

Environmental Policy

Our Approach to the Environment

The Norinchukin Bank (hereinafter referred to as “the Bank”) Group* 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 Group 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 Group 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 Group 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 Group 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 Group supports and participates in international standards and initiatives in order to address global environmental issues. The international frameworks that the Bank Group supports and participates in are disclosed through the company website and other media.

*: The Norinchukin Bank and the 18 companies listed below

The Norinchukin Trust & Banking Co., Ltd.,
Norinchukin Australia Pty Limited
Norinchukin Bank Europe N.V.
Norinchukin Research Institute Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Facilities Co., Ltd.
Nochu Business Support Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Business Assist Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Academy Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Value Investments Co., Ltd.
Kyodo Housing Loan Co., Ltd.,
Nochu Information System Co., Ltd.,
JA Card Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Zenkyoren Asset Management Co., Ltd.,
The Cooperative Servicing Co., Ltd.,
The Agribusiness Investment & Consultation Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Capital Co., Ltd.
Nochu-JAML Investment Advisors Co., Ltd.
Norinchukin Hong Kong Limited

Positioning of the Environmental Policy

The Bank Group 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 Group 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, affiliate companies in the Bank Group that make investments and loans position the Basic Policy for Investment and Loans with regard to financing with their own assets, a guide to putting the philosophy and purpose of the Code of Ethics into action in its business activities through financing.

In particular, these companies in the Bank Group, in accordance with their priorities, develop mechanisms so that appropriate measures can be taken for specific issues and sectors that they recognize as likely to have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Governance and Management Systems Related to the Environmental Policy

The Environmental Policy was discussed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Bank. 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 Group works to protect the environment and provide support to customers trying to resolve environmental issues through business activities.

In addition, if the Bank Group deems that business activities 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, Norinchukin Australia Pty Limited, and Norinchukin Bank Europe N.V. adopt 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 group for agricultural, fishery, and forestry cooperatives, the Bank Group actively supports initiatives that contribute to environmental protection in local communities. The Bank Group 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 Group, are negatively impacted by climate change, but can also have negative implications on it. Through business activities, the Bank Group believes it can contribute to the resolution of climate change issues. The Bank Group 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 Group endeavors to build its capacity to appropriately respond to climate change through its business activities. The Bank Group 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 Group believes that it needs to consider biodiversity in business activities in order to protect life. The momentum of the global movement to respond to biodiversity has been growing, as seen in examples such as the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and through dialogues with stakeholders, the Bank Group has also recognized that biodiversity is one of the most material issues to which it must respond.

Based on this understanding, the Bank Group 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 Group also strives to build its capacity to protect biodiversity and ecosystems through its business activities.

Furthermore, the Bank adopts the risk management and disclosure framework provided by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) to address nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks, and opportunities, and the Bank strives to take actions in light of these recommendations.

Activities through Operations

The Bank Group works to protect the environment through its business activities, 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 Group strives to conserve energy and resources to mitigate global warming and build circular economies.

Stakeholder Engagement

In order to sustainably fulfill the Bank Group'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 Group 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 Group works to maintain constant awareness of risks arising from its business activities and possible returns, encourage individual directors and 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 Group makes directors and employees aware of the Environmental Policy and ensures compliance

with it. In addition, the Bank Group continuously provides education to all directors and employees on environmental topics.