

Materiality 5

# Preventing Pollution and Conserving Ecosystems



● Environmental Action Plan Fiscal Year 2022 Results [Overview]

Self-evaluation ○ : Achieved △ : Measures started but not yet achieved

Targets for Fiscal Year 2030	What Nikon Needs to Do	Related SDGs	Scope	Targets for Fiscal Year 2022	Results for Fiscal Year 2022	Self-Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero usage of hazardous chemical substances in manufacturing processes</li> <li>Zero hazardous chemical substances contained in products</li> <li>Continue activities to preserve the environment in the vicinity of company facilities that contribute to the prevention of marine plastic pollution</li> <li>Product catalogs: Electronic data or FSC-certified paper 100%</li> <li>Instruction manuals: Electronic data or FSC-certified paper/recycled paper (80% or more recycled pulp content) 100%</li> <li>Packing boxes: FSC certified paper or recycled paper 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with the laws, ordinances and regulations of the countries and regions where we operate and also manage the use of chemical substances appropriately based on more rigorous voluntary targets</li> <li>Conduct ecosystem conservation activities</li> <li>Quantify and minimize impact and dependence on ecosystems</li> </ul>	6,11,12,14,15	Nikon and Group manufacturing companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abolish the use of prohibited level hazardous chemical substances based on the Hazardous Chemical Substances Guideline</li> <li>Create a roadmap for measures, such as the selection of alternative substances and hermetic sealing by the end of fiscal year 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed identification of residual prohibited level substances; discussing individual measures</li> <li>On track to eliminate approximately 65% of the hazardous chemical substances in question</li> </ul>	○
			Nikon Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with the hazardous chemical substances laws and regulations of each country</li> <li>Strengthen the management system for hazardous chemical substances contained in products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero violations of laws and regulations</li> <li>Strengthened the management framework for hazardous chemical substances contained in products</li> </ul>	○
			Nikon Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform local contribution activities of marine plastic pollution issues at least once a year in each business facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional contribution activities for marine plastic pollution prevention: 29 activities; 1,028 participants (across 20 sites in total)</li> </ul>	○
			Nikon Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue paperless business operations</li> <li>Promote the use of FSC-certified paper for paper items bearing the Nikon logo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digitized product catalogs and instruction manuals</li> <li>Newly ordered product catalogs: Around 93% for use in Japan, North America and Europe are printed on FSC-certified paper, excluding special paper types</li> </ul>	○

# Management and Reduction of Hazardous Chemical Substances in Products

## Responding to Regulations on Hazardous Chemical Substances

To safeguard human health and reduce environmental risks, the Nikon Group strives to implement rigorous chemical substance management that adheres to international regulatory frameworks. More specifically, we established our own Nikon Group standards (Nikon Green Procurement Standards) to ensure compliance with international environmental laws and regulations, including the EU RoHS directive<sup>\*1</sup> and REACH regulation<sup>\*2</sup>. Nikon products are made from a very large number of materials and components. For this reason, we work closely with our procurement partners

to conduct surveys using chemSHERPA<sup>\*3</sup>, a scheme that facilitates sharing information on chemical substances in products. Based on information gathered from these surveys, we confirm whether Nikon products comply with Nikon Green Procurement Standards, striving to manage and reduce hazardous chemical substances in our supply chain.

Promoting Green Procurement (→ p.105)

<sup>\*1</sup> EU RoHS Directive: RoHS stands for "Restriction of Hazardous Substances." This directive restricts use of specified hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

<sup>\*2</sup> REACH Regulations: An EU regulation on chemical substances that came into effect in 2007. REACH stands for "Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals." Under this regulation, manufacturers and importers of chemical substances are required to register information on the safety and use of these substances.

<sup>\*3</sup> chemSHERPA: A shared scheme for communicating information on chemical substances contained in products in the supply chain.

## Abolition of All Ozone-Depleting Substances

As of fiscal year 2008, the Nikon Group has abolished the use of substances that contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer (HCFCs). These substances had previously been used as refrigerants needed to regulate the temperature in FPD lithography systems and semiconductor lithography systems. For devices previously sold that used HCFCs as their refrigerant, the Nikon Group is developing new types of air-cooling units that do not use HCFCs, and which can be installed in these older devices.

With this modification, the Nikon Group is helping to not only reduce the use of HCFCs, but also to extend the product lifespan of older devices.

