Contributions to local sustainability

Support for TNFD*

Mie Prefecture, the main sales foundation of Hyakugo Bank, is a verdant area, with forest area accounting for 65% of its land. In the coast area, it has a coastline of over 1,000 km and is rich in natural environments with abundant fishery resources.

TNFD Forum Member

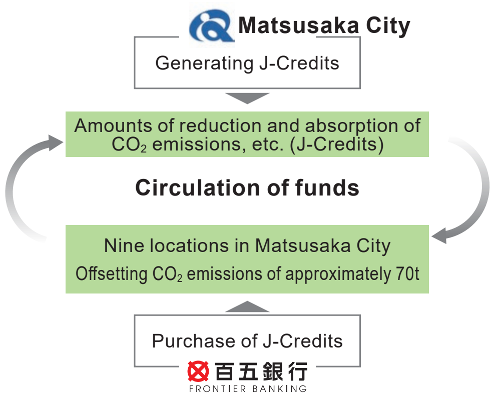
Through participation in the TNFD forum, we will further promote the use of natural capital in the regions including Mie and the initiatives for biodiversity conservation.

* TNFD (Task force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures)
The TNFD is an international body launched by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Global Canopy, a UK environmental NGO, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in June, 2021, to establish the framework for corporations' risk management and information disclosure related to nature.

Initiatives for circular use of forest resources

We purchased "Matsusaka City Forest Management J-Credit for a Sustainable Future," forest-derived J-Credits for which Matsusaka City received the national certification, aiming for the circular use of regional forest resources. Through the purchase of the J-Credits, we contribute to promoting forest maintenance in Matsusaka City as well as use them for carbon offsetting of CO_2 emissions at locations of the Hyakugo Bank Group in Matsusaka City.

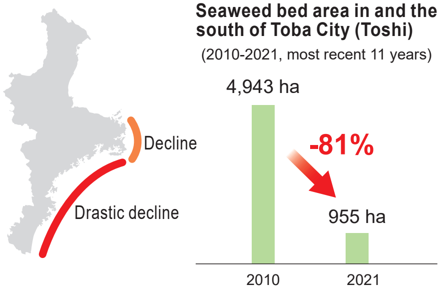
Hyakugo Bank, as a regional financial institution, participated in "Collaborative Platform for Promoting the Use of Mie Nature-Based Carbon Credits" as part of our regional forest conservation activities in October 2024, and will continue efforts on the transition to a decarbonized society and a circular economy that use regional resources.



Initiatives for the promotion of the fisheries industry and marine conservation

In recent years, rocky-shore denudation, which is the shrinking of seaweed beds (seaweed communities), has become a serious issue. This has been caused by rising sea temperatures due to factors such as global warming, as well as feeding damage by herbivorous fish, primarily rabbitfish and parrotfish. In particular, along the coasts of southern Mie, the rapid progress of a decline and disappearance of seaweed beds is affecting the sustainability of the fisheries industry. This includes a decrease in the harvest volume of seaweed.

Seaweed bed area in and the south of Toba City (Toshi)
(2010-2021, most recent 11 years)



Changes in area by type along the coast of Shima City

	2017	2021	Changes
Sagarame (Eisenia arborea) and Kajime (Ecklonia cava) beds	1,585 ha	420 ha	-73%
Sargassum beds	60 ha	44 ha	-28%
Eelgrass beds	35 ha	0 ha	-100%
Total	1,680 ha	464 ha	-72%

Source: Overview of the Vision of Seaweed Beds in the Open Areas of Mie Prefecture, Fisheries Ground and Infrastructure Development Division of Mie Prefectural Government

Hyakugo Bank has launched initiatives that lead to conserving seaweed beds and effectively using marine resources, to solve the issues of the fisheries industry, our local industry. In January 2025, in collaboration with Mie Prefecture and fishermen, we caught herbivorous fish such as rabbitfish, a primary cause of rocky-shore denudation, and held the "Event of Cafeteria Making Use of Unused Fish," where the fish were utilized for food.

We aim to continue to improve the sustainability of local industries by engaging in the conservation of marine ecosystem and environment through maintaining, restoring, and creating seaweed beds in collaboration with local stakeholders.