We are accumulating research data in domestic tidelands, forests, mountains and "Satoyama" which are considered important internationally.
- We are conducting the monitoring study of biodiversity nationwide with the cooperation of citizens.
- We make use of the results achieved in the research of local biodiversity and ecosystem services for developing sustainable local societies.

● Activities



► Preservation of Waters around Okinawa

Henoko, the largest seagrass bed on Okinawa island is being threatened by the US military airport construction plan. Also the Awase Tideland, the largest tideland/sallow in the Nansei (Southwest) islands is being threatened by a reclamation plan by the local governments. NACS-J has conducted field studies based on which we have sent messages to the decision makers namely, the president, the prime minister and the leaders of the local governments, reporting that the environmental assessments conducted beforehand and their procedures were neither sufficient nor appropriate. We have been calling for rethinking of both plans, dependent on membership fees and donations as the financial source for our activities.



► AKAYA Project

The project is located in a national forest with 10,000 hectares and a 1,400 meter vertical drop on the border of Gunma and Niigata prefectures. In 1990' it was threatened by the construction plans of a dam and a ski resort. In 2004, after those plans were cancelled, the restoration of biodiversity and the development of a sustainable region were started. We have been deploying various efforts—the triangular agreement between local citizens, NACS-J and the Forest Agency was signed; we established a dam demolished with the aim of restoring the mountain stream environment; we have a plan to transfer a man-made forest back into a natural forest. They were proudly all done for the first time in Japan.



► Protected Area

Although Oze where NACS-J was originally formed is designated as several different protected areas such as a national park, a natural monument and a registered wetland under the Ramsar Convention, it seems to have endless problems. NACS-J has been working to improve each of the systems related to protected areas including the two-sided (conservation and utilization) national park system. Some systems such as the protected area for forest ecosystem and the green corridor have been newly established. Important natural forests have been designated as a protected area. Our activities have successfully contributed to these new developments.



► Training of Nature Conservation Educators

In 1978 NACS-J started the training of "Nature Conservation Educators", volunteer leaders for local nature watching. Co-hosted with local governments, citizen groups, corporations and schools, we have held almost 450 training courses in 30 years as local human resource development programs. Over 25,000 people in total have trained so far. Nature Conservation Educators are working actively in a variety of fields. For example, not only do they voluntarily organize nature watching but also are invited as lecturers. They are one of the main forces for widening the circle of "nature conservation" and solving problems.



► Citizen-based Biodiversity Survey

As a way for local citizens to protect their own local nature, we promote citizen-based surveys on biodiversity and the contact between man and nature. NACS-J is an implementing body of the Monitoring Site 1000 "Satoyama" Study, one of the Ministry of the Environment's projects. More than 10,000 citizens participated in this study in FY2009 alone. We have been working to make use of acquired data in local restorations and in the government's decision making process.



► As a Member of the International Community

In 1960 NACS-J became a member of IUCN and has been serving as the Secretariat of the Japan Committee for IUCN since 1988. We have attended IUCN General Assemblies and East Asia Protected Areas Conferences, introducing global trends to Japan as well as making proposals on IUCN General Assembly resolutions. We have successfully informed Japanese citizens of the importance of the RDB. The first Japanese "RDB plant species" published in 1989 served as the grounds for the establishment of the Act for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.