### Main Measures for Chemical Substance Management

1. Researching recent global trends in related laws and regulations
  - Collecting information from external committees, etc.
2. Implementing surveys of hazardous chemical substances in products
  - Conducting surveys via the supply chain
  - Making effective use of IT to realize efficient data management
  - Implementing chemical analysis, etc.
3. Discussing countermeasures of the Nikon Group
  - Utilizing the relevant internal environment-related systems (committees, etc.)
4. Communicating countermeasures, both internally and externally, in a timely manner
  - Reduction of hazardous chemical substances, alternative instructions, etc.
  - Formulating and updating the Nikon Green Procurement Standards
5. Confirming compliance with laws and regulations
  - Implementing product/package assessments
6. Confirming how procurement partners manage chemicals and helping to upgrade their processes
  - Implementing Chemical substances Management System assessments for procurement partners
  - Providing support to procurement partners for building Chemical Substances Management System

## Technology Without Hazardous Substances

The Nikon Group works to develop technologies that do not employ hazardous substances.

### Use of Lead- and Arsenic-Free Technology

In the 1990s the Nikon Group adopted the use of lead- and arsenic-free glass\*, in the recognition that the lead and arsenic used in most optical glass at that time had a serious environmental impact. We are also thoroughly utilizing lead-free solder. Today, with the exception of certain products with special specifications for industrial use, the utilization rate of lead-free solder in new designs is 100%.

\*Lead- and arsenic-free glass: Nikon has developed a new type of glass that contains absolutely no lead or arsenic for the optical glass used in the lenses and prisms built into optical instruments. Nearly all of Nikon's product lines have a 100% utilization rate of lead- and arsenic-free glass.

### Adoption of Hexavalent Chromium-Free Technology for Surface Treatment Processes

Nikon has formulated rigorous technical standards in order to discontinue the use of heavy metals (hexavalent chromium, lead, cadmium, and mercury) in all surface treatment processes, including plating. We provide separate technical support to the procurement partners to which we outsource surface treatment processes, and use chemical analysis to check actual products delivered.

## Management and Reduction of Organofluorine Compounds

In June 2022, the Stockholm Convention listed the organofluorine compound PFHxS as a substance to be eliminated. Prior to this, the Nikon Group designated the organofluorine compound PFHxS as a prohibited substance in the Nikon Green Procurement Standards in November 2022. We are making progress in replacing parts which contain this substance.

In addition, we designated all organofluorine compounds (PFAS), including PFHxS and PFOA, as controlled substances. We are monitoring the inclusion status of these substances and considering alternatives.

# Management and Reduction of Hazardous Chemical Substances

## Policy and System for Management of Chemical Substances

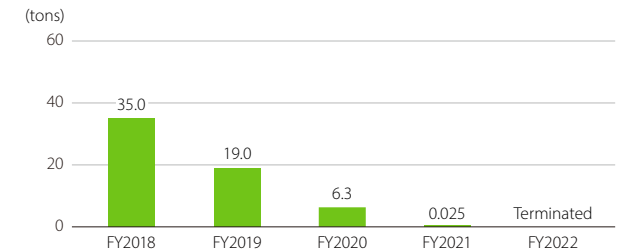
The Nikon Group has established and enforces the Hazardous Chemical Substances Guideline, which is stricter than the relevant statutory requirements, as a self-directed chemical substances management measure. Management standards have been established in relation to chemical substances used in the production process and contained in products, according to the risks to the environment and to health. These substances are classified as "Prohibited," "Reduced," "Controlled," or other. In particular, we have set deadlines for terminating the use of "Prohibited" substances as we work toward eliminating these substances altogether. We eliminated nearly all HCFCs, and we are taking measures against HFCs, which are greenhouse gases, and dichloromethane, which is believed to be carcinogenic. We replaced dichloromethane partially with alternatives, and recovery equipment should be in operation by the end of fiscal year 2023 for processes difficult to handle through alternatives. These measures will allowed us to reduce dichloromethane emissions by more than 65% compared with for fiscal year 2022. For HFCs, our reductions are significantly ahead of the Montreal Protocol, which targets reduction of at least 85% by 2036.

