

Environmental Policy

Our Approach to the Environment

The Norinchukin Bank (hereinafter referred to as “the Bank”) recognizes that maintaining the Earth’s rich environment is the most fundamental precondition for the survival of human beings and all human activities, including corporate activities. In addition to this, the Bank understands that protecting the environment will both enrich the lives of individuals and lead to economic development of societies throughout the world.

Based on this understanding, the Bank pledges to contribute to the resolution of the Earth’s environmental issues through its business activities while also reducing the environmental load of those activities. As a member of Japan’s agriculture, fishery, and forestry cooperative system, the Bank collaborates with fellow members as it strives to contribute to creating a sustainable society. In making such contributions, as well as complying with laws and regulations, the Bank is committed to further reducing the negative impact of its business activities on the environment and increasing its positive impact while making constant efforts to foster a sound corporate culture.

Furthermore, the Bank supports and participates in international standards and initiatives in order to address global environmental issues. The international frameworks that the Bank supports and participates in are disclosed through the company website and other media.

Positioning of the Environmental Policy

The Bank has set the Code of Ethics as the highest-ranking provision to define the conduct of all directors and employees. Set under the Code of Ethics, the Bank positions the Environmental Policy as the fundamental policy guiding our environmental conduct in our effort to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable society.

Under the Environmental Policy, the Bank positions the Basic Policy for Investment and Loans, a guide to putting the philosophy and purpose of the Code of Ethics into action in its business activities through financing.

In particular, the Bank, in accordance with its priorities, develops mechanisms so that appropriate measures can be taken for specific issues and sectors that it recognizes as likely to have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Governance and Management Systems Related to the Environmental Policy

The Environmental Policy was approved by the Board of Directors after discussions in a committee designated by the Board of Directors. When updates to the Environmental Policy are necessary due to reasons including future changes in the business environment, they will be discussed and approved following the same process.

Activities through Business

The Bank works to protect the environment and provide support to customers trying to resolve environmental issues by providing financial services as its main business.

In addition, if the Bank deems that financial services it provides may cause its customers to have a significant adverse impact on the environment, it will take appropriate measures based on the Basic Policy for Investment and Loans and other guidelines.

The Bank adopts the Equator Principles in an effort to protect the environment when financing large-scale projects. Depending on the nature and size of the risks and impacts on the environment, it requires customers to give appropriate consideration to the environment.

As a national-level financial institution for agricultural, fishery, and forestry cooperatives, the Bank actively supports initiatives that contribute to environmental protection in local communities. The Bank believes such support will reduce environmental risks to local communities and thus contribute to their sustainable economic development.

Climate Change

Climate change has attracted global attention as one of the most urgent environmental issues that could have serious and widespread effects. The momentum of the global movement to respond to climate change has been growing, as seen in examples such as the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and it is expected that all businesses, including financial institutions, will respond appropriately to this issue.

The agriculture, fishery, and forestry industries, which are foundations of the Bank, are negatively impacted by climate change, but can also have negative implications on it. Through business activities, the Bank believes it can contribute to the resolution of climate change issues. The Bank has also recognized, via dialogue with stakeholders, that the expectations for its actions to tackle climate change are increasing.

Based on this recognition, the Bank endeavors to build its capacity to appropriately respond to climate change through its business activities. The Bank believes this response will contribute to its mission, the development of the agriculture, fishery, and forestry industries.

Furthermore, the Bank supports the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) established by the Financial Stability Board concerning promotion of the disclosure of information on risks and opportunities related to climate change and the stabilization of financial markets through a smooth transition to a low-carbon society. The Bank strives to take actions in light of these recommendations.

Biodiversity

Since before the inception of agriculture, fishery, and forestry industries, the Earth's ecosystem has naturally blessed human beings with food and nurtured life. Agriculture, fishery, and forestry industries are based on human activities that produce and nurture life utilizing Earth's ecosystem.

The Earth's ecosystem, the source of life, consists of complex interactions and organic bonds between organisms, and biodiversity is essential for its stability. Damaging biodiversity is equivalent to damaging the source of life. As an organization with its foundations in the agriculture, fishery, and forestry industries, the Bank believes that it needs to consider biodiversity in business activities in order to protect life. Through dialogues with stakeholders, the Bank has also recognized that biodiversity is one of the most material issues to which it must respond.

Based on this understanding, the Bank strives to avoid both directly and indirectly impacting biodiversity and ecosystems in a negative way, and to provide positive impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Bank also strives to build its capacity to protect biodiversity and ecosystems through its business activities.

Activities through Operations

The Bank works to protect the environment through its main business of providing financial services, and at the same time reduce the environmental load of its own business operations. In addition to complying with environmental laws and regulations, the Bank strives to conserve energy and resources to mitigate global warming and build circular economies.

Stakeholder Engagement

In order to sustainably fulfill the Bank's basic mission and social responsibilities, we seek to build and maintain strong and trustworthy relationships with internal and external stakeholders. To this end, the Bank fulfills its accountability requirements and actively engages in dialogue with stakeholders, and strives to ensure that our efforts to build a sustainable society meet their expectations.

Sound Corporate Culture

As well as the educational activities mentioned below, the fostering and instilling of a sound corporate culture are closely connected with, and essential to, implementation of this policy. While responding appropriately to environmental issues, the Bank works to maintain constant awareness of risks arising from its business activities and possible returns, encourage individual employees to act with awareness of their own responsibilities while ensuring transparency, and create attractive workplaces characterized by unrestricted and open-minded discussion and respect for diverse

opinions.

Internal Commitment and Education

The Bank makes employees aware of the Environmental Policy and ensures compliance with it. In addition, the Bank continuously provides education to all employees on environmental topics.