## Control and Reduction of Chemical Substances in Manufacturing

The Nikon Group implements measures aimed at preventing the incidence of environmental pollution. In concrete terms, the Nikon Group continues to strive to reduce the risk of environmental pollution to as close to zero as possible by implementing environmentally-friendly management of chemical substances, from purchase to use to disposal. When purchasing a new chemical substance, a system has been established whereby a safety data sheet (SDS)\* is obtained and a risk assessment is conducted. Measures based on the results of the assessment are then checked and confirmed by the environment department and the health and safety department from an expert's point of view. In addition, the Chemical Substance Risk Control Team, which is a working group spanning each business unit, sets common targets for the Group in order to reduce hazardous chemical substances used in the production process. Since fiscal year 2018, we have been working to terminate the use of 1-bromopropane. As of fiscal year 2022, we eliminated the use of this substance.

\* Safety data sheet (SDS): To promote improvements in the appropriate management of chemical substances by business enterprises, when a chemical substance specified by the Chemical Substances Control Law (CSCL), or a product containing such a substance, is transferred or supplied from one enterprise to another, the transferring or supplying enterprise is required to provide, in advance, a safety data sheet (SDS) noting information about the characteristics of the chemical substance and how it should be handled.

● Amount of 1-Bromopropane Handled at the Nikon Group



## Nikon Group's PRTR and VOCs

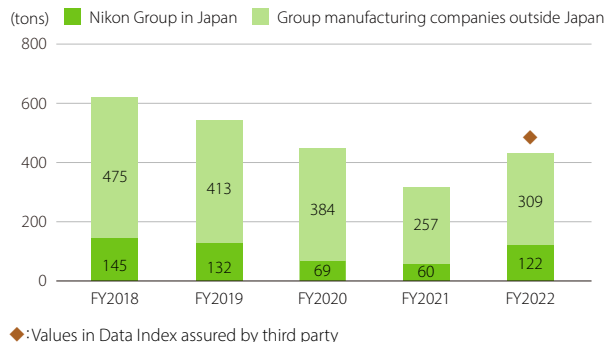
At the Nikon Group in Japan and Group manufacturing companies outside Japan, we use the Hazardous Chemical Substances Guideline to reduce the use of and manage chemical substances subject to inclusion in a pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR)\*, and also carry out safety controls on the handling and disposal of these substances based on the safety data sheets (SDS). In addition, the Nikon Group carries out environmental information surveys twice a year to compile data on uses, disposals, transfers, etc. We implement internal management that is more rigorous than the PRTR, conducting surveys for all substances of which 100g or more are handled per year, based on our own standards, as compared to Japan's PRTR system which only requires reporting for substances of which 0.5 tons or more (or 1 ton or more, depending on the substance) are handled per year.

We established reduction targets for our efforts to reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOC)<sup>\*2</sup> emitted into the atmosphere, implementing measures to make cleaning equipment more airtight, improve the rate of reuse, and otherwise reduce atmospheric emissions. For fiscal year 2022, VOC emissions totaled 122 tons from the Nikon Group in Japan and 309 tons from Group manufacturing companies outside Japan. Emissions were higher year on year due to increased production activities in connection with the emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic.

\*1 PRTR → p.058

\*2 VOCs mentioned here mean the 100 major VOCs as indicated by the Ministry of the Environment

### ● VOC Emissions of the Nikon Group in Japan and Group Manufacturing Companies Outside Japan



## Control and Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Waste

With regard to waste and in-use electrical equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), which can be harmful to living organisms and the environment, the Nikon Group conducts surveys of all Group companies to confirm whether they possess any such equipment, observes stringent safekeeping practices in compliance with relevant laws and regulations, and submits all required notifications to the relevant governmental authorities.

In fiscal year 2019, Nikon completed treatment of all high-density PCB waste in the Nikon Group. As of March 2023, one Group business facility in Japan possesses transformers which create low-density PCB waste. After consultation with a government-certified waste disposal operator for industrial waste, we intend to carry out treatment of this low-density PCB waste, completing treatment within the deadline of March 31, 2027 specified in the Act on Special Measures concerning Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes (PCB Special Measures Law)\*.

\* The Act on Special Measures concerning Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes: A special measures law aimed at promoting the appropriate processing of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste.

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## Prevention of Air, Water and Soil Pollution

The Nikon Group not only complies with laws, regulations, ordinances, and other rules for the prevention of air, water, and soil contamination from emission of hazardous chemical substances, but also promotes initiatives such as concluding agreements with local organizations and setting voluntary standard values in this area.

Continuing from the previous fiscal year, neither Nikon nor any Group manufacturing company in Japan emitted regulated substances into the air or into wastewater at levels exceeding those permitted by the relevant standards in fiscal year 2022.

# Biodiversity Conservation

## Basic Approach

Biodiversity is the foundation of society, and conserving biodiversity is extremely important for companies to continue business activities.

The Nikon Group engages in biodiversity conservation for “realizing a healthy and environmentally safe society”, a part of the Nikon Long-Term Environmental Vision, and is implementing related activities to this end.

The loss of nature over that past several years has accelerated climate change. And the world is realizing that climate change is a cause of nature loss. The Nikon Group recognizes this relationship with climate change and is committed to conserving biodiversity.

## Risks and Opportunities

In December 2022, the second part of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Montreal, Canada. During the convention, representatives adopted a new international goal, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This framework established a 2030 Mission to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path toward recovery. The framework includes 23 new targets with related business goals under each.

Companies will have to accelerate biodiversity efforts if they are to achieve these targets. The Nikon Group recognizes the risks and opportunities related to biodiversity in light of this social context and our own business characteristics.

### ● Nikon Group Risks and Opportunities Related to Biodiversity

Risks/ Opportunities	Details		Related GBF Target No.
Principle Risks	Climate change measures	· Increased costs for balancing climate change measures and biodiversity conservation (e.g. renewable energy procurement that avoids negative impacts on biodiversity)	8
	Legal compliance	· Environmental assessment incorporating biodiversity and related information disclosures	14, 15
		· Strengthened laws and regulations regarding pollution prevention, including the use and handling of chemical substances and related information disclosures; switch to alternative products	7, 11
		· Mandates to reduce the use of plastics and replace with materials having less environmental impact	7
	Resources	· Stronger supplier management for sustainable resource procurement	9
· Information disclosures related to resources and shift of raw materials to recycled and recyclable materials		16	
Principle Opportunities	· Expanded sales of technologies and products that improve energy efficiency and contribute to decarbonization		8
	· Expanded sales of technologies and products that reduce resource use and waste		16
	· More opportunities to use products and technologies in biodiversity research and conservation activities		20, 21
	· More opportunities to use products in biodiversity education		20, 21

## Relationship Between Ecosystem Services, Business Activities and Environmental Activities

Corporate activities are profoundly linked to biodiversity. We obtain resources needed in our business activities from ecosystems, while causing impacts on ecosystems, such as the emission of chemical substances and greenhouse gases, from our business activities.

At the Nikon Group, we conducted analysis and assessment of dependence and impact on biodiversity in our business

activities, led by the relevant corporate departments. We also conducted hearings for business units, and an analysis and evaluation using the specialist standpoint of each department revealed high levels of dependence and impact within ecosystem services, specifically provisioning services, regulating services, and cultural services. We strive to minimize our burden on ecosystem services by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing hazardous chemical substances as typified by compliance with the EU RoHS Directive<sup>\*1</sup>, reducing waste (zero emissions, etc.),

reducing paper consumption, and using FSC-certified paper<sup>\*2</sup> on an active basis. At the same time, we contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity by providing products for education and research and through corporate citizenship activities. In addition, we believe in the importance of contributing to biodiversity conservation through our core businesses, providing products and services that improve energy efficiency, reduce waste, and recycle resources.

\*1 See p.085 for EU RoHS Directive

\*2 FSC-certified paper

Paper certified as made from wood harvested from appropriately managed forests.

### ● Main Nikon Group Activities Relevant to Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem Services with a High Level of Dependence/Impact		Specific Examples	Major Initiatives
Provisioning services	Wood materials and fibers	Use of paper as product materials (operation manuals, catalogs, packaging materials, etc.) Use of paper in business activities (copy paper, etc.)	Reducing the Amount of Paper Used for User's Manuals (→ p.078) Paper Usage with Consideration for Biodiversity (→ p.091) Paper Resource Initiatives (→ p.080)
	Fresh water	Use of water in business activities	Protection of Water Resources (→ p.081)
Regulating services	Maintenance of air quality	Emissions of chemical substances in business activities	Management and Reduction of Hazardous Chemical Substances (→ p.085) Management and Reduction of Hazardous Chemical Substances (→ p.087) Promoting Green Procurement (→ p.105)
	Regulation of climate	Greenhouse gas emissions in business activities	Reduction of Greenhouse Gases in the Supply Chain (→ p.063) Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Products (→ p.065) Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Business Facilities (→ p.066) Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Distribution (→ p.070)
	Water purification and waste treatment	Generation of waste, including water discharge, in business activities	Initiatives Aimed at Reducing Waste, Etc. (→ p.079) Protection of Water Resources (→ p.081) Management and Reduction of Hazardous Chemical Substances (→ p.087)
Cultural services	Ethical values	Use of products for nature appreciation, education, and research Corporate Citizenship Activities	Support for Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration (→ p.093) Encouraging Future Generations to Appreciate Global Environmental Issues (→ p.150)

Various methods for evaluating the relationships between business and biodiversity are under consideration.

And as we adopt these evaluation methods moving forward, the Nikon Group continues to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by assessing the relationship between ourselves and nature, setting targets, and implementing effective measures.



## Paper Usage with Consideration for Biodiversity

Paper, a forest resource, is one of the resources that the Nikon Group benefits from ecosystem services. The Nikon Group strives to reduce paper consumption as a part of the conservation of biodiversity and forest resources. These efforts include the digitization of product catalogs and instruction manuals. In addition, under our Paper Procurement Policy, we have recommended conversion to paper use that is mindful of the sustainable use of forest resources.

In product development, we verify the environmental sustainability of the paper resources that we use by implementing the Nikon Product Assessment and Nikon Packaging Assessment at the planning and design stage as well as at the prototyping and production stage, as we promote the utilization of biodiversity-friendly paper resources.

Reducing Resource Usage in Packaging and Instruction Manuals (→ p.077)  
Nikon Product/Packaging Assessment (→ p.059)



Paper Procurement Policy

[https://www.nikon.com/company/sustainability/environment/safety/Paper\\_Procurement\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.nikon.com/company/sustainability/environment/safety/Paper_Procurement_Policy.pdf)

## Conversion to Using FSC-certified Paper

The Nikon Group is, in accordance with its Paper Procurement Policy, switching over to the use of FSC-certified paper. In initial conversions, we are prioritizing high-quantity paper use cases with a major impact on society.

In Japan, we are using FSC-certified paper for product

catalogs and for printed materials, corporate envelopes, name-cards, and other items issued or used by Nikon's administration departments. We have been implementing measures to promote the shift to FSC-certified paper for the paper used by our business units; with the exception of specialty paper, we used FSC-certified paper for 93% of all product catalogs issued in Japan, North America, and Europe in fiscal year 2022. We have also nearly completed shifting over to FSC-certified paper for instruction manuals, such as those for microscopes and measuring instruments.

\* See P85 for FSC-certified paper → p.090

## Activities in Industry Groups

Nikon participates in the Environmental Strategy Liaison Committee Biodiversity Working Group (WG) formed by the four leading Japanese electric and electronic (E&E) industrial associations\*, and works to promote biodiversity conservation and restoration activities alongside the associations' member companies. This working group undertakes a wide variety of activities, including the publication of biodiversity awareness-raising materials and handbooks for activity implementation, the conduction of surveys on biodiversity-related trends, the organization of training activities, and the creation and publication of a public database of case-studies on biodiversity conservation work undertaken by the associations' member companies.

During fiscal year 2022, we focused on increasingly important biodiversity trends, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the second part of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in December 2022, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) launched in June 2021, and the Science-Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), for which initial guidance was released in September 2020. Through engagement with government agencies, NGOs, and other organizations, we gathered and reviewed information necessary for association member companies.

Nature-positive, a posture to return biodiversity loss to a recovery trajectory, has become a major issue for international society like carbon neutrality in climate change. Given this, we will continue to deepen our partnerships and consider ways in which the industry as a whole and our Group can respond appropriately in fiscal year 2023.

\* The four leading Japanese electric and electronic (E&E) industrial associations are as follows. These associations are collaborating on biodiversity initiatives. The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA), The Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA), Communications and Information Network Association of Japan (CIAJ), Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA)

## Initiatives at Each Business Facility

The Nikon Group contributes towards the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of the natural environment in local communities.

In addition, having become aware that around 80% of ocean waste was originally urban waste that was washed into the sea, we are making a serious effort to keep the areas around our facilities clean, as well as working to beautify nearby footpaths and flowerbeds, etc. We also actively participate in and collaborate on environmental conservation activities organized by local communities to protect rare plant and animal species, etc., as well as other activities undertaken to revitalize the local community.

A total of 1,028 employees participated in community contribution activities during fiscal year 2022.

### Nikon Corporation, Sendai Nikon Corporation, Miyagi Nikon Precision Co., Ltd., Hikari Glass Co., Ltd., Nikon Engineering Co., Ltd., Nikon Solutions Co., Ltd., Nikon Systems Inc., Nikon Business Service Co., Ltd., Nikon Product Support Corporation

With the collaboration of local government authorities, these Nikon organizations implemented clean-up activities for garbage, fallen leaves, and other debris from parks, roads, and footpaths in the vicinity of the respective site.

- Nikon Yokosuka Plant: Became registered business endorsing the Declaration of Action against Marine Plastic Waste; joined beach cleanup activities at the Yuigahama Beach in Kamakura, etc.
- Nikon Yokohama Plant: Became a registered business as a Hama Road Supporter; engaged in cleanup activities

around the plant; planted and managed flower seedlings in roadside planting strips (flower beds)

- Nikon Mito Plant: Became a registered business under the Hinuma Watershed Clean Operation, Hinuma Watershed Clean-up Activities, and Ishigawa River Clean-up Activities



Cleanup near plant grounds (Nikon Oi Plant)



Tulips planted and cultivated by Yokohama Plant employees

### Tochigi Nikon Corporation, Tochigi Nikon Precision Co., Ltd., and TNI Industry Corporation

These organizations undertake clean-up activities in the vicinity of each facility, and collaborated with a Tochigi Prefecture government-sponsored association for cleaning up the Naka River in line with the goal of "Realizing Zero Plastic Waste in our Forests, Countryside, Rivers and Lakes."



Cleaning Up the Banks of the Naka River (Tochigi Nikon Corp., Tochigi Nikon Precision Co., Ltd.)

### Optos, Inc., Optos Plc

These companies conducted cleanup activities at Worcester Park in Massachusetts, U.S.A., and grassland cleanup and local ecosystem protection activities at Fife Coast and Countryside Trust in the U.K.



Park cleanup activity (Optos, Inc.)



Grassland cleanup and ecosystem protection activity (Optos Plc)

### Nikon Vision Co., Ltd.

In collaboration with a nature conservation group, Nikon Vision provides children with the experience of observing wild birds and other animals in forests and waterside areas using binoculars and actual microscopes made by the company.

Column: Helping Children Experience Forest and Waterside Creature Watching  
 (➡ p.150)

### Nikon (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (Thailand), Nikon Lao Co., Ltd. (Laos)

Nikon (Thailand) and Nikon Lao conducted cleanup activities around their plants on World Environment Day, June 5, 2022. World Environment Day was established by the United Nations in 1973. Nikon (Thailand) distributed 200 zamiculcas saplings to employees and encouraged them to plant and grow trees around their homes.



Cleanup activities around the plant (Nikon Lao Co., Ltd.)



Employees and families planting zanzibar gem (Nikon (Thailand) Co., Ltd.)



## Support for Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration

Nikon has been supporting the AKAYA Project of the Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J) since 2006. This project involves research and verification testing aimed at conservation and restoration of biodiversity in the Akaya Forest, which is centered in an around 10,000 hectare area of national forest in the north of Minakami Town in Gunma Prefecture, and which has been designated by UNESCO as the Minakami Biosphere Reserve, as well as promoting sustainable community development that makes effective use of forest resources. In addition to providing our digital cameras and binoculars to support research activities, Nikon also encourages employees of the Nikon Group in Japan to participate in volunteer activities to help regenerate the natural forests.

Furthermore, Nikon helped to plan and create a booklet, *AKAYA NOTE*, in cooperation with people involved in the Akaya Project, and has been distributing it to the people of Minakami every year since 2019. In Minakami Town, this booklet is utilized in environmental education at schools, where UNESCO biosphere reserve classes are taught by visiting teachers.



Nikon Group employees participate in volunteering activities that seek to accelerate the regeneration of natural forest by removing trees and plants that retard the growth of young trees. The effectiveness of these activities has been verified by periodic monitoring surveys.